



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe

Regional Committee for Europe

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resolution

Action plan for the health sector response to HIV in the WHO European Region

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the Action plan for the health sector response to HIV in the WHO European Region;¹

Recognizing the importance of responding to HIV within the framework of Health 2020 – the European policy framework,² adopted in resolution EUR/RC62/R4 in 2012, to improve health and well-being in the Region and to reduce health inequalities;

Recalling the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS (2011) and the High-level Meeting on Ending AIDS (2016);³

Noting Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and SDG target 3.3 (AIDS, tuberculosis,

¹ Document EUR/RC66/9.

² Document EUR/RC62/9.

³ United Nations General Assembly resolutions A/RES/65/277 and A/RES/70/228, respectively.

⁴ United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1.

malaria, neglected tropical diseases, hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases), specifically calling for ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat;

Recalling resolution WHA64.14 adopting the Global health sector strategy on HIV/AIDS, 2011–2015 in 2011 and resolution WHA69.22 adopting the Global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2016–2021 in 2016;

Reaffirming the continuing commitment of Member States to the Dublin Declaration on the Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and central Asia and the European Action Plan for HIV/AIDS 2012–2015 adopted in resolution EUR/RC61/R8 in 2011;

Recognizing the Tuberculosis Action Plan for the WHO European Region 2016–2020, the European Action Plan for Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services, the European Child and Adolescent Health Strategy 2015–2020,⁵ and the Tallinn Charter: Health Systems for Health and Wealth, adopted in resolution EUR/RC58/R4 in 2008;

Noting the concurrent development of the Action plan for the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, the Action plan for sexual and reproductive health: towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe – leaving no one behind, the Strategy on women’s health and well-being in the WHO European Region, the Action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in the WHO European Region and the Strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region;⁶

⁵ Adopted in resolutions EUR/RC65/R6, EUR/RC62/R5 and EUR/RC64/R6, respectively.

⁶ Documents EUR/RC66/10, EUR/RC66/13, EUR/RC66/14, EUR/RC66/11 and EUR/RC66/8, respectively.

Concerned about the continuing public health threat that HIV poses in the European Region, particularly the alarming increase in the number of newly diagnosed infections and increasing rates of AIDS and AIDS-related mortality in the eastern part of the Region, and the high proportion of people living with HIV who are unaware of their HIV status, are diagnosed at a late stage of infection, do not receive treatment, begin treatment at a late stage or do not achieve viral suppression;

Recognizing that HIV in the European Region disproportionately affects key populations, who are marginalized and stigmatized, experiencing policy and structural barriers in access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services, thereby exacerbating social and gender inequalities in many parts of the Region;

Acknowledging the need for strong health systems that provide accessible, affordable and high-quality, integrated, patient-centred health services, addressing high rates of coinfections, particularly tuberculosis and viral hepatitis, and other comorbidities;

Concerned about challenges related to sustainable financing, a decrease in external resources and the need for successful transition of HIV funding from international to domestic sources in some countries;

Concerned that the current pace of action is insufficient to reverse the HIV epidemic in the Region and that significant reformulation, innovation and acceleration of the response as well as a focus on evidence-based, high-impact interventions is urgently required on a broad scale in order to meet regional and global goals and targets, adapted to national priorities, legislation and specific contexts;

Recognizing that this resolution supersedes resolution EUR/RC61/R8 in which Member States adopted the European Action Plan for HIV/AIDS 2012–2015;

1. ADOPTS the Action plan for the health sector response to HIV in the WHO European Region, with its goal, targets and fast-track actions, as an urgent call to respond to the public health challenge presented by HIV;
2. URGES Member States:⁷
 - (a) to review, and where appropriate revise, national HIV strategies and targets based on the local epidemiological context and national strategic information informed by evidence-based operational monitoring and accountability mechanisms and guided by the Action plan for the health sector response to HIV in the WHO European Region;
 - (b) to prioritize key populations, women and girls in national HIV strategies to ensure full access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment services and to remove legislative and structural barriers through intersectoral collaboration and involvement of civil society, including people living with HIV;
 - (c) to strengthen HIV prevention by promoting high-impact, evidence-based, cost-effective, comprehensive interventions and innovative tools, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, harm reduction services, innovative approaches to HIV testing, focusing on key populations, women and girls and by addressing social and gender inequalities;
 - (d) to define a package of services for people living with HIV, and ensure implementation of a set of interventions, including targeted HIV testing, treatment for all people living with HIV, and monitoring of treatment success, by promoting integrated, people-centred, community-based services to meet treatment coverage targets;
 - (e) to reinforce political commitment and ensure sustainable financing for HIV, particularly in countries transitioning from external to domestic resources, to secure affordable and sustained programmes;

⁷ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (a) to support the implementation of the Action plan for the health sector response to HIV in the WHO European Region by providing leadership, strategic direction and technical guidance to Member States;
 - (b) to continue to work in partnership with international, regional and national partners to advocate for commitment and resources to strengthen and sustain the response to HIV;
 - (c) to identify and facilitate the exchange of best practices and experiences among Member States⁸ and to produce evidence-informed tools for an effective HIV response;
 - (d) to monitor and report to the Regional Committee at its 69th and 72nd sessions in 2019 and 2022, respectively, on the implementation of the Action plan for the health sector response to HIV in the WHO European Region.

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⁸ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.