WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy (2014-2023)

Information Session for Member States
24 November 2022
Outline of the presentation

- Background Information
- A decade progress of Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM)
- WHO actions in implementation of the TM Strategy
- Challenges facing and Member States requirements
- Recommendations and way forward
Background information

- WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023 will expire within one year

- TM resolutions: WHA67.18 (2014) and WHA75(19)(2021) requested the Director-General to submit a consolidated report on progress made in the implementation of TM strategy through EB 152 to WHA 76

- It is also the request made in decision WHA73(15) (2020): in respect of global strategies or action plans that are scheduled to expire within one year, to allow Member States to consider whether global strategies or action plans have fulfilled their mandates, should be extended and/or need to be adjusted.
WHA Resolution on Traditional Medicine

WHA67.18 adopted in May 2014 urges Member States:

- To adapt, adopt and implement, where appropriate, the WHO strategy as a basis for national T&CM programmes or work plans.
- To develop and implement working plans to integrate T&CM into health services particularly primary health care services.
- To report to WHO on progress in implementing the strategy.
WHA67.18 adopted in May 2014 requests the Director-General of WHO:

- To facilitate, upon request, Member States’ implementation of the WHO strategy, supporting their formulation of knowledge-based national policies, standards and regulations, and strengthening national capacity building accordingly through information sharing, networks and training workshops;

- To provide policy guidance and technical support to Member States on how to integrate T&CM services into the health care systems while ensuring safety, quality and effectiveness of T&CM services;

- To continue to promote international cooperation and collaboration in the area of T&CM in order to share evidence-based information, taking into account the traditions and customs of indigenous peoples and communities.

- To report to WHA periodically, as appropriate, on progress made in implementation.
Goals: WHO TM Strategy 2014-2023

- Harnessing the potential contribution of T&CM to health, wellness, people-centered health care and universal health coverage

- Promoting safe and effective use of T&CM through the regulation, research and integration of T&CM products, practices and practitioners into the health system, as appropriate
Objectives: WHO TM Strategy 2014-2023

- To build the knowledge base for active management of T&CM through appropriate national policies
- To strengthen the safety, quality, and efficacy of T&CM by regulating products, practices and practitioners
- To promote universal health coverage by integrating T&CM services appropriately into health service delivery and self-health care.
Global Situation of T&CM

As at 2018, 170 WHO Member States acknowledged their use of traditional and complementary medicine (T&CM).

Fig. 3.1. Use of T&CM acknowledged by Member States, 2018

T&CM: traditional and complementary medicine (which here includes indigenous traditional medicines). N=194
National policy for T&CM

There was a consistent increase in the number of WHO Member States having a national policy on T&CM. By 2018, 98 member states, more than 50% of the 194 Member States, had a national policy on T&CM.

Fig. 1.1. Growth in the number of Member States with a national policy on T&CM, 1999–2018
As of 2018, 107 member states, 55% of all Member States reported the presence of a national office for T&CM.

Fig. 1.11. Growth in the number of Member States with a national office for T&CM, 1999–2018

Sources: As for Fig. 1.1.
Regulation of herbal medicines

As of 2018, 124 Member States (64%) responded presence of laws or regulations for herbal medicines

Fig. 2.1. Growth in the number of Member States with regulation of herbal medicines, 1999-2018
Regulation of T&CM practitioners

78 Member States reported regulation of T&CM providers as of 2018, up from 67 in 2012.

Fig. 3.5. Number of Member States with regulation of T&CM providers, 2012–2018

T&CM: traditional and complementary medicine (which here includes indigenous traditional medicines).
National research institute for T&CM

As of 2018, a total of 75 Member States (almost 40%) reported the presence of a national research institute for T&CM

Fig. 1.17. Growth in the number of Member States with a national research institute for T&CM, 1999-2018
WHO Actions: On Going Activities

- Strengthen global leadership and international network
- Producing global technical products
- Providing policy and technical support to Member States
Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCI) in key WHA Resolutions and Important Declarations since 2014

2014
(WHO TM Strategy 2014-2023)

2016
WHA resolution (WHA67.18) on traditional medicine

2018
WHA resolution on integrated people centered care (WHA69.24)
Shanghai Declaration on promoting health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Declaration of Astana on Primary Health Care

2019 - 2020
Global action on patient safety (WHA72.6)
A chapter of TM in 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (WHA72.15)
UNGA Political declaration of the high-level meeting on UHC (A/RES/74/2)

WHO Operational Framework for PHC
Strengthen the Global leadership and international network

- 47 IRCH Members
- WHO Secretariat (HQ/RO/CO)
- 26 WHOCCs
- Expert Advisory Panel/Groups
- Member States
- Non-state actors
- UN agencies

WHO CCs
Strengthen the Global leadership and international network
Developing the Global Technical Products

**Some Published Technical Products**
- Four Practice Benchmarks
- Report on T&CM model in PHC
- Report on TM in Palliative care/Covid-19
- Good practice for quality and safety

**Some Products under Development**
- Series of Practice and Training Benchmarks
- Models of TM integration into health systems
- International Herbal Pharmacopoeia

**Practice**
- Four Practice Benchmarks
- Report on T&CM model in PHC
- Report on TM in Palliative care/Covid-19
- Good practice for quality and safety

**Products**
- Guidelines on good manufacturing practices for the manufacture of herbal medicines (GMP)
- Guidelines on good herbal processing practices for herbal medicines (GHPP)
- Key technical issues for safe use of herbal medicines with reference to interactions with other medicines

**Practitioners**
- Four Training Benchmarks
- Digital health tools for consumer education/self-care
- Classification and Qualification of TCI Practitioners

**General**
- TM in WHO COVID Database
- Series of Standard Terminologies
- Global Survey on T&CM
- Series of Standard Terminologies
- Methodologies on Research and Evaluation
One highly significant achievement is the inclusion of a chapter on traditional medicine in ICD11.

Two traditional and complementary medicine indicators were listed in the WHO 2018 Global reference list of 100 core health indicators (plus health-related SDGs).

The first comprehensive WHO global report on traditional and complementary medicine published in the year 2019.

Regional Framework for Harnessing the Traditional and Complementary Medicine for Achieving Health and Well-being in the Western Pacific was approved.
Provide Support to Member States

Capacity building - Annual interregional training workshops for governmental officials, series of regional workshops

Onsite technical support on clinical research to AFRO countries who actively engaging TM in against COVID-19

Technical supports Based on requirement of Member States

Priority countries - identified under umbrella of UHC program, Ad hoc
Engagement of TM in the fight against COVID-19

Many countries attempted to use TM against Covid-19, WHO COVID database and WHO International Clinical Trial Registration Platform show (as at 19 September 2022):

• 4778 traditional medicine-related clinical trials listed in WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform, including 165 trials restricted to COVID-19, in which some are only for traditional medicine, some are combined traditional medicine with conventional.

• 7516 research articles on traditional medicine cited in WHO COVID-19 database of global literature on coronavirus disease.

• Workshops on engagement of TM for fighting against COVID-19 were organized by WHO to share the knowledge and practices of TM among countries and professional organizations.

• WHO Expert Meeting on Evaluation of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Treatment of COVID-19 was held on 28 February-2 March 2022.

• WHO AFRO established regional expert committee working in this area.
WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)

Catalyzing ancient wisdom and modern science for the health of people and the planet

Focusing on:
- Evidence and learning
- Data and analytics
- Sustainability and equity
- Innovation & technology
Challenges Reported by Member States

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<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Number of Member States</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of research data</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>Lack of financial support for research on T&amp;CM</td>
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<td>Lack of mechanisms to monitor safety of T&amp;CM practice</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Lack of education and training for T&amp;CM providers</td>
<td>73</td>
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<td>Lack of expertise within national health authorities and control agencies</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>Lack of appropriate mechanisms to monitor and regulate T&amp;CM providers</td>
<td>69</td>
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<td>Lack of appropriate mechanisms to control and regulate herbal products</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>Lack of cooperation channels between national health authorities to share information about T&amp;CM</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of mechanisms to monitor safety of T&amp;CM products</td>
<td>63</td>
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<td>Lack of appropriate mechanisms to control and regulate T&amp;CM advertising and claims</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>20</td>
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Source: Based on the second WHO global survey respondents only (N=133).
Challenges Reported by Member States

- Member states have reported that the key challenges they are facing are lack of research data and financial support for research,

- Lack of regulation, control and monitor on the safety, quality and efficacy of traditional and complementary medicine in practice, practitioner and product

- Lack of expertise and cooperation channels and information sharing mechanism

- Lack of policy guidance on integration of traditional medicine into health systems and services
Current Situation and needs from Member States

After a decade, the global situation and challenges in traditional and complementary medicine field changed considerably.

The contribution of traditional and complementary medicine to primary health care, universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals continues to gain political recognition.

The expansion of the global landscape of traditional medicine also demonstrates its impact on broader determinants of health, such as interculturalism, nature and even trade.

Consequently, a need is required for comprehensive policy and technical support from Member States to the secretariat for establishing relevant platforms and enhancing cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development.

A growing number of Member States are calling on the Secretariat to provide technical support on integrating T&CM into health systems and services while ensuring the safety, quality and efficacy and to develop a mechanism for sharing information and research data to support countries in generating evidence-based policies and strategic plans.
Member States are invited to consider the way forward since the strategy is expiring next year.
Thank you for your attention

Website: https://www.who.int/teams/integrated-health-services/traditional-complementary-and-integrative-medicine

Email: trm@who.int

EGGERS, Rudi
Director, Integrative Health Service Department
EggersR@who.int

LI Yachan
Senior Technical Officer
TCI Unit/IHS Department
liyac@who.int