Outcome statement
Central Asia International Health Investment Forum

26 June 2024, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Commitment

On this auspicious day, during the Central Asia International Health Investment Forum, we, the participants of the Forum, commit to increase investment for health in the five central Asian countries (CACs), progress the goals of the Roadmap for health and well-being in Central Asia for 2022–2025 (CARM) and continue to take the work of CARM forward beyond 2025 to meet the changing priorities of Central Asia and each country individually.

This commitment comes at a key time for Central Asia and its position internationally, as we approach WHO’s next Global Investment Round in November 2024 and we look ahead to getting all five CACs on track to become global leaders in achieving the health-related Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The road so far

In September 2022 the ministers of health of the five CACs adopted CARM. A year later, on 14 September 2023 at the fifth Consultative Meeting of the Central Asian Heads of States, it was given the highest endorsement by the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. This has set the scene for Central Asia to build back stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARM sets a strategic pathway to embed health as central to the economies of Central Asia to assure an inclusive and sustainable future for all people in all five countries. Central Asia’s young demographic prepares it to be an international powerhouse, a leading partner in the WHO European Region, alongside the Europe Union, and a global exemplar in health and economy.

More must be done to realize these ambitions. We acknowledge the critical role of collaborative action and increased investments in Central Asia’s health systems to move towards universal health coverage, promote health and well-being for all and protect everyone from health emergencies.

The Central Asia International Health Investment Forum has provided an opportunity to accelerate the progress of CARM, especially through its:

- key accelerator 2: build a strategic alliance for health and well-being in Central Asia
- key accelerator 3: synergistically mobilize resources and support for joint projects.

By doing so, we are reinforcing Central Asia’s leadership for health, providing a platform for greater collaboration with key international donors and partners, and building momentum to achieve our goals.

Key outcomes

Health investment group: a group of country leaders and investment partners will meet regularly to oversee and guide the progress of CARM and the key outcomes set out below.

Health investment plan: we will establish a plan to invest more in the 11 action areas, with a special focus on the key priority areas identified during the Forum, including:

1. universal health coverage:
   - invest more to strengthen primary health-care quality and access;
   - invest more to ensure a future free of tuberculosis and vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis and viral hepatitis;
2. protect from health emergencies:
   - invest more to mitigate, detect and respond to health emergencies.
3. promote health and well-being:
   - invest more to reduce the burden of noncommunicable disease;
   - invest more to create healthy and green environments;

Health investment facilitation: we will coordinate health development across Central Asia to be complementary and streamline processes to attract sustainable international investment. We will engage international expertise, including that which can be convened with the support of the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Health investment tracker: we will develop an investment component to CARM’s monitoring framework and annual reporting to remain active up to and beyond 2025.

The road ahead

We are confident that the partnerships forged during this Forum will translate into tangible improvements in health outcomes in all five CACs, leaving no one behind and recognizing health and well-being as a cornerstone to our current and future economies.

We call upon all stakeholders to join us in keeping health at the very top of the political agenda in Central Asia to progress the priorities outlined in CARM up to and beyond 2025 and achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Together, we can invest more to build a healthier and prosperous future for Central Asia.