European strategy for child and adolescent health and development

Assessment tool

EUROPE

Assessment Tool

European strategy for child and adolescent
health and development

Working document

Acknowledgement

This tool was developed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in a consultative process. Professor Richard Parish, Chief Executive, The Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, London, United Kingdom was main author.

Analysis of Policy, Strategy and Infrastructure

This Assessment tool has been developed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe to assist Member States undertake an audit of their current policies in relation to child and adolescent health and their possibilities for future development. The Assessment tool will provide policy-makers, planners, NGOs and the public with the information needed to improve the health and development opportunities for young people. The tool will clarify whether the necessary measures are in place to ensure achievement of better health for children and adolescents and identify any areas that require further consideration.

The tool is designed to allow policy-makers and planners to undertake a formative assessment of their current policy situation and analyse their state of readiness with regard to implementation. It should enable policy-makers and planners to achieve the following objectives:

- Identify current policies and strategies that contribute to child and adolescent health and clarify the goals and objectives for which these policies and strategies have been formulated.
- Map the existing policy provision relating to child and adolescent health and assess the extent to which Member States have adopted evidence-based guidance. It will help Member States identify any gaps in their policy provision.
- Enable policy-makers to determine whether they have utilised the full range of policy tools likely to be effective on the basis of current evidence and determine whether the necessary information systems are in place to assist in policy formulation, implementation management, and outcome evaluation.
- Identify the sectors and key players involved in planning, implementation, evaluation and accountability, and assess the extent to which national policies and strategies have been implemented in practice.
- Determine the adequacy of the existing infrastructure required for the successful implementation of national policies and strategies, and identify any additional measures that might be required.

The tool will also help to identify the level of investment devoted to child and adolescent health, together with any mechanisms for public accountability.

The Assessment tool has been designed as a self-completion questionnaire. It may require inputs from a range of key individuals, government department and ministries in order to paint an accurate and reliable picture of the country's provision for child and adolescent health and development.

1. Strategy development

1. 1   Please describe who has overall responsibility for establishing priorities and strategy in public health and who has overall responsibility for health care services (e.g. national government, regional government, municipal authorities)? What are the responsibilities at each level of government?

Public Health (Public health includes both health protection (e.g. immunization, prevention services) and health promotion (tobacco control, improved nutrition).

Health Care Services

Please use this section to expand on your response if you wish

Please Go to 1.2.

1.2   Do you have a national strategy for child and adolescent health and development in your country, either as a 'stand alone' strategy or as part of another strategy (e.g. children's strategy; population health strategy)?

Yes	In preparation	No

If 'Yes' or 'In preparation', Go to 1.3. If 'No', Go to 1.7

1.3 **Is the strategy specific to child and adolescent health or is it part of a wider strategy? Which of the following applies?**

'Stand alone' strategy for child and adolescent health	As part of an overall policy or strategy for health (all ages)	As part of an overall policy or strategy for children and adolescents	As part other policies or strategies

Go to 1.4

1.4 **When was it approved/will it be approved?**

Month:	Year:

Go to 1.5

1.5 **Which age groups are covered by the strategy?**

Before and around birth	The first year of life	Early childhood (pre-school)	Late childhood (school age to puberty)	Adolescence
Pregnancy and birth	Birth to 12 months	1 – 4 years (incl)	5 - 9 years (incl)	10 – 19 years (incl)

Go to 1.6

1.6 **With reference to children and adolescents, what are the overall policy goals (e.g. improvements in health for all children, helping the most disadvantaged and reducing inequalities between social groups, etc)? Please describe.**

Go to 1.7

1.7   WHO has proposed a number of values and principles that should underpin any strategy for child and adolescent health and development. Please identify whether these are accepted by your country and whether or not they have been explicitly adopted (e.g. by parliament) or acknowledged (e.g. in documentation).

Address inequities			
Informally accepted	Formally adopted or acknowledged	Implemented in practice	Not considered
Adopt an intersectoral public health approach			
Informally accepted	Formally adopted or acknowledged	Implemented in practice	Not considered
Involve the public and, in particular, children and adolescents			
Informally accepted	Formally adopted or acknowledged	Implemented in practice	Not considered
Adopt a life-course approach			
Informally accepted	Formally adopted or acknowledged	Implemented in practice	Not considered

Please go to 1.8

1.8   Your country may have adopted additional or alternative values or principles with regard to children and adolescents? If so, please specify.

Go to 1.9

1.9   This question is about priorities. What are the most important *outcomes* in your country that will improve child and adolescent health?

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Please Go to 1.10

1.10   Assuming that your country has a national strategy, is there a requirement for regions or municipalities to produce their own local action plans?

Yes	Planned	No	Not relevant

Go to 1.11

1.11   Please identify any *major* sources of evidence or international guidelines formally used to underpin policy and strategy development (e.g. guidance or recommendations from WHO, UNICEF, World Bank or evidence databases)

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

Go to 1.12

1.12   Which policy measures have been or will be used *intentionally* to achieve the child and adolescent health outcomes described in 1.9? (Please circle or tick.)

LEGISLATION (e.g. smoking in public places, wearing seat belts, environmental improvement, maternity leave, child rights)	**REGULATIONS** (e.g. consumer protection, food labelling, industrial and vehicle emissions, speed limits)
ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE (e.g. new services, improved access)	**PUBLIC EDUCATION** (e.g. mass media campaigns)
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (e.g. training of health professionals, professional regulation)	**BUDGET ALLOCATION** (e.g. increased health or education budget)
FISCAL MEASURES (e.g. taxation, corporate subsidies, financial penalties, investment funds, tax exemption)	**WELFARE POLICY** (e.g. food coupons, welfare benefits, housing support)
RESEARCH (commissioned research, information dissemination)	**PERFORMANCE RELATED PUBLIC SERVICE FUNDING** (e.g. funds follow targets)
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (e.g. primary and secondary school knowledge and skills development)	**ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE** (e.g. transport planning, water and sewage supply, playground design)
OTHER (please specify)	**OTHER** (please specify)

Go to 1.13

1.13   Are there any other policy initiatives that have *unintentionally* had either a *positive* or a *negative* impact on the health of children and adolescents?

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.

Go to 1.14

1.14   A number of priorities have been adopted for the European Region that relate to children and adolescents. Do you have a specific policy, strategy or explicit programme of work, which addresses all or some of these seven priorities? Please provide a brief description.

Mothers and neonates

Nutrition

Communicable diseases

Injuries and violence

Physical environment

Adolescent health

Psychosocial development and mental health

Chronic disease and disability

Please Go to 1.15

1.15   Has the Commission on the Rights of the Child been applied fully?

Yes	Partially	No

Please go to 1.16

1.16   Are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) used to inform the development of policy and strategy?

Yes	Partially	No

Please Go to Section 2

2. People, partners and players

2.1   Does your country have a minister for children?

Yes – with responsibility just for children	Yes – but children are included in a portfolio with other responsibilities	No

Go to 2.2

2.2   Does your country have an ombudsman for children (or equivalent)?

Yes	Planned	No

If you have answered 'Yes' or 'Planned', Go to 2.3. If 'No', Go to 2.4

2.3   To whom does the ombudsman report?

Person or organization: (e.g. prime minister, parliament)

Go to 2.4

2.4   Do similar positions exist at the level of local government?

Yes	Sometimes	No	Not applicable

Go to 2.5

2.5   Do you have a parliamentary committee responsible for children and adolescents?

Yes	Planned	No

Go to 2.6

2.6   Are children (or their advocates) and adolescents directly involved in planning, implementing and reviewing policies and strategies designed to improve the health of young people?

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	Yes	No
PROGRAMME PLANNING	Yes	No
IMPLEMENTATION	Yes	No
MONITORING AND FEEDBACK	Yes	No
IMPACT EVALUATION	Yes	No

Go to 2.7

2.7   This question is about *priority setting* and *planning*. Which Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are directly involved in *developing* a national strategy for child and adolescent health and development? In the absence of a specific strategy, which NGOs are involved in *planning* services for children and adolescents?

ORGANIZATION	CONTRIBUTION

Go to 2.8

2.8   This question is about *implementation*. Are NGOs involved in *implementing* your child and adolescent health strategy? If so, please identify the major NGOs concerned with implementation (as opposed to policy formulation). In the absence of a specific strategy, please identify any NGOs engaged in delivering services for children and adolescents.

NGO	Services provided
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Please Go to Section 3

3. Information systems

3.1   Are specific information systems in place to support child and adolescent health and development (e.g. measurements of health status, service provision, and numbers of qualified staff)?

Yes	Partially	No

If you have answered 'Yes' or 'Partially', Go to 3.2. If you have answered 'No', Go to Section 4

3.2   Please identify the information systems currently in use or planned.

Information system	Approximately how long have datasets been available?
1.	Years
2.	Years
3	Years
4.	Years
5.	Years
6.	Years
7.	Years

Go to 3.3

3.3.   Which of the following functions is the information systems used for?

Policy development	Programme planning	Monitoring implementation	Evaluation

Go to 3.4

3.4   Do you have disaggregated data on socio-economic background and ethnicity? (Are the data broken down by ethnic background, socio-economic status, etc?)

Yes	No

Go to 3.5

3.5   Are indicators in place to measure child and adolescent health? How comprehensive are they? (This is a subjective, self-assessment.)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

None   Fully
comprehensive
Go to 3.6

3.6   Are these indicators based upon any international standards or data collection methodology? If so which? (You may specify more than one – include international databases to which your country contributes.)

1.
2.
3.
4.

Go to 3.7

3.7   In addition to indicators identified in section 2.6, please specify any additional indicators for child and adolescent health used by your country.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

Go to 3.8

3.8   What are the most significant gaps or inadequacies in your information systems with regard to child and adolescent health?

1.
2.
3.
4.

Please Go to Section 4

4. Implementation

4.1   Have specific funds or resources been designated to implement a strategy for child and adolescent health? (Please give a brief description.)

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Go to 4.2

4.2   Does a mechanism for intersectoral and cross-government planning and implementation exist? (e.g. a committee or task force that operates across organizational boundaries)

Yes	Planned	No

If you have answered 'Yes' or 'Planned', Go to 4.3. If you have answered 'No', Go to 4.4

4.3   Please identify the government departments, national agencies, NGOs, academic institutions and private sector organizations that make up the membership of any intersectoral or cross-government planning committee.

Go to 4.4

4.4   Have the implementation steps (e.g. targets) been described against which progress towards longer term goals can be measured?

Yes	Partially	No

If you have answered 'Yes' or 'Partially', Go to 4.5. If 'No', Go to 4.7

4.5   Are systems in place to monitor implementation against agreed targets or indicators?

Yes	Planned	No

Go to 4.6

4.6   If yes, what is the organizational location (e.g. health ministry)?

Go to 4.7

4.7   Are all government policies considered in terms of their impact upon the health of children and adolescents (e.g. agricultural policy, fiscal decisions, transport policy, etc)

Always	To some extent	Rarely

Go to 4.8

4.8   What type of specific child and adolescent-centred health services do you provide? Please give examples, taking both mental and physical health into account.

Prevention and health promotion
1.
2.
3.
4.
Primary care, including screening and early detection
1.
2.
3.
4.
Secondary care
1.
2.
3.
4.
Tertiary care
1.
2.
3.
4.

Go to 4.9

4.9   With specific reference to child and adolescent health please identify any significant gaps in service provision.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Go to Section 5

5. Accountability

5.1   If you have a strategy that covers child and adolescent health, is a report on progress made available to parliament on a regular basis? If you do not have a specific strategy, does parliament receive reports on the health status of children and adolescents?

Yes	Infrequently	No

If you have answered 'Yes' or 'Infrequently', Go to 5.2. If 'No', Go to Section 6

5.2   If so, how frequently?

Unscheduled	Once every parliament (e.g. 4 or 5 years)	Approximately every 2 to 3 years	Annually or more than once a year

Go to 5.3

5.3   Are the results of progress (or lack of it) in implementing the Strategy made known to the public? In the absence of a specific strategy, are the details of children's health status made publicly available?

Yes	No

If 'Yes' Go to 5.4. If 'No, Go to Section 6.

5.4   If so, what mechanism/s or media are used to convey the information (e.g. press briefings, report to NGOs, etc).

Go to section 5.5

5.5 **Are child and adolescent health issues addressed in regular follow-up reports relating to the recommendations on the Rights of the Child?**

Yes	No

If 'Yes', Go to 5.6. If 'No', go to Section 6

5.6 **If 'Yes' to 5.6, which issues are covered? Please specify.**

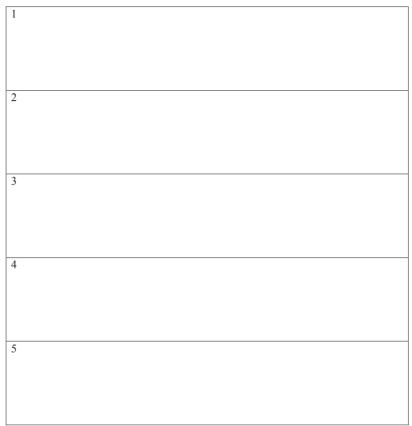| |
|---|
| **1.** |
| **2.** |
| **3.** |
| **4.** |
| **5.** |
| **6.** |
| **7.** |

Go to Section 6

6. Concluding remarks

6.1   With specific reference to child and adolescent health please identify any significant issues yet to be addressed in your country or any gaps in policy or information. Please comment (e.g. not yet a priority, inadequate implementation, poor information, insufficient people with the necessary training and skills, etc)

Issue	Comment
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

Go to 6.2

6.2   What have been the most significant obstacles to progress in promoting the health of children and adolescents?

1
2
3
4
5

Go to 6.3

6.3   Which government department, ministries or agencies are responsible for overseeing the health of children and adolescents? (Please specify)

Organization:
Contact person:

Organization:
Contact person:

Organization:
Contact person:

Organization:
Contact person:

Please Go to 6.5

6.5   Who is responsible for overseeing the child and adolescent health information systems?

Organization:
Contact:

Organization:
Contact:

Organization:
Contact:

Go to 6.6

6.6 Any other comments?

Go to 6.7

6.7 Please give the name and designation (position) of the person with overall responsibility for completing this assessment.

Name:
Designation:

End

Annex

7. Human Resources

7.1   Has an assessment been carried out to determine the number of staff and specialised skills required to support a child and adolescent health strategy?

Yes	Partially	No

If you have answered 'Yes' or 'Partially', Go to 7.2. If 'No', Go to 7.11

7.2   Does this identify the number of staff required?

Yes	Partially	No

Go to 7.3

7.3   Has the geographical deployment of staff been determined?

Yes	Partially	No

Go to 7.4

7.4   Does this take account of the needs of disadvantaged groups, either by geographical location, income or ethnic background?

Yes	Partially	No

Go to 7.5

7.5   Have the skills required been expressly defined?

Yes	Partially	No

Go to 7.6

7.6   Were the data on staffing requirements determined nationally or locally?

Nationally	Locally	Both

Go to 7.7

7.7   Which sectors does the Human Resources Plan cover?

HEALTH	Public health
	Other health professions
EDUCATION	Primary
	Secondary
	Tertiary
OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (Specify)	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
NGOs	
PRIVATE SECTOR	

Go to 7.8

7.8   Which organization undertook the human resources assessment?

Organization:
Contact:

Go to 7.9

7.9   Has the human resources plan been implemented yet?

Yes	Partially	No

Go to 7.10

7.10   When did/will implementation start?

Month:	Year:

Go to 7.11

7.11   Have training providers been identified (e.g. universities, private sector trainers, etc) to help prepare the workforce for their role in child and adolescent health?

Yes	Partially	No

If you have answered 'Yes' or 'Partially', Go to 7.12. If, 'No', Go to 7.13

7.12   Please identify who provides the training.

Initial professional training				Continuing professional education			
In-house	University or College	Private Sector Training Organizatio	Other	In-house	University or College	Private Sector Training Organizatio	Other

Go to 7.13

7.13   If not, does the necessary training capacity exist within your country?

Yes	No

Go to 7.14

7.14   Is any additional training and professional development available through open learning or on-line access?

Yes	Partially	No

Go to 7.15

7.15   Do you wish to make any additional comments on workforce planning or training?

End of self-completion questionnaire