



REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Provisional Agenda item 9

*Seventy-second Session
New Delhi
2–6 September 2019*

SEA/RC72/13 Add.1

12 July 2019

Progress reports on selected Regional Committee resolutions

The High-Level Preparatory Meeting held in New Delhi from 1 to 4 July 2019 reviewed the progress reports on the following selected Regional Committee resolutions:

1. South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (**SEA/RC60/R7**);
2. Expanding the scope of the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) (**SEA/RC69/R6**);
3. Antimicrobial resistance (**SEA/RC68/R3**);
4. Patient safety contributing to sustainable universal health coverage (**SEA/RC68/R4**);
5. Challenges in polio eradication (**SEA/RC60/R8**);
6. Colombo Declaration on strengthening health systems to accelerate delivery of NCD services at the primary health care level (**SEA/RC69/R1**);
7. Traditional medicine: Delhi Declaration (**SEA/RC67/R3**); and
8. 2012: Year of Intensification of Routine Immunization in the South-East Asia Region: Framework for increasing and sustaining coverage (**SEA/RC64/R3**).

The recommendations made by the High-Level Preparatory Meeting on each of these progress reports are submitted to the Seventy-second Session of the WHO Regional Committee for its consideration.

Introduction

1. The High-Level Preparatory Meeting held in New Delhi, India, from 1–4 July 2019 reviewed the progress reports on the following selected Regional Committee resolutions:

- i. South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (**SEA/RC60/R7**);
- ii. Expanding the scope of the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) (**SEA/RC69/R6**);
- iii. Antimicrobial resistance (**SEA/RC68/R3**);
- iv. Patient safety contributing to sustainable universal health coverage (**SEA/RC68/R4**);
- v. Challenges in polio eradication (**SEA/RC60/R8**);
- vi. Colombo Declaration on strengthening health systems to accelerate delivery of NCD services at the primary health care level (**SEA/RC69/R1**);
- vii. Traditional medicine: Delhi Declaration (**SEA/RC67/R3**); and
- viii. 2012: Year of Intensification of Routine Immunization in the South-East Asia Region: Framework for increasing and sustaining coverage (**SEA/RC64/R3**).

2. The recommendations made by the High-Level Preparatory Meeting on each of these progress reports are submitted to the Seventy-second Session of the WHO Regional Committee for its consideration.

- 1. South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEA/RC60/R7); and**
- 2. Expanding the scope of the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) (SEA/RC69/R6)¹**

Recommendations

Actions by Member States

- (1) Continue to support the implementation of SEARHEF business rules, particularly with regard to ensuring timely reporting.
- (2) Provide updates on the progress made regarding contributions to the SEARHEF preparedness stream, particularly in the context of the proposed Ministerial Roundtable on Emergency Preparedness at the Seventy-second Session of the Regional Committee.

¹ HLP participants decided that both these progress reports are interlinked and hence were discussed together. HLP participants agreed to the common recommendations for both the agenda items.

Actions by WHO

- (1) Continue to engage in discussions with Member States and donors to provide contributions to SEARHEF, especially for the preparedness stream.
- (2) Share the findings of the 10-year evaluation of the utilization and impact of SEARHEF.

3. Antimicrobial resistance (SEA/RC68/R3)

Recommendations

Actions by Member States

- (1) Scale up implementation of national action plans through high-level political commitment, adequate budget allocation, effective regulation and timely strategic directions.

Actions by WHO

- (1) Continue to extend technical support to Member States in implementing all five pillars of the Global Action Plan on AMR.
- (2) Closely monitor the implementation of national action plans in the Region and share progress with Member States.
- (3) Support the documentation and sharing of national experiences and best practices.

4. Patient safety contributing to sustainable universal health coverage (SEA/RC68/R4)

Recommendations

Actions by Member States

- (1) Increase engagement of all relevant stakeholders for promoting awareness and implementing interventions to improve patient safety based on identified priorities.
- (2) Integrate quality and safety indicators into health information systems, strengthen adverse event reporting systems and participate in regional platforms to share evidence and experience with other countries on actions to improve patient safety.

- (3) Commemorate World Patient Safety Day on 17 September annually to promote all aspects of patient safety including progress on national milestones in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Actions by WHO

- (1) Facilitate formation of regional platforms and documentation and sharing of national experiences with interventions for improving patient safety and quality of care as an integral part of advancing UHC.
- (2) Continue to support SEA Region Member States in developing and implementing national policies and interventions to promote a system strengthening approach to improving patient safety, and promoting a patient safety culture in health facilities.
- (3) Report on the progress made in implementing the Regional Committee resolution on “Patient Safety Contributing to Sustainable Universal Health Coverage” (SEA/RC68/R4) to the Seventy-fourth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in 2021.

5. Challenges in polio eradication (SEA/RC60/R8)

Recommendations

Actions by Member States

- (1) Maintain and strengthen strategies outlined under the Polio Endgame Strategy 2019–2023 to ensure that the polio-free status of the Region is maintained.
- (2) Complete national surveys and inventories for infectious and potentially infectious materials, and also undertake the verification process of the destruction of all non-essential materials in alignment with the requirements of the “Global Action Plan to minimize poliovirus facility-associated risk after type-specific eradication of wild polioviruses and sequential cessation of oral polio vaccine use” (GAP III).
- (3) Endorse and implement polio transition plans in Member States with significant polio infrastructure and assets to mitigate programmatic risks associated with the decline in polio funding.

Actions by WHO

- (1) Provide technical support to Member States to implement the measures outlined under the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Endgame Strategy 2019–2023, including polio-risk assessment and development of outbreak response plans, where appropriate.
- (2) Provide technical support to and build capacity in Member States for facility containment of polioviruses as per requirements of the Global Action Plan III.

6. Colombo Declaration on strengthening health systems to accelerate delivery of NCD services at the primary health care level (SEA/RC69/R1)

Recommendations

Actions by Member States

- (1) Prioritize strengthening of primary health care systems focusing on capacity-building through the development of effective multitasking of the primary health care workforce and building additional cadres to respond to the increased scope and expectation of people-centred NCD prevention and control services.
- (2) Strengthen health-care delivery systems to provide essential NCD services to vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations to achieve universal health coverage.
- (3) Mobilize resources to address NCDs, including identifying fiscal space for NCD prevention and control activities from domestic resources through policy advocacy and exploring innovative financing mechanisms such as co-funding by local governments and dedicated taxation on tobacco, alcohol and sweetened beverages, etc.

Actions by WHO

- (1) Continue to support Member States in their efforts to strengthen NCD prevention and control at the primary health care level and validate country-specific models of NCD service delivery by supporting rigorous evaluation.
- (2) Support Member States in mobilizing resources for NCD prevention and control activities, including innovative financing mechanisms.

7. Traditional medicine: Delhi Declaration (SEA/RC67/R3)

Recommendations

Actions by Member States

- (1) Continue to implement the WHO Traditional and Complementary Medicine Strategy 2014–2023 and Delhi Declaration on Traditional Medicine in accordance with country priority, legislation and circumstances.
- (2) Share experiences, expertise and best practices with other countries through intercountry collaboration as well as through regional cooperation in different areas of TCM as per country needs and demands.
- (3) Strengthen regulatory systems to ensure safety and quality of TCM products and services.
- (4) Further strengthen monitoring of TCM systems to promote informed decision-making.

Actions by WHO

- (1) Continue supporting Member States in all areas of TCM through documentation of country experiences and best practices, and training and workshops, for ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of TCM products and services, and integration of TCM into health-care delivery systems.
- (2) Report on progress in implementation of the resolution on “Traditional Medicine: Delhi Declaration” (SEA/RC67/R3) at the Seventy-seventh Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in 2024.

8. 2012: Year of intensification of routine immunization in the South-East Asia Region: Framework for increasing and sustaining coverage (SEA/RC64/R3)

Recommendations

Actions by Member States

- (1) Continue monitoring of immunization coverage and vaccine-preventable disease surveillance data at the national and sub-national levels to identify geographical areas and populations with sub-optimal immunization coverage, and strengthen immunization programme performance to reduce risk of vaccine-preventable diseases.

- (2) Sustain high levels of political commitment and financial and human resources for routine immunization strengthening.
- (3) Enable sufficient lead time for manufacture and supply of vaccines when introducing new vaccines.

Actions by WHO

- (1) Provide technical support to Member States for identification of gaps in routine immunization coverage and appropriate actions in areas with low coverage.
- (2) Develop regional guidelines to generate demand for vaccination and assist Member States to adapt them to reduce vaccine hesitancy.
- (3) Collaborate with global partners and relevant stakeholders to support improved availability and affordability of vaccines by facilitating forecasting, procurement and supply of vaccines.