

Strategic Directions

for Improving the Health and Development of
Children and Adolescents



World Health Organization

Strategic Directions

for Improving the Health and Development of
Children and Adolescents



World Health Organization

WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

World Health Organization.

Strategic directions for improving the health and development of children and adolescents.

1.Child health services 2.Adolescent health services 3.Program development
4.World Health Organization I.Title.

ISBN 92 4 159106 4

(NLM classification: WA 320)

© **World Health Organization 2003**

All rights reserved. Publications of the World Health Organization can be obtained from Marketing and Dissemination, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (tel: +41 22 791 2476; fax: +41 22 791 4857; email: bookorders@who.int). Requests for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications – whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution – should be addressed to Publications, at the above address (fax: +41 22 791 4806; email: permissions@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.

The World Health Organization does not warrant that the information contained in this publication is complete and correct and shall not be liable for any damages incurred as a result of its use.

Printed by the WHO Document Production Services, Geneva, Switzerland

Table of Contents

Foreword	v
Introduction	1
Rationale: the need for action	3
Areas requiring action	3
Global calls for action	6
Guiding principles	7
Address inequities and facilitate the fulfilment of human rights	7
Take a life course approach	9
Implement a public health approach	9
The strategy within WHO's corporate strategy	13
Future directions	14
Supporting maternal and newborn health	14
Improving nutrition	15
Preventing and managing communicable diseases	16
Preventing and managing injuries and violence	17
Reducing threats in the physical environment	19
Supporting adolescent health	20
Promoting psychosocial development and mental health	21
Implementing the priority areas for action in especially difficult circumstances	22
Implementation	22
Working with partners and in joint initiatives	23
Working with other sectors	24
Monitoring progress in implementing the strategic directions	24
Annex 1: Child and adolescent health interventions by phase from birth to age 19 years	27
Annex 2: WHO areas of work and their contribution to child and adolescent health and development	31



Foreword

Children and adolescents bear an undue share of the global burden of disease. While major gains were made in reducing childhood mortality during the previous decades, stagnation or even reversal of trends has been observed in many countries since the 1990s. In 2001, almost 11 million children died before reaching the age of five – mostly because they were not reached by known and effective interventions. Most of the unfinished health agenda at the doorstep of the 21st century is due to inadequate efforts to address childhood illness. Adolescence is now widely recognized as a time of great opportunity but also major threats. Considerable progress has been made in understanding the factors that affect a healthy transition into adulthood. Nevertheless, many adolescents still lack the support they need for their development, including access to information, skills and services.

WHO developed the Strategic Directions for Improving the Health and Development of Children and Adolescents in response to a global call for renewed and intensified action to promote and protect the health and development of the 0 – 19 years old age group. Preparations for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children called attention to the uneven progress that had been made in the achievement of the goals adopted in the World Summit of Children in 1990. The adoption of the development goals of the Millennium Declaration (MDGs) by Heads of State in 2000 provided further impetus to the need to develop a road map for action.

This document was developed as a collaborative effort of relevant departments within the Organization at all levels and in consultation with Member States and partners. It summarizes seven priority areas for action and defines principles to guide their implementation. The document is intended to contribute to the definition of a new and common agenda for children and adolescents with Member States and partners, and to guide the work within the Organization.

Fostering healthy families and individuals is a global imperative to break the vicious circle of poverty and ill health that affects too many children and young people. Investing in comprehensive and integrated efforts to improve child and adolescent health and development is a cost-effective way of securing future prosperity of nations.

We are pleased that the Member States unanimously endorsed their support of these strategic directions during the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly in May 2003. The first necessary political step has been taken. It is now necessary to move swiftly to focused and coordinated action, to strengthen health systems and community responses, and reduce the inequities in access to and use of effective interventions that can save lives and support children and young people in reaching their optimal development potential. It is time to translate knowledge into action.

WHO cannot take this challenge alone. Collaborative partnership is needed. These will build on the complementary strengths of ministries of health, related ministries and national institutions, and national and international partner organizations. We appeal to all concerned parties to join hands to help children and young people realize a better future.

LEE Jong-wook
Director-General

Our vision is a world in which children and adolescents enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and development, a world that meets their needs, and respects, protects and fulfils their rights, enabling them to live to their full potential.

Introduction

The world has witnessed a remarkable achievement: child mortality has decreased from 97 per 1000 live births in the early 1980s to 67 per 1000 live births in 1999¹. Effective public health interventions delivered to large numbers of children are responsible for a major part of this success.

Nonetheless, the prevailing situation is unacceptable. In the year 2000, 10.8 million children under five years of age died, over half of them due to just five preventable communicable diseases compounded by malnutrition. In many countries the progress in reducing deaths has slowed and in some past gains have been reversed. Failure to effectively address neonatal mortality is one important reason for these trends. Other

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_30