

Global Rehabilitation Indicators WHO Member States consultation November-December 2024

Concept note

Background

In 2019, an estimated 2.45 billion individuals were living with a health condition that would benefit from rehabilitation, contributing to 310 million years of healthy life lost due to disability (YLD). This number has increased by 63% from 1990 to 2019¹. At least 1 billion people need assistive products (AP) and this is expected to increase to 2 billion by 2050². Many people, however, have limited access to the required rehabilitation services, in particular in low- and middle-income countries³.

In 2017, WHO launched Rehabilitation2030, a call for concerted action to address the profound unmet need for rehabilitation services. This initiative sets in stone 10 priority domains of action to strengthen health systems for rehabilitation. It was followed by the endorsement of the World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution 76.6 “Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems” in May 2023, which urges countries “to expand rehabilitation to all levels of care, from primary to tertiary, and to ensure the availability and affordability of quality and timely rehabilitation services”⁴. The resolution also requests the Director-General of WHO to develop, with input from Member States, before the end of 2026, a baseline report with information on the capacity of Member States to respond to existing and foreseeable rehabilitation needs, to report on progress on the implementation of the Resolution to the World Health Assembly in 2026, 2028, and 2030. The resolution also requests the development of a feasible global health system rehabilitation target and indicator for effective coverage of rehabilitation services for consideration by the 79th World Health Assembly in 2026.

WHO Global Rehabilitation Indicators

The WHO Rehabilitation Programme, including the 3 levels of the organization, is conducting a Member State consultation for the development of a list of rehabilitation indicators for global reporting on rehabilitation, including for assistive products provision. In an effort to maximize international comparability, this set of rehabilitation indicators will focus on the reporting for core aspects of health system building blocks.

¹ Cieza A, Causey K, Kamenov K, et al. Global estimates of the need for rehabilitation based on the Global Burden of Disease study 2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *Lancet*. 2021; 396(10267):2006-17, doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)32340-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32340-0).

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/assistive-technology>

³ Kamenov K, Mills JA, Chatterji S, et al. Needs and unmet needs for rehabilitation services: a scoping review. *Disabil Rehabil*. 2019;41(10):1227-37.

⁴ <https://www.who.int/news/item/27-05-2023-landmark-resolution-on-strengthening-rehabilitation-in-health-systems>

It is envisioned to use the indicators as a basis for developing the WHO global baseline report requested by WHA Resolution 76.6 and for reporting on the implementation of the Resolution.

Methodology

Member States, through their corresponding WHO regional and country offices, are invited to participate in a virtual consultation (see below). Ministries of Health are recommended to nominate a focal person with knowledge in rehabilitation and who is in a position to collaborate with those responsible at the monitoring and evaluation department of the Ministry.

For the indicators selection process, a document presenting a draft list of indicators for consideration by Member States will be shared well in advance to the consultation. It will be used to select the final set of rehabilitation indicators for global reporting that is shared and agreed upon by Member States across WHO regions.

The consultation will consist of 3 steps with the following objectives respectively:

- 1/ online meeting to present and discuss the process of selecting Global Rehabilitation Indicators and reporting mechanism: presentations by WHO outlining the proposed indicators, data sources and reporting, including timelines, and selection process.
- 2/ online survey to develop a preliminary list of Global Rehabilitation Indicators that is shared across WHO regions.
- 3/ online meeting to consolidate the list of Global Rehabilitation Indicators: presentations by WHO outlining the survey results and a proposed final indicator list, followed by a plenary discussion.

Objectives

1. To obtain feedback on the proposed rehabilitation indicators for regional/global reporting
2. To select and consolidate a set of Global Rehabilitation Indicators
3. To explain and learn about country requirements for data collection and reporting

Dates and consultation format

Representatives of Ministries of Health for rehabilitation, including assistive product provision, will be asked to attend 2 virtual meetings (each of approximately 2 hours duration) and complete 1 online survey in between. It is expected that these meetings will be held in November-December 2024.

Working language

The document containing a draft list of indicators will be translated in all UN languages. Meetings will be in English. However, interpreters will be available for translation in the other UN languages.