

GLOBAL HEALTH SECTOR STRATEGY ON
**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
INFECTIONS 2016–2021**

TOWARDS ENDING STIs



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The definitive versions of the global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2016–2021, can be found in the official records of the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly (document WHA69/2016/REC/1).

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INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The present global health sector strategy on sexually transmitted infections, 2016–2021 builds on conclusions from the evaluation of the implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections 2006–2015¹ and sets out a vision, goals, targets, guiding principles and priority actions for ending the sexually transmitted infections epidemic as a public health problem.

1 Document A68/36 progress report G.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² defines a set of ambitious global health goals and targets. Of particular interest to the proposed strategy is Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (see Box 1), including its focus on health-related areas.

This global health sector strategy on sexually transmitted infections describes an important component of the health sector contribution towards the achievement of these targets. It outlines actions for countries and for WHO. If implemented, these actions will accelerate and intensify the sexually transmitted infections response so that progress towards ending the epidemics becomes a reality. Furthermore, the implementation of the global health sector strategy on sexually transmitted infections, once adopted, will require political commitment and resources to rapidly accelerate the response over the next five years and to sustain action through to 2030 and beyond.

The strategy positions the health sector response to sexually transmitted infection epidemics as critical to the achievement of universal health coverage – one of the key health targets of the Sustainable Development Goals identified in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The strategy, once adopted, and its implementation will contribute to a radical decline in new sexually transmitted infections and in deaths related to such infections (including still births and cervical cancer), while improving individual health, men's and women's sexual health, and the well-being of all people. It will guide efforts to: accelerate and focus comprehensive prevention efforts through scaling up evidence-based combined behavioural, biomedical and structural approaches; facilitate people's access to information on their sexually transmitted infection status; improve access to treatment and comprehensive long-term care when needed; and challenge pervasive stigmatization and discrimination. The strategy promotes a people-centred approach, grounded in principles of human rights, gender equality and health equity.



ENSURE HEALTHY
LIVES AND PROMOTE
WELL-BEING FOR
ALL AT ALL AGES

² United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 – Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, see http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E (accessed 13 April 2016).

BOX 1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3**Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
 - 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
 - 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
 - 3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
 - 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

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