

This document is part of a series of documents produced by the Child and Adolescent Health and Development unit to assist countries in efforts to improve the quality of children's lives through integrated approaches. A national child health policy document is a key instrument for setting clear long-term directions and for bringing together the main elements of child health. At a time when all Member States have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, a national health policy will enable countries to "institutionalize" this commitment and translate it into stronger action, and will also serve as a valuable reference to harmonize actions among partners.

This document is one of the outcomes of the Child Health Policy Initiative (CHPI) recently undertaken by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean to guide countries in formulating their child health policy and to promote primary child health care at the highest possible political level. Since the foundations of national child health policy should lie in in-depth review of the current child health care situation, the emphasis of this document is on the first phase of the policy development process, namely the situation analysis. The document proposes concrete and practical steps to organize the work in conducting the situation analysis. An outline is also provided for the situation analysis report.

# DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL CHILD HEALTH POLICY

## Phase 1: The Situation Analysis

### A Child Health Policy Initiative (CHPI)



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