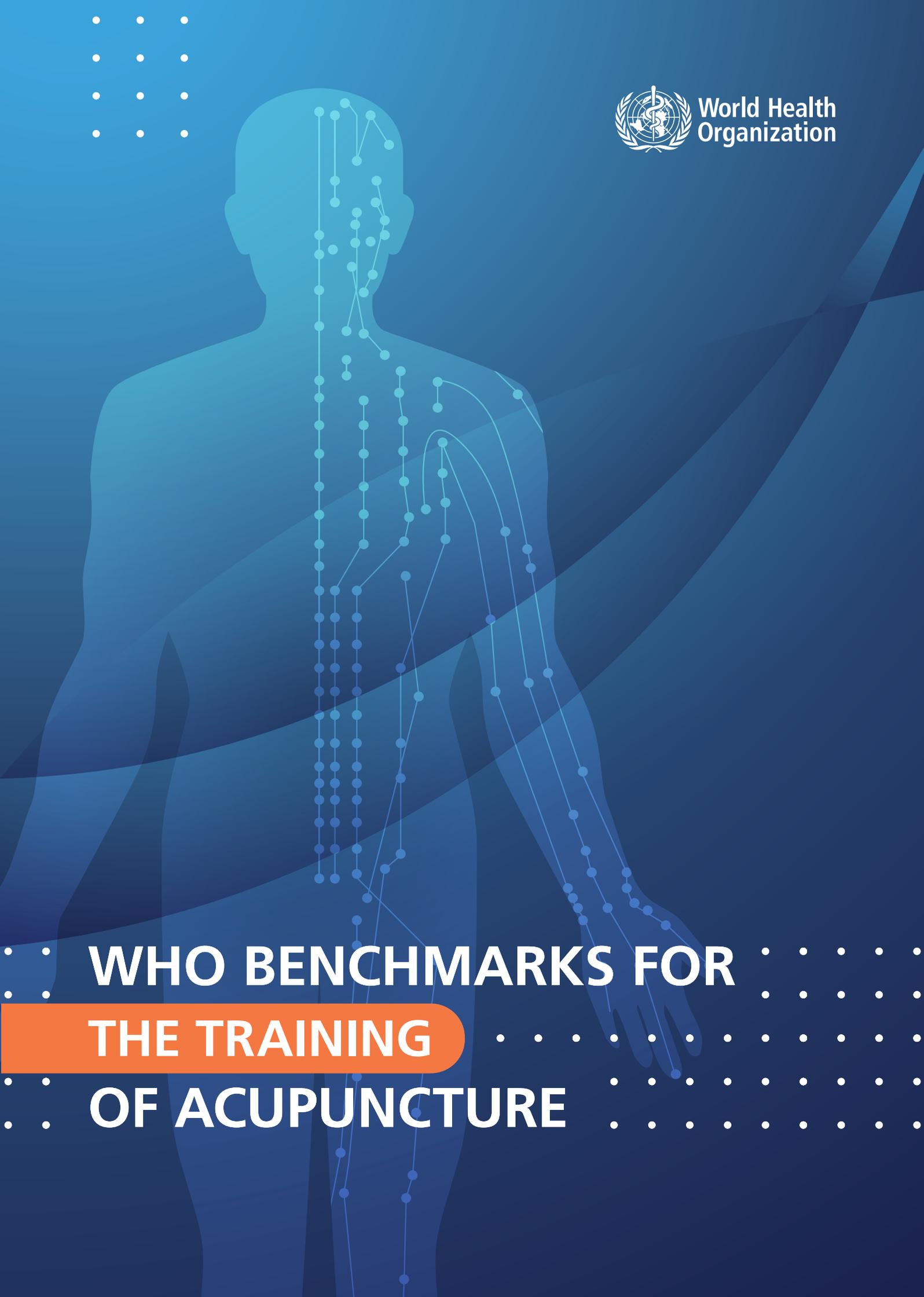




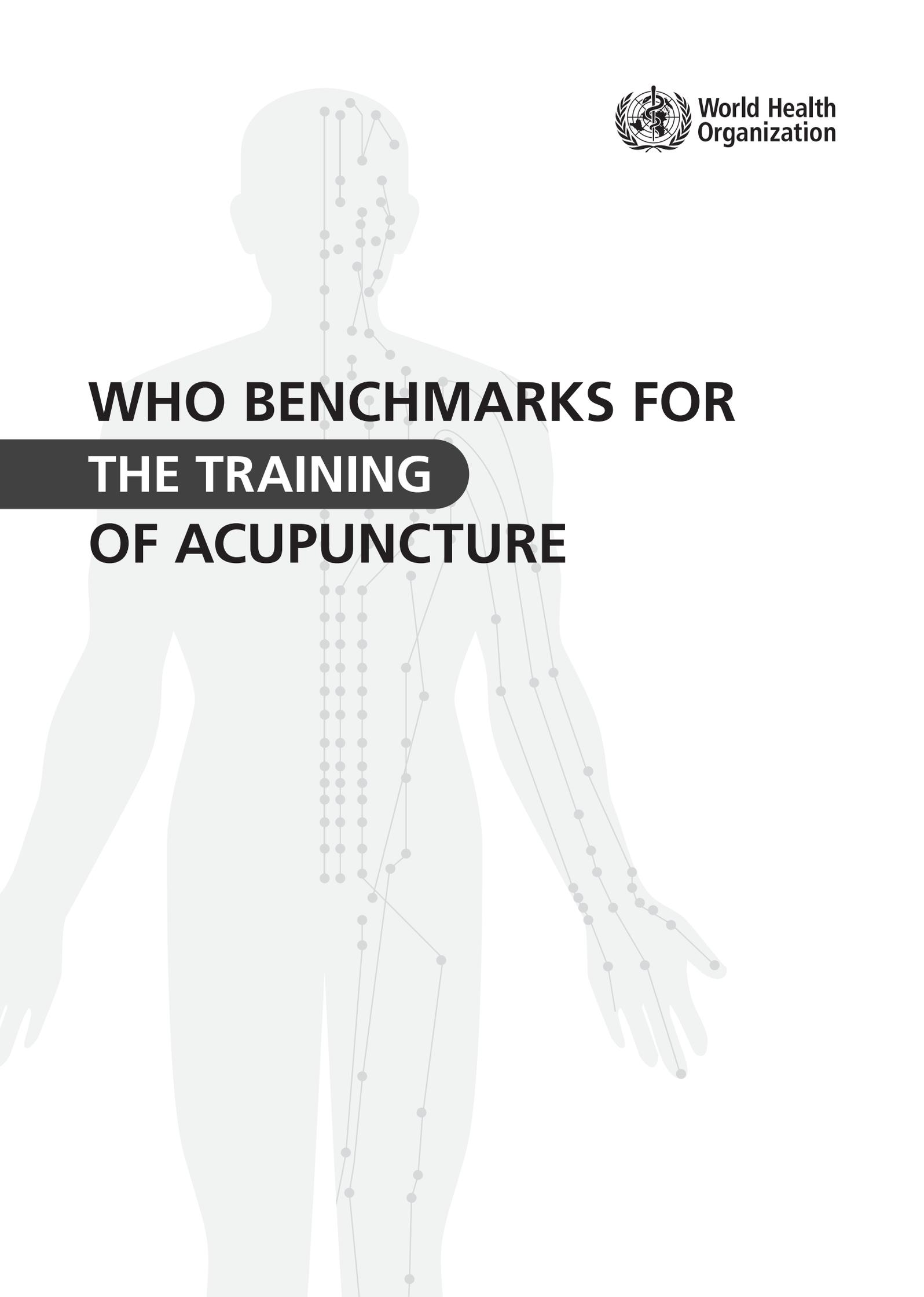
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A stylized illustration of a human silhouette in shades of blue. Overlaid on the silhouette is a network of white lines and dots representing acupuncture meridians and points. The lines flow from the head down to the hands and feet. In the top left corner, there is a 3x3 grid of white dots. In the bottom right corner, there is a grid of white dots with varying spacing.

**WHO BENCHMARKS FOR
THE TRAINING
OF ACUPUNCTURE**



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A light gray silhouette of a human figure from the back, with a network of thin lines and small gray dots representing acupuncture meridians and points overlaid on the body. The lines run vertically down the back and arms, and horizontally across the chest and hands.

WHO BENCHMARKS FOR THE TRAINING OF ACUPUNCTURE

WHO benchmarks for the training of acupuncture

ISBN 978-92-4-001796-2 (electronic version)

ISBN 978-92-4-001797-9 (print version)

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Suggested citation. WHO benchmarks for the training of acupuncture. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) data. CIP data are available at <http://apps.who.int/iris>.

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Design and layout by Inis Communication

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Foreword

The World Health Organization (WHO) is currently implementing its 13th General Programme of Work (GPW13) to support countries in reaching all health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). GPW13 is structured around three interconnected strategic priorities: achieving universal health coverage; addressing health emergencies; and promoting healthier populations. These strategic priorities are supported by three strategic shifts: stepping up leadership; driving public health impacts in every country; and focusing global public goods on impact.

Traditional medicine has always had a role in this collective endeavour. The Declaration of Astana, renewed from the Declaration of Alma-Ata towards universal health coverage and the SDGs, reaffirms the role of traditional medicine in strengthening primary health care, a cornerstone of health systems, in pursuit of health for all. This has also been reflected in the *WHO global report on traditional and complementary medicine 2019*, in which 88% of WHO Member States acknowledge the use of traditional and complementary medicine in health care.

Taking note of the growing importance of traditional medicine in the provision of health care nationally and globally, WHO and its Member States have strived to explore ways to integrate, as appropriate, safe and evidence-based traditional and complementary medicine services within national or subnational health systems, as committed to in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage.

WHO aims to provide policy and technical guidance to Member States; promote the safe and effective use of traditional and complementary medicine through appropriate regulation of products, practices and practitioners; and support Member States in harnessing the contribution of traditional and complementary medicine to people-centred health care in implementing the *WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014–2023*.

Setting norms and standards is a unique function of WHO. The normative work is driven by needs and could be translated into real impact in relevant countries through appropriate policy options. This series of benchmarks, covering various systems and interventions of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine, aims to provide a reference point to which actual practice and practitioners can be evaluated.

I am very pleased to introduce this series to policy-makers, health workers and the general public, and I firmly believe it will serve its purpose.



Zsuzsanna Jakab
Deputy Director-General
World Health Organization

Preface

Integrated health services are essential for the World Health Organization (WHO) in the implementation of its 13th General Programme of Work, which aims to support countries in achieving universal health coverage and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. The overarching mission for the Department of Integrated Health Services is to accelerate equitable access to quality health services that are integrated and people-centred, and that can be monitored and evaluated.

WHO is unique in its mandate to provide independent normative guidance. Its normative products encompass a wide range of global public health goods, including norms and standards. It is therefore the primary role of the Department of Integrated Health Services to generate and produce relevant global goods. Key to improving its work in this area is ensuring global public health goods are driven by country needs and can deliver tangible impacts at the country level.

As of 2018, when 88% of WHO Member States acknowledged the use of traditional and complementary medicine, WHO's support in evaluating the safety, quality and effectiveness of traditional and complementary medicine has continuously ranked in the top areas of need, according to the *WHO global report on traditional and complementary medicine 2019*.

WHO prioritizes normative products based on an assessment of demands. To address increasing needs and to drive impact in countries, this series of benchmarks captures the main systems and interventions of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine by setting up required norms and standards on training and practice.

WHO's guiding principles and quality assurance procedures have been strictly followed in designing and formulating these benchmarks. WHO will not only assess the quality of these normative products but also streamline systems and plans for monitoring and evaluation.

I am pleased to present this series of benchmarks and invite you to join us in measuring and documenting their impact.



Edward Kelley

Director
Department of Integrated Health Services
World Health Organization

Acknowledgements

The World Health Organization (WHO) acknowledges the technical support of the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China, without which the production of this document would not have been possible.

Thanks are due to the China Association of Acupuncture-Moxibustion and Hubei University of Chinese Medicine, China, which kindly provided logistic support to the WHO working group meeting on this document.

Special thanks go to Baoyan Liu, Hua Wang, Fengxia Liang and Nicola Robinson, who have actively and diligently contributed to the drafting and editing of this document. WHO is indebted to all experts who have provided their inputs to the WHO working group meeting and the peer review process.

Qi Zhang and Qin Liu undertook revision work under the guidance of Edward Kelley. Colleagues within the WHO headquarters team for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine provided secretarial support.

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