

# Reshaping PHC

## EPW core priorities and flagships

Moving towards universal health coverage

## WHO collaboration

Cultivating knowledge exchange  
Partnership with the Regional Office

Spain's PHC system is a cornerstone of the country's universal health coverage, offering accessible, comprehensive care that contributes to low rates of avoidable hospital admissions and excellent health outcomes. Public trust in PHC professionals remains strong, as these teams deliver effective, patient-centred care through a multidisciplinary approach.

To further enhance this system, Spain has collaborated with the Regional Office on two major initiatives: the PHC Demonstration Platform in Madrid (showcasing the Principality of Asturias) and a comprehensive PHC case study. The Demonstration Platform, launched in June 2024, allows Spain to showcase its PHC model to international delegations, promoting collaboration and the exchange of solutions to common challenges. The PHC case study, involving regional health authorities, scientific societies and patient organizations, highlights Spain's key strengths, such as strong community health services, while also identifying areas for improvement.

## The impact

The Demonstration Platform has further reinforced Spain's role as a global leader in PHC. Its opening session, which welcomed a delegation from Czechia, showcased the innovative practices of the Asturian health system. The PHC case study has helped align Spain's national and regional health policies with global best practices. It also provides a framework for Spain's new primary and community health-care action plan for 2025–2027, set to be finalized by the end of the year.

## Lessons learned

- Public perception of PHC worsened after COVID-19, and sustained efforts are needed to rebuild trust.
- The decentralization of health care in Spain causes challenges in aligning standards across regions.
- The new action plan must focus on improving continuity of care and workforce recruitment.

## Donors and partners

Ministry of Health; Principality of Asturias; other regions and autonomous communities



European Region



A doctor and patient at a PHC centre in Spain.  
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“The collaboration has helped us to align our national policies with the realities of our decentralized health system.”

**Dr Javier Padilla**, State Secretary, Ministry of Health, Spain

## What's next?

Spain aims to solidify the gains made in PHC by implementing the new action plan, which is informed by the insights from the WHO-supported PHC case study and Demonstration Platform. The action plan will focus on enhancing the role of non-physician health professionals, improving working conditions and modernizing PHC infrastructure.