

Overview of financial situation: Programme budget 2018–2019

WHO programmatic and financial reports for 2018– 2019, including audited financial statements for 2018

Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly

1. The Committee welcomed the reports on the Overview of financial situation: Programme budget 2018–2019,¹ and on WHO programmatic and financial reports for 2018–2019, including the audited financial statements for 2018.² The Committee appreciated that the overall approved base Programme budget was funded to 103%, although inequalities remain among programmes and offices.
2. The Committee also noted with appreciation that revenue was higher in 2018 than in 2017. However, it expressed concern over the disparity in funding among programmes and major offices and asked the Secretariat to put measures in place to address this. In reply, the Secretariat explained that the new integrated budget structure as proposed for the biennium 2020–2021 should support improved projections of voluntary contributions, which could enhance the flexibility of the funding through informed dialogue, and suggested that a joint effort by the Secretariat and its Member States could help address this issue.
3. In addition, with the implementation rate for base programmes standing at 50% at the end of March 2019, the Committee raised concerns that the Programme budget 2018–2019 might not be fully implemented by the end of the biennium. The Secretariat noted that implementation had already improved since the report was prepared and was now in line with the rate reported in the previous biennium. Further, actions were being taken in the regional offices and headquarters to enhance implementation.
4. In response to comments regarding overdue donor reporting, the Secretariat indicated that the Organization manages thousands of awards, requiring significant time and human resource investment to meet the variety of reporting requirements. The Committee noted that, although significant progress had been made to improve reporting status, the Secretariat should consider innovative tools or methods that could make the reporting process more efficient. The Secretariat agreed with this approach and

¹ Document A72/34.

² Documents A72/35, A72/36 and A72/INF./5.

would seek to collaborate with Member States and donors to develop streamlined reporting mechanisms and standardized templates for reporting.

5. The Committee appreciated the strong internal controls, summarized in the Statement of Internal Control, and the significant improvements that have been made related to direct financial cooperation. The Secretariat noted that this had been recognized in the assessment of WHO conducted by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN).

6. In response to a request that the executive summary be re-introduced in the audited financial statements, the Secretariat confirmed that it would include one in the next reporting cycle.

7. The Committee noted measures taken to contain costs under the Staff Health Insurance Fund and expressed support for the implementation of strategies to manage the after-service health insurance liability.

8. The Committee noted with appreciation the WHO Results Report: mid-term review, with its focus on achievement at the country level. It recommended that, in addition to success stories and achievements, future reports include analyses of the challenges the Secretariat faces and areas of work potentially at risk.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

9. The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Health Assembly note the reports contained in documents A72/35 and A72/36, and adopt the following draft decision:

The Seventy-second World Health Assembly, having considered the WHO Results Report for the Programme budget 2018–2019 and the audited financial statements for 2018;¹ and having noted the report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly,² decided to accept the WHO Results Report for the Programme budget 2018–2019 and the audited financial statements for 2018.

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¹ Documents A72/35, A72/36 and A72/INF/5.

² Document A72/62.