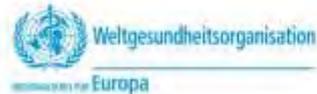


Diagnostic procedures and criteria in detecting occupational diseases in the light of universal health coverage with basic occupational health services

Dr Elizabet Paunovic, Head of WHO European Centre for Environment and Health

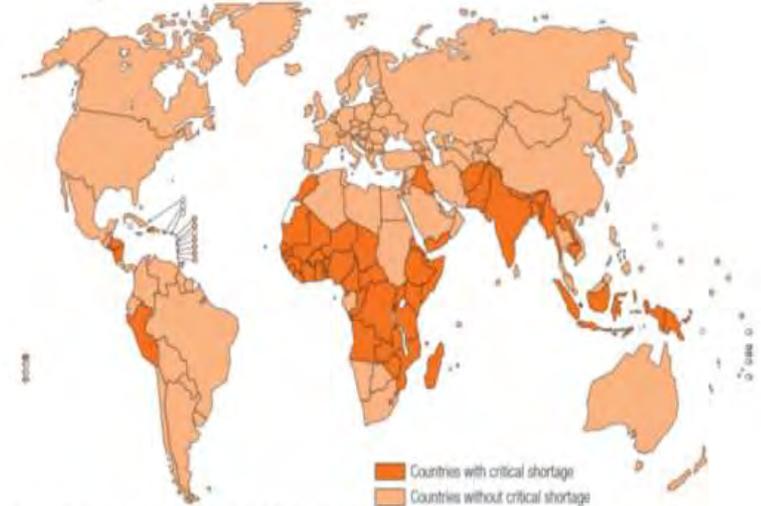


What is universal health coverage?

- *Ensuring that all people have access to needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services of sufficient quality to be effective,*
- *While also ensuring that people do not suffer financial hardship when paying for these services.*

xviii The World Health Report 2006

Figure 3 Countries with a critical shortage of health service providers (doctors, nurses and midwives)



Data source: World Health Organization, Global Atlas of the Health Workforce (<http://www.who.int/professionals/default.asp>)

‘Human health is a precondition for, and an outcome, and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development’





Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Targets	Indicators ¹	Public health interventions
3.4 by 2030 reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing	3.4.1 Mortality of cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitute occupational carcinogens • Dust control • Improve work organization • Prevent and manage stress • Workplace health promotion • Smoke free workplaces
3.8 achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	t.b.d.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacities of primary care to deliver essential interventions for workers' health • Scale up coverage with basic and specialized occupational health services • Provide health coverage to all workers, including in the informal sector
3.9 by 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to hazardous, chemicals, water and soil pollution and contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe management of chemicals at the workplace • Pesticide safety

Why should be workers covered by occupational health services?

All occupational diseases are preventable

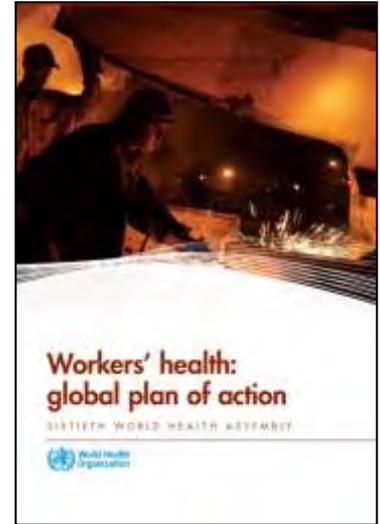


Strategic framework

- Occupational health is an essential part of public health and health systems development. Employment and working conditions are one of the major social determinants of health causing health inequalities.

Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health (WHA 60.26)

- The WHO [Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health 2008–2017](#) puts forth a comprehensive vision for safeguarding workers' health and safety.
- Almost 80% of Member States in the European Region have national policy frameworks on workers' health. Yet these efforts are failing to prevent relatively high levels of occupational health-related diseases and injuries.
- Unhealthy working conditions contribute to at least 1.6% of the burden of disease in the Region and cause economic losses totaling 4% of the regional gross domestic product.



Reference: International Labour Organization The Prevention of occupational Diseases, World day for safety and health at work 28 April 2013, http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---safework/documents/publication/wcms_208226.pdf

Objective 3: to improve the performance of and access to occupational health services

- **Coverage and quality of occupational health services:**
 - Linkage to national health strategies and health sector reforms
 - Standards for organization and coverage
 - Mechanisms for pooling resources and financing of the delivery
 - Sufficient and competent human resources
 - Quality assurance systems
- **Universal access to basic occupational health services**
- **Building core institutional capacities – national and local levels**



Universal health coverage as the basic human right

- To tackle health inequalities related to poor working conditions, WHO/Europe is promoting the Basic Occupational Health Services (BOHS) approach, which aims at the **universal coverage of all workers through preventive occupational health services**. The guiding principle is the Alma Ata Declaration

Situation in 53 WHO European Member States

- The coverage of workers with occupational services is higher than 30% in half of the Member States, but is lower than 30% in over a quarter of the Member States. The remaining 20% of Member States have no data about this coverage
- Reference: •WHO Global Plan of Action 2008-2017: Baseline for implementation, Global Country Survey 2008/2009
WHO, 2013, http://www.who.int/occupational_health/who_workers_health_web.pdf

As the result of the lack of availability and sometimes lack of quality of services in BOHS occupational diseases are underdiagnosed and underreported

Conclusion

- Adequate legal framework as the starting point
- Accessibility and affordability for all workers (agriculture, migrant, self employed, unemployed, partially employed, women, young workers...)
- Beyond the workplace
- All of society approach
- Health protection is not the subject to collective negotiations