



Agenda item 2

Development of an
intersectoral global
action plan on
epilepsy and other
neurological disorders
in support of universal
health coverage

Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders



SEVENTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA73.10

Agenda item 11.6

13 November 2020

Global actions on epilepsy and other neurological disorders

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly,

Having considered the consolidated report by the Director-General;¹

Recognizing that epilepsy and other neurological disorders are the leading cause of disability-adjusted life years and the second leading cause of death worldwide, and that epilepsy and other neurological disorders have a disproportionate impact on people living in low- and middle-income

REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to develop, in consultation with Member States,² and in full collaboration with United Nations organizations and relevant non-State actors, a 10-year intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders in support of universal health coverage to address the current significant gaps in promotion of physical and mental health, and prevention, early detection, care, treatment and rehabilitation, as well as the social, economic, educational and inclusion needs of persons and families living with epilepsy and other neurological disorders, and the ongoing need for research to improve prevention, early detection, treatment, care and rehabilitation, including treatment options with the potential to cure epilepsy and other neurological disorders;

World Health Assembly WHA73 (2020) asks to submit to the 150th Executive Board, a draft **10-year Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders**

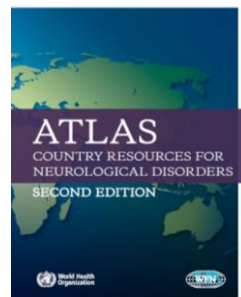


Neurological disorders



BURDEN AND CHALLENGES

- **In adults**, neurological disorders are **the leading cause of disability-adjusted-life-years** and the **second leading cause of death (9 million deaths per year)**.
- The largest contributors of global neurological DALYs in 2016:
 1. Stroke (42.2%)
 2. Migraine (16.3%)
 3. Dementia (10.4%)
 4. Meningitis (7.9%)
 5. Epilepsy (5%)



RESOURCES AND GAPS

Access to services and support including essential cost-effective medicines for neurological disorders is insufficient, esp. in **low- and middle-income countries**



Only **1 in 10** people with **dementia** receive a diagnosis in LMICs



Only **1 in 4** people with **epilepsy** receive treatment in LIC



There is shortage of workforce and distribution of the **neurological workforce** is grossly uneven: 7.1/100K population in HIC; 0.1/100K population in LIC*

Lack of knowledge, stigmatization and discrimination hinder presentation to health care facilities for initial or follow-up assessments and adherence to medications

* source: WHO Neurology Atlas 2017

PROCESS



Discussion paper-
Web and virtual consultations with Member States, United Nations agencies and non-State actors (civil society, academic institutions and private sector organizations)

First draft of the Intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders available for online consultations

Publication of consolidated comments received on the first draft of the Intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders

Consideration of the of the Intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders at the 150th session of ther Executive Board

Apr. 2021

June –Aug. 2021

Oct. 2021

Mar.–Apr. 2021

June 2021

Sept. 2021

Jan, 2022

Publication of **consolidated comments** received on the discussion paper

Web-based and virtual consultations on first draft of the Intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders

- Member States
- Non-state actors including patients and their families

Submission of revised draft of the Intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders for the 150th session of the WHO Executive Board

Intersectoral global action plan for epilepsy and other neurological disorders



Vision

- Neurological disorders are prevented
- People affected by neurological disorders fulfil their potential with human rights, opportunities, dignity, respect and autonomy
- Brain health is valued, promoted and protected

Goal

- To reduce the impact and burden of neurological disorders, including associated mortality, morbidity and disability and improve the quality of life of persons of all ages with neurological disorders

Guiding Principles

- People-centered primary healthcare & universal health coverage
- Integrated approach to care across the life course
- Evidence-based practice
- Intersectoral action
- Empowerment of persons with neurological disorders
- Gender, equity and human rights

Strategic Objectives, Action Areas

Actions for:
*Member States,
WHO Secretariat,
International and
National Partners*

1. Prioritization and governance

- Advocacy
- Policy, plans and legislation
- Financing



2. Diagnosis, treatment and care

- Care pathways
- Medicines, diagnostics and other health products
- Health workers' capacity, training and support
- Carer support

3. Promotion and prevention

- Promotion of optimal brain development in children and adolescents
- Promoting healthy behaviour across the life-course
- Infectious disease control
- Preventing head/spinal trauma
- Reducing environmental risks

4. Research, innovation and information systems

- Investment in research
- Data and information systems

5. Public health approach to epilepsy

- Access to services for epilepsy
- Engagement and support for people with epilepsy
- Epilepsy as an entry point

Intersectoral global action plan for epilepsy and other neurological disorders



Global targets

Prioritization and governance

1.1: 75% of countries will have adapted or updated existing national policies to include neurological disorders

1.2: 100% of countries will have at least one functioning awareness campaign or programme for neurological disorders by 2031

Diagnosis, treatment and care

2.1: 75% of countries will have neurological disorders within UHC benefits package by 2031

2.2: 80% of countries will provide essential medicines and basic technologies to treat neurological disorders in primary care by 2031

Promotion and prevention

3.1: 80% of countries will have at least one programme for promotion or prevention of neurological disorders by 2031

3.2: Targets relevant for prevention of neurological disorders achieved as defined in other action plans:

- NCD 2013-2020
- Every newborn
- Defeating meningitis

Research, innovation and information systems

4.1: 50% of countries collect/report on a core set of indicators for neurological disorders through national health systems every two years by 2031

4.2: 70% of countries have integrated neurological disorders into research plans by 2031

Public health approach to epilepsy

5: By 2031, countries will have increased service coverage for epilepsy by 20%

- **Q1:** Would you agree with the proposed guiding principles, strategic objectives and action areas for the intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders?
- **Q2:** Would you agree with the proposed actions for the Member States for each of the strategic objectives and action areas?
- **Q3:** Would you agree with the proposed global targets and indicators?

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