

Agenda: WHO technical consultation on “Rural Proofing for Health Equity”

12-13 February 2025

Limerick, Ireland

Co-organized by WHO and University of Limerick, in collaboration with the Government of Ireland

DAY 1 – Wednesday, 12 February 2025	
Time	Session
08:30	Registration
08:55	Opening statements by the organizers and hosts - WHO, the Limerick University, Government of Ireland - <u>Theadora Swift Koller</u>, Senior Technical Lead/Unit Head, Health Equity/GRE-Director General’s Office, World Health Organization Headquarters - <u>Colum Dunne</u>, Head of School, Foundation Chair and Director of Research, School of Medicine, University of Limerick - <u>Sinéad Quinn</u>, Assistant Principal Officer in the Rural Strategy Unit, which holds responsibility for Ireland’s national rural policy “Our Rural Future”, Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Gaeltacht, Government of Ireland Greeting by the Day 1 Chair: <u>Derek Sutdan</u>, Director, Division of Strategy and Planning, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
09:15	Roundtable of introductions
09:35	Overview of the workshop and background/work to date: <u>Theadora Swift Koller</u> , Senior Technical Lead/Unit Head, Health Equity/GRE-Director General’s Office, World Health Organization Headquarters
09:50	Case study panel – Part I: Rural proofing through including a rural focus within a national health plan or having a dedicated rural health strategy - New Zealand: <u>Nicky Welch</u>, System Design Manager, Rural Communities, National Rural Health team, Health New Zealand; <u>Helen Connoole</u>, Clinical Chief Advisor Rural, Ministry of Health; and (recording) <u>Jenni Vernon</u>, Principal Policy Adviser, Office for Rural Communities Ministry for Primary Industries (New Zealand) - Kyrgyzstan: <u>Talant Sooronbaev</u>, Director of National Centre of Cardiology and Internal Medicine Q&A/Discussion
10:25	Coffee/tea
10:40	Case study panel – Part II: Rural proofing health sector budgeting and financing approaches - South Africa: <u>Russell Rensburg</u>, Director, Rural Health Advocacy Project

	- Thailand: <u>Sawatchai Nawakittrangsarn</u>, Director, and <u>Pratchaya Manop</u>, Deputy Director, Division of Health Economics and Health Security, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand Q&A/Discussion
11:20	Case study panel – Part III: Rural health commissioner functions and rural proofing toolkits - Australia: <u>Jenny May</u>, National Rural Health Commissioner, Government of Australia (online) - United Kingdom: <u>Brian Wilson</u>, Director, Rural England CIC Q&A/Discussion
11:55	Case study panel – Part IV: Using data and evidence for rural proofing for health equity - Chile: <u>Ximena Barros</u>, Advisor, Ministry of Health, Government of Chile - Insights from the World Organization of Family Doctors working group for rural practice (Rural WONCA) on ensuring that rural areas are adequately covered by national health plans – <u>Bruce Chater</u>, Chair Rural WONCA Commentators: experts in rural health data analysis and research Q&A/Discussion
12:50	Lunch
13:30	Panel on work by partners on rural proofing approaches: - European Commission: Rural proofing advancements - o <u>Marina Royo de Blas</u>, Long Term Vision for Rural Areas (DG-AGRI) - o <u>Yianis Koutsikidis</u>, Policy Officer, European Commission, Secretariat-General – Evaluation & Impact Assessment - OECD: WHO-commissioned report on rural proofing in general, and implications for the health sector – <u>Betty-Ann Bryce</u>, Rural Policy Coordinator, OECD Q&A/Discussion
14:20	Working groups on rural proofing and rural health equity governance approaches, exploring the role of: - Legislation and/or policy mandates on rural proofing - National strategies and plans dedicated to rural health - Organizational bodies/committees for rural health - Commissioner/Ambassador functions for rural health - Focal person networks for rural proofing - Tools/guidelines for rural proofing - Health/territorial impact assessments

	- Ex-ante and post programmatic evaluation and simulations in planning Introduction to exercise – <u>Theadora Swift Koller</u>, WHO
15:00	Reportback from working groups in plenary, focusing on implications for the WHO Technical Product on rural proofing for health equity
15:30	Presentation of the WHO online course on Rural Health Equity in the context of Integrated Rural Development Planning – <u>Ian Couper</u>, Director of the Division of Rural Health (Ukwanda), Stellenbosch University Q&A/Discussion
15:50	Coffee/tea
16:05	“Irish context” roundtable Moderator: Roger O’Sullivan - <u>Roger O’Sullivan</u>, Director, Ageing Research and Development Division, Institute of Public Health – the context and history of rural proofing for health equity in Ireland - <u>Sectoral inputs</u>: (5 minutes each) - o <u>Colin O’Hehir</u>, Head of Physical Activity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals Unit, Department of Health – Overview, challenges and opportunities for Irish Rural Health delivery nationally, and existing rural proofing approaches - o <u>Margaret Costello</u>, HSE Primary Care Lead MidWest – Regional perspectives on rural proofing for health equity - o <u>Liam Glynn</u>, Professor of General Practice, University of Limerick: Chair ICGP National Rural General Practice Standing Committee – Lessons in rural proofing the health workforce Q&A
17:00	Wrap-up of Day 1 and description of tour of the University of Limerick campus - Peter Hayes and Monica Casey, University of Limerick
17:20-18:30	Tour of the University of Limerick campus <i>*Logistics note: meet outside – past the reception entrance – to take “Kelly’s Bus”</i>
18:30	Dinner in the East Room, Plassey House, University of Limerick
Day 2 – Thursday, 13 February 2025	
Time	Session
09:00	Recap of Day 1 and overview of Day 2 - <u>Liam Glynn</u>, Professor of General Practice, University of Limerick: Chair ICGP National Rural General Practice Standing Committee

09:10	Greeting by the Day 2 Chair: <u>Christopher Jefferson Estes</u>, Co-Executive Director, Aspen Institute - Community Strategies Group, introducing considerations for framing rural proofing in relation to social and environmental determinants of health Q&A/Discussion
09:40	Panel on approaches to cross-sectoral action, social participation/community engagement, and multi-stakeholder (including health worker involvement) for bottom-up approaches to rural proofing for health equity - Egypt: Cross-sectoral action for health in the Haya Karima initiative - <u>Abla El-Alfy</u>, Deputy Minister of Health and Population (online) - Italy: Role of Riabitare L'Italia and wider social participation mechanisms in the health component of Italy's Inners Areas Strategies – <u>Marco Leonetti</u>, Riabitare L'Italia Q&A/Discussion
10:30	Coffee/Tea
10:45	Continuum of care and patient pathway experience exercises, and why both health systems strengthening and intersectoral action is needed in rural proofing for these conditions: - Hypertension - Road traffic injury - Pre-eclampsia Introduction to exercise – <u>Veronika Rasic</u>, WHO Consultant (online)
11:30	Reportback by rapporteurs and discussion
12:00	Lunch
12:45	Panel on climate resilience and rural proofing for health equity - Ireland: Incorporating rural health equity considerations in climate adaptation action development – <u>Colin O'Hehir</u>, Head of Climate Unit, Department of Health, Government of Ireland - Kyrgyzstan: Reflections on climate change, mountains and health equity in the Kyrgyzstan context and the "Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions": <u>Dinara Kemelova</u>, Special Representative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on mountain regions development - Video on Health in the Mountains in Kyrgyzstan - How can rural proofing for health equity address climate change and environmental determinants? <u>Mark Gussy</u>, Director, Lincoln Institute for Rural and Coastal Health (LIRCH) Q&A/Discussion
14:00	Panel on agriculture as a key sector in rural proofing for health equity

	- Presentation of research done in partnership with WHO on: “The Health Equity and Agriculture nexus” – <u>Francis Zana Naab</u>, Research Fellow, Scotland’s Rural College - Good public food purchasing and how this is relevant to rural proofing for health – <u>Alexandra Payne</u>, Program Officer, Food, Rockefeller Foundation (online) and <u>Rodger Cooley</u>, Executive Director, Chicago Food Policy Action Council (CFPAC) Q&A/Discussion
14:50	Unlocking investment in rural development and rural proofing for health for thriving, resilient societies - <u>Yannish Naik</u>, Technical Officer, Economy of Well-being, WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development (WHO EURO) (online) Q&A/Discussion
15:20	Roundtable: Additional regional perspectives on priorities in rural proofing for health equity, as part of a wider approach to tackling social-spatial inequities in the region - Africa: <u>Taiwo Oyelade</u>, GRE Lead, WHO AFRO (online) - Eastern Mediterranean: <u>Jamal Nasher</u>, GRE & SDGs Coordinator, WHO EMRO (online) Q&A/Discussion
15:50	Coffee/tea
16:10	Roundtable: Additional regional perspectives (continued) - South-East Asia: <u>Anju Pandey</u>, Ag. Technical Officer, GER, and Regional Advisor, PRS, WHO SEARO (online) - Western Pacific: <u>Joana Lima Madureira</u>, GRE & SDH Coordinator, WHO WPRO (online) Q&A/Discussion
16:40	Rapporteur: wrap of meeting deliberations - <u>Liam Glynn</u>, Professor of General Practice, University of Limerick: Chair ICGP National Rural General Practice Standing Committee
16:50	Official close of the meeting – closing address by the Government of Ireland and WHO - <u>Colin O’Hehir</u>, Health & Wellbeing Unit, Department of Health, Ireland - <u>Theadora Swift Koller</u>, Senior Technical Lead/Unit Head, Health Equity/GRE-Director General’s Office
18:30	Dinner in McLaughlin’s Restaurant, Castletroy Park Hotel