



WHO at 75: Saving Lives, Driving Health For All



2023 is a remarkable year for global public health because it marks 75 years since the world came together to establish the World Health Organization (WHO). On World Health Day, April 7, 2023, WHO marked its 75 anniversary. This year members states convened in Switzerland in May 2023, for the 76th World Health Assembly (WHA) under the theme 'WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all.' This edition of the WHO Kuwait Newsletter shares key highlights from Q2, as well as important updates from the 76th World Health Assembly which commemorated WHO at 75.

Reflecting Between The Past vs Present Q2/Newsletter



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Reiterating Leadership Commitment To Improving Health In Kuwait & Beyond



As we reflect on the past and present, it becomes evident that the World Health Organization and Kuwait have nurtured a robust and ensuring partnerships for many decades. Over the years, this collaboration has played a pivotal role in advancing healthcare and promoting 'Health For All' in Kuwait and beyond. Together, we have tackled various health challenges, shared expertise, and implemented initiatives that have positively impacted that nation's healthcare system. This alliance stands as a testament to the shared commitment in ensuring the health and prosperity of its people, while also laying a strong foundation for future endeavors in the field of public health.



WHO's Director- General Dr. Tedros Adhanom and Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al Awadhi met during the 76th World Health Assembly, reiterating the strong partnership between WHO and the State of Kuwait.



“ A very good meeting with the Minister Dr. Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi. Thanked him for Kuwait's continuing support to WHO's earthquake response in Turkiye and Syria, and other crises, including Sudan. I appreciate their contributions to the Contingency Fund for Emergencies. ”

Kuwait Committing to Driving 'Health For All' At WHA 76



In the lead up to WHA 76, WHO Kuwait Country Office provided technical support to the Kuwaiti delegation. The WHO Head of Mission worked with the delegation to prepare Kuwait's participation for the global forum on health joined by 194 member states. These preparations which are an important part of WHO's support to member states, ensures that member states are well equipped to participate in and benefit from the policy and strategy discussions at WHA. It also ensures that member states can effectively address important challenges, and access key solutions to global health issues.



The Kuwaiti delegation at 76th World Health Assembly, led by Dr. Buthaina Al-Mudhaf Assistant Under Secretary for Public Health, made an important announcement towards building a climate resilient health system this decision is a concrete step to improving Kuwait's SDG indicators 3 health and well-being for its people and SDG 13 climate-action.



Community Outreach To Foster A Culture Of 'Health For All'



In line with our commitment to support the community in Kuwait, the WHO country office was honored to be part of the Gergean celebrations held at the Al Yarmouk community park, in the presence of Dr. Rehab Al Wotyan, Director of International Health Relations at Ministry of Health, and Dr. Assad Hafeez, WHO Representative to Kuwait and Dr. Ghassan Al Othman the Head of Al Yarmouk Healthy City. Al Yarmouk - the 1st healthy city designated by WHO. WHO remains committed to supporting Kuwaiti in improving health for all, as well as in advocating for the multidimensional nature of health. At the initiative, children were given an opportunity to participate at WHO's 75th year anniversary health art competition.

Dedicated To Fostering Cultural Exchange In Kuwait During The Holy Month Of Ramadan



The country office proudly collaborated with UN agencies and the World Bank to co-host a Ramadan Ghabqah event. This was a testament to joint efforts at building interconnected, holistic, and inclusive futures for all of society.

Empowering Kuwait's Future Generation



As part of efforts to advocate for health with future leaders, the country office joined efforts with the United Nations and fellow agencies during the Kuwait Universities 'Future Makers Forum' which was a platform to introduce new graduates to opportunities within the UN system. WHO also collaborated with Dr. Ammar Al Sayegh the Head of Psychiatry Department at Kuwait Center for Mental Health to host a workshop of 'Mental Health in the Work Environment.'

Multi-stakeholder Meetings to Mitigate the Negative Impact of Climate Change on Health



Climate change and its effects are an important global issue, with countries around the world working to mitigate the negative effects on health and society. WHO Kuwait country office along with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning & Development co-hosted a multistakeholder consultation meeting convening different entities in Kuwait to collaboratively identify Kuwait's health impact priorities due to the negative effects of climate change. In Q2 2023, WHO presented these findings to stakeholders. The meeting also allowed participants to discuss strategies and interventions to help mitigate the health risks related to climate change.



Strengthening Partnerships for a Healthier World



Introduction of WHO Collaborating Center to Stakeholders in Kuwait

WHO collaborating centers (CC) are institutions such as research institutes, parts of universities or academies, which are designated by the Director-General to carry out activities in support of the Organization's programmes. Currently there are over 800 WHO collaborating centers in over 80 Member States working with WHO on areas such as nursing, occupational health, communicable diseases, nutrition, mental health, chronic diseases, and health technologies. As part of WHO's mission to collaborate with stakeholders in Kuwait the country office organized an introductory workshop led by Dr. Ahmed Mandil, Coordinator of Research Innovation at WHO EMRO, on how to become a WHO designated collaborating center. The workshop was hosted by Dr. Rehab Al Wotyan, the Director of International Health Relations at MoH, and attended by Dr. Assad Hafeez, the WHO Representative to Kuwait. This introduction was an important step in encouraging institutions in Kuwait to contribute to WHO's mandate and mission globally. Dr. Mandil accompanied by the country office visited interested centers in Kuwait to further discuss the process of designation.



Discussions with Kuwait's 1st CC



WHO visited Dasman Diabetes Institute to discuss their interest of designation



Discussions with Al Yarmouk PHC to become a designated CC in family medicine.

Exchange Of Regional Expertise

Committing to Reducing the Rates of Non Communicable Diseases in the GCC



Improving health outcomes and developing partnerships for health is not limited to national stakeholders. WHO Representative to Kuwait, Dr. Assad Hafeez hosted a delegation from the Gulf-Center for Disease Prevention & Control, led by CEO Dr. Pasi Penttinen, and joined by Dr. Mohammed Al-Seidan, Director of Public Health at the Ministry of Health. Together both organizations discussed ongoing collaborations and plans on further joint initiatives on preventing communicable and non-communicable diseases, capacity building for health managers, response to public health crises, addressing the impact of climate change on health, and fostering healthy communities across members of the GCC.

Regional Exchange of Experiences to Advance Age-Friendly Communities



The Health Cities Program is an important priority for Kuwait's Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health represented by Dr. Fatemah Bendhafari, Director of the Geriatric Department & Dr. Amaal Al Yehia, Head of Healthy Cities Office, participated in the Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities: Introductory Meeting for Arab Cities. The meeting that was held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, focused on exploring the invaluable experience of the Emirate of Sharjah in creating age-friendly cities. The Kuwait Ministry of Health's representation at this event signifies commitment to enhancing the well-being and quality of life for the elderly population. The MoH delegation was supported by WHO Communications Specialist and Healthy Cities focal point, Ms. Serin Al Ghusein.

The logo features the number '75' in a stylized, multi-colored font. The '7' is green and yellow, and the '5' is purple and orange. To the right of the '5' are three short black lines radiating upwards. Below the number is the text 'HEALTH FOR ALL' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

75 HEATH
FOR ALL



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