



World Health Organization

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It provides leadership on global health matters and supports its 194 member states in times of crisis, during humanitarian situations and in the context of sustainable development. In an increasingly interdependent world, health has become a shared responsibility, involving the right of access to functioning health systems, to quality care and to collective response against transnational health threats¹.

WHO operates in a growing complex and rapidly changing landscape. The boundaries of public health action have become blurred, extending into other sectors that influence health opportunities and outcomes. WHO fulfils its mandate and objectives through the following core functions:

- providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed;
- shaping the research agenda and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge;
- setting norms and standards and promoting and monitoring their implementation;
- articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options;
- providing technical support, catalysing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and
- monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends.



¹ For more information, visit the WHO internet site <http://www.who.int>



WHO's Country Cooperation Strategy and UNDAF

The WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) is a medium-term vision for its technical cooperation with a given Member State, in support of the country's National Health Policy, Strategy or Plan. It is the WHO's key instrument to guide its work in countries and the main instrument for harmonizing WHO cooperation in countries with that of other UN Agencies and development partners. The CCS time frame is flexible to align with national cycles and processes.

WHO has been involved in the development of the revised UNDAF guidelines and engages with the Resident Coordinator System under this framework. A WHO guidance note for its Country Offices is available, which describes how the UNDAF integrates with the WHO planning processes.²

A healthy future³

WHO is reforming to be better equipped to address the increasingly complex challenges of the health of populations in the 21st century. From persisting health issues to new and emerging public health threats WHO is adjusting with an emphasis on:

- refocusing core business to address the 21st century health challenges facing countries;
- reforming the financing and management of WHO to address health challenges more effectively;
- transforming governance to strengthen global health

² <http://www.who.int/countryfocus/csunetwork/en/>

³ <http://www.who.int/dg/reform/en/>