

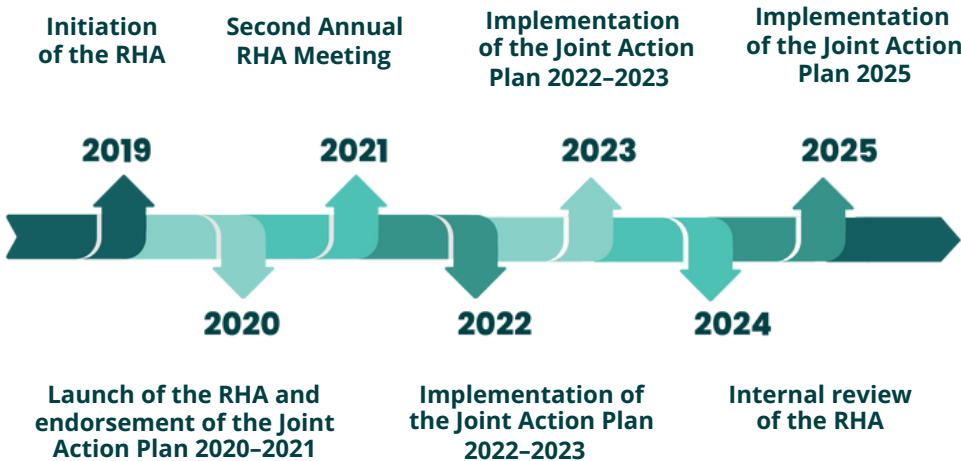
Stronger collaboration, better health



Regional Health Alliance

Strengthening UN collaboration to address regional health priorities and accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Regional Health Alliance (RHA) was initiated to mirror the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being (GAP) in 2019 with 12 UN agency members and has since grown to include 18 organizations. This collaborative platform works to accelerate progress toward health-related SDGs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region by fostering multilateral engagement and supporting Member States in addressing health priorities and achieving equitable, sustainable health outcomes.





The objectives of the RHA are to:

- foster collaboration on priority public health issues across UN development and humanitarian organizations;
- promote joint actions to address gaps in implementation of the health-related SDGs;
- promote and support collaboration, initiatives, and programmes to address transboundary and common health issues;
- promote coherent regional policy dialogues and advocacy strategies, and align regional and global health agendas accordingly; and
- facilitate demand-driven support and integration of health in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).



ENGAGE:

with countries better to identify priorities, plan and implement together.

ACCELERATE:

progress in countries through joint actions under four thematic groups.

ACCOUNT:

by reviewing progress and learning together to enhance shared accountability.

ALIGN:

in support of countries by harmonizing operational and financial strategies, policies and approaches.

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The SDGs represent our highest ambitions to create a peaceful, greener, prosperous, and dignified future for all people. As we countdown to 2030, let us accelerate action now,

Ms Amina Mohammed, Deputy UN Secretary General, Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group

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For better access to healthcare we need equitable supply chains we also need to train and retain enough health workers to meet the regions health needs and we must do our utmost to prevent harm and overcome the treatment gap for people with substance use disorders.

Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean

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Four linked Thematic Groups aim to accelerate progress on the health-related SDGs. They collectively contribute to supporting countries to advance their health and well-being through targeted, equity-oriented, gender-responsive and human rights-based joint activities in the priority areas and responding to country needs. This collaboration leverages on the one UN approach towards attainment of the 2030 agenda.

Primary
Health Care for
Universal Health
Coverage

1

Health
determinants,
risk factors and
community
engagement

2

Health
emergencies
preparedness &
response

3

Research,
Innovation, and
Evidence-Infor-
med Policy

4

Primary
Health Care for
Universal Health
Coverage

1

Aligning action to implement the PHC approach, the PHC operational framework and the regional health priorities. Promoting an integrated framework that leverages the expertise of multiple UN agencies to optimize health care access, equity, efficiency and resilience to meet the diverse health needs of the populations across the Region.

Addressing health determinants and risk factors and fostering community engagement to overcome health disparities through a life-course approach across all settings. To realize the full potential of individuals and communities and their well-being rather than disease through adopting a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach coupled with community empowerment.

Health
determinants,
risk factors and
community
engagement

2

Health
emergencies
preparedness &
response

3

Enhancing preparedness, responsiveness, and resilience to health emergencies through all-hazards, comprehensive, collaborative, and multisectoral coordination. The focus is on strengthening health emergency management capacities, ensuring efficient humanitarian supply chains, and augmenting early detection and response mechanisms for outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics, while maintaining essential health systems. Furthermore, integrating the One Health approach and address the health needs of internally displaced persons, migrants, and refugees.

Promoting the collaboration to support the development of inclusive and evidence-based health policies. The group emphasizes the critical role of research, innovation, digital health and technology with a focus on data-driven policymaking, with the aim of ensuring that health policies are evidence-based, address health challenges and meet regional health needs.

Research,
Innovation, and
Evidence-Infor-
med Policy

4

Regional Flagships Initiatives

To strengthen support for Member States, WHO's Regional Director has launched three flagship initiatives. These address key bottlenecks and priorities to accelerate progress in implementing the strategic operational plan and achieving the health-related SDGs.



Expanding **equitable access** to medical products

This flagship initiative aims to enhance equitable access to essential medical products by enhancing procurement and supply systems, bolstering local production capacity and strengthening regulatory systems across the Region. A new regional pooled procurement mechanism will strengthen accessibility and improve countries' bargaining position with manufacturers, while a programme of sustained technical support at country level will help build domestic capacities for production, distribution and regulation and elevate national regulatory authority (NRA) maturity levels in countries by 2028.



Investing in a resilient **health workforce**

This flagship initiative seeks to build a resilient, fit-for-purpose and sustainable health workforce across the Region to achieve universal health coverage, the health-related SDGs and health security by 2030, while promoting equitable occupational opportunities and protecting health professionals from harm. To achieve this, the flagship proposes actions to increase investment in health workforce, scaling up and retaining the workforce for primary care and essential public health functions, and establishing a regional health workforce collaborative.



Accelerating public health action on **substance use**

This flagship initiative aims to reduce morbidity, mortality and social costs associated with substance use disorders through contextualized, evidence-based public health interventions in both stable and emergency settings. To this end, it proposes integration of substance use disorder treatment at PHC level, decriminalization of substance use and promoting alternative measures such as treatment and life-skills education in schools and workplaces to discourage initiation of substance use in the first place.



Get in touch with the RHA secretariat



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