



# PHILIPPINES–WHO

## Country Cooperation Strategy 2017–2022





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# FOREWORD

**The Department of Health of the Philippines and the World Health Organization (WHO) are pleased to present The *Philippines-WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2017–2022*. The strategy spells out the country's shared vision for health: All for health towards health for all. This is the vision of the Philippine Health Agenda 2016–2022, with which this strategy is closely aligned.**

The Philippines has made significant investments and advances in health in recent years. Rapid economic growth and strong country capacity have contributed to Filipinos living longer and healthier. However, all the benefits of this growth have not reached the most vulnerable groups, and the health system remains fragmented.

In the international arena, the Philippines has been an active Member State of WHO, and is the home of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific. The country has played a critical role in shaping development agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the spirit of the SDGs, this country cooperation strategy focuses on leaving no one behind and enhancing collaboration for health to move the Philippines closer to universal health coverage. The work of WHO and the Department of Health will focus on five strategic priorities: saving lives, promoting well-being, protecting health, optimizing the health architecture and using platforms for health.

For WHO, this strategy paves the way for a new level of collaboration with the Philippines – as a focused, transparent and committed partner that supports the country in making health a priority across programmes and sectors. Government departments and United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral partners and civil society groups have contributed to the development of this strategy. We deeply appreciate the inputs and insights of all participants in the consultation process. As long-time partners, we look forward to continuing to work together in the coming years to implement this strategy. Together, we will work to improve the health of the more than 100 million Filipinos and contribute to better health across the Western Pacific Region.



Dr Paulyn Jean B. Rosell-Ubial  
Secretary of Health of the Philippines



Dr Shin Young-soo  
Regional Director for the Western Pacific  
World Health Organization

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**In 2016, the new Government of the Philippines came to power, promising to put poor Filipinos at the centre of the administration. This promise of change is enshrined in the *Philippine Health Agenda 2016–2022*, which resonates with the central theme of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – leave no one behind.**

The *Philippines–WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2017–2022* sets out how the World Health Organization (WHO) will work with the Philippines over the next six years to realize the vision of the *Philippine Health Agenda 2016–2022* as a stepping stone towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In recent years, the Philippines has undergone astounding economic and social development, recording the greatest growth among emerging Asian economies in 2016. With the third-highest population of English speakers in the world, the country is the world's largest centre for business-process outsourcing. The Philippines has the youngest population in East Asia and is now more internationally competitive and attractive to investors than ever before. Alongside rapid social and economic development has come significant progress in health. Filipinos now have a life expectancy of more than 68 years. Health insurance now covers 92% of the population. Maternal and child health services have improved, with more children living beyond infancy, a higher number of women delivering at health facilities and more births being attended by professional service providers than ever before. Access to and provision of preventive, diagnostic and treatment services for communicable diseases have improved, while there are several initiatives to reduce illness and death due to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

Despite substantial progress, however, achievements in health have not been uniform, and challenges remain. Inequities persist between regions and population groups. Many Filipinos continue to die or suffer from illnesses that have proven, cost-

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