

ENHANCING THE COUNTRY FOCUS APPROACH FOR GREATER IMPACT

- Focusing on results at country level continued to be a priority during the period July 2022–June 2023 for the following reasons:
 - Each country in which WHO operates has its own set of challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed.
 - The approach helps to adapt to country-specific cultural, political, economic and partnership environments to effectively serve Member States and achieve stated objectives.
 - This enables the Secretariat to work more effectively with local stakeholders.
- In response, the Regional Office is adapting its methods to become more agile in providing technical support and resources to country offices in support of Member States.
- Leadership capacity to advance the health agenda at country level continues to be enhanced through the strengthening of WHO's representation and engagement in UN reform to enhance impact. Eight WHO Representatives and senior staff benefited from a five-day capacity-building workshop on policy dialogue to improve WHO's positioning and engagement in UN country programming, including the 2030 Agenda and UN Sustainable Development Country Framework (UNSDCF).
- WHO Country Offices contributed to Common Country Assessments the evidence from which was used to:
 - Develop the health component of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.
 - Develop Country Cooperation Strategies in 13¹ Member States to ensure alignment with country priorities, and to foster the achievement of GPW13 and Sustainable Development Goals targets.
- To broaden the base for effective assistance, WHO Country Offices have developed their relationships with local stakeholders, extending these beyond the Ministry of Health to other ministries, civil society organizations, and the private sector. This partnership has enabled stakeholder involvement in the development and implementation of programmes to share their views and have their perspectives incorporated in decision-making processes.
- Consolidated and upscaled technical support was provided to Member States by the Multi-Country Assignment Teams (MCATs), which comprise mainly subject matter experts. Working with local partners, assessments were conducted regularly to identify specific country needs and ensure the provision of relevant and effective technical support in line with the cooperation strategies signed with countries.
- The impact of the MCATs is already being felt on the ground. These include a significant improvement in the quality of WHO technical support and a reduction in response times, as well as a culture of collaboration in multiple disease control programmes and resource mobilization. Normative guidelines and service delivery has also improved, through the capacity building of health providers.
- Reporting of results by Country Offices has been enhanced with the introduction of the second edition of the Tool for Africa Region (TAR II), which is expressed in dashboards and other relevant formats.

¹ Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania

This resulted in increased availability and use of evidence for planning, decision-making and resource allocation, and timely use of resources.

- Aligning Country Offices to national properties has resulted in:
 - Strengthened coordination and leadership.
 - Reinforced partnerships and external relations.
 - Improved technical leadership and support.
 - Enhanced planning, monitoring and evaluation.
 - Better management practices to drive performance.

- The Secretariat will, in collaboration with Member States and partners, intensify its efforts to mobilize additional resources to fully staff the new Country Office structures to improve performance and delivery of results. Already Member States are committed to increase their Assessed Contributions to the 2024–2025 Programme Budget by 20%.