

Technical Cooperation on Traditional and Complementary Medicine: Current Situation and 2023 Priorities

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Health Systems and Services Department,
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1. Where Are We?

Technical Cooperation on T&CM

- 27 country offices responded to request to report on technical cooperation (TC) on T&CM. Among those, **11 offices reported TC activities on T&CM**: Argentina (ARG), Bolivia (BOL), Brazil (BRA), Colombia (COL), Costa Rica (CRI), Cuba (CUB), Ecuador (ECU), Guatemala (GTM), Haiti (HTI), Panamá (PAN), Peru (PER).
- Among offices reporting no TC activities, at least two have had it in the past or the country has active initiatives: Chile (CHL), Venezuela (VEN).
- Among non-respondents, at least three have TC activities or the country has active initiatives: México (MEX), Nicaragua (NIC), Paraguay (PRY).
- The US government has active (and well funded) initiatives: NIH, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Defense, among others.
- Total countries with initiatives: 18



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1. Where Are We?

Frequently reported TC activities on T&CM

- ✓ Capacity strengthening of national health authorities
- ✓ Policy and national regulations development support
- ✓ Support knowledge dialog initiatives

- ✓ Technical support on T&CM integration and intercultural health services development
- ✓ Support intercultural health initiatives across programmatic areas (mental health, nutrition, childhood, maternal health, etc.)

- ✓ Support research initiatives, including documentation of traditional health practices
- ✓ Evidence synthesis development

- ✓ Education, information, and communication materials development
- ✓ Participation in the TCIM Americas Network
- ✓ Support for the organization of national events
- ✓ Support for participation in international events and exchanges

- ✓ Resource mobilization

1. Where Are We?

PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centres

- ✓ PER-10: Gerencia de Medicina Complementaria, EsSalud. Recently re-designated (active workplan implementation)
- ✓ USA-407: WHO Collaborating Centre for Herbal Medicines, College of Pharmacy, University of Illinois at Chicago (Responsibility of HQ)
- ❑ Ongoing designation process: National Center of Natural Products Research (NCNPR, University of Mississippi) –In final stages of revisions for approval. (Responsibility of HQ)



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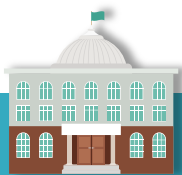


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Used by millions of people in every region of the world and the first/ preferred port of call for many. An intergenerational, sociocultural and natural environment knowledge resource for countries.



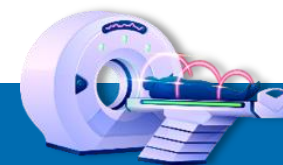
High-level political agreement on TM contribution to PHC and UHC (Astana, UHC HLM, national plans), but potential not fully realized. **170 Member States** reported to WHO on TM use and need for evidence, data, regulation.



Holistic, integrative approach to the health and wellbeing of people and the planet, including protecting biodiversity, equitable trade and sharing of benefits and sustainability.



Evolving **trillion-dollar industries** e.g. around 40% of conventional pharmaceutical products are based on natural products, also herbal medicines, natural beauty products, wellness centres, yoga studios, acupuncture therapies etc.



Heritage and future of medicine and science, ancient wisdom to medical texts, advances in science (e.g. RCTs, artificial intelligence, genomics, fMRI), and landmark R&D (e.g. aspirin, artemisinin, contraception, cancer treatments).

Global good supporting global collaboration

- First WHO global technical centre in a low-middle income country/ global south and first in the SEARO region
- India and China co-sponsor resolution at WHO EB 152 on the need for a new WHO traditional medicine global strategy
- Collaboration across regions on the first WHO Traditional Medicine Summit alongside the G20 in 2023, India presidency
- Traditional medicine Group of Friends Member States being convened starting, with the Global Summit, and also networks of collaborating centres and multistakeholder networks.

Highest level of host country commitment

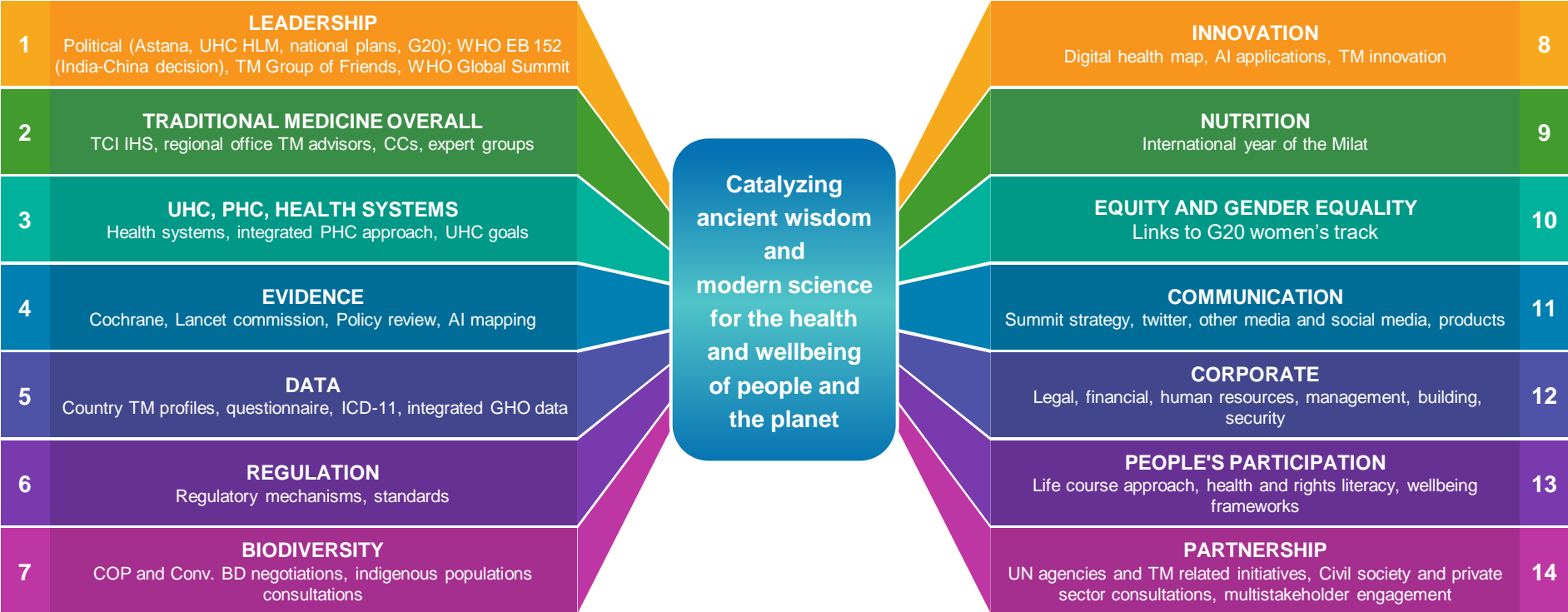
- WHO DG and PM Modi shared vision on Health for All.
- A global good on the occasion of WHO's 75th anniversary and India's 75th year of national independence celebration
- India invests US\$250 million for staff and operational costs with a 10-year commitment.
- *Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam*, the world is one family.



Workstreams: WHO Traditional Medicine Centre, India



Catalyzing ancient wisdom and modern science for the health and wellbeing of people and the planet



A scenic landscape featuring a stone path that leads from the foreground into a vast, green field. In the distance, a large, rounded hill rises against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The path is composed of several large, flat stones, and the surrounding vegetation is lush and green.

2. Where Are We Heading?

2023 Priorities: Technical Cooperation on T&CM

- ❑ Identify country offices' priorities; define regional approach
- ❑ Advance on a regional situation analysis
- ❑ Support the implementation of the Gujarat Declaration of the First WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit
- ❑ Support developing new T&CM Global Strategy (due in 2025)
- ❑ ¿Develop a PAHO governing bodies document on T&CM for 2025 (in alignment with the new WHO Global Strategy)?
- ❑ Technical Cooperation Tools Development (national policy gaps & response, mAEC module)
- ❑ Designate new PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers

Potential new PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers on T&CM:

- Observatorio Nacional de Saberes e Práticas Tradicionais, Integrativas e Complementares (ObservaPICS-FIOCRUZ, Brazil):
<https://observapics.fiocruz.br/>
- Brazilian Academic Consortium of Integrative Health (CABSIN, Brazil):
<https://cabsin.org.br/>
- The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Office of Patient-Centered Care & Cultural Transformation (OPCC&CT, USA):
<https://www.va.gov/wholehealth/>
- National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH-NIH, USA): <https://www.nccih.nih.gov/>
- RAND Center for Collaborative Research in Complementary and Integrative Health <https://www.rand.org/health-care/centers/cih.html>
- Hospital General Universitario Dr. Gustavo Aldereguia Lima, Cienfuegos, Cuba (Quality and T&CM)



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A Vision for T&CM's Role on the Primary Health Care



For many people, herbal medicine, traditional treatments, and traditional practitioners are the main sources of health care. Appropriate integration of evidence-based, safe and effective traditional medicine as part of primary care can lead to better health outcomes and economic advantages (74,75). Traditional medicine draws on and enhances societal knowledge of health preservation and management, supporting the vision of a knowledge-based healthy society equipped for self-care (76,77). In many countries, traditional medicine has been effectively integrated with allopathic interventions. Traditional medicine has been shown to be effective in areas such as NCD management, palliative care, rehabilitation, several neglected tropical diseases, mental health and the care of the elderly (78,79,80,81).