

# World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the United Nations specialized agency for health. The goal of the WHO is to build a better, healthier future for people all over the world. WHO has been at the forefront of improving health around the world since its founding in 1948. Working through offices in more than 150 countries, WHO Secretariat staff work side by side with governments and other partners to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all people. In recent years, WHO has undergone a profound reform process thereby aiming to pursue a higher degree of excellence, contribute to greater coherence in global health and, most important of all, achieves better health outcomes.

## WHO's leadership priorities across the world

1. **Advancing universal health coverage:** enabling countries to sustain or expand access to all needed health services and financial protection, and promoting universal health coverage;
2. **Achieving health-related development goals:** addressing unfinished and future challenges relating to maternal and child health; combating HIV, malaria, TB, and completing the eradication of polio and a number of neglected tropical diseases;
3. **Addressing the challenge of non-communicable diseases and mental health, violence and injuries and disabilities;**
4. **Ensuring that all countries can detect and respond to acute public health threats under the International Health Regulations;**
5. **Increasing access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable medical products (medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and other health technologies); and**
6. **Addressing the social, economic and environmental determinants of health as a means to promote health outcomes and reduce health inequalities within and between countries.**

Progress on these priorities will accelerate progress towards the new Sustainable Development Goal for health: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

## The Work of WHO in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The global priorities highlighted above are all relevant to the work of WHO in the Islamic Republic of Iran. WHO Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran works closely with its government counterparts, especially the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME), other relevant ministries, academic institutions especially the Medical Universities, civil society organizations and other sister UN agencies who deal with matters related to health.

All activities of the WHO Country Office are planned in close collaboration with the various Departments in the MOHME.



Building of the WHO Headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland (Copyright: WHO/P. Virost)

Hence the activities of WHO in the Islamic Republic of Iran are closely aligned to the national health priorities.

WHO provides technical assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran in the health-related areas including:

- 1. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Health:** Support the MOHME in documenting and benchmarking health indicators under SDG and alignment with sixth national development plan; and develop framework for action towards health target(s) in SDG, in health and non-health sectors.
- 2. **Health system development for Universal Health Coverage:** Health Transformation Plan; Establishment of Family Medicine Program for primary care; Capacity building of hospital management; Improving the quality of care; Essential medicines and technologies; Global Health Diplomacy; and Capacity development in different areas of health system
- 3. **Non Communicable Disease (NCD) prevention and control:** Review of the NCD Prevention and Control Programme; Prevention and control of tobacco use in Iran; Reducing fats, salt and sugar intake; Integration of NCDs care in primary care system
- 4. **Mental health, injuries and violence:** Strengthening mental health services; and Injuries and violence
- 5. **Control of communicable diseases:** National HIV/AIDS programme; National Malaria Elimination Programme; Tuberculosis programme; and National Vaccine Preventable and Immunization programme
- 6. **Improving reproductive and child health:** Maternal health; Child health, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) programme and Well Child Care programme; Adolescent and youth health programmes
- 7. **Emergency preparedness and response:** International Health Regulation; Food safety; Poliomyelitis; Antimicrobial Resistance; Emergency preparedness
- 8. **Environmental health:** Develop and establish Water Quality and Sanitation protocol; Health Impact Assessment