

# 1. Partnering in new ways to achieve the SDGs in the Region

In September 2015, United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs, which apply to all countries at all stages of development, recognize that health influences and is influenced by broader cultural, economic, political and social factors. Achieving health in the SDGs requires new partnerships and new ways of working. It requires whole-of-system, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches that leave no one behind.

In response to requests by Member States, the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific developed the *Regional Action Agenda on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Western Pacific* in consultation with regional programmes, country offices, Member States and experts. The action agenda builds on existing global and regional strategies and identifies 12 action domains across four guiding questions:

- What are countries aiming to achieve, and how will they know?
- What are the policy and programme priorities for leaving no one behind?
- How will countries put their priorities into effect?
- How can the health sector drive the agenda?

The action agenda highlights the importance of realizing “win-wins” through collaboration across sectors and engagement of stakeholders beyond government. Best buys for partnerships across sectors include policies and inter-

ventions in education and early childhood development, agriculture, urban development and infrastructure, the environment and social protection.

In supporting countries in implementation, initial priorities include strengthening partnerships across sectors and stakeholders. For example, in November 2016, the Second Regional Forum of WHO Collaborating Centres in the Western Pacific brought together more

than 140 collaborating centres to review progress, share best practices, strengthen partnerships and identify ways to support Member States in achieving the SDGs. Also in November 2016, as part of WHO’s whole-of-government approach to supporting countries to enhance the effective use of law for health, WHO supported the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea to convene the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health, bringing together 45 parliamentarians from 17 countries in the Western Pacific and South-East Asia regions to promote the role of parliamentarians in achieving health in the SDGs.

As a further example, in March 2017, WHO collaborated with the Government of South Australia on a global conference in Adelaide, Australia, on Health in All Policies: Progressing the Sustainable Development Goals. The conference built on the outcomes of the 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Shanghai, China, in November 2016, and provided an opportunity to explore how different regions and countries with varying governance settings are advancing and sustaining Health in All Policies. The Adelaide conference resulted in an outcome statement: Implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda through good governance for health and wellbeing: building on the experience of “Health in All Policies”. ■



The Regional Committee for the Western Pacific endorsed the action framework on the SDGs in October 2016.