WHO in the Philippines
The Philippines’ astounding economic and social development means people are living longer and healthier lives.

Our job is to help the country reach every Filipino and Filipina with universal health coverage – based on international best practices.

– Dr Gundo Weiler, WHO Representative in the Philippines
## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
for WHO collaboration with the Philippines, 2017–2022

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<tr>
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<th>STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>SAVE LIVES</td>
<td>Ensure full access to immediate-impact interventions</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>PROMOTE WELL-BEING</td>
<td>Empower people to lead healthy lives and enjoy responsive health services</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>PROTECT HEALTH</td>
<td>Anticipate and mitigate disasters and environmental and emerging health threats</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>OPTIMIZE THE HEALTH SYSTEM</td>
<td>Overcome a fragmented structure to achieve universal health coverage</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>USE PLATFORMS FOR HEALTH</td>
<td>Support health in all settings, policies and sectors</td>
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Supporting all for health towards health for all
## 10 facts on health and development

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Filipinos born today can expect to live for more than 68 years</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Leading causes of death are heart and vascular diseases, cancer, pneumonia, diabetes, injuries, chronic lower-respiratory diseases and tuberculosis</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>121 deaths among every 100,000 mothers of newborns (2013), 20 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Only 70% of children were fully immunized in 2015 due to vaccine stock-outs</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Malnutrition: 30% of children are stunted, 31% of adults are overweight or obese</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Smoking prevalence was 24% in 2015, down from 30% in 2013</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>The Philippines is the third-most disaster-prone country in the world</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>92% of people had health insurance in 2015</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>More than 50% of all health expenditures are paid out of pocket</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Newly diagnosed HIV cases increased by 50% in 2014–2015</td>
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Eliminating TB – The Philippines is one of nine high-burden countries that reached the 2015 Millennium Development Goal target for tuberculosis (TB). Yet in 2015, an estimated 322 000 people were infected with TB, and 44 000 people died from the disease. In 2016, the Philippines boosted its TB response through legislation to eliminate TB. Guided by WHO, the Philippines is introducing interventions such as systematic screening, rapid molecular testing and short regimens against drug-resistant TB.

**Ensure full access to immediate-impact interventions**

- Zika, dengue, chikungunya
- HIV, TB, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, hepatitis
- Maternal and child health
- Vaccination
A 20% reduction in smoking in five years – The Philippines has put in place comprehensive tobacco-control measures, including taxation, smoking bans, graphic health warnings, bans on tobacco advertisements, promotion and sponsorship, and cessation programmes. The unprecedented one fifth decrease in the smoking rate between 2009 and 2015 shows these measures work. Yet, still one in four adults smoke, and WHO will continue to help the Philippines fully implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

**PRIORITY 2.**

**PROMOTE WELL-BEING**

*Empower people to lead healthy lives and enjoy responsive health services*

- Health promotion
- Reproductive health
- Mental health and drug use
- Tobacco control
The Philippines, first country with AMR plan – In 2014, the Philippines became the first country in Asia with a plan to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR). It has been implementing the plan by improving AMR control in hospitals, influencing prescription and dispensing practices, and strengthening AMR surveillance. The Philippines is now a regional leader in addressing AMR as a threat to health security, and WHO has supported the response at every step along the way.
PRIORITY 4.
OPTIMIZE THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Overcome a fragmented structure to achieve universal health coverage

- Service delivery networks
- Health insurance
- Health information & analysis
- Federalism and local health governance

Networking for maternal health in the Davao Region – A health system approach led to a 60% decline in maternal deaths over three years in 10 project sites in the Davao Region, where WHO and the Department of Health work together with local governments. The approach combines community engagement, capacity-building and creating demand for maternal and child health services. WHO is now supporting the Department of Health to develop a toolkit for similar services nationwide.
Working across sectors to prevent road traffic crashes and drowning deaths – Road crashes and drowning are among leading causes of injury-related deaths in the Philippines, claiming some 12,500 lives annually. Reducing deaths and serious injuries relies largely on actions outside the health sector. WHO has reached out to various sectors to develop road safety legislation that is consistent with global evidence and standards. WHO also supports multisectoral action and community-based models on drowning prevention.
WHO WE ARE

The Office of the WHO Representative in the Philippines, also known as the WHO country office, is located at the Department of Health compound. It is the entry point to WHO expertise across the three levels of the Organization: the country office, the Regional Office for the Western Pacific and WHO headquarters. As the United Nations lead agency on health, WHO is part of the United Nations Country Team.

STRUCTURE OF THE OFFICE

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Healthy Systems & Communities  High-impact Interventions  Expanded Programme of Immunization

Subnational Initiative in the Davao Office

OUR PARTNERS

The Department of Health is WHO’s primary partner in the Philippines. We strive to maintain a close dialogue with all health stakeholders, notably civil society organizations, academia, public health practitioners, development partners and the private sector.
Engage in global health with us! Visit us in our office and online.

**Contact us**

The WHO country office is a place where people converge for dialogue and discussion about public health issues and develop innovative solutions that benefit all Filipinos.

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