

قرار

Resolution

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC67/R.1
October 2020**

**Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 3**

Annual report of the Regional Director for 2019

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the annual report of the Regional Director on the work of WHO in the Eastern Mediterranean Region for 2019¹ and the progress reports requested by the Regional Committee,² including the Regional Director's presentation of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on WHO's strategic priorities as set out in the Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13)³ and the regional strategy,⁴

Acknowledging that a very significant acceleration in progress is required for the Region to meet its closely interlinked commitments under *Vision 2023*,⁵ GPW 13 and the Sustainable Development Goals;

Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic is a daunting challenge to all health systems in the Region, but also an opportunity to introduce innovations, build more resilient and responsive health systems and services, and accelerate progress;

Further noting that the pandemic has demonstrated that investment in building resilient health systems is cost-effective when set against the many potential extra costs that emergencies entail when systems are inadequate;

Recognizing the burden of many other recurring epidemics and pandemics on the health care systems and societies, including the significant loss of life and disruption of livelihoods associated with them; emphasizing the increasing risks of emergence and re-emergence of epidemic- and pandemic-prone diseases; and recalling resolution EM/RC62/R.1 on global health security, with special emphasis on MERS-CoV and A(H5N1), resolution EM/RC63/R.1 on emerging and re-emerging diseases including dengue and dengue haemorrhagic fever, and resolution EB146.R10 on strengthening preparedness for health emergencies;

¹ EM/RC67/5.

² EM/RC67/INF.DOC.1–6.

³ WHO/PRP/18.1.

⁴ WHO-EM/RDO/014/E; WHO's strategy for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2020–2023: Turning Vision 2023 into action. Cairo: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2019 (<https://applications.emro.who.int/docs/EMRPUB-RDO-014-2019-EN.pdf?ua=1>).

⁵ WHO-EM/RDO/013/E; Vision 2023: Eastern Mediterranean Region: health for all by all. Cairo: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2018 (http://applications.emro.who.int/docs/RD_Vision_2018_20675_en.pdf).

Recognizing the broad spectrum of the population in need of assistive technology, including people with disability, ageing populations, people with co-morbidities and anyone experiencing temporary or permanent impairment or functional decline across the life course; noting the increasing needs in emergency situations which affect many Member States in the Region; and further noting resolutions EM/RC63/R.3 and WHA 71.8 on improving access to assistive technology;

1. **THANKS** the Regional Director for his comprehensive report on the work of WHO in the Region;
2. **ADOPTS** the annual report of the Regional Director for 2019;
3. **EXTENDS** the time frame for implementation of the strategic framework for strengthening health laboratory services by three years, from 2016–2020 to 2016–2023;
4. **ENDORSES** the strategic framework for the prevention and control of emerging and epidemic-prone infectious diseases;
5. **ENDORSES** the strategic action framework to improve access to assistive technology in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;
6. **URGES** Member States to:
 - 6.1 Benefit from the experience of managing the COVID-19 pandemic by seizing the opportunity to identify gaps and weaknesses in their health systems and services, and explore innovative ways of delivering health care and enhancing health systems, building on the solidarity and partnership stimulated by the pandemic to advance towards universal health coverage and achieve health security;
 - 6.2 Invest in enhancing the resilience of their health systems to withstand all emergencies, be better prepared to respond, and ensure that essential health services reach the whole population and access is not compromised during future emergencies, as a critical step towards universal health coverage;
 - 6.3 Ensure adequate implementation of all programmes and initiatives required to meet their commitments under *Vision 2023*, GPW 13 and the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - 6.4 Ensure that service delivery and system performance is monitored effectively, and that other health indicators are collected, analysed and shared, so that progress in meeting commitments under *Vision 2023*, GPW 13 and the Sustainable Development Goals can be measured;
 - 6.5 Implement the strategic action framework to improve access to assistive technology in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;
 - 6.6 Implement the strategic framework for the prevention and control of emerging and epidemic-prone infectious diseases;
 - 6.7 Enhance research capacity, and collaborate in the conduct of multi-centre, multi-country studies addressing national public health priorities and diseases of priority for countries of the Region;
7. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:
 - 7.1 Review and intensify technical support to countries in identifying gaps and weaknesses in their health systems and services;

- 7.2 Review and intensify technical support to countries to build more resilient health systems, including inter alia by using innovative new approaches;
- 7.3 Provide technical support to countries in their resource mobilization efforts and investment for health;
- 7.4 Provide technical support to countries to ensure that progress towards their commitments under *Vision 2023*, GPW 13 and the Sustainable Development Goals can be effectively monitored and measured;
- 7.5 Provide technical support to countries in implementing the strategic action framework to improve access to assistive technology in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;
- 7.6 Provide technical support to countries in implementing the strategic framework for the prevention and control of emerging and epidemic-prone infectious diseases;
- 7.7 Establish regional mechanisms to support the conduct of multi-centre, multi-country studies in Member States addressing regional and national priorities, drawing on experience gained from COVID-19-related solidarity trials.