

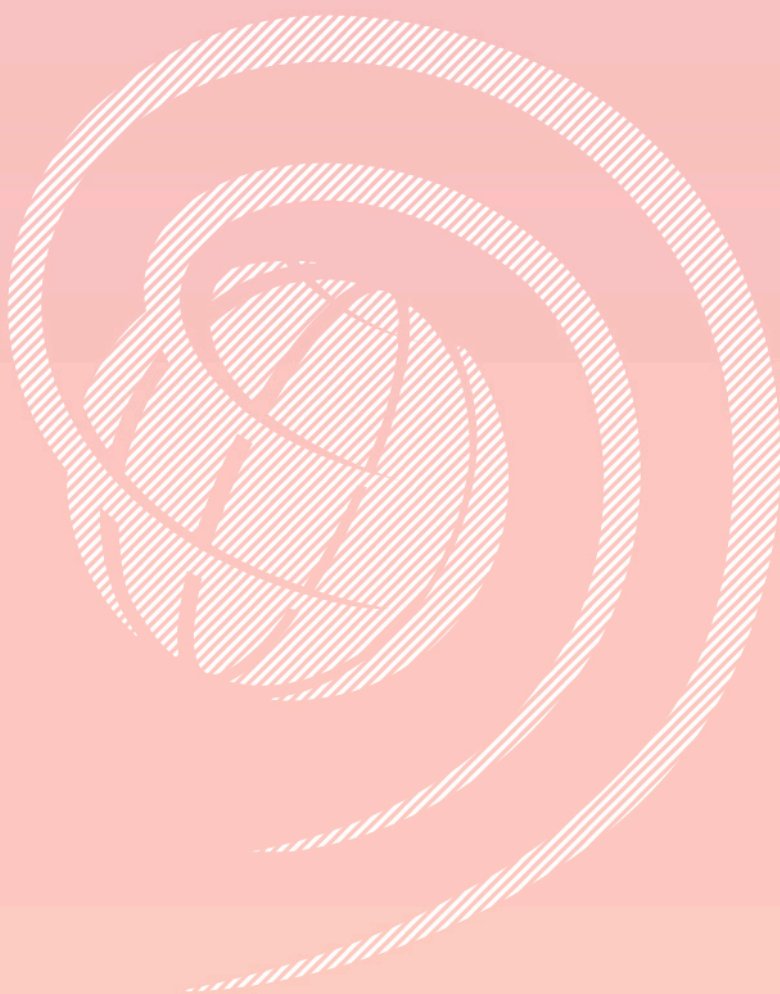


EAR AND HEARING CARE

INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROVISION OF SERVICES



**World Health
Organization**



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Ear and hearing care: indicators for monitoring provision of services.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Globally, the prevalence of hearing loss is rising.¹ More than 5% of the world's people now experience disabling hearing loss² – the majority of whom live in low- and middle-income countries where they lack access to the services required to address hearing loss. Unaddressed hearing loss has a huge impact on all aspects of life including health, cognition, communication, education, livelihood and social engagements. In light of this, World Health Assembly resolution WHA 70.13 on hearing loss³ calls upon Member States to integrate strategies for ear and hearing care into their health systems and tasks the World Health Organization (WHO) with developing a comprehensive toolkit that provides the required comprehensive technical support to Member States for integration of ear and hearing care into health systems.

Around the world, data and services related to hearing loss prevention, care and rehabilitation are lacking. World Health Assembly resolution WHA 70.13 highlighted this issue and called upon Member States to integrate national strategies for ear and hearing care (EHC) into health systems frameworks. To support such integration, WHO is developing a complete toolkit of comprehensive technical support for Member States to help them integrate ear and hearing care into health systems. As part of this toolkit, WHO has developed a series of technical documents for the planning, implementation and monitoring of national strategies for EHC, including a set of core and supplementary indicators (set out in this document) that can be used by countries to assess and track their EHC status. This document is designed for use by national or subnational programme coordinators or managers, public health planners, researchers, funding agencies or other interested bodies to monitor the implementation of EHC interventions.

The document contains the following sections.

Health system indicators

This document provides six sets of indicators, each tailored to one of WHO's six health system blocks to enable their integration within the country's health system framework. The six building blocks are leadership and governance, service delivery, health workforce, medical products and health technology, health financing and health information. Each section refers to one health system block and provides the relevant core and supplementary indicators. **Core indicators** are those considered essential and should be integrated into the health information system and collected through countries' monitoring frameworks. **Supplementary indicators** should be included as and when they are relevant to the country and its activities in the field of ear and hearing care.

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