Countries need robust health information systems that generate reliable and timely data to inform the development of appropriate, effective and cost-effective health policies. Evidence-based policy-making is essential to achieve, and monitor progress, towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and universal health coverage (UHC), and its importance is emphasized repeatedly in WHO’s Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13).

The central focus of GPW 13 is impact in countries and the GPW 13 WHO Impact Framework aims to track the joint efforts of WHO, Member States and partners in achieving the GPW’s “triple billion” targets and the measurable impact on people’s health at the country level. The Impact Framework maps SDG targets and indicators to GPW targets and indicators.

In addition, to strengthen national institutional capacity for the use of evidence in health policy-making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the WHO Regional Office has developed a framework for health information systems, which provides practical actions that countries can take to build national institutional capacity and outlines the support that WHO can provide to facilitate this process. It comprises a list of 75 regional core indicators that focus on three main components:

- monitoring health determinants and risks;
- assessing health status, including morbidity and cause-specific mortality; and
- assessing health system response.

WHO will continue its efforts to support countries of the Region in strengthening national health information systems. This includes comprehensive health information system assessments, developing national health information system strategies, and improving national capacity in death certification and analysis, International Classification of Disease (ICD) coding, enhancing the reporting of routine data at hospital and primary care levels, as well as disease surveillance. Additionally, WHO is working closely with countries to develop national household survey plans, streamline processes and ensure that key information is available to countries in a timely manner.
Experts meet to discuss priority national population-based surveys for better reporting of regional core health and SDG 3 indicators
11–12 December 2017
Review of national health information system in Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan
24–28 July 2017

Resources

Framework for action to improve national institutional capacity for the use of evidence in health policy-making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (2020-2024)
Arabic  |  French

Comprehensive assessment of Pakistan’s health information system 2017

Comprehensive assessment of Jordan’s health information system 2016

Health indicators