The WHO South-East Asia Region recognizes the importance of, and is committed to, advancing the culture of ‘Evaluation’ in the Region as outlined in the WHO South-East Asia Regional Framework for Strengthening Evaluation for Learning and Development and the South-East Asia Region’s Evaluation Workplan for 2022–2023.


This report provides an update on the progress of implementation of the South-East Asia Region’s Evaluation Plan for 2022–2023. The Evaluation Annual Report covering the Organization-wide workplan 2022–2023 that was submitted to the 153rd Session of the WHO Executive Board is attached as an Information Document (SEA/RC76/16 Inf. Doc. 1).

The SE Asia Region collaborated with the WHO Global Evaluation Office at headquarters to improve the management of Evaluation in line with the Global Evaluation Policy and the guiding principles provided by the WHO South-East Asia Regional Framework for Strengthening Evaluation for Learning and Development. The Framework, following the review undertaken by the Regional Office and after incorporating the lessons learnt over the past few years, has been revised and published in the SE Asia Evaluation website.
This Working Paper was presented to the High-Level Preparatory Meeting for noting the progress of the Organization-wide Evaluation Workplan 2022–2023 and updates on the implementation of the Regional Evaluation Plan 2022–2023, and for recommendations, if any. The HLP Meeting reviewed the paper and made the following recommendations for consideration by the Seventy-sixth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia.

**Action by Member States**

(1) Collaborate with respective WHO country office to take forward the recommendations from the evaluation exercises and incorporate them in the country plans and WHO operational planning, as well as in the development of the SE Asia Regional Evaluation Workplan for Programme Budget 2024–2025.

**Actions by WHO**

(1) Incorporate the recommendations from completed evaluations in discussions with countries by respective regional teams and country offices during Operational Planning of the Programme Budget 2024–2025.

(2) Complete all planned evaluations as per the 2022–2023 workplan and roll over incomplete evaluations to the Regional Evaluation Workplan for 2024–2025.

(3) Develop the draft SE Asia Region Evaluation Workplan related to the Programme Budget 2024–2025 along with the process of operational planning for the 2024–2025 biennium.

This Working Paper and the HLP Meeting recommendations are submitted to the Seventy-sixth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia for its consideration and recommendations.
**Introduction**

1. The WHO Executive Board approved the amended WHO Evaluation Policy at its 143rd session in 2018. The policy requires the Secretariat to report annually to the Executive Board on progress in implementing evaluation activities. The current annual report dated 11 April 2023 provides information on the progress made and challenges encountered in implementing the WHO Evaluation Policy and the Organization-wide Evaluation Workplan for 2022–2023. The report submitted to the 153rd Session of the Executive Board is attached as an Information Document (Inf. Doc. 1).

2. The WHO Evaluation Policy 2018 provides the broad framework to implement the Executive Board-approved Organization-wide Evaluation Workplan. Progress to date in implementing the corporate/centralized evaluations on the Organization-wide Evaluation Workplan for 2022–2023 has been reasonable, however, the level of implementation of decentralized evaluations across the Organization, including those listed in the workplan, has been varied during the same period. While the Evaluation Policy has greatly facilitated progress in advancing the corporate/centralized evaluation function within the Organization, it does not address institutional responsibility for the commissioning of decentralized evaluations or to provide a basis for instigating and reporting on these evaluations.

3. The Evaluation Office therefore developed an implementation framework for the WHO Evaluation Policy in 2022. This framework outlines operational ways of working across the three levels of the Organization and provides guidance on tools and mechanisms to support the conduct of the different types of evaluation covered in the WHO Evaluation Policy 2018: Organization-wide thematic evaluations, evaluations of WHO’s contribution at country level, and decentralized evaluations.

4. Planning is already underway to ensure that the Organization-wide Evaluation Workplan for 2024–2025 addresses the Organization’s strategic objectives at different levels, thus supporting WHO to make progress effectively and efficiently towards its goals at all levels of the Organization and ensuring effective results-based management.

**Current situation, response and challenges**

5. The South-East Asia Region recognizes the importance of, and is committed to, advancing the culture of evaluation in the Region. During 2022, the ‘WHO South-East Asia Regional Framework for Strengthening Evaluation for Learning and Development’ was revised and the South-East Asia Region Evaluation Workplan for 2022–2023 was developed [https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/361893].

6. A Regional Evaluation Management Group (REMG), chaired by the Director, Programme Management, Regional Office for South-East Asia, oversees the timely implementation of the Regional Thematic Evaluation Workplan and country-level evaluations are led by respective country mechanisms as per the WHO South-East Asia Regional Framework for Strengthening Evaluation for Learning and Development (2022).

7. The Region presented the Annual Evaluation Report to the Seventy-fifth session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia in 2022, which included a status report on the 2020–2021 and 2022–2023 regional evaluation plans.
8. The Evaluation functions in the SE Asia Regional Office are working in tandem with the Evaluation Office to operationalize this framework. The approved SE Asia Region Evaluation Workplan for 2022–2023 provides the basis for current activities which include three regional centralized and four regional decentralized evaluations. An overview of the status as at the end of July 2023 of the regional centralized/ decentralized evaluations are included in the SE Asia Regional Workplan.

9. Out of seven evaluations included in the SE Asia Regional Evaluation Plan for 2022–2023, the following two evaluations are part of the Organization-wide Evaluation Plan:
   b. Evaluation of adoption of people-centred NCD service delivery within primary health care in SE Asia Region countries.

10. The WHO Country Office for Maldives was included from the SE Asia Region for Evaluation of WHO’s normative functions as planned in the Organization-wide Evaluation Workplan for 2022–2023.

11. The SE Asia Region has encouraged Budget Centres to allocate flexible funds to conduct planned evaluations and plan for activities in response to recommendations within the respective Programme Budget during the development of operational plans.

12. Challenges related to the availability of qualified evaluators for some programmatic and specific country evaluations remain in the Region. There is also the challenge in finding adequate time availability to fully implement the Regional Evaluation Workplan 2022–2023, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Region.

13. The recommendations from evaluations were considered during planning and implementation of the Programme Budget 2022–2023 and during the development of the Programme Budget 2024–2025.


The way forward

15. The recommendations from completed evaluations are to be incorporated in country discussions by the respective regional technical units and country offices during the operational planning for Programme Budget 2024–2025.

16. The planned regional and country evaluations are to be completed as per the SE Asia Region Evaluation Workplan 2022–2023 and any incomplete evaluation/s will be rolled over to be included in the Regional Evaluation Plan 2024–2025.

17. The Regional Office will develop the draft SE Asia Region Evaluation Workplan for 2024–2025 along with the operational planning for Programme Budget 2024–2025.
## Annex 1

### SEA Region Evaluation Workplan 2022–2023, Evaluation Plan, status and progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Centre/Lead Office</th>
<th>Evaluation type</th>
<th>Title of evaluation</th>
<th>Outcome in Thirteenth General Programme of Work</th>
<th>New/carry forward</th>
<th>Status as of July 2023</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SE Asia regional/centralized evaluations</strong></td>
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<td>Department of Healthy Population and Noncommunicable diseases</td>
<td>Thematic</td>
<td>Evaluation of adoption of people-centred NCD service delivery within primary health care in SE Asia Region countries</td>
<td>Outcome 1.1</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Evaluation commissioned and draft report expected by end of October 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO Regional Health Emergencies</td>
<td>Thematic</td>
<td>Evaluation of surveillance and contact tracing for COVID-19 pandemic in WHO South-East Asia Region – their performance and impact of digital technology</td>
<td>Outcome 2.2</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Evaluation commissioned and draft report expected by end of December 2023</td>
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<td>Title of evaluation</td>
<td>Outcome in Thirteenth General Programme of Work</td>
<td>New/carry forward</td>
<td>Status as of July 2023</td>
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<td><strong>SE Asia Region’s decentralized evaluations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Thematic</td>
<td>Evaluation of Impact of climate resilient water safety plan (CRWSP) on improvement of water supply system</td>
<td>Outcome 3.3</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Concept note developed and in process</td>
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<td>Maldives</td>
<td>Thematic</td>
<td>WHO's contribution to implement the health care waste management project in Maldives (2016–2021)</td>
<td>Outcome 3.2</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>In process of commissioning</td>
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<td>Nepal</td>
<td>Thematic</td>
<td>Evaluation of WHO contribution to strengthen maternal perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) in Nepal.</td>
<td>Outcome 1.1 &amp; 1.3</td>
<td>Carried forward from Programme Budget 2020–2021</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Thematic</td>
<td>Evaluation of the engagement of civil societies by WHO at country level (2015–2021)</td>
<td>Across all outcomes</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Concept note developed and in process</td>
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</tbody>
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