

Box 1 Actions to help advance guideline development/adaptation & implementation in the Region

Academic institutions

- Build capacity in clinical epidemiology.
- Develop and implement integrated health care services for identified people-centred problems.
- Develop governance mechanisms for carrying out randomized clinical trials and implementation of guidelines, including Institutional Review Boards and quality assurance mechanisms.
- Encourage/fund guideline development/implementation research, impact evaluation studies, marketing for policy-makers.
- Translate research-based evidence into practice and policy briefs supporting health policy-making, which aim at improving patient and population health outcomes.

Health care delivery institutions

- Raise awareness/advocate among health care providers and professionals, concerning the importance of adherence to clinical practice and public health guidelines.
- Ensure/enforce implementation of clinical practice guidelines at different levels of health care delivery.

WHO Regional Office

- Establish a regional guideline advisory committee in the Regional Office, with the following core functions:
 - Coordinating between stakeholders, including WHO collaborating centres and centres of excellence in evidence-based health care, to provide training and support;
 - Streamlining activities and sharing of resources and information in the Region;
 - Setting standards for regional guideline adaptation and implementation, in coordination with;
 - Conducting needs assessment, in the short term based on SDGs, regionally and nationally identified priorities, and universal health coverage;
 - Creating a regional clearinghouse for guidelines that meet minimum standards and are suitable for the Region;
 - Commissioning guidelines through standard WHO processes.
- Set priorities for guideline adaptation versus development, concentrating on health-related SDGs, universal health coverage.
- Identify Region-specific issues in line with the five strategic health priorities.
- Build capacity on guideline development and adaptation.
- Encourage WHO collaborating centre-based research.
- Adapt guidelines for diseases of regional/country public health importance (e.g. major noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory conditions, diabetes mellitus and prevailing cancers in the Region).
- Commission guideline development for Region-specific conditions; support countries in developing implementation guidelines (e.g. policy briefs) as well as clinical practice/public health guideline implementation.
- Map regional needs for national/institutional capacities for guideline adaptation or development.
- Encourage involvement of centres of excellence and assess currently available know-how within specialized centres in the Region.
- Compile a repository of regional guidelines.
- Facilitate networking among stakeholders and experts and collaboration with relevant bodies (e.g. GIN, IDF, AGREE, SIGN, NICE, HTAi), as needed.