

Extending the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019-2023 to 2025

Programme Budget 2024-25

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

11 August 2022

1. What is the rationale for extending the GPW 13 by two years to 2025?

The world is going at less than a quarter of the pace needed to reach health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed that no country was fully prepared for a pandemic of its scope and scale. The objective of extending the GPW 13 by two years to 2025 is to strengthen country capacity and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the triple billion targets and health-related SDGs. The extra two years allow the Secretariat to re-examine and implement the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and effectively support Member States. The extension aligns with WHO's five priorities¹ and provides strategic direction for the proposed Programme Budget 2024–25. It also aligns with the planning cycle of the United Nations. Member States approved the extension of GPW 13 to 2025 at the 75th session of the World Health Assembly.²

2. Despite the setback from the COVID-19 pandemic, is there a reason to be optimistic that we will achieve the SDG based triple billion targets by 2025 and health related SDGs by 2030?

The world was off track to reach most of the triple billion targets and the health-related SDGs before COVID-19 and we are further off track now. GPW 13 set SDG-based triple billion targets for healthier populations, Universal Health Coverage, and health emergencies. For healthier populations, although the billion target has almost been met, we now know that current progress is around a quarter of that which is required to reach the SDGs by 2030. For Universal Health Coverage, progress is less than a quarter that required to reach SDGs by 2030. Although initial projections anticipated the Health Emergencies Protection Billion could have been met by 2023, COVID-19 revealed that no country is fully prepared for a pandemic of such scale. Our projections show that we can accelerate, and double country progress towards the triple billion targets and the SDGs by 2025.

3. The GPW 13 triple billion strategy are a commitment of Member States and the Secretariat. How do the five WHO priorities align with the GPW 13 triple billion strategy?

The five WHO priorities are fully aligned with the GPW 13 triple billion strategy and provide more details on the GPW 13 extension. The focus of the extension and the WHO five priorities are to 'accelerate progress' and the alignment of these guide the Programme Budget 2024-25.

The five WHO priorities are to:

- a. support countries make an urgent paradigm shift towards promoting health and well-being and preventing disease by addressing its root causes;

¹ See [A75/3](#)

² See [A75/53](#)

- b. support a radical reorientation of health systems towards primary health care, as the foundation of universal health coverage;
- c. urgently strengthen the systems and tools for epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response at all levels, underpinned by strong governance and financing to ignite and sustain those efforts, connected and coordinated globally by WHO;
- d. harness the power of science, research innovation, data, and digital technologies as critical enablers of the other priorities; and
- e. urgently strengthen WHO as the leading and directing authority on global health, at the centre of the global health architecture.

The first three priorities are aligned with the triple billion targets of healthier populations, universal health coverage and health emergencies protection, respectively. The fourth and fifth priorities represent the GPW 13 strategic shifts of leadership, global goods (including data and innovation) and support to countries.

In summary, the GPW 13 extension, WHO five priorities and the Programme Budget 2024-25 are aligned to accelerate health. It will promote health, provide health, protect health, power health through delivery and data and innovations and perform and partner for health by resourcing countries, incentivizing collaboration and strengthening gender, equity & rights.

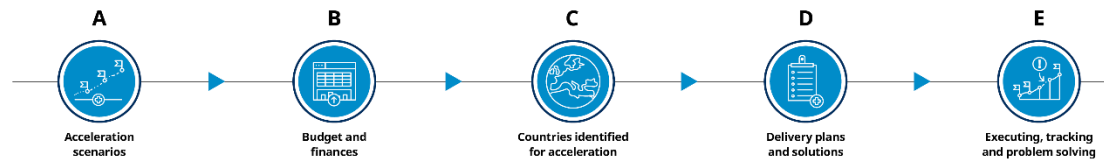
4. How will the Secretariat support countries to accelerate progress towards health targets?

The world was off track to reach most of the triple billion targets and health-related SDGs before COVID-19 and is further off track now. However, there is reason to be optimistic. WHO projections show that acceleration is possible, and country progress can be doubled by 2025.³ All three levels of WHO will focus on supporting Member States based on their needs and priorities. WHO country offices will be optimally strengthened to support Ministries of Health and collaborate with multilateral partners to accelerate progress. Ideally, progress will be accelerated by: (a) implementing data-driven delivery approaches; (b) promoting integrated models for strengthening country health systems and primary health care; (c) applying ready-to-scale innovations; (d) incentivizing partnerships and multisectoral collaboration; and (e) obtaining innovative financing for public health.

The delivery approach is a Secretariat's management tool to track progress and deliver results. It helps identify priorities for greatest and fastest impact and informs Programme Budget and planning.

- A. *Acceleration scenarios*: how much does a programme contribute to closing the gap in the billion?
- B. *Budget and finances*: what does it cost to implement delivery stock take commitment?
- C. *Countries identified for acceleration*: which are the high burden / high impact countries?
- D. *Delivery plans and solutions*: what are the most effective interventions that WHO can support including norms and standards, technical packages and specific innovations?
- E. *Executing, tracking and problem solving*: what metric will we track?

³ WHO. Tracking the Triple Billions and delivering results. WHO Geneva; 2022. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/tracking-the-triple-billions-and-delivering-results#WHA75> (last accessed 8 August 2022)



5. How will the Secretariat intensify support to country offices?

The Secretariat will strengthen the capacity of country offices by establishing integrated platforms and teams that will advance national public health priorities. Focus will be placed on cross-cutting platforms such as health systems and primary health care; health information systems; delivery for impact; and multisectoral collaboration and policy solutions to advance priority topics (such as TB, malaria, NCDs, nutrition) identified by countries. A key activity will be to introduce delivery stock takes at the country level, cochaired by the Minister of Health and WHO representative. Thirty country offices are on course to adopt integrated platforms under PB 2022–2023, which will be expanded to more countries under the proposed Programme Budget 2024–25. The Secretariat will also introduce improvements in human resource planning to effectively meet the needs of Member States.

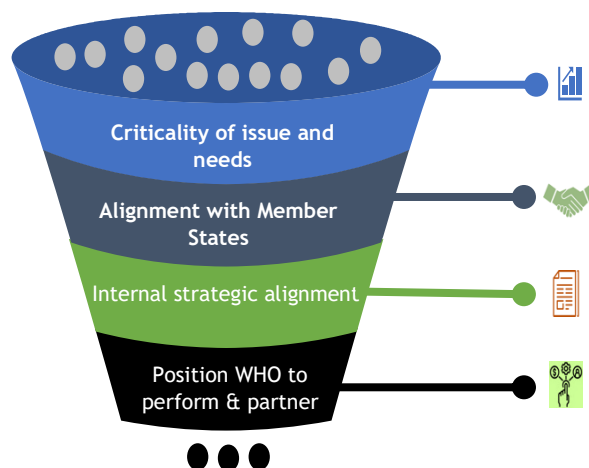
6. How will the Secretariat set priorities, including the use of data and evidence, for the proposed Programme Budget 2024-25?

The development of the proposed Programme Budget 2024–25 will apply a new approach to priority setting. It will be guided by strategic directions, data, evidence and trends in every country and will focus on areas that show potential for the greatest and fastest impact. Analysing cause of death and risk factors data from WHO’s Global Health Estimates alongside indicators within the triple billion framework has highlighted priority areas on which to focus acceleration efforts at the country, regional, and global levels. Technical policy and programmatic solutions for the identified priority areas are available; and appropriate acceleration measures, guided by data and evidence, will be devised. A key principle for Programme Budget 2024-25 (and also during 2023) will be to fund the delivery plans developed through delivery stock takes.

An iterative approach of priority setting will be applied starting at the country office level to ensure maximum alignment with respective country situations and priorities, and overall, with regional and global priorities. Consultations at country level will consider various inputs, including the analysis of credible data and evidence, and directions received from Regional Committees in 2022. The Secretariat will be guided by Member States to define priorities. Focus will remain on cross-cutting levers and integrated platforms such as PHC, sustainable health financing, health systems, access to essential diagnostics, medicines and supplies, digital technologies, ready to scale innovations, and multisectoral policy interventions. Global priorities, including integrated solutions, will be informed by and agreed to following country and regional prioritization processes.

7. How will the Secretariat, across its three levels (country offices, regional offices and headquarters) remain focused to support countries and on priorities that matter most?

First, it important to recognize that WHO cannot address all issues. Based on our comparative advantage, WHO will prioritize using filters and linking to SDG-based triple billion targets and underlying indicators.



8. How will the Secretariat set priorities for Programme Budget 2024-25 and align it with the five WHO priorities?

Aligning budget to priorities is a positive departure from the current practice. Once priority outputs have been identified, WHO will review the financing needed to implement them (by major office and by budget center). Based on available financing and funding gaps, we will identify a commitment level (e.g., 80%) to fund these priorities. This can only work with three level alignment and working together to distribute flexible funds in the regions.

9. What are the steps to consult the proposed Programme Budget 2024-25?

Priority setting is an iterative process, ensuring alignment with country, regional and global priorities. The steps that the Secretariat will follow to consult the proposed Programme Budget 2024-25 with Member States are as follows:

- Global and regional priorities are set based on data and evidence
- Regional priorities are discussed
- Individual country prioritization begins and is finalized after the Regional Committees
- Consolidation of priority discussions
- Member States discussions on the consolidated draft and finalization

10. What are the steps to country prioritization?

Using data is the starting point to define problems where the gaps are largest with a potential for greatest impact. Based on this, a country-focused and an integrated response need to be determined followed by costing the priority outputs to address the problems and accelerate progress jointly with Member States.

11. How will the Secretariat and Member States track progress towards the triple billion targets?

The WHO results framework is as an accountability tool for the Secretariat, Member States and partner contributions to track progress towards the SDG based triple billion targets. It is used for Programme Budget planning and for reporting results. The impact measurement tracks the triple billion targets and the underlying indicators. The results framework remains intact, and no changes will be made till 2025. The Secretariat is working to quantify the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the triple billion targets, and develop scenarios for acceleration, which will be reflected in the Triple Billion Dashboard⁴. Results will continue to be reported annually through the WHO results report⁵.

12. What are the plans to update indicators in the GPW 13 impact measurement and how will the Secretariat support Member States in rapidly strengthening their data, surveillance and health information systems capacity?

Member States supported the need to improve indicators to better monitor UHC - SDG 3.8.1 (coverage of essential health services) and the priority area of SDG 3.8.2 (financial hardship) - and track emerging areas of public health importance such as mental health, physical inactivity and disability. To be able to measure, a robust data and health information system is needed. The Secretariat will develop a report on improving the measurement system for consultation with Member States, and new and improved indicators will be submitted to the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators for the 2025 review.

The Secretariat is fully committed to support countries to improve the accurate and systematic collection of data, better access to impactful analysis and visualization and effective communication and better use of data to accelerate progress and inform policies that protect and improve health. There are several initiatives underway for every country to have a comprehensive approach to public health data and a coherent strategy to address data gaps.

13. What are the next steps in this consultative process for GPW 13 extension?

The Secretariat has updated the report of the Director-General on the GPW 13 extension⁶ based on the Member State consultation on 30 June 2022 and will further update the report incorporating feedback from regional committees. It demonstrates alignment with WHO's five priorities and outlines details on the GPW 13 extension. The outcome will be submitted to the Executive Board at its 152nd session in January 2023, for its consideration and adoption.

⁴ WHO. Triple Billion Dashboard. <https://portal.who.int/triplebillions/> (last accessed 8 August 2022)

⁵ WHO results reports. <https://www.who.int/about/accountability/results> (last accessed 20 July 2022).

⁶ See [A75/8](#)

References

1. [Extending the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 to 2025 \(A75/8\)](#)
2. [Extending the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 to 2025, Report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly \(A75/53\)](#)
3. [Programme Budget 2022-23 \(A74/5\)](#)
4. [Proposed revision to the Programme Budget 2022-23 \(A75/6\)](#)
5. [Tracking the Triple Billions and Delivering Results](#)
6. [World Health Data Hub](#)
7. [Triple Billion Dashboard](#)
8. [World Health Statistics Report 2022](#)