

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT - JVC 2019-2020

Data, Strategy, and Innovation (DSI)

Implementation period: 1 April 2019–31 March 2020

Implementation site: Western Pacific region

Addressed to the Government of Japan

Issued from: World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific

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FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

SDG UHC monitoring and Digital Health

Implementation period: 1 April 2019–31 March 2020

Implementation site: Western Pacific Region

Addressed to the Government of Japan

WHO Award number: 68968

Award budget: USD 80 000

WHO Category: 4 Health Systems

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Final technical report: Overview

From:	WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO), Data, Strategy and Innovation, Health Information and Intelligence
To:	Government of Japan
Title of the project:	SDG UHC monitoring and Digital Health
Implementation period:	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020
Implementation site:	Western Pacific Region
Implementing partners:	WHO Western Pacific Region
WHO Category:	4 Health Systems
WHO Award number:	68968
Award budget:	USD 80 000

1. Background

In line with the regional resolutions WPR/RC 66.R2 “Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Moving towards better health”, and WPR/RC67.R5 “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDG) adopted by Member States in 2015 and in 2016, WHO WPRO undertakes the priority to report on the progress of SDG and UHC to the Regional Committee on a periodic basis. Better linkages between the SDG and UHC global agenda with national health system development is critical for better monitoring SDG and UHC at national, regional and global level. Tracking SDG and UHC progress at regional level can help countries to recognize their situation and identify possible focus for further development.

In 2017, the baseline report of SDG and UHC of Western Pacific region (WPR) was published with the support from Japanese Government. In 2019, WHO WPRO started to collect data from all countries in the region and from other global data channels to develop the first progress monitoring report on SDG and UHC in Western Pacific Region. With the funding support from the Japanese Government, actions including designing the progress report, developing data collection tools, data mapping from existed global channels, data collection and analysis, and data visualization were conducted in 2019 and 2020. Based on the countries’ request, support of health information system (HIS) development was provided to Cambodia on better data utilization. Specific technical support was provided to Lao PDR and the Philippines on application of Geographic Information System (GIS).

Digital Health is a growing demand and is set to improve health services and reshape health systems. In 2018, the Regional Action Agenda on harnessing e-Health for improved Health Services was launched. Countries in the region are currently in different stages of digital health development and technical support in the area of digital health has been requested by many Low- and Middle-Income Countries. WHO therefore supported countries to identify good practices, help country generate experiences, and facilitate peer-learning between countries to promote country capacity on digital health management, with the objective of reducing healthcare costs to families, and improving equitable access to health systems.

2. Outcomes

This project supported the achievement of Programme Budget **Outcome 4.4. All countries having well-functioning health information, eHealth, research, ethics and knowledge management systems to support national health priorities** and

In the project period, activities by the Western Pacific have resulted in significant outcomes both at the Regional level and in several targeted countries. Through the support from Japanese government, country capacity and development of well-functioning health information system development, national e-health development were improved through supporting actions conducted on related areas based on country requests.

The following distinct outputs were achieved in the reporting period:

Output 4.4.1. Comprehensive monitoring of the global, regional and country health situation, trends, inequalities and determinants using global standards, including data collection and analysis to address data gaps and system performance assessment

- A concept for the UHC report was developed for the Regional UHC Technical Advisory Group meeting 2020 and data collection initiated for a regional progress report on SDG and UHC for the coming Regional Committee Meeting (RCM)
- Application of GIS on HIS was conducted for better usage and visualization of health data in Lao PDR and the Philippines
- Support on knowledge sharing on International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) application was provided at regional level and in countries such as the Philippines, China, Malaysia, and Mongolia

Output 4.4.2 Countries enabled to plan, develop and implement an eHealth Strategy

Analysis of digital health maturity situation was conducted in the Pacific Island countries (PIC) including Cook Island, Fiji, Federal States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Island, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, to better understand the initial development dialogue on digital health development in PIC

Outcome 6.1 Greater coherence in global health, with WHO taking the lead in enabling the different actors to play an active and effective role in contributing to the health of all people

Through this fund, WHO was able to provide support on health information system development and digital health development based on country requests to reflect WHO leading role in this field.

Output 6.1.1. Effective WHO leadership and management and improved capacities of the WHO Secretariat and Member States to promote, align, coordinate and operationalize efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Through the funding support, WHO could facilitate and support countries on SDG monitoring and better use of new technologies to improve people's health to reach health-related SDG targets.

3. Activities

Activity 1: Monitoring SDG and UHC at regional level

The work on regional and global data compilation and collection was conducted in 2019 and early 2020. Data process and primary analysis on countries' progress from 2015 to 2017 were conducted starting from January to March 2020. The draft report on UHC progress monitoring is in development and the report will be presented during the regional UHC TAG meeting in March 2020.

Activity 2: Supporting countries improve Health Information System (HIS) and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)

With the support of WHO, the application of GIS linking with the national health statistics was initiated and applied in the Philippines and Lao PDR in 2019.

Provide technical support through facilitating WHO technical input, country field visits, communicating with field workers to provide technical inputs to Cambodia to better use HIS data at subnational level.

Activity 3 - Digital Health (DH)

WHO collaborated with related technical partners including HeHIN, University of New South Wales Australia, and drafted a digital maturity assessment tools, with results shared with PIC in 2019.

WHO facilitated the country experiences sharing on digital health through video presentation during a side-event of RCM in 2019. Five selected countries including Japan, China, Federal States Micronesia, Mongolia, and Malaysia presented their country examples.

Activity implementation status		
Activities for output X	Completed / Delayed / Cancelled	Changes and challenges
<p>Activity 1: Monitoring SDG and UHC at regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: No progress report produced • Target: First progress report on SDG and UHC at regional level drafted 	In progress according to the proposed timeline.	With the on-going COVID-19 outbreak, data collection and feedback might be delayed from countries.
<p>Activity 2: Supporting countries improve Health Information System (HIS) and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: No enough supports to countries on HIS and CRVS development • Target: Additional support provided to Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, and Mongolia on HIS development and ICD 11 awareness 	Completed	With the on-going COVID-19 outbreak, there may be limited country support field work in early 2020.
<p>Activity 3: Digital Health (DH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: Lack of knowledge to generate digital health situation in countries especially in PICs in a systematic way • Target: To better understand country situation through situational analysis and to promote country experience sharing 	Completed	

4. Communications and visibility - see Annex

- With the supports from this project, one short video was developed and presented during the RCM digital health side-event in WPRO in 2019. (see annex)

5. Conclusions

With the support of the Japanese Government, the regional SDG and UHC monitoring was conducted and actions to improve country HIS for better decision making were implemented. The continuous improvement of national HIS will benefit national policy development, health service management and delivery through improved digital health development policies. Through this project, more countries especially the low- and middle-income countries and PIC have realized the big potential from digital health and information technology on health service and health system development. Countries raised more needs on better knowledge sharing and exchange of practical experiences on better use of information technologies on HIS and health service delivery. With the continuous advancing of technology, further work and development on identifying, generating, and exchanging practices on digital health and HIS development would be necessary.

6. Annexes

The title of short video for Digital Health side-event in RCM 2019 in WPRO, Manila



FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

Implementing Regional Framework for Action on Ageing

Implementation period: 1 April 2019–31 March 2020

Implementation site: Western Pacific Region

Addressed to the Government of Japan

WHO Award number: 68968

Award budget: USD 180 000

WHO Category: 3 Promoting health through the life-course

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Final technical report: Overview

From:	WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO), Data, Strategy and Innovation, Ageing
To:	Government of Japan
Title of the project:	Ageing and Health
Implementation period:	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020
Implementation site:	Western Pacific Region
Implementing partners:	WHO Western Pacific Region
WHO Category:	3 Promoting health through the life-course
WHO Award number:	68968
Award budget:	USD 180 000

1. Background

Ageing and health is a priority issue and a key public health challenge in many countries in the Western Pacific Region, with people over 65 years being the fastest growing age group. Low- and middle-income countries are facing issues due to the combination of rapid demographic change, a short time to prepare, and resource limitations.

It is therefore important to address the needs of older people; this will be critical to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and meeting the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG). The Regional office has been supporting Member States in implementing the Regional framework for action on ageing and health in the Western Pacific (2014-2019). This has included convening a regional meeting on ageing and health in 2017, work towards implementation of the recommendations arising from this meeting and support for Member States, including through national policy dialogue and policy advocacy on age-friendly environments and integrated care.

Recognising that ageing is a key public health challenge globally and for Member States in the Western Pacific Region, WPRO's Regional Committee Meeting (RCM) agreed that ageing one of key thematic priorities. As the Regional Framework on Ageing and Health (2014-2019) comes to an end, WPRO held a panel discussion during the RCM in October 2019 to assess the progress of the Regional Framework and to determine the next steps to advance the implementation of the Framework. As the end of the discussion at RCM, WPRO countries agreed that the ageing is one of priorities in Western Pacific Region and requested WHO to provide technical support to countries to prepare for the population ageing. To support Members States to strengthen their work on whole-of-system approaches to ageing and health on the path to universal health coverage and achieving the SDG, WPRO will continue to implement the recommendations from the Regional meeting and support Member States to build the society that meet the needs of older people and support progress towards achievement of the SDG.

Partnerships have characterized the region's work on ageing and health. Core partners for this period include but are not limited to: UNESCAP, HelpAge International, UNFPA, ADB, the World Bank, and regional and international experts. WHO will continue to convene and lead activities with respect to health policy-focused analysis, advocacy and dialogue, as well as multisectoral actions to promote age-friendly environments and enabling the implementation of the SDG.

2. Outcomes

With support from the Japanese Government, the implementation contributed to the Programme Budget: **Outcome 3.2. Increased proportion of people who are able to live a long and healthy life.** Advocacy and policy development at the Organization has been supported and informed through the support of the Government of Japan.

Output 3.2.1 Countries enabled to develop policies, strategies and capacity to foster healthy ageing across the life-course

During the High-Level Panel Discussion on Ageing and Health at 70th RCM in October 2019, Member States reviewed progress, shared experiences and discussed ways forward, agreeing that early action in preparation for an ageing population is an opportunity to transform health systems today.

WHO provided policy-focused advice and technical assistance to various Member States to strengthen countries' awareness and capacity for the development of strategies that foster healthy and active ageing. As of February 2020, five countries expressed interested in working on the action plan on ageing (i.e. Viet Nam, Palau, French Polynesia, Fiji and Malaysia) and the team will provide necessary technical support. In February 2020, the team has visited Palau and Viet Nam and discussed WHO's technical support for development and implementation of the national plan for ageing. In Viet Nam, WHO worked with Ministry of Health (MoH) to organize a training for Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) and Age-friendly Cities and Communities. WHO/WPRO invited the Ministers from four Pacific Islands (i.e. Fiji, French Polynesia, Marshall Island, New Caledonia) and the representatives from Viet Nam to Asia Japan week on ageing in Tokyo (October 2019). In addition, discussion is underway to collect and analyse the data on health of older people in our member states (e.g. Lao PDR, Malaysia, Palau, and Viet Nam).

At the end of the RCM discussion, countries requested to support Member States in preparing for and addressing the needs of ageing populations, including development of a regional action plan. As part of the preparation for the new regional action plan, the team is reviewing the available data and knowledge on various aspects of healthy ageing in consultations with experts in different countries (e.g. Japan, Korea, China, Singapore, Viet Nam).

Lastly, WHO/WPRO advocated for age-friendly cities and communities. To date, cities and communities from six countries (Australia, China, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea) in the Region have joined the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

3. Activities

Activity 1: Launch an initiative on Health and Development with a focus on ageing

WPRO's Vision Paper indicates non-communicable diseases (NCD) and ageing is one of the priorities of the WPRO. Since the RCM requested WHO WPRO to develop a next regional action plan to be submitted to RCM in October 2020, the team is working on the development of the Regional Action Plan.

In the subsequent internal discussions, the High-Level Commission on Health and Development with a focus on ageing was replaced by the individual consultations with experts in Japan, Korea, China and Singapore, to enable more in-depth discussion with each expert.

To date, the team has visited Japan and Korea, met 20+ experts and visited more than 10 sites (including Shinjuku-ku, Ishinomaki, Wakabadai, Nabari, Tokamachi in Japan). The team will also organize the country training on ageing, in collaboration with Kanagawa Prefecture, to share the key messages for regional action plan and receive the feedback. In April 2020, WPRO will host the country consultation for the regional action plan.

Activity 2: RCM High-level Panel Discussion

Healthy ageing team has organized a High-Level Panel Discussion on Ageing and Health at 70th RCM. The RCM discussed issues related to ageing and health during the panel discussion and noted that the increase in the proportion of people aged over 65 years, historically growing faster in the Western Pacific Region. Ageing is a trend that speaks to the success of health and development programmes but also presents new challenges and opportunities for countries and areas; noting further that based on Member State experiences, adequate preparation for an ageing population requires changes in health systems and societies that can take decades for the impact to be visible. Countries recognized that early action in preparation for ageing populations is an opportunity to transform health systems today. At the end of the discussion, countries requested the Regional Director to support Member States in preparing for and addressing the needs of ageing populations, including development of a regional action plan, in line with global mandates – notably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the WHO Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health 2016–2030.

The team prepared the background documents, videos and coordinated logistics (e.g. the MC by Mr. James Chau, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals and Health, as well as high-level speakers from countries).

Activity 3: Country-specific policy dialogue on integrated and multisectoral services for older people

After the RCM discussions, a few countries requested technical support for ageing. After the bilateral discussions, the team has visited Palau and Viet Nam and discussed WHO's technical support for development and implementation of the national plan for ageing and identified specific actions (e.g. hiring a consultant, helping draft a plan, organizing the technical workshop, providing technical inputs to the national survey). In parallel, healthy ageing team is actively advocating for the early preparation for the population ageing. Ageing issues were discussed at high-level forums in the region (e.g. APEC, RCM, G20 Health Ministers' meetings, Asia-Japan week) and other meetings (e.g. WHO Clinical Consortium on Healthy Ageing).

Activity implementation status

Activities for output	Completed / Delayed / Cancelled	Changes and challenges
<p>Activity 1: Launch an initiative on Health and Development with a focus on Ageing</p> <p>Baseline: No consultation Target: Completion of the consultation</p>	Partially Completed	<p>The concept of a High Level Commission on Health and Development with a focus on ageing including Commissioners was replaced by the individual consultations with experts in Japan, Korea, China and Singapore. The consultation with China (scheduled in February 2020) was postponed due to COVID-19. To date, more than 20+ experts were consulted from macroeconomics, clinical aspects, social determinants of health, health policy and community development</p> <p>The training in Japan in February was postponed due to COVID-19</p>
<p>Activity 2: RCM High-level Panel Discussion</p> <p>Baseline: Planning phase Target: Completion of the Panel discussion</p>	Completed	
<p>Activity 3: Country-specific policy dialogue on integrated and multisectoral services for older people</p> <p>Baseline: No policy dialogue on ageing Target: advocacy in major international settings (e.g. G20, APEC, RCM) and initial in-country discussions in “early adopter” countries</p>	Completed	<p>In addition to bilateral discussions, the team is actively involved in the high-level advocacy to raise country interest for ageing (esp. among “young countries”)</p>

4. Communications and visibility - see Annex

5. Conclusions

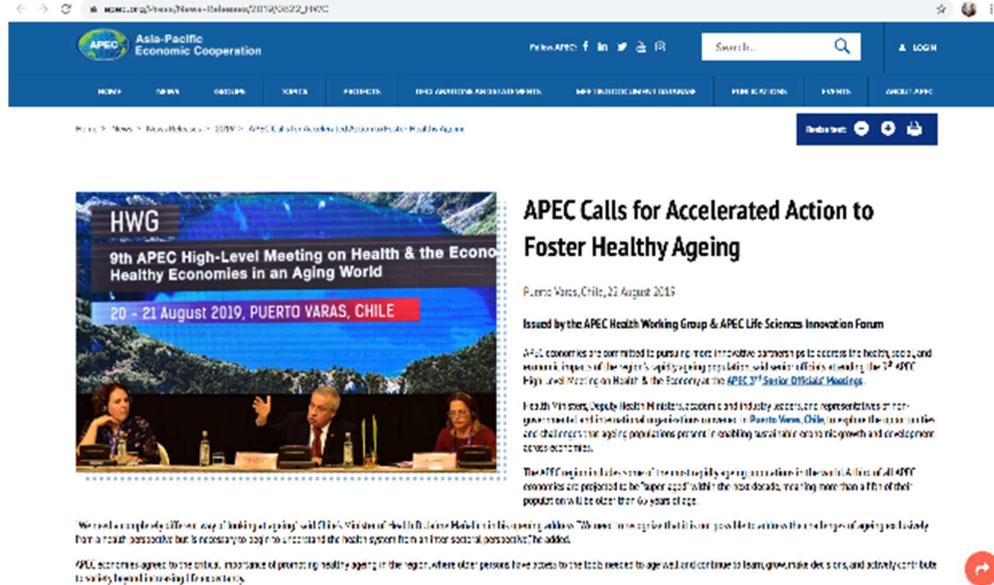
The recent WPRO Vision Paper: *For the Future Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region A vision for WHO work with Member States and partners in the Western Pacific* states that NCD and ageing is one of the thematic priorities in the WPRO. The funding support from the Japanese Government significantly contributed to organizing the RCM discussions and promoting other advocacies (at high-level events such as APEC, G20, Asia-Japan week). These discussions and events were followed with the conclusion at the RCM in October 2019, that early action in preparation for ageing populations is an opportunity to transform health systems today and requested WHO to continue its technical support.

The support also enabled follow-up discussions with countries such as Viet Nam and Palau, early adopters, initial discussions with experts in Japan, Korea, Singapore and Viet Nam, and field visits to Japan and Korea in preparation for the regional action plan for healthy ageing.

6. Annexes

1. APEC Health working group (22 August 2019)

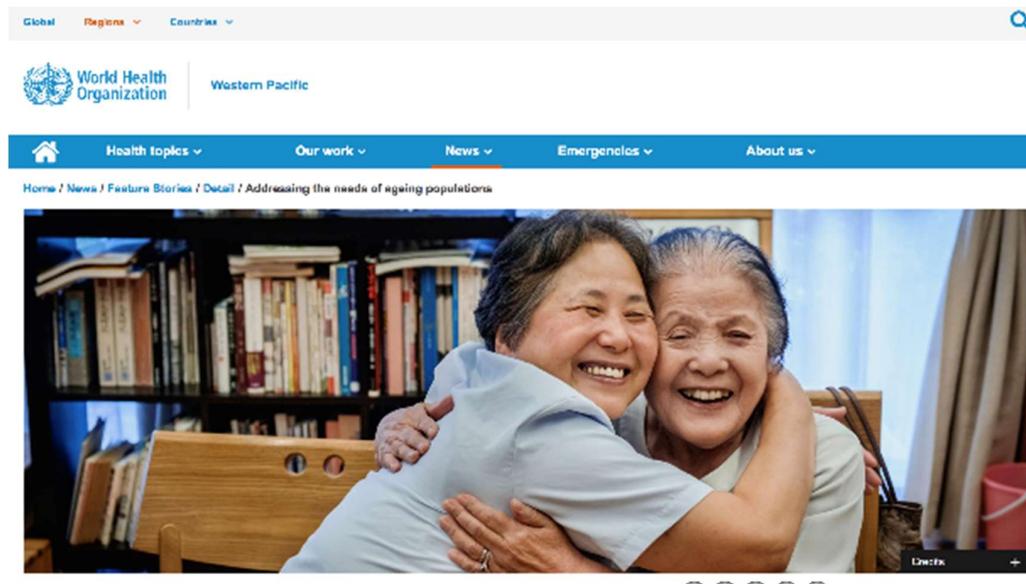
https://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2019/0822_HWG



The screenshot shows the APEC website's news release page. The header includes the APEC logo and navigation links. The main content features a large image of the meeting with the text: "9th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health & the Economy: Healthy Economies in an Aging World, 20 - 21 August 2019, PUERTO VARAS, CHILE". The headline reads "APEC Calls for Accelerated Action to Foster Healthy Ageing". The sub-headline is "Issued by the APEC Health Working Group & APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum". The text below states: "APEC economies are committed to pursuing more innovative partnerships to address the health, social, and economic impacts of the region's rapidly ageing population...". A red circular icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.

2. 70th Regional Committee Meeting for Western Pacific Region (7-11 October 2019)

<https://www.who.int/westernpacific/news/feature-stories/detail/addressing-the-needs-of-ageing-populations>



The screenshot shows the WHO website's feature story page. The header includes the WHO logo and navigation links. The main content features a large image of two elderly women embracing. The headline reads "Addressing the needs of ageing populations". The text below states: "The WHO region is home to some of the most rapidly ageing populations in the world...".

https://twitter.com/takeshi_kasai/status/1181521230584614912

<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/14388/WPR-2019-RDO-003-eng.pdf>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwZXrv-9nQU&feature=emb_logo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmG1lPrayxc&feature=youtu.be>

3. Asia-Japan week on Ageing (14-17 October 2019)

https://twitter.com/takeshi_kasai/status/1185870072901861377

Dr Takeshi Kasai @takeshi_kasai

The ministers of health from 🇵🇭 & 🇨🇳 & I visited Kanagawa Prefecture 🇯🇵 this week. Governor @kuroiwayuji introduced their initiative for disease prevention & community-based care for older people. @Drifereimi presented a gift handcrafted from native wood pref.kanagawa.jp/chiji/photolog...



5:47 PM · Oct 20, 2019 · Twitter Web App

https://twitter.com/takeshi_kasai/status/1185870367367127040

Dr Takeshi Kasai @takeshi_kasai

Replying to @takeshi_kasai @kuroiwayuji and @Drifereimi

At Osada hospital in Yokohama City 🇯🇵 we also saw how technology is used to support care for older people. Our visiting @WHOWPRO ministers experienced first-hand the future of long-term care, where robot suits and wearable #rehabilitation devices help w/ recovery from paralysis.



5:48 PM · Oct 20, 2019 · Twitter Web App

https://twitter.com/takeshi_kasai/status/1185869483404972033

Dr Takeshi Kasai @takeshi_kasai

Replying to @takeshi_kasai and @nikkei

#MarshallIslands' Minister of Health Kalani Kaneko & Representative of #VietNam summarize discussion at @nikkei's Super Active #Ageing Society Conf: key themes that emerged were the importance of early action, and cross-sectoral approaches both in communities and internationally.



5:44 PM · Oct 20, 2019 · Twitter Web App

https://twitter.com/takeshi_kasai/status/1185868994294628352

Dr Takeshi Kasai @takeshi_kasai

Replying to @takeshi_kasai @APRU1997 and 4 others

Together with some of the ministers from our Region, I was delighted to meet @KeioGlobal Prof. Atsushi Seike @ the @APRU1997 conference. Last week, at #RCM70, we saw him on screen, this week in person. He inspired countries to take early action for ageing. youtu.be/LR7lxSJmMio



5:44 PM · Oct 20, 2019 · Twitter Web App

https://twitter.com/takeshi_kasai/status/1185868724340871168

Dr Takeshi Kasai @takeshi_kasai
Happy to be part of @nikkei's Super Active #Ageing Society Conf this week, w/ policymakers & experts on health, employment, IT, finance. Masako Akiyama talks about her pioneering work on #nursing care for older people in communities & building c'tty support. Key to #HealthForAll!



5:41 PM · Oct 20, 2019 · Twitter Web App

https://twitter.com/takeshi_kasai/status/1185868124341452801

Dr Takeshi Kasai @takeshi_kasai
Replying to @takeshi_kasai @APRU1997 and 2 others
In a discussion on healthy #ageing between ministers of health from the @WHOWPRO Region at the @APRU1997 conference, #Fiji's @DrIfereimi talks about how the "cultural fabric" protects and ensures respect of older people.



5:38 PM · Oct 20, 2019 · Twitter Web App

https://twitter.com/takeshi_kasai/status/1185867903091920896

Dr Takeshi Kasai @takeshi_kasai
Very happy to join the 10th conf of the Assoc of #Pacific Rim Universities @APRU1997 at @KeioGlobal 🇯🇵 this week w/ ministers from 🇺🇸, 🇨🇦 & 🇬🇧 & Prof. @TakemiKeizo. I was delighted to hear the comment of one student: "Young people should be part of the discussion on #ageing."



5:38 PM · Oct 20, 2019 · Twitter Web App

4. G20 Health Ministers' Meeting (19-20 October 2019)



FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

Universal Health Coverage

Implementation period: 1 April 2019–31 March 2020

Implementation site: Western Pacific Region

Addressed to the Government of Japan

WHO Award number: 68968

Award budget: USD 120 000

WHO Category: 4 Health systems

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Final technical report: Overview

From:	WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO), Data, Strategy, and Innovation, Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
To:	Government of Japan
Title of the project:	Universal Health Coverage
Implementation period:	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020
Implementation site:	Western Pacific Region
Implementing partners:	WHO Collaborating Centre's in the Region, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Peking University and other multilateral and bilateral partners, including Health Systems Strengthening Initiatives
WHO Category:	4 Health systems
WHO Award number:	68968
Award budget:	USD 120 000

1. Background

Universal health coverage (UHC) is a shared vision and a priority area for health and is a key in advancing the health-related SDGs of the Member States. The *For the Future* emphasizes the centrality of UHC as a foundation for strengthening health systems that can meet the challenges of a rapidly transforming world.

In 2015, the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific endorsed the Western Pacific Regional Action Framework on Universal Health Coverage: Moving Towards Better Health (WPR/RC66.R2). In line with the request of the Regional Committee and in support of countries' efforts to accelerate progress towards achieving UHC, a Universal Health Coverage – Technical Advisory Group (UHC-TAG) was established in April 2016. Three annual meetings have been convened in 2016, 2017 and 2018, with previous themes that have covered service delivery, health financing and governance with different focuses from year to year.

After the initial formative years of UHC efforts in WPR, the 4th UHC TAG meeting represents the first in a series of UHC TAG meetings which will successively move the discussion from 'design' to 'implementation' and to 'impact'.

The Fourth UHC TAG meeting was organized and expected to be held in Manila, Philippines from 24 to 26 March 2020. However, due to the current COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting is postponed and rescheduled to 19 to 21 August 2020 in a virtual format.

The COVID-19 pandemic has propelled us into the future much faster than anticipated and shows how quickly and strongly change can occur. Whilst causing major disruption to many countries' journeys towards UHC, COVID-19 may also serve as a major catalyst for accelerating health system transformation. The pandemic provides a change stimulus as countries settle into the 'new normal' of COVID-19, and more importantly, to prepare for emerging changes.

Given this context, it is proposed to convene this edition of the UHC TAG Meeting to examine - through the lens of COVID-19 - the critical dimensions of realizing UHC in a changing world, as anticipated by the "For the Future" vision. The meeting will consider key questions such as: How deeply has COVID-19 impacted the trajectory of Member States towards UHC and what have we learnt about UHC?; What other future challenges will impact essential health service delivery and health security?; and, How can we promulgate sustainable health system transformation for UHC to mitigate the challenges posed by COVID-19 and future threats to health?

Moving forward, this year's UHC TAG meeting provides an opportunity for participating Member States to re-commit to health system transformation for UHC in despite of, or better, because of COVID-19. Further, it provides an opportunity to consider engaging all actors both across and beyond the health sector to subscribe to UHC as a shared endeavour, to which they make equal contributions. This UHC TAG meeting will also provide an opportunity to strengthen cohesion between all other TAGS in the region, to consolidate and leverage joint momentum to advance UHC given this new reality.

2. Outcomes

This project supported the achievement of Programme Budget **Outcome 4.1. All countries have comprehensive national health policies, strategies and plans aimed at moving towards universal health coverage**

It is expected that after the implementation of the 4th UHC TAG meeting, the activity will result in participating Member States to pledge their commitment for transformative actions towards UHC, and to recognize the vital role of service delivery for UHC.

Output 4.1.1. Improved country governance capacity to formulate, implement and review comprehensive national health policies, strategies and plans (including multisectoral action, a “Health in All Policies” approach and equity policies)

Output 4.1.2. Improved national health financing strategies aimed at moving towards universal health coverage

It is expected that the implementation of 4th UHC TAG meeting will lead to generation of evidence and documenting regional good practices and lessons learned from the participating Member States that will lead to country-by-country peer learning.

3. Activities

Activity 1. Meeting on Universal Health Coverage Technical Advisory Group

The Fourth UHC TAG meeting was organized and expected to be held in Manila, Philippines from 24 to 26 March 2020 which will be participating by WPR Member States, Observers and Representative with WHO staff from other regions. However, due to the current COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting is postponed and rescheduled to 19 to 21 August 2020. As the meeting will be convened in a virtual format which will provide an opportunity to engage higher level official from Member States. The overall objective is for Member States to re-commit to UHC under the 'new normal' of COVID-19 and future threats. Specifically, the meeting seeks to:

- (1) Review how COVID-19 is impacting country progress towards UHC and how the disease shapes our perspective on UHC as a foundation for realizing the SDG agenda;
- (2) Investigate the pathways upon which to advance UHC in the 'new normal' world context of COVID-19 and other emerging challenges to health security;
- (3) Identify opportunities for initiating health sector transformation for UHC in the COVID-19 'new normal' and the respective contributions of actors across and beyond the health sector.

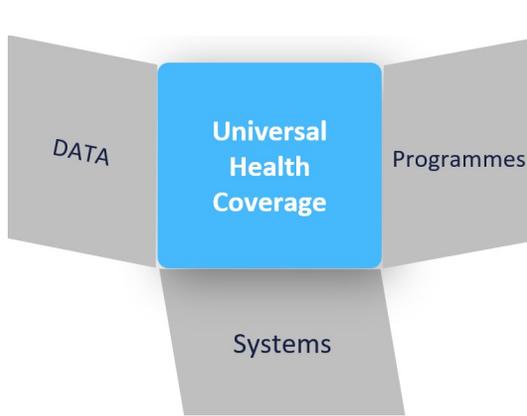
The expected outcomes include:

- (1) Participants to obtain an improved understanding of UHC in the 'new normal' world context of COVID-19 and future threats;
- (2) UHC confirmed as a shared enterprise for actors across and beyond the health sector and to investigate country pathways to 'future proof' and transform the health system for UHC;
- (3) Harmonization across Western Pacific Region Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) and clear articulation of the complementary roles among TAGs in supporting MS to realize their commitments to achieve UHC.

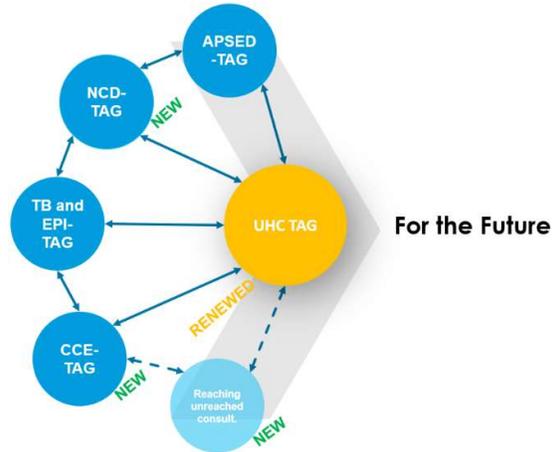
Activity implementation status

Activities for output	Completed / Delayed / Cancelled	Changes and challenges
<p>Activity 1: organized the Fourth UHC TAG meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: 3rd UHC TAG Meeting Report and the For the Future: Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region • Target: to re-commit to UHC under the ‘new normal’ of COVID-19 and future threats 	<p>Delayed</p>	<p>Given the current status of the COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting is postponed to 19-21 August, 2020 with a virtual format.</p>

Framework for UHC and Harmonized TAGs mechanism in WPRO



UHC as a joint enterprise



A new generation of Technical Advisory Groups in the Western Pacific Region