



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

152nd Session of the WHO Executive Board

30 January – 07 February 2023

Agenda	20.1	Financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2022–2023 and outlook on financing of the Programme budget 2024–2025
	20.2	Proposed Programme budget 2024–2025

The Philippines appreciates the comprehensive report of the Secretariat on WHO Financing for the Programme Budget 2022-2023. We note with concern that even as we aspire for paradigm shifts in health governance through the 5Ps component of promoting health and well-being, Strategic Priority 3 of one billion more people enjoying better health and well-being has a 50% funding gap and is unlikely to be fully financed. Moreover, the 55% funding gap that needs to be filled to achieve one billion more people protected from health emergencies will be a challenge to the work of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, while the Western Pacific Region has only 10% of the financing required to prevent epidemics and pandemics under strategic priority 2.2. We understand well that the US\$969 Million funding gap of the WHO will affect deliverables for the current biennium.

In this regard, we look forward to robust and inclusive engagement with the Secretariat at the country level for monitoring and assessment of the current programme budget implementation and rigorous prioritization exercises for the 2024-2025 programme budget cycle. We believe that, in order to work around funding gaps, the plans for the next biennium’s programme budget implementation could already be applied this year for the current biennium, to wit: country level monthly activities on programme budget implementation and status update, annual mid-term review of progress in implementing the approved programme budget; and mid and end-biennium performance assessment in terms of delivering outputs agreed with Member States.

For the Philippines, the prioritization exercise should also include discussions on the Country Cooperation Strategy 2023-2027 for the integration of the 5Ps, the Triple Billion Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Philippines’ National Objectives for Health, focusing on the country’s strategic priorities of enabling people to be healthy and protected from health risks; caring for health and wellness, and ensuring strong institutions and an adequate and engaged workforce. Further, we affirm that the high-impact service delivery interventions such as childhood immunization, HIV treatment and tuberculosis are also the high-level priorities of the current Philippine administration.

It is also of utmost importance to us that the report on the next programme budget cycle emphasizes that the Secretariat will “enhance its focus on the least-served, most marginalized populations, including migrants and refugees and internally displaced people”. We hope that the Secretariat can support our efforts to institutionalize an effective migrant health program.

Finally, we commend the country office for involving us in the preliminary priority-setting exercise and we look forward to active engagement in further country-level priority-setting exercises before the World Health Assembly for the proposed programme budget 2024-2025 and its alignment with the Health Sector Strategy 2023-2028. **END**