

Nepal–WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2018–2022



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Health and Population



**World Health
Organization**
Nepal

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Message from the Regional Director, WHO, South-East Asia Region



The Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) provides a country-specific medium-term strategic vision for the World Health Organization's cooperation with Member States, and outlines the collaborative agenda between the government and the Organization.

Countries in the South-East Asia Region have made significant progress in health in the recent past. Life expectancy in the Region is now 68.9 years, reflecting a rise by 3.5 years per decade since the year 2000. Six countries, including Nepal, achieved the MDG 4 child mortality target. All 11 countries in the Region have developed multisectoral action plans to address NCDs. Maternal and neonatal tetanus has been declared as eliminated from the Region. More than 1.4 million people now have access to treatment for HIV/AIDS. Measles incidence has dropped by 61% since 2000. Preparedness and response to natural disasters is steadily improving, thus reducing casualties. These are truly impressive achievements.

While we are proud of the progress made, more and new challenges are ahead of us in this era of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The rise of noncommunicable diseases, the emergence of antimicrobial resistance, the impact of climate change are just a few examples of how the face of public health is changing. Universal health coverage calls for accessible quality care at an affordable cost—this in itself is a huge agenda that we will need to address.

The factors that define success and influence changes also affect Nepal. In addition, Nepal is going through a process of federalism, which in itself will provide opportunities but also further challenges.

WHO is changing too. It is becoming an Organization that will be more focused on impact, with more accountability, and working with a broader array of partners. That is why this Country Cooperation Strategy for Nepal is both timely and spot on. It outlines WHO's work for the next five years in the key areas that matter most for Nepal, while being rooted in regional and global priorities.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Health and Population and the WHO team in Nepal for performing a rigorous exercise in consultation with stakeholders to identify how WHO can best contribute to a healthier Nepal. The WHO Regional Office is fully committed to provide technical support to advance these priorities, so that the related targets can be achieved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Poonam Khetrpal Singh'.

Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh
Regional Director WHO South-East Asia Region
19 February 2018

Message from the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal



Nepal has in the recent past made significant progress in improving the health of its people. In the last two decades, child mortality has been reduced by 72% and maternal mortality by 52%. Polio has been eradicated. Leprosy has been eliminated at the national level, and the country is on track to eliminate trachoma, kala-azar and lymphatic filariasis. The progress towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been impressive. None of these achievements would have been possible without the assistance from development partners, including the World Health Organization.

But challenges remain. Health care is not yet universal: access to quality services at an affordable cost remains a goal rather than an achievement for several groups of Nepalis. The rise in noncommunicable diseases and the constant threat of natural disasters require new approaches. While all countries are turning towards achieving the SDG goals, in Nepal the Constitutional decision for the country to become a federalized state, brings with it its own challenges and opportunities. The way Nepal will deliver health services will change. More than before, we are looking at WHO and partners for continued support.

I am pleased that the 2018–2022 Country Cooperation Strategy recognizes these emerging needs and focuses WHO's work on key areas where its support will have most impact. For the first time, the Nepal CCS clearly identifies targets and deliverables, thus allowing assessment of the effectiveness and impact of WHO's work in Nepal.

The Ministry of Health and Population welcomes this joint strategy as a guiding framework for WHO's technical cooperation in Nepal. We look forward to working together with WHO to advance four strategic priorities which we think are a best fit in Nepal's changed context.

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