



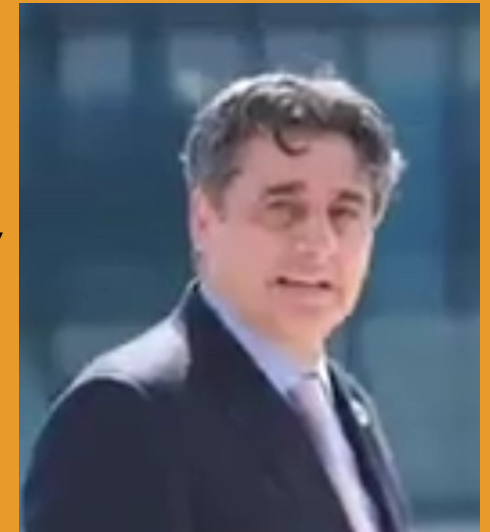
## Patient safety as a strategic priority: actions for WHO

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Virtual Launch Event, 4 August 2021



# Outline

- 1) Background and context
- 2) Global movement
- 3) Global Patient Safety Action Plan
- 4) WHO's role in advancing the PS agenda
- 5) Up scaling actions
- 6) Take home message

## Background and Context

- Patient Safety : aims at avoiding harm to people for whom the care is intended.
- Underpins the principle of “**first do no harm**”.
- An important priority for health systems regardless of income status.
- Critical to achieving Universal Health Coverage(UHC): **UHC without safer care is an empty vessel.**
- One of the most important components of health care delivery/  
Safety as **entry point** to ensuring quality healthcare

## Background and Context (Cont.)

- Over **1 in 10 patients** continue to be harmed from safety lapses during their care
- Globally, unsafe care results in well **over 3 million deaths each year**.
- The health burden of harm is estimated at 64 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) a year, similar to that of HIV/AIDS.
- Recent estimates suggest that as many as **4 in 100 people die from unsafe care** in the in low- to middle-income countries (LMICs).
- **High preventability**, investment in Patient Safety offers good returns



# Global Patient Safety Movement

- Annual Global Ministerial Summits on Patient Safety (2016–2020)



2016 ↑



2020 ↓



↑ 2017



← 2019 ↓



## WHA resolution 72.6

SEVENTY-SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA72.6

Agenda item 12.5

28 May 2019

### Global action on patient safety

The Seventy-second World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report by the Director-General on global action on patient safety;<sup>1</sup>

Recalling resolution WHA55.18 (2002), which urged Member States to “pay the closest possible attention to the problem of patient safety; and to establish and strengthen science-based systems, necessary for improving patients’ safety and the quality of health care”; recognizing that patient safety is a critical element of, and the foundation for, delivering quality health care; and welcoming the inclusion of the need for patient safety in the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023;

Recognizing that patient safety cannot be ensured without access to: safe infrastructure, technologies and medical devices, and their safe use by patients, who need to be well informed; and a skilled and committed health workforce, in an enabling and safe environment;

Noting that patient safety builds on quality, basic and continued education and training of health professionals that ensures that they have the adequate professional skills and competencies in their respective roles and functions;

Recognizing that access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and other commodities, and their correct administration and use, also contribute to patient safety;

Noting further the importance of hygiene for patient safety and the prevention of health care-associated infections, and for reducing antimicrobial resistance;

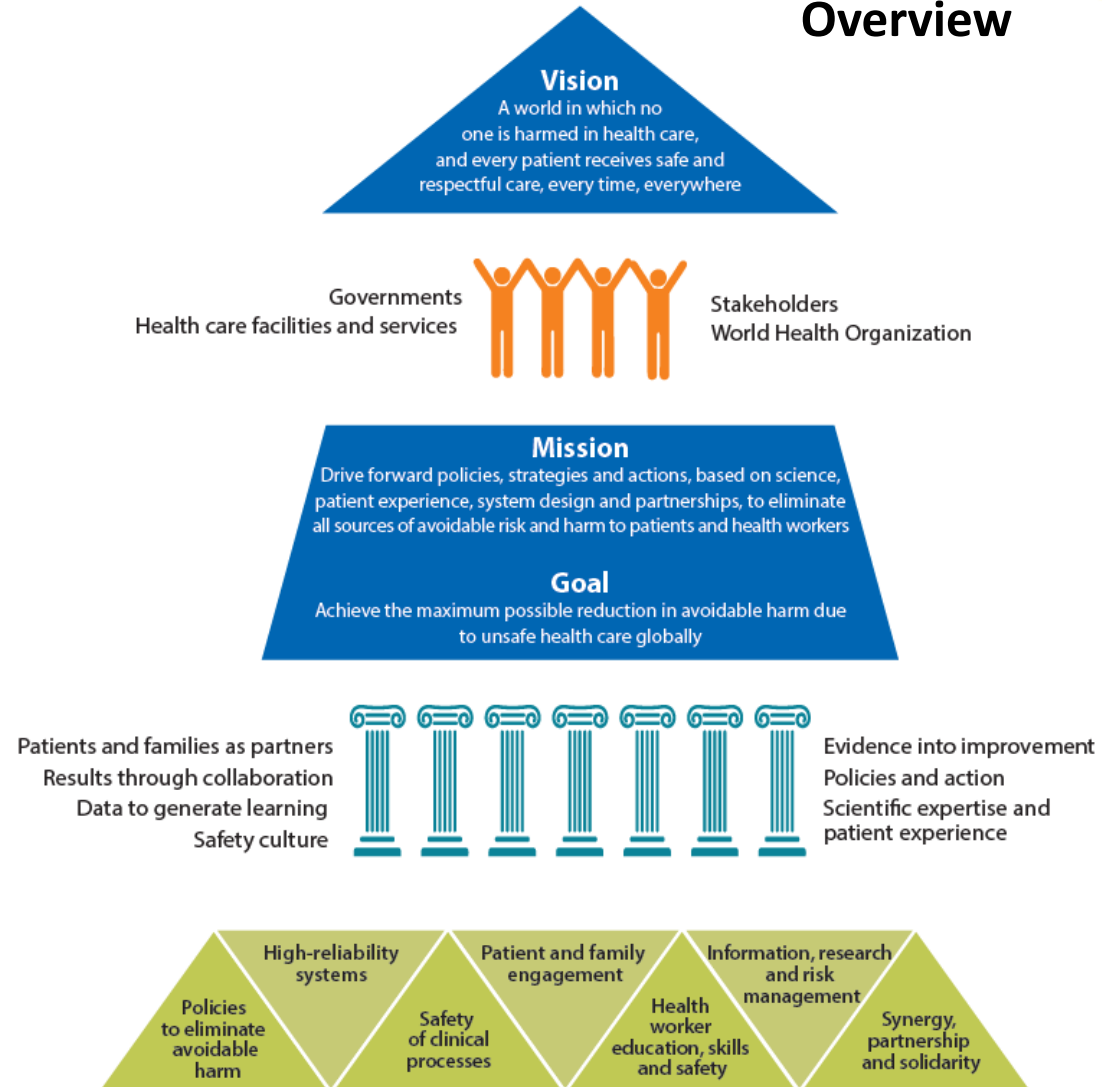
Noting that ensuring patient safety is a key priority in providing quality health services and considering that all individuals should receive safe health services, regardless of where they are delivered;

Reaffirming the principle of “First do no harm” and recognizing the benefits to be gained and the

## Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030



## Overview





# WHO's role in advancing the Patient Safety agenda

## WHO's draft thirteenth general programme of work: 2019–2023

### Mission

*Promote health – keep the world safe – serve the vulnerable*

### Strategic priorities

**Health coverage** – 1 billion more people with health coverage  
**Health emergencies** – 1 billion more people made safer  
**Health priorities** – 1 billion lives improved

### Strategic shifts

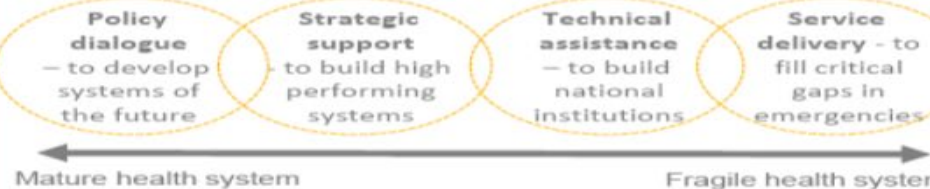
Step up global leadership – diplomacy and advocacy; gender, equity and rights; multisectoral action; finance

Drive impact in every country – differentiated approach based on capacity and vulnerability

Focus global public goods on impact – normative guidance and agreements, data, innovation

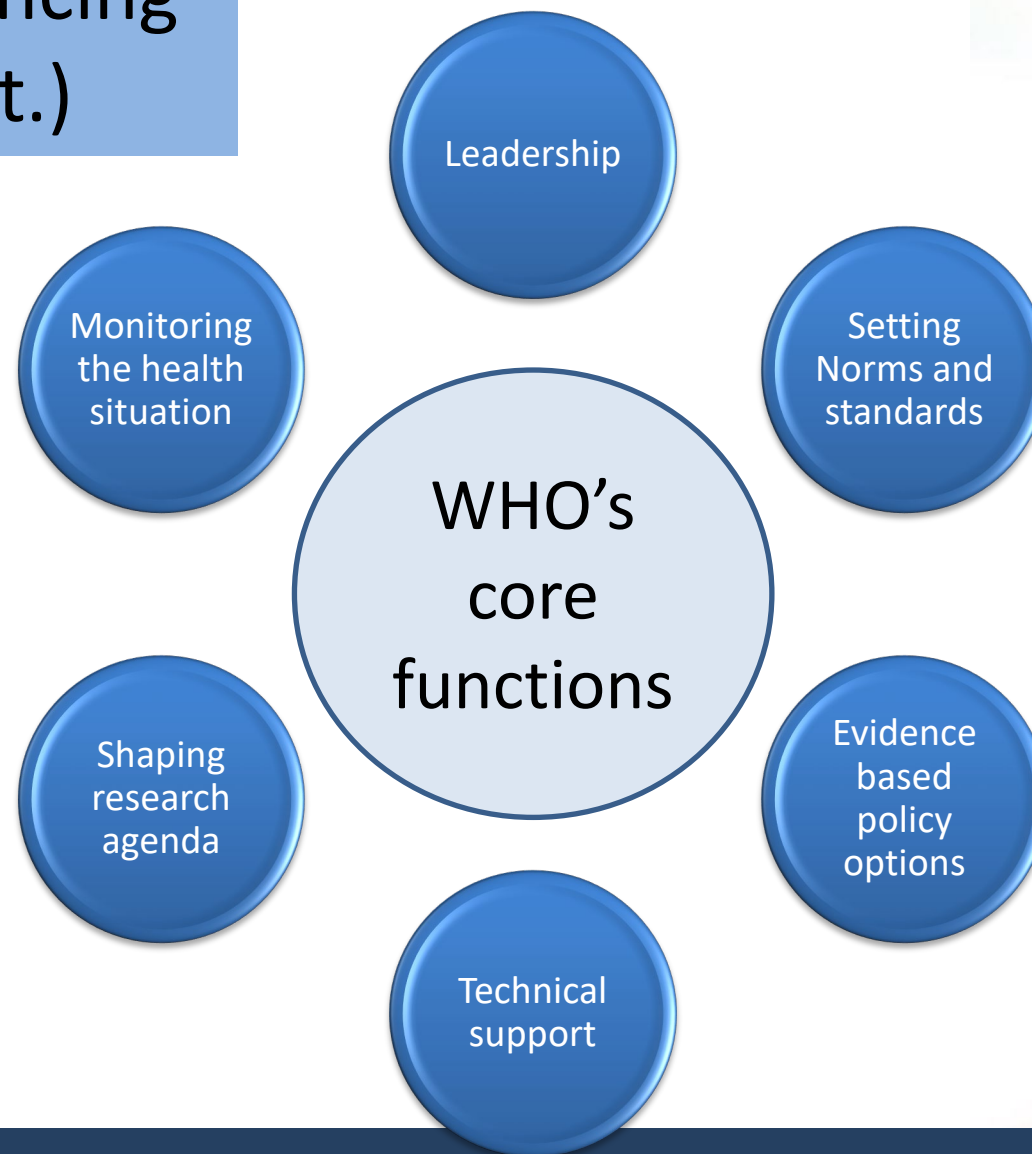
### Organizational shifts

- Measure impact to be accountable and manage for results
- Reshape operating model to drive country, regional and global impacts
- Transform partnerships, communications and financing to resource the strategic priorities
- Build critical processes and tools to optimize organizational performance
- Foster culture change to ensure a seamless, high-performing WHO





## WHO's role in advancing the PS agenda (cont.)



# Up scaling actions

- **Prioritization** of interventions,
- **Contextualization**, alignment with country priorities and capacities
- **Leave no one behind** : ensuring access to safer care for vulnerable populations,
- **Learning systems**, availability of information
- Promoting **accountability**
- **Integration** with health policies and priority programmes
- **COVID19 pandemic** / considering safety as a priority for **preparedness** and **response** to the pandemic

# Take home message

- **Heavy burden of unsafe care**, avoidable and good returns
- Patient Safety **critical to achieve UHC**, a foundation for Health Systems Strengthening and Health Systems resilience
- Member States have **committed to invest** in Patient Safety
- WHO's Global Patient Safety Action Plan provides the **pathway to enhance** MSs capacities to ensure safer care
- Support to countries should be tailored according to **local context and capacities and priorities**