



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

Kyrgyzstan is strongly committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its health sector is widely recognized as a leader in terms of aligning national priorities with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), working to adapt SDG indicators to the national context, integrating SDG goals and indicators into the state sector programme plan and following an intersectoral and whole-of-government approach to policy development and programme implementation. This process of national adaptation of the SDGs was started in 2016.

In 2018 Kyrgyzstan launched several important strategies, including the new National Development Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic 2018–2040, and the Development Programme of the Kyrgyz Republic 2018–2022: Unity. Trust. Creation. These were quickly followed by the new Programme of the Kyrgyz Republic Government on Public Health Protection and Health Care System Development for 2019–2030: Healthy Person – Prosperous Country (Health 2030). These strategic documents were developed over a two-year period beginning in 2016, and the global SDG targets and indicators related to health and well-being were adapted to the national context. Taken together, these three documents articulate the policy framework and operational plan for advancing health and well-being in Kyrgyzstan within the larger context of the national framework for sustainable development.

Based on these achievements in implementing the national SDG policy framework, and on consultations with WHO, the Kyrgyz Government joined the International Health Partnership UHC 2030 and signed the Global Compact at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018.

The Global SDG Index and Dashboards Report presents assessments of countries' progress towards achieving the SDGs and provides a ranking of countries by an aggregate SDG index of overall performance. This report in 2019 placed Kyrgyzstan at 48th position among 162 countries. With respect to SDG 3 for health and well-being, Kyrgyzstan was assessed as having achieved close to 71.6% of its targets, which is considered to be “moderately good progress” in the SDG achievement assessment.

Based on this achievement, strong collaboration between development partners and the Ministry of Health and the multiple mechanisms for coordination in place at the national level, Kyrgyzstan was selected in 2019 as one of the four pilot countries for implementation of the Global action plan for healthy lives and well-being for all (GAP) in the WHO European Region. In April 2019, 24 development partners, including all resident GAP signatory agencies, signed a Joint Statement of Partnership pledging their commitment to support the national health priorities set out in Health 2030.

The GAP process at country level was launched by WHO commissioning a national review of the progress towards the achievement of all health-related SDG targets and the overall status of health and well-being. Key findings from this review were presented at a high-level policy dialogue meeting in October 2019 under the title A new approach to strengthen collaboration in health and sustainable development in Kyrgyzstan. From this and other consultations, a report (Towards a Healthier Kyrgyz Republic: Health and Sustainable Development Progress Report) was prepared. The GAP signatory agencies in Kyrgyzstan chose to focus their coordination efforts on the health priorities set out in Health 2030. These coordination efforts were based on identified gaps and opportunities for enhancing cooperation and leveraging support in four priority accelerator areas:

- sustainable financing for health
- primary health care
- determinants of health
- data and digital health.



The joint support is coordinated through two main mechanisms. The country-level Development Partner Coordination Council for Health (Health DPCC) meets on a quarterly basis, is coordinated by WHO and jointly chaired by the Country Offices for WHO and the World Bank. The Health DPCC is well attended and provides a regular forum for development partners to exchange information about programme plans and financial commitments. The second mechanism is the United Nations Development System Inter-agency SDG Work Group, which meets on a monthly basis and is responsible for coordinating efforts from United Nations bodies to advance the 2030 Agenda and to advocate with Government ministries, Parliament and other key stakeholders.

The recent COVID-19 outbreak has highlighted the absolute necessity for a strong, adequately funded health system that can respond quickly and equitably to emergencies while ensuring continued provision of, and access to, essential health services. Together with the Ministry of Health, the WHO Country Office in Kyrgyzstan, therefore, also leads the coordination of a further health sector platform: the Disaster Response Coordination Council. This serves to develop coordinated interventions to strengthen the country's preparedness, readiness and response to COVID-19 in line with the Global Strategic Response Plan.

Reference

Towards a healthier Kyrgyz Republic. Health and sustainable development progress report. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020 (https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/459347/healthier-Kyrgyz-Republic-progress-report-2020.pdf).

GAP partners who have participated in the discussions at the country level to date:



Global Fund



UNAIDS



UNDP



UNFPA



UNICEF



WHO



World Bank