

**Summary report on the
Intercountry consultation
on the regional action plan
for the implementation of
the global health sector
strategies on HIV, hepatitis
and STIs, 2022–2030**

Muscat, Oman
27–29 September 2022



**World Health
Organization**

Eastern Mediterranean Region

Summary report on the

**Intercountry consultation on the
regional action plan for the
implementation of the global health
sector strategies on HIV, hepatitis and
STIs, 2022–2030**

Muscat, Oman
27–29 September 2022



**World Health
Organization**

Eastern Mediterranean Region

© World Health Organization 2024

Some rights reserved. This work is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo>).

Under the terms of this licence, you may copy, redistribute and adapt the work for non-commercial purposes, provided the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that WHO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the WHO logo is not permitted. If you adapt the work, then you must license your work under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If you create a translation of this work, you should add the following disclaimer along with the suggested citation: “This translation was not created by the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the binding and authentic edition”.

Any mediation relating to disputes arising under the licence shall be conducted in accordance with the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Suggested citation. Summary report on the intercountry consultation on the regional action plan for the implementation of the global health sector strategies on HIV, hepatitis and STIs, 2022–2030. Cairo: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2024. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Sales, rights and licensing. To purchase WHO publications, see <http://apps.who.int/bookorders>. To submit requests for commercial use and queries on rights and licensing, see <http://www.who.int/about/licensing>.

Third-party materials. If you wish to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, it is your responsibility to determine whether permission is needed for that reuse and to obtain permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

General disclaimers. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers’ products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

Contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	Summary of discussions	2
3.	Recommendations.....	5

1. Introduction

In May 2022, the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly noted with appreciation the WHO global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections for the period 2022–2030 (resolution WHA75.20). The global health sector strategies aim to end the epidemics of AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections by 2030. The global health sector strategies adopt joint actions for the three disease areas while maintaining disease specificities. The goals of the strategies are aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are situated within a universal health coverage framework.

Between July and September 2022, the WHO Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean developed a regional action plan for the implementation of the global health sector strategies on HIV, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections 2022–2030 (RAP-GHSS). The purpose of the regional action plan is to provide a roadmap and priority actions to catch up on missed targets and achieve target 3.3 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) on infectious diseases: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, and combat hepatitis, waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases.

On 27–29 September 2022, the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean held a regional consultation in Muscat, Oman, on the RAP-GHSS attended by HIV and hepatitis programme managers from 20 countries, as well as independent experts, civil society organizations, partners and WHO staff from WHO headquarters and WHO's regional and country offices.

The objectives of the consultation were to:

- achieve consensus on the RAP-GHSS; and
- identify key interventions for rapid scale up of HIV, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

The consultation was inaugurated with a message from Dr Ahmad Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, delivered by Dr Jean Jabbour, the WHO Representative in Oman. Dr Al-Mandhari welcomed participants, saying that the ending of these three disease areas as public health threats by 2030 was a priority for the Region. The Regional Director highlighted the progress made in the Region towards ending the epidemics of HIV and hepatitis, as well as the challenges. He called for the active engagement of the participants to reach a contextually- and culturally-adapted regional action plan.

2. Summary of discussions

Global and regional commitments and progress

An overview of the global and regional burden of HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs was presented. The key global targets for the three diseases, as well as the main global priority actions and related strategic directions and enabling functions, were outlined.

Regional progress in HIV, hepatitis and STIs was reviewed, including the challenges in achieving the global targets due to the persistent increase in new infections and mortality, and slow progress in implementing the cascade of care for all diseases, with testing as the key bottleneck.

The response to HIV, hepatitis and STIs was presented within the context of a universal health coverage framework and the regional strategy of Health for All by All. Opportunities for using a health system approach to increase cross-programmatic efficiencies aligned with the building blocks of the health system were highlighted. An overview of UNAIDS' global AIDS strategy 2021–2026 and its three strategic priorities was also presented, which stressed the slow progress in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Participants agreed with the situation as presented by the speakers. They stressed the need to find regionally-adapted ways to work with key populations and to leverage health systems and integration opportunities.

The draft regional action plan for the implementation of the RAP-GHSS 2022–2030

Participants were introduced to the background to the GHSS-RAP and its development, rationale, scope, guiding principles, vision, goal, strategic directions, recommended actions, expected results, targets and measurement framework, in addition to the role of WHO in supporting its implementation. They reviewed the actions and milestone targets for HIV, hepatitis and STIs in the Region.

Participants further discussed the challenges to achieving the global targets in the context of the many emergencies in the Region, while reaffirming their commitment to achieving them. They recognized that people-centred integrated approaches, involving community service and community-based organizations, developing country-tailored plans and implementing high-impact interventions aligned with the RAP-GHSS, were all essential components for moving forward. It was felt that countries should explore opportunities for consolidated donor

funding to cover multiple diseases that affect the same population group, while at the same time increasing programme efficiencies through integration.

Regional inputs for the development of the RAP-GHSS

In working groups, the participants reviewed the proposed actions of the GHSS-RAP by strategic direction. They agreed with the relevance of the actions to the expected results for the strategic directions, with a few modifications.

The participants also reviewed the key indicators and milestones proposed in the GHSS-RAP in working groups. They provided baselines for the milestones based on the situation in their countries and proposed targets for 2025 and 2030.


Closing session

Dr Yvan Hutin, Director of the Department of Universal Health Coverage/Communicable Diseases at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, thanked participants for attending the meeting and applauded the commitment and efforts of the Member States of the Region in continuing to provide services in the three disease areas. He committed to documenting the process of the development of the GHSS-RAP and addressing the comments and notes of the participants, and requested them to ask their ministries of health to endorse the consultation's recommendations and the RAP-GHSS.

3. Recommendations

To Member States

- Endorse the regional action plan for the implementation of the global health sector strategies on HIV, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections 2022–2030.
- Ensure political commitment for the necessary resource allocation and enabling environment to implement the regional action plan.
- Link the health sector response to that of other sectors within a comprehensive multisectoral approach.
- Review and consolidate existing national strategies on HIV, hepatitis and STIs or develop new integrated strategies to ensure cross-programmatic integrated planning.
- Empower patient and civil society groups to take an active role in the planning, delivery and monitoring of the implementation of services that are relevant to their communities.
- Build and expand on the existing success stories in the Region through documenting and sharing experiences.
- Establish mechanisms for partner coordination at country, regional and global levels, building on and strengthening existing platforms.



World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
Monazamet El Seha El Alamia Street,
Extension of Abdel Razak El Sanhoury Street
P.O. Box 7608, Nasr City
Cairo 11371, Egypt
www.emro.who.int