HEALTH SITUATION

The health of the Chinese population has improved significantly. This has largely been a result of: 1) well-targeted public health campaigns that reduced infant and child mortality and communicable disease; and 2) improved economic conditions impacting nutrition, education and distribution of health services.

China made great progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals from 2000 to 2015. The country has also actively promoted implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in 2005.

Looking ahead China faces two primary challenges, namely the need to address major health disparities and inequities, and the coming tsunami of non-communicable diseases largely due to changing dietary and lifestyle factors.

Health disparities and inequities will be a key challenge for China in the coming years. Social determinants such as living conditions, lifestyles, choice of occupation, consumer behaviour and individual values are undergoing profound changes. There are large variations in health-care access and health outcomes between urban and rural areas, population groups (e.g. migrants, residents and ethnic groups) and geographic areas (e.g. east and west).

China is experiencing a rapid epidemiological transition. The incidence of NCDs has risen sharply and is influenced by high rates of tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and excessive alcohol intake. Today 85% of China’s mortality is attributable to NCDs. This means more than 3 million people die prematurely each year in China, from diseases which are largely preventable. Mental health, injuries and road safety and the impact of environment and climate change on human health are other key issues.

HEALTH POLICIES AND SYSTEMS

In October 2016 the Party and Government issued a high-level policy directive, Healthy China 2030. Under the initiative health is recognised as a pre-condition for continued growth – “necessary for promoting the all-round development of human beings and the fundamental conditions for economic and social development.” Healthy China 2030 outlines a plan to promote healthy living, optimise health services, improve health protection, build a healthy environment, develop health industries, improve supportive and enabling systems, and strengthen leadership and implementation. Health is also integrated throughout China’s 13th Five-Year Plan For Economic and Social Development (2016–2020).

Within the Government, the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) has overall responsibility for health. In terms of service delivery China has a largely hospital-based delivery system managed through the NHFPC and local governments. Traditional Chinese medicine is an integral part of the national health-care system.

In 2009, the Government launched an ambitious health-care reform initiative. By 2015, 95% of the population had health insurance. The system has yet to fully integrate services across the continuum of care, with strong primary health care as the basis of a people-centered integrated health care system. This remains a key reform challenge in the coming years.

Other ongoing reform challenges include reforming public hospitals, improving management and availability of affordable medicines, and expanding health insurance reimbursement levels to reduce out of pocket payments.

COOPERATION FOR HEALTH

Twenty-three United Nations (UN) agencies are represented in China, including WHO.

They work together as part of the UN Country Team to support China in its development. The UN system in China and the Government jointly launched United Nations Development Assistance Framework: China 2016–2020, focusing on three priority areas:

1. Poverty reduction and equitable development
2. Improved and sustainable environment
3. Enhanced global engagement

WHO actively participated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) development process. The Organization has aligned its work with the three UNDAF outcomes and is committed to take an active role in achieving these outcomes. Joint work across UN agencies is coordinated through theme groups. WHO is the chair of the Theme Group on Health and the co-chair of the Theme Group on HIV/ AIDS.
## WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGIC AGENDA (2016–2020)

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<th>Strategic Priorities</th>
<th>Main Focus Areas for WHO Cooperation</th>
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<td><strong>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:</strong> Strengthen health systems towards universal health coverage</td>
<td>WHO will support the Government to strengthen health systems towards universal health coverage to ensure that all people have access to high quality promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services, while also ensuring that people do not suffer financial hardship when paying for these services. WHO will support the Government’s ongoing implementation of health reform, which began in 2009 and will be guided by the 13th Five-Year Plan for Health Sector Development (2016–2020). WHO’s collaboration includes analysing and addressing barriers to effective health reform; strengthening multisectoral cooperation to improve people-centred, integrated health services; ensuring reorientation towards health promotion and disease prevention and towards a tiered system that allocates resources appropriately and fairly; supporting access to safe and quality essential drugs and diagnostics; and supporting a stronger health workforce.</td>
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<td><strong>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:</strong> Reduce morbidity and mortality from major diseases and risks of public health importance</td>
<td>China’s capacity for managing communicable diseases has advanced considerably over the past 20 years. The epidemiological transition towards a heavier burden of NCDs requires a stronger emphasis on addressing the behavioural and environmental factors that cause NCDs, as well as emphasizing health promotion and improving management and care for NCDs. WHO will collaborate with the Government on targeted approaches to diseases and risks of public health importance including addressing communicable diseases that have not yet been eliminated/eradicated, including TB, hepatitis and HIV; prevention and vaccination efforts including full engagement in the polio endgame; enhancing national capacity to reduce the premature burden of NCDs; promoting progress on addressing non-disease risks such as disasters, violence and road traffic injuries; and supporting the development and implementation of a healthy ageing strategy and action plan.</td>
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<td><strong>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:</strong> Strengthen regulatory capacity in health services, food safety and health products and technologies</td>
<td>WHO will support CFDA, NHFPC and other ministries as required to strengthen the national regulatory system to achieve an advanced international level of regulatory capacity and leadership in the regulation of health services, food safety, and health products and technologies, including TCM products, to better protect population health. This will be done through systematic and comprehensive assessment and capacity-building and will address policies, laws, standards, and supervision and enforcement in services, food safety management and medicines followed by other medical products.</td>
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<td><strong>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:</strong> Promote the Healthy Cities movement and the attainment of health in all policies</td>
<td>Cities are drivers of population health. By 2030 it is estimated that one billion Chinese citizens will live in cities. The China Healthy Cities movement, supported by the National Policy on Healthy Cities, aims to develop a healthy city management system that incorporates political commitment, intersectoral policy development, institutional change, capacity-building, and community-based planning and participation. The policy will be supported by strong indicators and an evaluation system, which uses health as a measure of good governance. Recognizing that health is impacted by many sectors, a health-in-all-policies approach will be implemented to ensure that health is considered from all angles that affect health. Health-in-all-policies will draw from all of WHO’s collaboration with China as it supports other developing countries to address their health needs by sharing national experiences and lessons in health reform, including among others the One Belt One Road initiative (OBOR). This includes engaging China as it provides technical and financial assistance to build disease prevention and control systems and support in health emergencies (such as Ebola). WHO will work with the Government on contributions to global frameworks such as the IHR (2005) to protect global health security, participation in setting the global health agenda and developing capacity in the production of affordable health products for domestic and international benefit.</td>
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