



RESOLUTION

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC54/R.6
October 2007

Fifty-fourth Session

Agenda item 5(c)

Use and potential of geographic information systems for health mapping in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on use and potential of geographic information systems for health mapping in the Eastern Mediterranean Region¹;

Recognizing that the importance of health mapping, in association with health indicators, monitoring and evaluation, as an e-health application is growing at a very rapid rate to support health systems development;

Concerned by the lack of institutionalized set-up, national coordination and weakness of infrastructure to support health mapping in many countries of the Region;

Recognizing the efforts of some Member States in developing infrastructure and implementing health mapping activities;

Aware of the global efforts to build health maps to support a number of health applications, such as epidemiology, disease surveillance, disaster and emergency, service availability and water supply and sanitation;

1. **URGES** Member States to:

- 1.1 Develop an institutional framework, policies and procedures necessary to support regular health data collection, health mapping and reporting to encourage evidence-based policy-making and planning at all levels;
- 1.2 Establish health mapping units with the necessary infrastructure and resources as part of the national health information system, including human resources, to support health mapping activities at country level and collaborative efforts at regional and global levels;
- 1.3 Develop integrated national systems for the management of health data, and link the systems to digital maps, allowing technical programmes to input, verify, update and view health data on maps online;
- 1.4 Build, develop and maintain a comprehensive collection of national and local digital maps including detailed administrative health levels, water resources, transportation, hazardous areas, disaster-prone areas and health care facilities;

¹ Document no. EM/RC54/Tech.Disc.3

2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:

- 2.1 Continue to develop WHO policies, procedures, tools and infrastructure to support and sustain health mapping activities in the Region;
- 2.2 Promote the use of geographic information systems and other data processing tools, specifically the HealthMapper;
- 2.3 Promote and support countries to achieve full integration of health mapping services as part of health information systems.