

Table of contents

In addition to the chapters themselves, some chapters will have annexes which will contain additional data and materials relevant to the chapter that the authors wish to make available.

Chapters

- [Introduction](#)
- Global health trends: global burden of disease and pharmaceutical needs
- Pharmaceutical consumption **Expected June 2011**
- Medicine expenditures **Expected June 2011**
- Financing medicines
- [Medicines prices, availability and affordability pdf. 657 kb](#) **Released April 2011**
- Access to medicines at the household level (access to health care and medicines: burden of expenditures and risk protection)
- Research and development of medicines
- Intellectual property, trade and medicines
- Regulation of medicines
- Quality of medicines: the challenge of globalization
- Pharmacovigilance & safety of medicines **Expected June 2011**
- Selection of essential medicines **Expected June 2011**
- [Rational use of medicines pdf. 245 kb -- Annexes](#) **Released April 2011**
- Medicines Information and regulation of promotion
- Procurement of medicines **Expected June 2011**
- Storage and supply chain management of medicines
- [Traditional medicines: global situation, issues and challenges pdf. 180 kb](#) **Released April 2011**
- [Access to controlled medicines pdf. 262 kb](#) **Released April 2011**
- [Good governance of pharmaceutical Sector pdf. 221 kb](#) **Released April 2011**
- Human resources in pharmaceuticals
- Access to medicines as part of the right to health **Expected June 2011**
- National medicines policy
- Conclusion

Introduction

Medicines play a major role in protecting, maintaining and restoring people's health. The provision of appropriate medicines of assured quality, in adequate quantities and at reasonable prices is therefore a concern of global and national policy makers and agencies implementing health activities and programmes.

Since 1975, achievements have been made in improving access to essential medicines. Special attention was given to developing countries where problems in ensuring equitable access to quality assured medicines and promoting rational use have persisted despite

efforts by governments, development agencies and WHO. Reforms in the health sector financing, globalizations and periods of economic recessions have impacted on securing access to essential medicines.

In 1988 and again in 2004, the World Health Organization published reports on the World Medicines Situation. The first report was brief and described the beginning of the Essential Medicines movement. In 2004, a more comprehensive report was issued which contained nine chapters that reviewed all aspects of medicines in both developed and developing countries.

In 2009, the decision was made to produce a third edition of the World Medicines Situation Report. Current efforts to document and improve sharing of information have paved the way to accessing information that was not possible a decade ago, such as disaggregated data on pharmaceutical expenditures, consumption, drug prices and insights on policies and impacts on improving access to medicines. The aim of this publication is to gather relevant information comprehensively in a single site and publication.

This report contains 24 chapters each written by different authors. The chapters cover topics related to production and consumption, innovation, regulation and safety. There are chapters about selection, procurement, supply management, rational use, financing and pricing. There are cross cutting chapters related to household medicines use, access and human rights, good governance, human resources and national medicines policies.

The process for producing these chapters involved identifying lead authors who frequently created teams to work with them. After a first draft was produced, there was an extensive review process involving members of the WHO Expert panel, WHO country staff, academics and staff of NGO's who work on essential medicines issues.

The 2011 report contains a collection of a wide range of data and information is initially being published electronically. However it will eventually be published in print. Different chapter in this series are summarised below identifying which chapters are already available.