The Global Action Plan in Turkmenistan: coming together for healthy lives and well-being

Health has been and is staying very high on the agenda of United Nations agencies and international partners in Turkmenistan.

The importance of a well-functioning health-care system and effective public health services, including health security, is increasing as the country responds to the global outbreak of COVID-19 and takes all necessary preventive measures.

With the support of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, a comprehensive analysis has been carried out and a report prepared covering the progress made towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 and its targets plus health-related targets within other SDGs, such as education and gender. Based on this analysis, three of the accelerators outlined in the Global Action Plan for Health and Well-being (GAP) were considered as priorities:

- primary health care
- health financing
- data systems.

Supporting the development of a sustainable health workforce that would be able to provide quality health services in the future was considered a further important area of investment.

The progress report on health and sustainable development, achieving SDG 3 on health and well-being in Turkmenistan, has been translated into Russian and shared with the Turkmen Government for review. The final product will be published on the WHO website. A Round Table to present the report and its recommendations to the Government and to GAP partners and other development partners in health is planned for the end of 2020, possibly via teleconference. The report will be used to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Coordination Framework and the development of a joint workplan for GAP partners in the implementation of the three accelerators identified.

The progress report and its recommendations will also contribute to the National Country Preparedness and Response Plan and National Response Plan to the Socio-economic Impact of COVID 19.
The UN Resident Coordinator system – an overview

The UN Resident Coordinator (RC) system encompasses all organizations of the United Nations system dealing with operational activities for development, regardless of their formal presence in the country. The RC system aims to bring together the different UN agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities at the country level. It comprises a series of global, regional and country-level working mechanisms that provide guidance and support the work of UN Resident Coordinators around the world.

At present, there are 129 UN Resident Coordinators posts leading 131 United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) – each composed of 16 UN entities on average, and serving 165 countries and territories. Of the 129 RCs, 110 also act as Designated Officials for Security, 29 as Humanitarian Coordinators and 14 as Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General.

The objective of the RC system is to support the role and functions of the RC and the UNCT through shared global, regional and country-level vision, norms and standards, capacities and operating protocols to deliver together more coherent, effective and efficient support to globally, regionally and nationally agreed goals and priorities. To do this, the RC system focuses on leveraging the leadership, policy and practices, and diverse expertise across UN development entities, to work together towards this common end, of improving the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the UN’s contribution to development results.

1. INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

The current configuration of the Resident Coordinator (RC) function, has its origin in General Assembly resolution A/RES/32/197 of 1977, which endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the UN System, chaired by Kenneth K. S. Dadzie, from Ghana. Established in 1975, the Ad Hoc Committee sought to prepare detailed action proposals with a view to initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations System so as to make it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic cooperation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner.

At the country level, the Ad Hoc Committee argued for “improved coherence of action and effective integration, in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Government concerned, of the various sectoral inputs from the United Nations system.” It also established that UNDP’s “country-programming process should be utilized as a frame of reference for the operational activities carried out and financed by the organizations of the United Nations system from their own resources”, laying out the basis for the current configuration of the RC/RR function, by which UNDP’s resident representative (RR) also holds the position of UN Resident Coordinator.

The Ad Hoc Committee and the subsequent GA resolution on Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the UN System already foresaw a role for the UN RC that went beyond the simple facilitation of UN entities’ work.