The Philippines has made significant investments and advances in health in recent years. Rapid economic growth and strong country capacity have contributed to Filipinos living longer and healthier. However, not all the benefits of this growth have reached the most vulnerable groups, and the health system remains fragmented. Health insurance now covers 92% of the population. Maternal and child health services have improved, with more children living beyond infancy, a higher number of women delivering at a health facilities and more births being attended by professional service providers than ever before. Access to and provision of preventive, diagnostic and treatment services for communicable diseases have improved, while there are several initiatives to reduce illness and death due to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

Despite substantial progress in improving the lives and health of people in the Philippines, achievements have not been uniform and challenges remain. Deep inequities persist between regions, rich and the poor, and different population groups. Many Filipinos continue to die or suffer from illnesses that have well-proven, cost-effective interventions, such as tuberculosis, HIV and dengue, or diseases affecting mothers and children. Many people lack sufficient knowledge to make informed decisions about their own health. Rapid economic development, urbanization, escalating climate change, and widening exposure to diseases and pathogens in an increasingly global world increase the risks associated with disasters, environmental threats, and emerging and re-emerging infections.

### HEALTH POLICIES AND SYSTEMS

The Government’s vision for the Philippines has been translated by the Department of Health into the Philippine Health Agenda 2016–2022. Under the motto All for Health Towards Health for All, universal health coverage is the platform for health and development in the Philippines — driven by action within and outside the health sector. Reducing health inequities is singled out as the most important result of three health guarantees: 1) ensuring financial protection for the poorest people; 2) improving health outcomes with no disparities; and 3) building health service delivery networks for more responsiveness.

### COOPERATION FOR HEALTH

The global vision of the world in 2030, spelled out in the Sustainable Development Goals, aligns with the Philippines’ 25-year vision AmBisyon Natin 2040. There is an ongoing process of integrating SDGs into AmBisyon Natin 2040 and into national, sectoral and subnational plans and frameworks. WHO supports the Government of the Philippines to foster well-being through action by the health sector and across sectors. WHO convenes platforms for health involving multiple stakeholders and in addressing the social, economic and environmental determinants of health. WHO also takes the lead in coordinating with other health partners to ensure all stakeholders are aware of health issues and activities in the country.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Priorities</th>
<th>Main Focus Areas for WHO Cooperation</th>
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| **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:** Save lives: ensure full access to immediate-impact interventions               | • Accelerate progress towards the targeted elimination of TB, the AIDS epidemic, malaria and neglected tropical diseases  
• Address the high burden of viral hepatitis  
• Intensify control and treatment of dengue, Zika and chikungunya  
• Strengthen the implementation of maternal, neonatal and child health policies across the country with a special focus on vulnerable groups  
• Expand population coverage under the national vaccination programme |
| **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:** Promote well-being: empower people to lead healthy lives and enjoy responsive health services | • Maximize opportunities for healthy lifestyles  
• Accelerate the introduction of tobacco-free societies  
• Increase the responsiveness of health services to people’s needs  
• Enable reproductive choices for all women and men  
• Optimize the health sector contribution to preventing and addressing gender-based violence and violence against children  
• Support the implementation of a comprehensive nutrition programme |
| **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:** Protect health: anticipate and mitigate disasters, and environmental and emerging health threats | • Support the implementation of the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies and disaster risk management for health  
• Co-lead the national Health Cluster response in emergency situations  
• Improve access to clean air, safe water and safe food  
• Advocate for “green” health-care facilities and the reduction of carbon emissions  
• Support the implementation of The Philippine Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance: One Health Approach |
| **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:** Optimize the health architecture: overcome fragmentation to achieve universal health coverage | • Improve the efficiency of health actors in an evolving, federalized governance structure  
• Support the rollout of functionally defined service delivery networks and improved local stewardship for health  
• Support efficient and effective regulatory capacity, procurement, and management of supplies and logistics  
• Ensure protection from catastrophic health expenditures  
• Ensure equitable health workforce distribution and capacity  
• Promote evidence-informed policy-making and planning in support of achieving national and global targets |
| **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5:** Use platforms for health: support health in all settings, policies and sectors | • Work with Government departments, legislators and organizations on health-related taxation laws and regulations and to promote multisectoral collaboration  
• Support the educational sector and youth organizations, through the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education  
• Enable cities and islands to act as drivers for population health  
• Enhance the Philippines’ standing in regional and global health  
• Address the issue of road and traffic injuries as a major public health concern.  
• Increase health synergies between public and private sectors |