



Kuwait, 28 November 2022- Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and in partnership with the Gulf Health Council, the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in Kuwait in collaboration with the UN System Staff College (UNSSC) and Johns Hopkins University delivers the second leadership training programme under the title of "Health Leadership for Positive Change".

Dr Rihab AlWotayan, the Director International Health Relations at the Ministry of Health, said, "The Ministry of Health is incredibly proud of the hard working, talented and selfless professionals we have. It is critical for any organization to identify and to cultivate leaders from within, which is exactly why the Ministry of Health has been very keen in making the 'Health Leadership for Positive Change' a staple of the workshops offered to Ministry staff. This workshop is unique in how it combines different sectors, professions and levels of seniority all

under one roof, allowing the participants to see, hear and discuss different point of views with their colleagues, creating a sense of comradery which will continue long past this workshop. And all of this is done under the guidance of top international professionals from the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNSCC and Johns Hopkins university, ensuring an incredibly valuable experience for all of those involved. And, most importantly, ensuring our main stakeholders, the citizens and residents of Kuwait, will continue to have access to health leaders that are of an international standard.”

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Assad Hafeez, WHO Representative to Kuwait, added, “We hope that with the sustained delivery of this course across cohorts of senior level officials at ministries of health in the Region that we institute key competencies for leadership in public health that are responsive to the challenges unique to our populations. We have gathered experts from across the disciplinary board to deliver the tools and best practices that have evidenced impactful public health results.”

The Health Leadership for Positive Change is an intensive 4-day programme that will run from 28 November to 1 December 2022. Participants include mid-senior officials from the Ministry of Health in Kuwait and member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the programme will enable participants to strengthen their leadership capacities in the realms of systems-thinking, communication, community partnership and stakeholder engagement, policy development and programme planning for impactful development and implementation of the national public health agenda.

Topics will cover health and well-being at the crossroads of sustainable development, foresight approaches in global public health, healthy diplomacy and the art of negotiations. Day 1 focused on the global goals and health within the sustainable development agenda. On day 2 the focus of the discussion is challenge of prevailing mindset in health and reflections from COVID-19 learnings from the Eastern Mediterranean Region. On day 3, the theme is building on systems thinking within the public health atmosphere and leading high impact teams to deliver excellent results. On day 4 which will conclude the last day of the programme participants will be asked to apply the knowledge and skills of the previous days into simulation settings of real world public health scenarios.

Dr Rihab AlWotayan the Director International Health Relations at the Ministry of Health, will be facilitating the course. The International Health Relations envisage a series of similar courses in coming years, with international collaboration, to develop a pool of world class well-groomed leaders within the health sector in Kuwait.

## About WHO

Dedicated to the well-being of all people and guided by science, the World Health Organization leads and champions global efforts to give everyone, everywhere and equal chance at a safe and healthy life. We are the United Nations agency for health that connects nations, partners, and people on the front lines in 150+ locations, leading the world's response to health emergencies, preventing disease, addressing the root causes of health issues, and expanding access to medicines and health care. Our mission is to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

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