

South-East Asia Regional Strategy for Primary Health Care: 2022–2030



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Primary
Health Care
2022–2030**



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**World Health
Organization**

South-East Asia

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Foreword



Primary Health Care (PHC) is the critical enabler for achieving Health for All. The identification of PHC as the most suitable approach to meet the health needs of the poor and hard-to-reach was articulated as early as 1937, in Bandoneng, Indonesia at the League of Nations Health Organization Conference on Rural Hygiene.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for countries of the South-East Asia Region to strengthen PHC, building on previous investments. Member States with strong PHC-oriented systems, including established systems for community and multi-sectoral engagement, have been better able to respond to the pandemic, rapidly mount public health actions, and maintain essential services with minimal disruption.

This South-East Asia Regional Strategy for Primary Health Care: 2022-2030 aims to accelerate progress in all countries of the Region towards universal health coverage (UHC), health security and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is intended to provide Member States with guidance on facilitating PHC-orientation through the identification of seven values and 12 strategic actions that collectively embody the philosophy and practice of PHC, enunciated in the 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata and reaffirmed in the 2018 Declaration of Astana.

The Strategy is aligned with and advances the commitments made by Ministers of Health at the Seventy-fourth session of the Regional Committee through the Declaration on COVID-19 and measures to build back better essential health services to achieve UHC and the health-related SDGs. It recognizes that while COVID-19 has highlighted critical health system gaps, it has also catalysed or expanded innovations in community engagement, digital technology and reorganizing primary care services. It is intended to be a living document that will be reviewed throughout the implementation period.

I urge Member States to make full use of this Strategy and look forward to supporting them in their efforts to update plans, policies and operational strategies to strengthen PHC orientation, with the aim of achieving Health for All, leaving no one behind.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'P. Khetrpal'.

Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh
Regional Director
WHO South-East Asia Region

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