

LUNCH TIME SESSION:

Launch of the WHO Bulletin theme issue on advancing Rehabilitation through Health Policy and Systems Research

2 November 2022

12:30-14:00 UTC-5

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

There are 2.4 billion people globally living with a health condition that could benefit from rehabilitation. However, unmet rehabilitation needs persist, and in some low- and middle-income countries, about 50% of those who need rehabilitation do not have access to it, thereby impeding their chances of optimal functioning and improved health and wellbeing. In order to address the unmet need for rehabilitation, it is imperative that health system actors are equipped with the relevant evidence about how to organize society and health systems to ensure that quality rehabilitation is scaled-up and its access is equitable.

As part of its commitment to rehabilitation, and more generally to science, WHO called for papers on Health Policy and Systems Research for a Theme Issue in the WHO Bulletin. This theme issue aims to expand our current knowledge around rehabilitation by presenting it as a relevant strategy in health, including public health, that needs to be scaled up to adequately address population needs. The Theme Issue of the Bulletin is now ready and will be launched on 2 November 2022. It contains examples of the work of multidisciplinary teams across the world who have come together to respond to questions around relevant issues. These issues include the financing and governance of rehabilitation and how health systems can integrate rehabilitation into other health services, such as ear and hearing care, long-term care and treatment of the Post Covid-19 condition. Integration in primary care gets special attention because in order to meet the enormous global unmet need, rehabilitation must be provided close to where people live and scaled up from there.

On the occasion of the publication of the WHO Bulletin theme issue on advancing rehabilitation through Health Policy and Systems Research, the WHO Rehabilitation Programme together with the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research are organizing a hybrid launch event alongside the 7th

Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR2022). The objectives of the launch event are:

1. To obtain an in-depth understanding of the evidence contained in the articles of the WHO Bulletin theme issue and how policy decisions can be guided in light of that evidence.
2. To explore ways to strengthen the synergies between rehabilitation and HPSR stakeholders.

Participants

The participants of this event will be from Member States and State Bodies, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, private sector including international business associations, philanthropic foundations, and academic institutions.

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Venue

This is a hybrid event.

- **In person:** The venue for in-person participants is Hilton Bogota Corferias (Carrera 37 # 24-29, Corferias, Bogotá, Colombia).
- **Online:** For participants joining virtually, please register [here](#).

Language

This event will be conducted in English. Closed captioning will be available for those joining online.