

**WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ**

**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL**

**FOURTH BIENNIAL MEETING ON REGIONAL PROGRESS IN
EARLY ESSENTIAL NEWBORN CARE IMPLEMENTATION:
ENSURING INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY
OF EENC THROUGH PRE-SERVICE EDUCATION AND
ROUTINE MONITORING OF QUALITY OF CARE**

**WPR/DHS/MCQ(02)/2024/IB/1
Information Bulletin 1
22 October 2024**

**Manila, Philippines/Hybrid
13–15 November 2024**

ENGLISH ONLY

GENERAL INFORMATION

This is the first of a series of information bulletins that will be issued between now and the opening of the meeting.

1. Background information

The *Action Plan for Healthy Newborn Infants in the Western Pacific Region (2014–2020)* (with set targets extended up to 2030) – jointly endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) – aims to reach unreached mothers and babies using health systems approaches to improve their quality of care. Since 2013, nine priority countries in the Western Pacific Region with the highest burden of neonatal mortality have received intensive support from WHO to implement the Action Plan. In the past, the priority countries reported data on progress every two years, which were validated and then used at the first (2015), second (2017) and third (2020) biennial meetings on accelerating progress in Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC). After a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic, seven countries reported data on the progress of the EENC implementation in 2023, and the reported data were validated by the Independent Review Group on Validation of Early Essential Newborn Care Progress to be presented at the proposed fourth biennial meeting on both country and regional progress of EENC implementation.

It is crucial to review the progress achieved, the challenges faced and the lessons learnt in implementing EENC after the pandemic. The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific has been supporting countries in strengthening health facility quality and routine monitoring of the quality of maternal and newborn care. Therefore, the proposed focus of this biennial meeting will be on the institutionalization and sustainability of EENC through pre-service education, and strengthening the country-driven EENC Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework. Representatives from ministries responsible for maternal and child health, health facility quality and M&E will be brought together to discuss optimal, country-driven strategies for ensuring the institutionalization and sustainability of EENC

through pre-service education, and routine monitoring of quality of care, improvement measures and innovative partnerships.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are:

- (1) to share results, analyze data, discuss progress and identify challenges in implementing EENC in nine priority countries and in the Western Pacific Region;
- (2) to draft country road maps for institutionalizing and sustaining EENC scale-up with an emphasis on strengthening pre-service education and country-driven routine monitoring of quality of care; and
- (3) to deliberate on the draft *Fourth Biennial Progress Report (2022–2023)* on the *Action Plan for Healthy Newborn Infants in the Western Pacific Region*.

3. Dates and site

The meeting will be held from 13 to 15 November 2024 in Manila, Philippines as a hybrid meeting.

The meeting will run from 08:30 (Manila time) to 17:15 (Manila time), with 30-minute breaks during each period.

For those attending virtually, please use the Zoom link: <https://who.zoom.us/j/92638860349> and enter the password WHO@1234 when prompted. Once connected, you will be temporarily placed in the waiting room for additional security purposes. Further, we suggest you join early, at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting, to allow for resolution of possible technical issues.

4. Language

English only

5. Participants and Temporary Advisers

Participants are directors or senior managers of maternal and child health departments or national centres for maternal and child health, focal points for newborn health, and managers or senior technical staff responsible for pre-service education and curricula.

Temporary advisers are members of the Independent Review Group on Validation of Early Essential Newborn Care Progress to support the countries in implementing the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of EENC implementation.

6. Hotel accommodation (for those attending in-person)

In-person attendees will be accommodated at the:

Lyf Malate Manila
Malvar corner Vasquez Streets
Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 7793 9593
Email address: enquiry.philippines@the-ascott.com

WHO will pay the hotel directly for the accommodation with breakfast of WHO-funded participants and temporary advisers for the duration of their official stay in Manila.

Observers are responsible for their hotel accommodation.

WHO will also provide lunch and snacks for the duration of the meeting.

7. Travel arrangements (for WHO-funded participants and Temporary Advisers)

Economy class or excursion air tickets, if applicable, will be delivered by Adventure International Tours Inc. (AITI) authorized travel agent of WHO for participants and temporary advisers whose travel are funded by WHO. This Office normally arranges the itineraries of the participants and temporary advisers and should there be any deviation in travel arrangements, the participants and temporary advisers will bear the additional costs. Once tickets are issued and details of your arrival are known, please contact Ms Judith Cheng, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, fax no. (632) 8521 1036, email: jcheng@who.int and wpromca@who.int, regarding the date of arrival including flight particulars. This will enable participants to be met at the airport.

If for some reasons participants are not met, they are requested to proceed to the International Organizations Desk after the Customs Area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminals 1 and 3. For assistance at NAIA Terminal 2, there is a Public Information Counter located at the arrival lobby after the Immigration and Customs area. Participants may request the attendant for assistance to get coupon taxi service to transport them safely to the hotel.

All subsequent travel arrangements and reconfirmation of return air bookings will be handled by the WHO official travel agent, Adventure International Tours Inc., WHO Building, Ermita, Manila, telephone nos. (632) 8528 9669 or (632) 8528 8001.

8. Visa

All travellers attending in person are responsible for having in their possession a passport valid at least six months from arrival date in the Philippines and valid return tickets to the original port of origin or next port of destination for not more than 30 days from the date of arrival in the Philippines.

A list of nationalities allowed entry visa free or visa on arrival can be found at: <https://dfa.gov.ph/list-of-countries-for-21-day-visa>.

Citizens of China should apply to the diplomatic representation of the Philippines abroad for a visa.

Other participants are permitted to stay in the Philippines for 30 days without a visa provided they are holding onward/return air tickets.

For health-related travel requirements:

- Filipino and foreign travellers to the Philippines are required to complete an eTravel registration (<https://etravel.gov.ph>) within 72 hours prior to arrival or departure from the Philippines.

9. Insurance (for all attendees travelling to Manila to attend the meeting in person)

WHO does not provide insurance coverage for participants, representatives/observers, or their belongings. They are expected to make their arrangements for accident, illness and luggage insurance if so desired.

Temporary advisers will be covered by accident insurance throughout the period of their attendance and during authorized travel time.

10. Daily allowance, currency and rate of exchange

WHO funded- participants and temporary advisers will be paid a reduced daily subsistence allowance based on the per diem rate in Manila at the time of the meeting which is currently USD 315. The cost covered by WHO for accommodation, breakfast and lunch will be deducted from the per diem.

Temporary advisers and participants residing within commuting distance of the meeting venue, and representatives/observers, do not receive per diem.

The monetary unit in the Philippines is the Philippine peso. The exchange rate is currently PHP 57.20 to USD 1.00 (subject to change).

11. Airport tax

No airport tax is levied on passengers upon embarkation at the airport.

12. Documents for the meeting

To promote the green initiative, the meeting will be paperless and all documents before, during and after the meeting will be uploaded to the Indico meeting site:

<https://indico.un.org/e/4thEENC>

13. Contact information

All correspondence to the meeting Secretariat should be addressed to:

For technical matters: Dr Shogo Kubota Coordinator, Maternal Child Health and Quality Safety Division of Health Systems and Services WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific United Nations Avenue 1000 <u>Manila</u> , Philippines Tel: (+632) 8528 9097 Fax: (+632) 8521 1036 Email: kubotas@who.int	For administrative matters: Ms Judith Amor Cheng Team Associate, Maternal Child Health and Quality Safety Division of Health Systems and Services WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific United Nations Avenue 1000 <u>Manila</u> , Philippines Tel: (+632) 8528 9097 Fax: (+632) 8521 1036 Email: jcheng@who.int
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14. Other useful information

14.1 Banking facilities

Banks are usually open to the public from 09:30 to 15:00, Mondays to Thursdays and 09:30 to 16:00 on Fridays.

Foreign exchange counters are available at the arrival areas of the airport:

Terminal 1 (08:30-01:00)

Terminal 2 (03:00-24:00)

Terminal 3 (08:00-19:00)

Please always bring your passport to avail of foreign exchange service.

14.2 Climate

The average temperature ranges from 26°C to 32°C. Business suits are generally worn during meetings or on formal occasions.

14.3 Postal, email and fax no.

Participants may use the following address for personal mail for the duration of the consultation:

[name of participant]

[attending the Fourth Biennial Meeting on Regional Progress in Early Essential Newborn Care Implementation: Ensuring Institutionalization and Sustainability of EENC through Pre-service Education and Routine Monitoring of Quality of Care]

c/o Dr Shogo Kubota
Coordinator
Maternal Child Health and Quality Safety
Division of Health Systems and Services
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
Tel. No.: (632) 8528 9097
Fax No.: (632) 8521 1036
Email: kubotas@who.int

14.4 WHO's no smoking policy

WHO has a policy of no smoking for all WHO meetings and associated functions.

14.5 WHO's alcohol-free policy

WHO prohibits the offering of alcoholic beverages at events organized and co-organized by the Regional and country offices.

14.6 WHO's policy on prevention of sexual misconduct and harassment

WHO has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of harassment and sexual misconduct at any WHO event or WHO premises. The Organization is committed to enabling events in which everyone can participate in an inclusive, respectful and safe environment. All participants are expected to behave with integrity and respect towards each other and

everyone involved in this event. If a participant has a concern, please speak to Dr Kubota or Ms Cheng of the organizing committee. Reports or complaints can also be made to the WHO Office of Internal Oversight Services at investigation@who.int. WHO also has a zero-tolerance policy for inaction in these cases, so all concerns will be handled conscientiously and confidentially.

For more information, please scan the QR code.



14.7 Photography consent

By attending this meeting, you give your consent to the following statement regarding the WHO policy on photography for consultation participants.

"I acknowledge that WHO and/or its representatives may take photographs and/or video footage of all or part of the event in which participants may be depicted. I agree that WHO may reproduce any of these photographs and/or video footage on any of its websites and/or other materials or authorized third parties to do the same."

If you *request* that your image not be used, please inform us by email as soon as possible. Otherwise, your consent is considered granted.