

# WOMEN AND HEALTH IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

REMAINING CHALLENGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES



World Health  
Organization

Western Pacific Region



# WOMEN AND HEALTH IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

REMAINING CHALLENGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES



World Health  
Organization

Western Pacific Region

#### **WHO Library Cataloguing in Publication Data**

Women and health in the Western Pacific Region : remaining challenges and new opportunities.

1. Women's health. 2. Gender. 3. Western Pacific. I. World Health Organization. Regional Office for the Western Pacific.

ISBN 978 92 9061 537 8 (NLM Classification: WA 309)

#### **© World Health Organization 2011**

All rights reserved. Publications of the World Health Organization can be obtained from WHO Press, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (tel.: +41 22 791 3264; fax: +41 22 791 4857; e-mail: [bookorders@who.int](mailto:bookorders@who.int)). Requests for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications – whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution – should be addressed to WHO Press, at the above address (fax: +41 22 791 4806; e-mail: [permissions@who.int](mailto:permissions@who.int)). For WHO Western Pacific Regional Publications, request for permission to reproduce should be addressed to the Publications Office, World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific, P.O. Box 2932, 1000, Manila, Philippines, (fax: +632 521 1036, e-mail: [publications@wpro.who.int](mailto:publications@wpro.who.int)).

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

# Table of contents

<b>Foreword</b> .....	iii
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	iv
<b>Abbreviations</b> .....	v
<b>1. Women's health in the Western Pacific Region</b> .....	I
1.1 Increasing life expectancy .....	2
1.2 The health transition .....	3
1.3 Determinants of women's health .....	5
1.4 References .....	10
<b>2. The girl child</b> .....	13
2.1 Mortality and the burden of disease .....	14
2.2 Risk factors .....	17
2.3 Nutrition in early childhood (0–4 years) .....	17
2.4 The impact of HIV/AIDS .....	20
2.5 Trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of girl children .....	21
2.6 Son preference and daughter neglect .....	21
2.7 Access to health services .....	23
2.8 References .....	24
<b>3. Adolescents and young women</b> .....	28
3.1 Mortality and the burden of disease .....	29
3.2 Sexual debut and marriage .....	31
3.3 Pregnancy and childbearing .....	32
3.4 Sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS .....	34
3.5 Nutritional concerns .....	36
3.6 Substance use .....	37
3.7 Mental health .....	39
3.8 Gender-based violence .....	40
3.9 Access to health services .....	41
3.10 References .....	42
<b>4. The reproductive years</b> .....	47
4.1 Mortality and the burden of disease .....	47
4.2 Risk factors .....	49
4.3 Maternal health .....	50
4.4 Women and HIV/AIDS .....	54
4.5 Sexually transmitted infections .....	55
4.6 Cervical cancer .....	56
4.7 Infertility .....	56
4.8 References .....	59

<b>5. Adult women</b>	62
5.1 Mortality and the burden of disease	62
5.2 Risk factors for chronic diseases	64
5.3 Women, depression and suicide	67
5.4 Violence	69
5.5 Access to health services	70
5.6 References	73
<b>6. Older women</b>	76
6.1 Gender and socioeconomic influences on the health of older women	77
6.2 What health problems do older women face?	79
6.3 Managing disabilities—a matter of prevention and care	82
6.4 Health systems and the needs of older women	83
6.5 References	86
<b>7. An agenda for action</b>	88
7.1 Women face distinct health challenges throughout their lives	88
7.2 Health systems are not meeting women's health needs	90
7.3 The unfinished agenda can be addressed	91

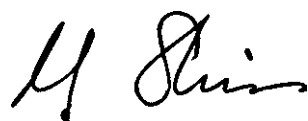
# Foreword

Recent decades have witnessed a growing international commitment to women's health. In 1997, the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific at its Forty-eighth Session adopted Resolution WPR/RC48.R9 urging Member States to minimize gender-based inequities and to increase women's participation in development. The World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA60.25 on the strategy for integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO. In November 2009, WHO launched the report *Women and health: today's evidence, tomorrow's agenda*.

This report, *Women and health in the Western Pacific Region: remaining challenges and new opportunities*, is a further step in advancing WHO's commitment to women's health. As the report shows, women and girls have particular health needs that remain invisible and little understood and that health systems are failing them. Some of these are health needs that only women have because of their biological role. Others are those related to all of the health problems that they share with boys and men throughout their lives.

The Western Pacific Region has achieved considerable improvements in women's health. However, a significant unfinished agenda remains, with millions of women in the Region facing a variety of avoidable health challenges throughout their lives. Accelerating progress requires renewed political commitment, stronger government leadership, women-friendly health policies, programmes and services and actions across sectors to address the multiple determinants of women's health.

It is hoped that this report contributes to strengthening the evidence base on the health of women in the Region and provides the basis for more vigorous action.



**Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph.D.**

Regional Director

# Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, under the leadership of Dr Han Tieru and Dr Henk Bekedam, by a team comprising Sundari Ravindran, consultant and principal writer, Ardi Kaptiningsih (Regional Adviser, Making Pregnancy Safer and Women and Reproductive Health) and Anjana Bhushan (Technical Officer, Health in Development), based on preparatory work initiated by Narimah Awin, Elizabeth Eckermann and Chanpen Choprapawon. A working group provided further technical inputs. Specifically, the collaborative input and valuable contributions from Tommaso Cavalli-Sforza, Gao Jun, Tuan Le Anh, Emma Manalac, Susan Mercado, Patanjali Nayar, Katsunori Osuga, Krishnan Rajam, Sigrun Roesel, Dean Shuey, David Sniadack, Marianna Trias, Cherian Varghese, Wang Xiangdong and Teodora Wi are gratefully acknowledged. Editing was done by Richard C Gross, with inputs from Marc Lerner and Charles Raby. Design and layout were done by Alexander V Pascual.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_28016](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_28016)

