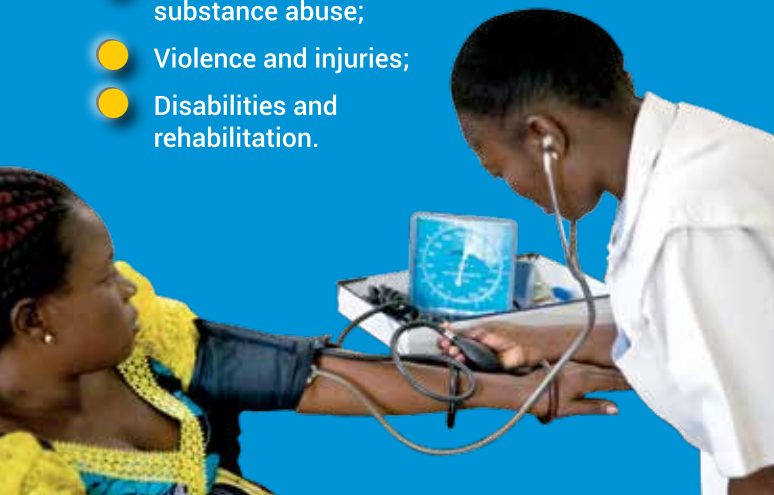


## Noncommunicable Diseases

Conditions such as Mental Health, Violence, Injuries and Disabilities; Cardiovascular diseases; Diabetes; Cancer; Chronic respiratory diseases; Sickle Cell Disease and genetic disorders; Kidney diseases and musculoskeletal conditions; Eye, Ear and Oral problems are increasingly challenging health systems in Africa, and absorbing substantial amounts of resources.

The vast majority of these diseases are caused by a combination of four life style risk factors, namely tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, consumption of unhealthy diet, and physical inactivity. WHO support Member States in the following areas in order to prevent and control noncommunicable diseases:

- Primary prevention through reduction of key risk factors and determinants;
- Integrated management of major chronic noncommunicable diseases;
- Mental health and psychoactive substance abuse;
- Violence and injuries;
- Disabilities and rehabilitation.



## Promoting Health through the Life Course

Health needs to be promoted at every stage of life, taking into account the social conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, together with gender, equity and human rights.

WHO works in the following areas:

- Child Health and Development
- Adolescent, Youth and School Health
- Nutrition
- Maternal and Newborn Health
- Sexual & Reproductive Health
- Women's Health and Ageing
- Immunization Delivery Services
- Accelerated Immunization Initiatives
- Immunization Systems Support



## Health Systems Strengthening

WHO contributes to the attainment of health for all by helping countries to develop responsive and resilient health systems that are centred on people's needs and circumstances. We support countries in the Region to strengthen their health systems to achieve more equitable and sustained improvements, with the overarching goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage.

WHO also supports countries in completing the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and pursuing the post-2015 health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goals and targets, and in developing resilient health systems, able to absorb shocks, adapt, retain performance and sustain gains during and after crises.

WHO works in the following areas.

- Leadership and governance
- Information (and knowledge)
- Health workforce
- Service delivery
- Health financing
- Medical products, vaccines and technologies



## Health Security and Emergencies

WHO helps countries to reduce death, sickness and societal disruption by managing outbreaks and the health related aspects of humanitarian disasters, through prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities that build resilience and use a multisectoral approach.

WHO works in the following areas:

- Infectious hazard management
- Member State Preparedness (International Health Regulations and all-hazards)
- Risk Assessment and Information Management
- Emergency Operations (all-hazards/events)
- External Relations



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# World Health Organization in the African Region

*Making People Healthier*



# Who we are

The World Health Organization contributes to a better future for people everywhere. Good health lays the foundation for vibrant and productive communities, stronger economies, safer nations and a better world. Our work touches people's lives around the world every day.

As the lead health authority within the United Nations system, we help to ensure the safety of the medicines and vaccines that treat and protect us. The air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink. We aim to provide every child, woman and man with the best chance to lead a long, healthy and fulfilled life.



The Organization provides leadership, shapes the research agenda, sets norms and standards, articulates evidence based policy, provides technical support and monitors health trends. The WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO), based in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, is responsible for 47 of the 54 countries in Africa. AFRO plans and executes WHO's work to support Member States in the Region. To enable everyone to attain the highest possible level of health, WHO provides experienced public health expertise to support countries to prevent and control diseases and builds the capacity of national governments to improve their people's health. In carrying out our work, we listen to countries and monitor health trends to work out what needs to be done to protect human health. We use the best scientific evidence available to establish the most effective ways to prevent, treat and cure health problems and also look for ways to ensure these reach the greatest numbers of people.



# Health Challenges

The health challenges facing the WHO African Region include communicable and noncommunicable diseases, high maternal and child deaths aggravated by epidemics, poverty and other natural and man-made disasters. Weak health systems mean coverage of health actions remains low, often interventions relating to leadership and governance; staffing; medical products; vaccines and technologies; information; financing; service delivery; etc.

Other challenges include ensuring universal access to health services and addressing the impact of the broad determinants of health, such as access to education, housing, clean water and sanitation, safe food, nutrition and health promotion. The strengthening of health systems based on the primary health care approach, increased investment in health as well as more efficient management of resources are the appropriate responses to address these challenges.



# Communicable Diseases

(Infectious diseases)

Some of the major contributors to short lifespan in the Region are communicable diseases such as HIV/ AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections and vaccine preventable diseases. Most of these diseases can largely be prevented and their negative impact reduced if people adopt healthy lifestyles, have access to safe drinking water and adequate nutrition, live in well ventilated houses with improved sanitation facilities and have financial and geographic access to quality health care. WHO continues to promote policies and best practices that facilitate better health outcomes for all.



WHO works in the following areas:

- HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis
- Malaria
- Hepatitis
- Neglected Tropical Diseases
- Immunization, Vaccine Development and Regulation
- Reducing health inequities
- Promoting healthy environments, access to safe drinking water, sanitation and clean air
- Climate Change

