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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the World Health Organization (WHO) and has the honor to refer to the WHO's Note verbal dated on 04 April 2023, related to the designation of the future WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco has further honor to submit the candidature of its former Minister of Health, Dr. Anass Doukkali, for the aforementioned post.

For this purpose, the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco is pleased to enclose, herewith, the application, the Curriculum Vitae, and the future vision of the candidate, Dr Anass Doukkali.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva takes this opportunity to renew to the World Health Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, April 27, 2023

**World Health Organization**  
**Av. Appia 20, 1202**  
**Geneva**

## **Appendix to Annex 2 - Standard form for the nomination of persons for the position of Regional Director of the World Health Organization for the Eastern Mediterranean**

Please elaborate on the qualifications and characteristics of the persons proposed by your government based on the criteria contained in Decision No. 3 of document EM/RC59/13.

### **1. Having significant technical and public health backgrounds, as well as extensive experience in international health.**

Dr. Anass Doukkali has carried out the following key public and international health activities:

- WHO international initiatives to address inequitable health coverage
- Global partnership for maternal, newborn and child health
- Arab Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health 2018-2030
- Capacity-building in midwifery care in the Arab countries
- Adoption of self-care interventions for sexual and reproductive health care at the country level in humanitarian and emergency settings
- Global Plan to End TB
- Global initiative to preventing and controlling NCDs
- Integration of pharmaceutical policies at the international level
- International partnership on biology drugs development
- Health policy development based on the underlying social determinants of health
- Publications and communications in international scientific journals and events
- Design of the in-depth overhaul of the national health system
- Development, launch, implementation, and monitoring of the "Health Plan 2025" of the health sector
- Launch and implementation of the 2019-2021 emergency medical upgrade acceleration plan
- Launch and implementation of the national strategic plan for the prevention and control of tuberculosis 2018-2021
- Implementation of the national strategic plan to fight against AIDS 2017-2021
- Launch and implementation of the human rights and HIV/AIDS strategy 2018-2021
- Launch of the national multisectoral strategy for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases 2019-2029
- Development of the plan for the prevention and control of overweight and obesity in children 2018-2025
- Promotion of telemedicine and co-foundation of the Moroccan society of telemedicine
- Implementation of the continuing education strategy and development of e-learning
- Development of community medicine and family medicine
- Developing of mobile Health strategy
- Establishment of the national pharmaceutical policy
- Expanding of basic medical coverage to the first self-employed categories, including midwives
- Assessment and improvement of quality of childbirth and neonatal health care services at hospital level in 12 Regions of Morocco
- Adoption of the H6+ partnership for strengthening reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent healthcare
- Introduction of HPV vaccine in the national vaccination schedule
- Launching and implementation of the programme for the prevention and management of infertility and the establishment of the national plan for medical creation
- Launching and implementation of the WHO self-care interventions for sexual and reproductive health
- Development of the national system of information
- Creation of an e-health innovation centre
- Development of a white paper on digital health in Morocco
- Launch of a university degree in e-health and connected medicine
- Participation in several talk shows on public health policies on Radio, Television and Social Media

## **2. Having organizational management skills**

At the head of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Doukkali has held the following management positions:

- Policy and strategic orientations of health sector
- Strategic planning and health policy
- Leadership for central and territorial monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national strategies
- Management and leadership of human resources and capacity-building of workforce
- Leadership in the development of management tools for the various technical health departments
- Strategic directions for the implementation and translation of the international resolutions into action
- Strategic health planning, with proactive management of organizational and managerial change at the health sector level
- Establishment and adoption of digital transformation at health policy, programs, and care services
- Advocating for health sector support at parliamentary and governmental levels

Dr. Doukkali managed the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC):

- Strategic planning, development, and implementation of the "ANAPEC 2020 Plan"
- Direction and management of programs to promote women's and youth entrepreneurship and territorial initiatives to promote employment
- Development of the master plan for information system and development of monitoring tools on the labour market
- Presidency of the Middle East and Arab Region of the World Association of Public Employment Services
- Organization of the World Congress of the World Association of Public Employment Services

Dr. Doukkali has carried out the following management activities as part of his elected office:

- Coordination of the elaboration of the Communal Development Plan 2010-2015 of the city of Rabat
- Leadership and coordination of the Commission for parity and equal opportunities of the city of Rabat
- Organization of the capital forums on local Governance in partnership with USAID

Dr. Doukkali currently manages two associations as :

- Chairman of the Board of the e-Health Innovation Center (Mohammed 5 University)
- President of the National Federation for Supporting Entrepreneurship

## **3. Proven in a leadership position in public health**

At the head of the Ministry of Health, Dr Anass Doukkali has managed the following key health departments at central and territorial levels:

- Directorate of population
- Directorate of epidemiology and disease control
- Directorate of hospital and ambulatory care
- Directorate of pharmacy and drugs
- Directorate of planning and financial resources
- Directorate of regulatory and litigation
- Directorate of human resources
- Division of drugs supply
- Division of information and new technology
- Division of Communication
- Twelve regional health directorates

He has led the technical departments towards effective and efficient management of resources, ensuring an adequate environment for the providing of equitable and quality health care, towards the achievement of universal health coverage.

#### **4. Be sensitive to cultural, social, and political differences**

During his career as a politician, leader, manager or former Minister of Health, Dr Anass Doukkali has always respected cultural values and gender issues and has applied them both in the decision-making process and in his daily actions. During his international activities, he has worked with people from different cultures, gender, and backgrounds. He appreciates the diversity of skills and backgrounds, the dynamics inherent in the interaction of cultures and the involvement of diverse teams respecting the gender approach and make them levers for achieving the expected results.

#### **5. Be strongly committed to WHO's activities**

During his previous role as Minister of Health, Dr Anass Doukkali successfully supported several WHO-related activities in collaboration with the WHO national office, the regional office, and headquarters. The key activities are as follows:

- Contribution to several WHO initiatives on universal health coverage, quality of health care services; targeting the social determinants of health; and adopting evidence-based policy programme management at the national and regional levels
- Adoption of WHO recommendations and guidelines for national health policies and programmes, including quality of care, reproductive and maternal health, and non-communicable diseases
- Signature of the "Charter on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases" by the technical departments, in the presence of the Head of Government and the Director General of WHO
- Celebration of World Health Day 2019 and organization of the "Walk the Talk" for the promotion of health for all, in the presence of the WHO Director-General
- Establishment of the H6+ Partnership for strengthening reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health care
- Designation of the WHO Collaborating Centre for reproductive health for training and research

#### **6) Have the physical condition required for all staff members of the Organization**

Dr. Anass Doukkali states that he is apt physically and mentally to perform the required functions within the World Health Organization. He does not carry any communicable or chronic diseases and adopts a continuous healthy lifestyle.



### **Biography of Dr. Anass Doukkali**

Dr. Anass Doukkali is currently a project manager at the Mohammed V University of Rabat for the development of innovation in e-health and e-employment and director of the laboratory of analytical chemistry at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat. He has been occupying this position since 2020.

Dr. Anass Doukkali followed a scientific course leading to a bachelor's degree in chemistry, a master and PhD degrees in physical chemistry in 2002 from the Faculty of Sciences of Rabat. The same year, he joined the National Centre for Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology as a research scientist at the Environmental Analysis Laboratory. In 2005, he obtained the position of assistant professor at the Poly-disciplinary Faculty of Taza, and in 2007 joined the Department of Drug Sciences of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat as a professor-researcher.

In 2018, he was appointed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI as Morocco's Minister of Health. During his mandate, he oversaw the design of the in-depth overhaul of the national health system with the relevant ministerial departments. He ensured the development and the implementation of the "Health Plan 2025" of the health sector, and the direction of the program of evaluation and improvement of the quality of care at the level of health services. He has successfully supported several WHO-related activities in collaboration with the WHO national office, regional and headquarters offices, including the adoption of WHO recommendations and guidelines at the level of national health policies, strategies and programmes.

From 2015 to 2018, Dr. Doukkali held the position of Director General of the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC), where he developed the "ANAPEC 2020 Plan" as part of the National Employment Strategy to 2025. He created the first university employment agencies and established the first partnership agreements with the regions with which he implemented active employment measures, including youth and women's entrepreneurship. At the international level, he held the position of President of the Middle East and Arab Region of the World Association of Public Employment Services (WAPES).

Dr. Doukkali was elected to the House of Representatives (Moroccan Parliament) in November 2011. He has been active, particularly in the Finance and Social Affairs Committees, focusing on health, social security, employment, and youth policies. In parliamentary diplomacy, he was a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean. He also advocated for youth participation in local management, as part of a network of young parliamentarians with the support of USAID.

Between 2003 and 2015, he held several elective offices, at the local, prefectural, and regional levels, as a member of the Rabat City Council, member of the Rabat Prefectural Council and member of the

Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zair Regional Council. During his various mandates, Dr. Anass Doukkali was very active, both at national and international levels, particularly on strategic and governance issues.

As a scientist, Dr Doukkali has carried out research leading to several publications and communications in international scientific journals and events. He was also the author of several articles and columns of a political, economic and societal nature, and has participated in several debate programs on public policy on the radio, television and social media. To strengthen his leadership skills, he pursued executive education courses in France and the United States.

# ANASS DOUKKALI

**Academic, public policy expert**

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## SKILLS

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- Higher education, research and innovation
- Project management, monitoring, evaluation and team leadership
- Participatory strategic planning and business intelligence
- Health policies and health system governance
- Training, skills, employment and labour market policies
- Social security, education and youth policies
- Political leadership at local, national and international levels
- Negotiation and mediation between politics and social partners
- Organization and managing of national and international events
- Communication and advocacy through traditional media and social media at the national and international levels

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## EXPERIENCE

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2022 to current : Technical adviser on self-care and digital health for WHO

2021 to current : Project manager for the development of innovation in e-health and e-employment at Mohamed V University

- Creation of an e-health innovation centre
- Launching of international calls for projects in e-health and technical support for the winners
- Production of a white paper on digital health in Morocco
- Launching of a university degree in e-health and connected medicine
- Development of a digital platform to support entrepreneurship

2020 to current : Academic professor, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat

- Head of the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory
- Research and development on aromatic and medicinal plants

2018-2019 : Health Minister

- Design of the in-depth overhaul of the national health system
- Development, implementation and monitoring of the "Healthcare Plan 2025" (Health sector)
- Launch of the Upgrade Acceleration Plan for medical emergencies 2019-2021
- Launch of the National Strategic Plan for TB prevention and control 2018-2021
- Contribution to Global Plan to End TB

- Implementation of the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan 2017-2021
- Launch of the HIV/AIDS and Human Rights Strategy 2018- 2021
- Development of the Prevention and Control Plan for Overweight and Obesity in Children 2018-2025
- Launch of the National Multisectoral Strategy for Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control 2019-2029 and signature of the « Charter on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases » in the presence of the Head of Government and the WHO Director-General
- Celebration of World Health Day 2019, Reading of the Royal Message and organization of the "Walk the talk" march in the presence of the WHO Director-General
- Contribution to Global initiative to preventing and controlling NCDs
- Promotion of telemedicine and co-foundation of the Moroccan Society of Telemedicine
- Development of community and family medicine
- Development of a Mobile Health Strategy
- Extension of basic medical coverage to the first self-employed (midwives as the first category of beneficiaries)
- Quality Assessment of childbirth and neonatology structures in the 12 Regions of Morocco and implementation of improvement plans
- Organisation of the first meeting of the H6 inter-agency coordination partnership for strengthening Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Healthcare
- Participation in the development of the Arab Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Maternal and Child Health and Adolescents 2018-2030
- Contribution to the Global Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
- Introduction of HPV vaccine into the national vaccination schedule
- Launch of addressing infertility Program and the National Plan for Medically Assisted Procreation (MAP)
- First Self-Care implementation Program for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
- Implementation of the provisions of the national pharmaceutical policy
- Moroccan Presidency of the Association of Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authorities of Africa and advocacy for harmonization and integration of pharmaceutical policies
- Implementation of the continuous training strategy and development of e-learning
- Development of the National Health Information System
- Contribution to several WHO initiatives on universal health coverage
- Adoption of WHO recommendations and guidelines for national health policies and programmes, including quality of care, reproductive and maternal health, and non-communicable diseases
- Designation of the WHO Collaborating Centre for reproductive health for training and research

**2015-2018 : Director General, National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills**

- Development, implementation and monitoring of the « 2020 ANAPEC Plan »
- Participation in the development of the National Employment Strategy for 2025 and the National Employment Promotion Plan



- Opening of the first "ANAPEC" university agencies (university job centre)
- Implementation of the first ANAPEC-Regions partnership agreements for the promotion of territorial initiatives for employment
- Establishment of a program to promote women's entrepreneurship « MinAjliki »
- Opening of the first centres specialized in supporting young entrepreneurs in Rabat and Tangier
- Launch of the first ANAPEC mobile units
- Development of the Information System Master Plan
- Annual prospective watch on the labour market
- Organization of the World Congress of the World Association of Public Employment Services (Marrakech) and preparation of Morocco's running for presidency
- Creation of the African Network of Employment Policies and Services in Casablanca (Headquarters in Morocco)

**2011-2015 : Member of the House of Representatives (Moroccan Parliament)**

- Legislative production, government control, evaluation of public policies and parliamentary diplomacy
- Member of the Bureau of the Finance Committee (2013-2014)
- Member of the Bureau of the Social Affairs Committee (2011-2013)
- Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) (2011-2014)
- Member of the Energy, Environment and Water Committee of the PA-UfM
- Member of the young parliamentarians network for the participation of youth in local management, in partnership with USAID (2012-2014)

**2007-2011 : Assistant Academic professor, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat**

- Teaching and animation of educational teams
- Supervision of fundamental and applied research
- Member of the Council of Mohamed V University, representing scientific professors

**2005-2007 : Assistant Academic professor, Polydisciplinary Faculty of Taza**

- Development and implementation of modules for a Professional License

**2002-2005 : Research Scientist, National Centre for Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology**

- Head of the environmental analysis laboratory

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**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

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2022 to current : Chairman of the Board of the e-Health Innovation Center (Mohammed 5 University)

2020 to current : President of the National Federation for Supporting Entrepreneurship

2015-2018 : President of the Middle East and Arab region at the World Association of Public Employment Services

2003-2015 : Elected member of the Rabat City Council (2 terms)

- Coordinator of the Municipal Development Plan of Rabat city (2010-2015)
- Coordinator and vice president of the Parity and Equal Opportunities Committee of Rabat city (2010-2015)
- Representative of Rabat city for the "100 Cities Initiative" of UN-Habitat (2010-2015)
- Designer and organizer of the town hall forum on local governance in partnership with USAID (2011-2015)
- Representative of Rabat city at the International Association of Educating Cities, for the promotion of good practices towards youth
- Member of the Board of Directors of Ibn Sina University Hospital Center of Rabat, representing local elected officials

2009-2015 : Elected member of the Prefectural Council of Rabat

2011-2015 : Ex officio member of the Regional Council of Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaër

2010-2019 : Member of the Politburo of a national party

- Organizational supervisor of 3 respective regions
- National finance supervisor
- Management of local and national elections
- Organization of National Congresses

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## **EDUCATION**

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2002 : PhD in Physical Chemistry, Faculty of Sciences of Rabat

1996 : Master of Advanced Studies in Physical Chemistry, Faculty of Sciences of Rabat

1995 : Bachelor in Chemistry, Faculty of Sciences of Rabat

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## **TRAINING**

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2020 : Project Management Certificate, Ecole Centrale of Lille

2012 : Awarded of an Executive Education on Deauville partnership political program, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, USA

2007 : Awarded of the "Young Political Leaders" Program, Aspen Institute, France

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## **PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS**

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- Author of several publications and communications in international scientific journals and events
- Author of several articles, chronicles and interviews of a political, economic and societal nature
- Participation in several talk-shows on public policies on Radio, TV and Web channels

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## **LANGUAGES**

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Arabic (C2), French (C2) & English (B2)



**World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Region  
Regional Director Candidate's future Vision**

*Dr Anass Doukkali, Morocco*

**A region with better Health and well-being for all**

The World Health Organization (WHO) celebrated its 75th anniversary on April 7, 2023. Since its founding in 1948, WHO has provided its member states with resources, technical work, and advice to promote health, ensure the security of the world and serve the vulnerable.

In the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), WHO helped identify and address public health challenges towards a healthier population, by promoting health systems strengthening, health emergencies and the fight against communicable and non-communicable diseases. Over the past few years, WHO/EMR has demonstrated good expertise in responding to large-scale humanitarian crises, epidemics, and other variable public health events.

Health and well-being have improved considerably since the creation of the WHO, but the goal of health for all is not yet a reality. Major challenges remain and several opportunities exist to target a healthier population.

WHO's role remains crucial and clear in the EMR to help countries reorient their health systems, engage all relevant sectors and transform societies so that all can live long, healthy and productive lives.

*Through my application for the position of the Regional Director of the World Health Organization for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, I am committed to working together with Member States, health workers, partners, relevant sectors, and WHO experts and teams to build on the key achievements of my predecessors, continue on the work that is already in progress and make a real change in the health and wellbeing of the Region's more than 600 million people as we move towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

## Context of the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region comprises 22 countries<sup>1</sup>. It is the least populated region compared to other WHO regions, with an estimated population of 676 million representing almost 9% of the world's population. In 2018, the least populated country in the Region was Djibouti with less than one million people and the highest population was estimated around 208 million in Pakistan.

A prominent characteristic of the Region is its heterogeneity with respect to historical background, geopolitical and social context, ethnicity, and languages spoken, gross domestic product (GDP), sociodemographic profiles, health indicators, and health system capacities and coverage. War, conflict and social or political unrest have led to the forced displacement and migration of millions of people and disrupted structures and functions of health systems in affected areas, which has eventually led to slowing of progress in health promotion and protection and even reverting progress in some areas<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, the rapid influx of refugees into some countries has strained existing health systems and resources. For example, in 2018, 1 in 6 people in Lebanon (156 per 1000) and 1 in 14 people in Jordan (or 72 per 1000) were refugees<sup>3</sup>.

In the Region, the proportion of people living below the international poverty line (i.e., on less than US\$ 1.90 per day) in reporting countries is above 25%; the highest level is in Yemen, where almost half the population live below the poverty line. Residence in urban settlements is the dominant pattern in the Region, with about 7 out of 10 people living in cities. The level of literacy also varies in the Region. Available data for 12 countries show that, on average, women are less literate than men (62.5% versus 82.5%) and in three countries more than 40% of the population are illiterate. In 12 countries of the Region, 90–100% of children are enrolled in primary school; however, in five countries the enrolment rate is less than 60% and is lower among girls than boys<sup>4</sup>.

Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth in the Region are lower than global estimates, and are the second lowest among the six WHO regions<sup>5</sup>. Thus, healthy life expectancy is less than 60 years in eight countries of the Region, and the difference between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy in most countries, even high-income countries, is 10 years or above, implying that living longer is not necessarily accompanied by a desirable quality of life.

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1 Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

2 Mokdad, A.H., et al., *Health in times of uncertainty in the eastern Mediterranean region, 1990–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013*. The Lancet Global Health, 2016. 4(10): p. e704–e713.

Mandil, A., M. Chaaya, and D. Saab, *Health status, epidemiological profile and prospects: Eastern Mediterranean region*. International journal of epidemiology, 2013. 42(2): p.616–626

3 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Global trends: forced displacement in 2018–2019*. Geneva: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

4 World Health Organization 2020

5 World Health Organization, *World health statistics 2019: monitoring health for the SDGs, sustainable development goals*. 2019, Geneva: World Health Organization.

Many countries in the Region are facing serious challenges in maintaining efficient and well-functioning health systems and providing quality services to all people without financial burden. These challenges include weak governance; insufficient health funding; health workforce shortages and imbalances in their skills mix and geographic distribution; inadequate integration of services into primary health care; and suboptimal quality of health care. Protracted humanitarian crises in countries such as Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen have made the situation even more complicated. Safety and security for providing health services in conflict zones is also a major concern.

The EMR aligned its 2020–2023 strategy with the SDGs and WHO General Program of Work 13 (GPW 13), with a new vision for the Region, Vision 2023, which calls for coordinated action to reach “health for all by all”. The strategy contains four shared health priorities that are adaptable by all countries, despite heterogeneity in their health profiles or social and economic development. These four priorities are: expanding UHC; addressing health emergencies; promoting healthier populations; and making transformative changes in WHO’s business model<sup>6</sup>.

### **Health, 2030 agenda for the SDGs and progress towards triple billion targets**

Globally, there has been a significant improvement in health and well-being since 1990 in parallel with growing economic and social development. However, complex issues such as poverty, inequality (social, political, economic and gender), climate change, social and political conflicts and war and increasing numbers of migrants and displaced people still pose high threats to the health and safety of millions of people and their environment.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encompasses 17 SDGs and 69 targets. It calls upon all countries to take urgent action to end poverty, to move towards global peace, to reduce inequality and to boost economic growth, while tackling climate change and other hazards threatening the environment.

The SDG 3 specifically focuses on health, with the aim to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. SDG 3 encompasses 13 targets and 26 indicators for monitoring the progress made and to enable countries to enhance their efforts or revisit their national plans when progress is discontinued.

SDG 3 has strong interconnections with other SDGs on poverty, hunger, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, economic growth, inequality, safe cities, climate change and partnerships. Therefore, not only does the health sector need to strengthen

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<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization. WHO’s strategy for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2020–2023 Turning Vision 2023 into action 2019; Available from: <https://applications.emro.who.int/docs/EMRPUB-RDO-014-2019-EN.pdf>

its governing system, but it also needs to pursue a proactive approach to advocate for the inclusion of health in all policy arenas, which is the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach while targeting the social determinants of health<sup>7</sup>.

Committed to Goal 3, WHO has been implementing its Thirteenth General Program of Work and led a transformational agenda, helping countries achieve all health-related SDG targets. Its actions is focusing on three strategic priorities called the "triple billions" namely, ensuring that a billion more people benefit from universal health coverage, that a billion more people are better protected against health emergencies and a billion more people enjoy better health and well-being<sup>8</sup>.

## **Social and environmental determinants of health and inequalities**

### **Social determinants of health**

In the Eastern Mediterranean Region, WHO continues to support implementation of the 2011 Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health. Work is ongoing to strengthen country capacities to adopt HiAP, intersectoral action and social participation to address the social determinants of health and gender. This includes regional adaptation, piloting, and implementation of WHO's global frameworks to support the integration of gender, equity and human rights in national health policies and planning. Several health ministries in the Region have incorporated the social determinants of health in their health agenda.

The global gender gap report 2017 revealed significant gaps in addressing women's rights in the Region including their economic participation, education, health, and sociopolitical empowerment<sup>9</sup>. Technical support has continued to foster country efforts to strengthen the health sector's role in responding to gender-based violence.

Despite these efforts, there has been limited progress in addressing the social determinants of health in the Region. Vision 2023 advocates for action in non-health sectors and addressing the social determinants of health as a priority. Regional mapping, assessment tools and a regional framework on the social determinants of health are needed to provide more robust support to countries<sup>10</sup>.

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7 World Health Organization, *World health statistics 2016: monitoring health for the SDGs, sustainable development goals*. 2016, Geneva: World Health Organization.  
Howden-Chapman, P., et al., *SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages. A guide to SDG interactions: from science to implementation*. Paris, France: International Council for Science, 2017. p. 81-126.

8 Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019-2023

9 Schwab, K., et al. *The global gender gap report 2017*. 2017. World Economic Forum

10 WHO regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, *The Work of WHO in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Annual Report of the Regional Director*, 2018. 2019, Cairo, Egypt: World Health Organization, Regional Office of the Eastern Mediterranean.

WHO regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, *The Work of WHO in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Annual Report of the Regional Director 2017-2018*, Cairo, Egypt: World Health Organization, Regional Office of the Eastern Mediterranean.



## **Regional environmental risk factors**

Environmental risk factors such as air, water and soil pollution, lack of sanitation and inadequate hygiene, chemical exposures, climate change and radiation contribute to more than 100 diseases and injuries. The burden is particularly high among children: it is estimated that 26% of childhood deaths and 25% of the total disease burden in children under 5 could be prevented through reduction of environmental risk factors. Air pollution alone is responsible for about 100 premature deaths in children per 100 000 population<sup>11</sup>. In the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the top five causes of environment-related deaths are heart disease, stroke, unintentional injuries, respiratory infections, and diarrheal diseases, which target the most vulnerable people who are children and the elderly.

## **My Vision**

My vision is a WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region with better Health and well-being for all. A region where health is prioritized in government policies to ensure all people of all ages to enjoy healthy lives and wellbeing. A region where people centered health care is available to all people.

## **Mission**

To collectively accelerate progress towards better health and well-being of the people of the Eastern Mediterranean Region by engaging countries in prioritizing the culture of health in their government policies, strengthening partnerships through innovative approaches, and mobilizing resources in line with WHO's global mission.

## **Five regional strategic priorities**

Five priority areas are identified to guide the regional work with countries and partners:

1. Strengthening people centered health systems towards universal health coverage
2. Promoting health across the life course
3. Addressing health emergencies
4. Ensuring prevention and management of communicable and non-communicable diseases
5. Empowering and motivating the health workforce

<sup>11</sup> WHO regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, The Work of WHO in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Annual Report of the Regional Director, 2018, 2019, Cairo, Egypt World Health Organization, Regional Office of the Eastern Mediterranean.

### **Strengthening people centered health systems towards universal health coverage**

By strengthening health systems with resilience, good governance, and secured health financing ; adopting people centered care approach based on an integrated service delivery at primary health care and referral levels ; investing in health workforce development and securing new health technologies and resources for better health care services.

### **Promoting health across the life course**

By promoting health and well-being across the life-course, including reproductive and maternal health, and health for newborns, children, adolescents, and older people ; recognizing sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent continuum of care as a regional and governmental priority ; and reducing mortality and morbidity among the vulnerable groups and addressing the social determinants of health of the population through adoption of health in all policies.

### **Addressing health emergencies**

By developing a comprehensive and integrated preparedness plan, ensuring prompt response and well-planned recovery for people in emergencies ; improving humanitarian access to people in need of health care ; and strengthening capacities of health workers and experts for sustainable quality of care services during crisis.

### **Ensuring prevention and management of communicable and non-communicable diseases**

By adopting and implementing strategies for prevention and combating communicable diseases, securing immunization and vaccines, and addressing antimicrobial resistance through policies and surveillance systems.

By supporting countries in developing multisectoral noncommunicable diseases action strategies, prioritizing noncommunicable diseases plans to prevent and control the risk factors and to ensure healthy lifestyle along with developing a robust monitoring and evaluation system.

### **Empowering and motivating the health workforce**

By adopting an efficiently managed, adequately resourced and results driven WHO workforce in EMR ; focusing on training and equipping health workers ; ensuring transparency, accountability, and value for money ; and creating an enabling working environment, by strengthening and streamlining strategic communication as a core function.

## Approaches for driving health impact in countries

Six approaches will be used to enhance WHO's impact at regional and country level:

1. Leading and advocating for **people-centered and integrated** health service by recognizing the context specificities of countries health systems ; building on the lessons learned and offering a way forward for comprehensive health systems design ; placing people and communities at the center of health services ; planning in a way that makes health services more comprehensive and responsive, more integrated, and accessible to address the diverse range of health needs facing the population towards universal health coverage.
2. Enhancing **preparedness** for all hazards health emergencies by working with Member States and partners in strengthening and expanding systems to rapidly detect, investigate and assess potential threats to public health in the Region and to respond immediately and systematically to manage acute emergencies.
3. Strengthening **partnerships** and cooperation/coordination by involving multiple actors both within and beyond the health sector ; establishing strategic alliances at country and regional levels ; adopting functional alignment of health activities ; harmonizing the processes of the different services ; and addressing gaps through proactive health care coordination.
4. Mobilizing **resources** by improving the quality of funding with an increased predictability and flexibility ; streamline the management of funds through harmonized agreements with relevant actors ; diversifying and maintaining funding through regular and active engagement and policy alignment ; and adopting countries tailored and innovative funding approaches and mechanisms.
5. Creating an **enabling environment** by adopting strengthening of core and life skills, motivational measures, and transformational changes needed for the workforce in the region ; ensuring continuing communication using variant channels for better transparency and informed decision making.
6. Fostering **health innovation** by adopting evidence and data-based innovative approaches and solutions ; scaling up and sustaining innovations for impact ; building innovation knowledge and capacity and leveraging new ways and strengths of Member States and partners to accelerate impact in health and achievement of better health and wellbeing for all.

*The applicant Dr Anass Doukkali is confident to fit to the position of the Regional Director of the World Health Organization for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, given his previous function as Minister of Health, and high expertise in public and international health. He has contributed to several WHO initiatives to address inequitable health coverage, including for vulnerable groups, ensure the quality of health care services, target the underlying social determinants of health, and adopt the evidence-based policy development and program management at national and regional levels. Dr Doukkali has all the competencies, skills and experiences required to excel in the Regional Director position and to serve in the World Health Organization, using his expertise acquired throughout his professional career, as well as his political, leadership and managerial skills. Having worked in various projects, including territorial development, strategic planning, social security, education, training, youth policies, employment and labor market policies, health policies and governance of the health system, will allow him to be a good candidate to represent his country the Kingdom of Morocco in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.*