



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION in
TAJIKISTAN





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Welcome from the Regional Director

Welcome to WHO. Health is our most precious asset. WHO's goal is to ensure better health for everyone, everywhere. We touch people's lives –making sure the air we breathe, and the food and water we consume is safe; ensuring all have access to effective health systems; safeguarding the quality of medicines and vaccines; combatting diseases and protecting people from health threats. WHO works with governments, organizations, communities and individuals to promote health throughout our lives. We all benefit socially, economically and environmentally from a world that seeks health for all and nowhere is our work more critical than at country level. We look forward to working with you to make this our common goal.

(signature)

Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab
WHO Regional Director for Europe

Who we are

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the global authority on public health within the United Nations. Founded in 1948, we collaborate with the governments of 194 Member States to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all. Currently, more than 7000 people work in 150 country offices, 6 regional offices and at the headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The Organization's work is guided by the principle that health is a human right, and we seek to extend universal health coverage, protect people from health emergencies, and ensure that all people enjoy better health and well-being.

Tajikistan is part of the WHO European Region, which comprises 53 countries: this Region covers a vast geographical area reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. WHO staff in the Region are public health, scientific and technical experts, based in the Regional Office in Copenhagen, Denmark, in five technical centres and in country offices in 30 Member States.

WHO has worked with the Government of Tajikistan since the WHO Country Office was established in Dushanbe in 1992. We endeavour to build a better, healthier future for the people of Tajikistan.

How we work

As part of the United Nations system, WHO's core function is to direct, coordinate and provide leadership on international health. We articulate ethical and evidence-based policy options, and set norms and standards, promoting and monitoring their implementation. WHO also stimulates the generation, translation and dissemination of knowledge, builds sustainable institutional capacity and monitors and assesses health trends. One of our core functions is to support emergency preparedness and response.

Working in countries, WHO plays an important role in advocating for health at the highest political level, communicating about important health issues and motivating actors across sectors to take action for better health. We bring partners together and lead among United Nations agencies working towards attaining the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In Tajikistan the country team draws on the technical expertise of all three levels of the Organization. Our strong presence and capacity at country level ensures that our support is relevant and effective. WHO's global network also enables other countries to learn and benefit from the experiences and expertise in Tajikistan.

Partnerships and collaborations

As part of our role to direct and coordinate international health work, WHO promotes collaboration, mobilizes partnerships and galvanizes the efforts of different health actors to respond to national and global health challenges.

In Tajikistan our primary partner is the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. WHO is also an active member of the United Nations Country Team and we collaborate closely with national authorities and stakeholders, as well as civil society, health workers, academic institutions and international organizations.



Tajikistan in brief


Population size

8.9 million



Average life expectancy

 **69**

 **73**

Maternal mortality rate

24.1

deaths per 100 000 live births

Top three health challenges in the country:

- 1** ensuring quality health services within primary health care
- 2** improving maternal, child and adolescent health
- 3** strengthening Tajikistan's health emergency preparedness

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) account for

59%

of all deaths

Message from WHO Representative

In my role as the WHO Representative in Tajikistan, I have seen the importance of firmly rooting our work in country needs, making sure our collaboration with the government and other partners promotes better health for all.

One of our main challenges in Tajikistan is improving the quality of services, especially within primary health care. In order to reach long-lasting, sustainable advancements, we must take into account the whole spectrum of health care, ranging from prevention and health promotion to treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. Universal health coverage, and ensuring everyone, everywhere can access quality health services without facing financial hardship, can only be reached through such comprehensive reforms.

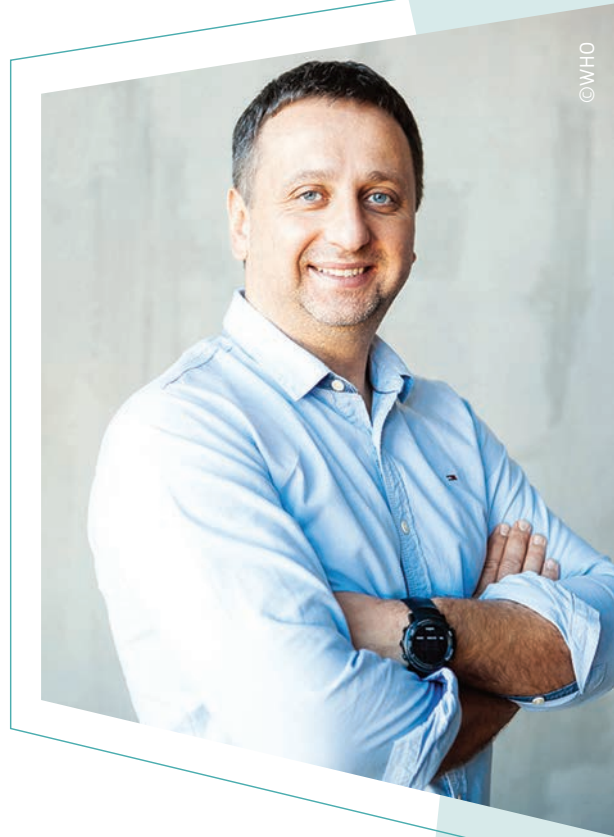
The declining maternal mortality trend in Tajikistan is encouraging and tells us that we are taking steps in the right direction. However, for every 100 000 live births, 24 mothers still die, and the lifetime risk of maternal mortality in Tajikistan remains high. Especially in a country with one of the youngest populations in the European Region, we must do better in protecting the health of the future generations of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan's unique, mountainous terrain, coupled with its hydrological features make the country vulnerable to natural hazards, such as earthquakes, floods, landslides and avalanches. It is estimated that over 80% of the population is at risk of being affected by natural disasters. Ensuring both people and institutions are better equipped to manage and respond to health emergencies is one of the priorities for our work in the coming years.

In taking these steps towards a healthier future for Tajikistan, we are guided by the principles of the SDGs and Health 2020, the European policy framework for health and well-being. I am committed to working with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to make all Tajiks healthier, leaving no one behind.

Dr Igor Pokanevych

WHO Representative in Tajikistan



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Igor Pokanevych'. The signature is stylized and fluid, written on a white background.

WHO – saving lives and ensuring health for all

The rehabilitation programme in Tajikistan builds towards universal health coverage and has directly benefitted 170 000 men, women and children in the past five years.

One of these beneficiaries is nine-year-old Robia. “In 2010, Robia was six months old when she fell ill, with her legs paralysed. No one was able to identify her disease,” recalls her mother Hosiati. After a month in hospital, Robia was diagnosed with poliomyelitis (polio) infection, which can lead to irreversible paralysis.

The first three years of Robia’s life brought little improvement: she was unable to move her legs, walk or stand on her own, and the hospitals in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, offered no solution.

However, things improved notably in 2013. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, with the support of WHO, set up a disability and rehabilitation programme to develop a national policy, as well as systems and services for rehabilitation. In 2014, the programme managed to reach 85% of the people affected by polio

in 30 districts. It also reached people with disabilities not related to polio.

For the past five years, Robia has been receiving rehabilitation services at the National Rehabilitation Centre for Children in Dushanbe. There she trains in walking, strengthening her spine and legs, and improving her balance. She also received orthoses, braces that serve to support her back and legs.

Today, Robia continues to go to the National Rehabilitation Centre twice a week and has made many friends there. When asked if she feels more comfortable there or at her regular school, she says: “I have lots of friends at both places, but I am more popular at regular school because I’m a good student and great friend”.

Thanks to support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), WHO works closely together with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to increase and improve access to quality rehabilitation services and assistive products.



Making our work possible

As Tajikistan works towards achieving the SDGs, investing in WHO will help protect and promote the health of the poorest and most disadvantaged.

In addition to WHO's regular budget, based on contributions from Member States, our work in Tajikistan is made possible thanks to contributions from Gavi, supporting health system strengthening and maintaining high immunization coverage; the European Commission, supporting good governance in the health sector; and USAID and the UNPRPD, supporting Tajikistan's disability and rehabilitation programme.

However, as the development landscape evolves in Tajikistan, WHO requires additional resources to continue improving the health of its people. There are significant **funding gaps** that exist for long-term health priorities. These include:

- primary health care reforms and progress towards universal health coverage
- advancing maternal and child health
- improving Tajikistan's health emergency preparedness.

Globally, WHO is transforming to make the Organization more effective and efficient, placing country work even more at its centre. Predictable and flexible funding from our partners for global, regional and country level priorities will be crucially important to our success. A full breakdown of the financing and implementation progress in Tajikistan can be found on the WHO Programme Budget Portal: <http://open.who.int/2018-19/home>



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Visit the WHO Programme Budget Portal for more information





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