

Your Health Is Your Wealth: address at the International Conference on the Anniversary of the National Health Programme


22 July 2011, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

This address was delivered by Dr Bahtygul Karriyeva, of the WHO Country Office, Turkmenistan, on behalf of the WHO Regional Director for Europe.

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Turkmenistan's National Health Programme
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Bahtygul Karriyeva,
of the WHO Country Office, Turkmenistan
on behalf of
Zsuzsanna Jakab
WHO Regional Director for Europe

 **World Health Organization**
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

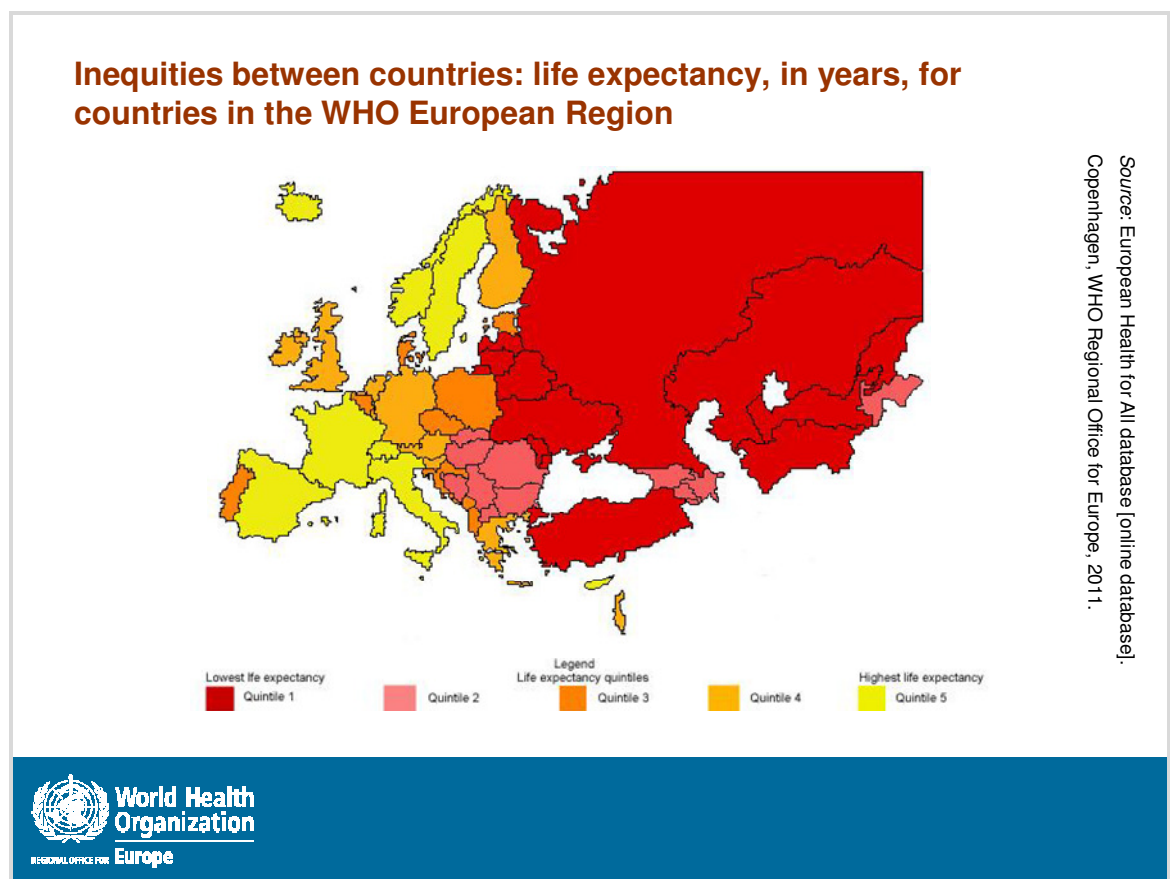
Your Excellency, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,

Let me first thank you all, and especially Minister Elyasov, for the opportunity you deliver this speech on behalf of Ms Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe. Ms Jakab has just visited Turkmenistan. The purpose of her visit was to review the progress made in the health sector and to discuss it with the leadership of the country and the United Nations country team, to determine our future priorities for collaboration.

Unfortunately, she was not able to take part in today's session, owing to other commitments; she asked me to deliver three key messages on her behalf.

The first message is about Turkmenistan's health system. Turkmenistan is making great progress in the health sector but still there is a lot to be done. WHO is a longstanding partner of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan, and we look forward to continuing to support the country in improving the health of its population.

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The second message is about common challenges in the WHO European Region today and how to address them. The Region is experiencing very rapid societal changes (many associated with globalization), including decreased fertility rates, increased migration, growing urbanization and, most vitally, the unequal distribution of health and wealth.

Today, noncommunicable diseases are a serious threat to health and socioeconomic development. Also, emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases remain a priority concern in many countries in the Region; these include not only HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis but also pandemic A(H1N1) 2009 influenza and poliomyelitis, which has re-emerged in central Asian countries.

Today, however, the scope for action we expect from national health systems is often limited by a shortage of human, material and financial resources, weak institutions and limitations in powers and competence.

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The graphic is a grid-based layout for the WHO Europe Health 2020 policy framework. At the top left, it features the WHO logo and the text 'World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe'. The main title is 'Better Health for Europe HEALTH 2020 The New European Policy for Health', with a Russian translation below: 'Улучшить здоровье жителей Европы Здоровье-2020 Новая европейская политика здравоохранения'. The grid contains several key messages, each with an illustrative image:

- Addressing global drivers** (Учет глобальных факторов): Image of smokestacks emitting CO2.
- Tackling the chronic disease epidemic** (Борьба с эпидемией хронических болезней): Image of a child eating a burger.
- Ensuring high-performing health systems** (Обеспечение высокой эффективности систем здравоохранения): Image of a doctor at a computer.
- Dealing with emergencies** (Преодоление чрезвычайных ситуаций): Image of a flooded residential area.
- Helping people achieve their full health potential and well-being**: Image of a family smiling.
- Anticipating change and fostering innovation**: Image of a person in a lab coat.
- The whole-government and whole-society approach** (Общегосударственный и общенародный подход): Image of a family.
- Empowering care** (Расширение прав и возможностей пациентов): Image of a doctor examining a patient.
- Solidarity** (Солидарность): Image of hands stacked together.
- The right to health** (Право на здоровье): Image of an elderly person with a cane.
- Creating health-conducive conditions** (Создание условий для укрепления здоровья): Image of people cycling.

 At the bottom left, the WHO logo and 'Regional Office for Europe' are repeated.

WHO aims to help our Member States change this situation. Our new European policy for health and well-being, Health 2020, will promote an

integrated and comprehensive approach to health improvement, with a renewed focus on and a rejuvenated commitment to public health capacity. Health 2020 is focused within the growing understanding of the relationship between health and development.

A paper on Health 2020, along with a draft of the policy, will be discussed by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in September.

Alongside Health 2020, a renewed commitment to public health and health care systems in Europe is essential.

Public health capacities and services need strengthening across the whole of the Region, with greater emphasis on and funding for health promotion and disease prevention.

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Strengthening public health: guaranteeing delivery of 10 essential public health operations (EPHOs)

EPHOs vary according to institution, but constitute the backbone of the proposed public health operations for Europe (pilot-tested for the last four years)

1. Surveillance and assessment of the population's health and well-being
2. Identification of health problems and health hazards in the community
3. Health protection services (environment, occupational health, food safety)
4. Preparedness for and planning of public health emergencies
5. Disease prevention
6. Health promotion
7. Assurance of a competent public health and personal health care workforce
8. Leadership, governance, financing and evaluation of quality and effectiveness of public health services
9. Health-related research
10. Communication for public health



We will propose to the Regional Committee a set of 10 horizontal essential public health operations (EPHOs) to become the unifying and guiding basis for European health authorities for improvements in public health.

Primary care must also be strengthened. In many countries, investment in population-based health promotion and disease prevention services is low. Primary care is an excellent mechanism to bring these services to the public.

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New challenges, old problems, new opportunities

New era, with rapidly developing global and European trends

Increasing complexity of drivers that shape health and the determinants of health inequities: “wicked issues”



Uneven progress in achieving health goals to date

Ongoing and new challenges to health as a human right, a public good and an asset for development

These demand a new approach to health governance in the 21st century



The third message is about our expectations. We must apply new ways of governing for health: ways in which we can bring influence to bear on all determinants. A shift is needed towards more horizontal and inclusive approaches to governance,

We are envisaging the “whole-of government” approach for high-level leadership, with participation of the whole of society.

We sincerely hope Turkmenistan will make its contribution to the discussion and shaping of the Health 2020 policy. One way in which Turkmenistan can efficiently support the new policy will be to align its 16-year-old health programme and newly drafted concept note on strengthening the health system with Health 2020 values and targets.

We hope that this Conference – all presentations, discussions and exchanges of opinion – will contribute to the further strengthening of Turkmenistan's health system.

Thank you.