

WHO

Country Cooperation Strategy

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

2014–2019

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WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication data

World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia.

WHO Country Cooperation Strategy: Democratic People's Republic of Korea: 2014–2019.

1. National Health Programs.
2. Demography.
3. Statistics.
4. Technical Cooperation.
5. Strategic Planning.
6. International Cooperation.
7. Regional Health Planning.
8. Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

ISBN 978-92-9022-471-6

(NLM classification: WA 540)

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Printed in India

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Message from the WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia



The WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) is the medium-term strategic vision of the World Health Organization to guide its work in a country in support of the country's national health policy, strategy or plan. The CCS is also the main instrument for harmonizing WHO's cooperation and support in countries in tandem with other UN agencies and development partners. It also guides how WHO can best support health development in a country taking into consideration the regional and global agenda and priorities of the Organization.

It is, therefore, important that the formulation of the CCS involves the three levels of WHO with full involvement of all development partners, including UN agencies in the country. An extensive consultation with the government and all stakeholders was undertaken during the process of CCS formulation.

Following the guidelines as briefly described above and based on the latest health situational analysis including national policies and plans, five strategic priorities and their respective focus areas for the CCS were formulated for cooperation with WHO during 2014–2019. It is noted that the five strategic priorities summarized appropriately the country's health development context. The priorities also align well with the regional flagship priority areas and the global health agenda.

The WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) would like to acknowledge the effective cooperation with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPR Korea) through the Ministry of Public Health, DPR Korea, in the implementation of earlier CCSs. A number of health indicators have shown substantial progress, including strengthening of health-care services. There is strong evidence that demonstrates noticeable improvements in access to reproductive and child health

care, particularly access to emergency obstetric care, immunization and integrated management of childhood illness. We are also aware of the magnitude of challenges facing the country as well as WHO and other partners in our collective efforts to build a stronger public health system in the country. Strengthening of coordination and cooperation among various players would greatly contribute to the success.

I would like to express my appreciation to all those who have contributed to the development of this WHO Country Cooperation Strategy for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We appreciate the inputs and suggestions received from the Ministry of Health, key health experts and our health development partners in the country, and will continue to work closely with them. I would like to reiterate here that the WHO Regional Office and headquarters are fully committed to the implementation of the CCS.



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

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