

Written Intervention Primary Health Care

Having a strong Primary Health Care (PHC) system is an increasingly important policy objective in the national health policy, strategy and plans of Member States in the Western Pacific Region (WPR), including Viet Nam. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the critical role of PHC in which Governments must strengthen their healthcare system and be forced to innovate and apply effective approaches to deliver PHC services. In Viet Nam, the Government recently pursued the strategy to strengthen PHC as a core component to achieve UHC through the grassroots healthcare system reform, Healthy Vietnam Programme and Targeted Health-Population Programme.

In response to Item 11.1 on the Primary Health Care of WHA 73, Viet Nam aims to revitalize the grassroots health system with the district health system, including commune level, to become the strong foundation for primary health care. Strengthening the grassroots health system is a key component in the national strategy to achieve UHC in 2030 in which non-communicable diseases (NCDs) management and integrated care for older people are two key drivers for PHC reform. More specifically, this entails improving the organization and management of the district health system, revising the service delivery model and care package, reforming the provider payment system to support quality primary health care services, and developing a competent and adaptive health workforce to meet the changing health care needs of the future.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, PHC played an important role for treatment and following of mild COVID19 cases, control and prevention of outbreak and further transmission, prompt and complete isolation of suspected cases to prevent exposure of the population. Moreover, the Ministry of Health accelerated the introduction of new approaches by extensively applying the digital technology in



the process of healthcare service delivery, called telehealth program among hospitals, between specialists and general practitioners aimed to maintain the quality of care at all levels in the “new normal” setting in which telehealth is also being introduced and applied for at the primary care level. The Ministry of Health, with support of WHO, committed to utilize the Operational Framework for PHC in which the relevant and operational strategies adapted for the Vietnamese context will be used to further accelerate the PHC reform in the country.