

WHO input to the progress report for the UNSWAP for the *Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)*

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Structural transformation, productive employment and decent work

In 2023, the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All released its final report, the focus of which was structural transformation. The WHO and the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law released the Global health and care worker law and policy lab. WHO also released the report Fair share for health and care: gender and the undervaluation of health and care work and continued to support national authorities on health workforce policy issues, particularly in countries on WHO’s 2023 ‘Health workforce support and safeguard list’. As an estimated 2 billion people living in rural areas do not have adequate access to essential health services, WHO provides support in line with its guideline on health workforce development, attraction, recruitment and retention in rural and remote areas.

Expanding social protection systems to achieve inclusive poverty-reducing development

Equitable access to comprehensive social protection floors is an important determinant of health equity. WHO’s recent Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities outlines actions that governments can take to improve the situation of persons with disabilities. WHO has been supporting Member States to implement these recommendations and collect poverty-related data on disability through the WHO Model Disability Survey. WHO published the Operational Framework for Monitoring Social Determinants of Health Equity and continues its *Multi-country Special Initiative for Action on the Social Determinants of Health for Advancing Health Equity*. Through the Special Initiative, WHO has joined the UN Collaboration on Social Protection and is collaborating with the ILO to align social and health policies. WHO is advancing activities supporting the Integrated Care for Older Persons (ICOPE) approach and the integration of long-term care services into health and social care systems.

Human capability development: addressing the non-income forms of poverty

Lack of access to health services and products constitutes a dimension of multidimensional poverty. WHO provides support to Member States and produce high-quality financial data¹ and analyses on progress towards financial protection in health as an integral part of universal health coverage. WHO and the World Bank jointly published the 2023 Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Global Monitoring Report, ahead of the High-Level Meeting on UHC at the 78th United Nations General Assembly. WHO is also continuing production of guidance and trainings on affordable pricing of health products and efficient procurement, with examples including: guidance on pricing; guidance for using the WHO model list of essential medicines; guidance on using the WHO Model List of Essential In Vitro Diagnostics; and training in safe and effective provision of assistive products.

The future of food and sustainable agriculture

¹ Global databases can be accessed here: <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/financial-protection> and <https://apps.who.int/nha/database/Select/Indicators/en>

WHO continues to release guidelines related to undernutrition, healthy diets and healthy diet policies². WHO hosts the Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All and, together with FAO, WHO co-leads the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025). In addition to supporting national authorities on nutrition, WHO tracks progress through country scorecards and the *Global database on the Implementation of Food and Nutrition Action*. UNICEF/WHO/World Bank joint child malnutrition estimates 2023³ were published, and the FAO/IFAD/WFP/WHO *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023* report highlights important inequities⁴. WHO recently accepted the UN Global Pulse award on Scale Accelerator for the Tobacco-Free Farms initiative in Kenya, alongside WFP, FAO and UNDDF.

WHO, FAO, UNEP and World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH) jointly support countries in strengthening multisectoral coordination for preparedness to address zoonotic diseases. WHO facilitates the review of existing collaboration between animal health, human health and environment sectors during IHR-PVS (International Health Regulations and Performance of Veterinary Services) National Bridging Workshops, with 56 countries covered to date. FAO, WHO and WHOA have developed a kit of operational tools, including the Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool (JRA OT), the Surveillance and Information Sharing Operational Tool (SIS OT), the Multisectoral Coordination Mechanism Operational Tools (MCM-OT), and the Response and Preparedness Tool (REPREP).

Reduce inequalities

Monitoring health inequalities is essential to improve the health and wellbeing of populations experiencing poverty and reduce socio-spatial inequities. The WHO Health Inequality Data Repository was recently launched; the Health Equity Assessment Toolkit (HEAT and HEAT Plus) software application further refined, and a series of eLearning courses built country and regional capacity for health inequality monitoring. The new WHO Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Centre for Health provides tools and expertise for spatially responsive data-driven decisions that improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities.

WHO adopted the Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) Guidelines. and developed an OpenWHO online Course “Taking Sex and Gender into Account in Infectious Disease Outbreaks”. WHO advanced its guidance for conducting assessments of barriers to effective coverage with health services and the measurement of unmet need. WHO also gathered evidence on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 among rural and remote populations, which globally experience higher levels of poverty, as well as ethnic minorities who may experience higher poverty rates due to social exclusion processes. WHO also supported the Government of Brazil and other co-sponsors in the adoption of a World Health Assembly Resolution (76.16) on the health of Indigenous Peoples, and is developing a related global plan of action. Poverty, income inequality and social polarization adversely affect mental health and wellbeing⁵. The UNICEF and WHO Joint Programme on Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being and Development of

² [Nutrition and Food Safety \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/nutrition)

³ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240073791>

⁴ FAO/IFAD/UNICEF/WFP/WHO 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum*. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/a17000a4-6f42-46cf-9eaa-06007970365d>

⁵ See Lund C, Brooke-Sumner C, Baingana F, Baron EC, Breuer E, Chandra P, et al. Social determinants of mental disorders and the Sustainable Development Goals: a systematic review of reviews. *Lancet Psychiatry*. 2018;5(4):357–369. doi:10.1016/S2215-0366(18)30060-9

Children and Adolescents⁶ continues to expand its reach, particularly in areas impacted by socio-economic challenges.

Addressing climate change and the intensification of natural hazards

WHO continues to support countries in assessing and addressing the health risks from climate change. WHO, UNDP, UNEP and UNICEF have created a [new compendium](#) of 500 actions aimed at reducing death and diseases driven by environmental risk factors. WHO has recently released an [online course on Climate Change and Health](#) and provides [in-person trainings](#), and has developed a [new toolkit](#) designed to equip health and care workers with the knowledge and confidence to effectively communicate about climate change and health. WHO and UNICEF continue collaboration for the [Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene \(JMP\)](#), and WHO has recently published [new guidelines and supporting tools for sanitary inspections](#), specifically tailored to small water supplies, which aim to reach people in rural communities as well as others those left behind from access to safe drinking water.

Fight poverty in fragile and humanitarian contexts

WHO supports countries and communities as they prepare for, face, or recover from emergencies caused by disease outbreaks, natural or man-made disasters or conflicts. With regard to poverty and inequalities in these contexts, WHO is an active member of the [Global Health Cluster Task Team on Cash-Based Interventions](#) and continues to implement its [gender mainstreaming strategy for its work in health emergencies](#). Tackling spatial barriers, WHO Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Centre for Health is providing rapid response support for health emergencies in many countries where populations may be experiencing acute shocks to health.

⁶ [UNICEF and WHO joint programme on mental health and psychosocial well-being and development of children and adolescents](#)