

Five strategic health areas are being targeted for action in the Region. These are:

- Strengthening of health systems
- Maternal, reproductive and child health and nutrition
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Communicable diseases
- Emergency preparedness and response.

These strategic directions were proposed by the Regional Director in the document 'Shaping the future of health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: reinforcing the role of WHO' and in his opening address to the Ministers of Health of the Region at the 59th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, 1–4 October 2012. The Regional Committee endorsed the 5 strategic directions for WHO's work in the Region during the coming 5 years.

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