

Country cooperation strategy for WHO and Oman 2018–2022



**World Health
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

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OMAN



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Executive summary

The Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) reflects the medium-term vision of WHO for technical cooperation with a given country and defines a strategic framework for working in and with the country. The CCS aims to bring together the strength of WHO support at country office, Regional Office and headquarters levels in a coherent manner to address the country's health priorities and challenges.

This CCS for Oman is the result of analysis of the health and development situation and of WHO's current programme of activities; it was carried out by a seven-member working group representing both the Ministry of Health and WHO. Health Vision 2050, the country's long-term vision for the development of the health system, prepared in close collaboration with partners, was a major resource. Key officials within the Ministry of Health were consulted during the preparation of the CCS.

The country enjoys a stable political, economic and social system. Sustained investment in economic development and high political commitment to health has resulted in near universal access to health care. Per capita gross domestic product has nearly doubled over the past 10 years, and Oman has been recognized for its impressive achievements in health and education. The country is committed to sustaining the success of its socioeconomic development of the past 45 years including taking responsibility for health and education and ensuring social security for those in need.

Key challenges to the health system include the demographic and epidemiological transition, limited non-health sector involvement to address social determinants of health and changing behaviours and lifestyles, demand for better quality health care, maintenance of available health assets, and the rapid and unregulated growth of the private sector. Health Vision 2050, currently operationalized in the Ninth Five Year Health Development Plan (2016–2020), and the new organizational structure of the Ministry of Health, both respond to these challenges. Based on these identified challenges, the working group identified the following strategic agenda for 2018–2022.

Supporting the achievements in the prevention and control of communicable diseases, including the elimination of priority diseases and aligning national targets with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (including tuberculosis and malaria)

- Tuberculosis: Providing support to eliminate tuberculosis in line with the WHO End TB Strategy.
- Malaria: Supporting the strengthening of interventions to eliminate malaria in line with the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria (2016–2030).

- Vaccine preventable diseases: Supporting progress towards elimination of vaccine preventable diseases, including measles and rubella, as well as strengthening vaccine management in line with the Global Vaccine Action Plan (2011–2020).

Responding to Oman’s national drive to address the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, mental health and substance abuse, and to establish and implement the Oman disability programme

- Noncommunicable diseases: Providing support to translate noncommunicable disease policy and strategy into an action plan, in line with Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013–2020, and to implement it, focusing particularly on addressing key risk factors (unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and tobacco use), strengthening surveillance (including electronic registers, quality indicators and relevant national surveys), and strengthening management through the integration of all standard operating procedures into primary health care and incorporating self-management of noncommunicable diseases.
- Mental health: Assisting with integration of mental health services in primary health care, assessment of the prevalence and services related to autism, and the finalization and implementation of the National Plan of Action on Substance Abuse (2016–2020).
- Disability: Providing support for the establishment of a disability programme including conducting a national disability survey (to include blindness and deafness), expanding rehabilitation services, and the integration of disability and rehabilitation services into primary health care, including improving access to assistive health technology.

Building on achievements from the Millennium Development Goals and anchoring the improvements of health over the life course, addressing the social determinants of health and aligning policies to the Sustainable Development Goals

- Child, adolescent and women’s health: Providing support to improve and expand interventions, including development assessment for children, expanded services for adolescents and school health, and improving the quality of care for women.
- Health of the elderly: Supporting the expansion of interventions and the improvement of quality of health care for older people.

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