

CURRICULUM VITAE:

Dr Shambhu Acharya

*Candidate for Regional Director of the World Health Organization (WHO)
Regional Office for South-East Asia*

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Family name (surname): Acharya	
First / other names: Shambhu Prasad	
Gender: Male	
Place and country of birth: Palpa, Nepal	Date of birth (Day/Month/Year): 04/06/1958
Citizenship: Nepalese	
If you have ever been found guilty of the violation of any law (except minor traffic violations) give full particulars: N/A	
Civil Status: Married	Number of dependents: 1
Address to which correspondence should be sent: 41 Aswini Marg Bashundhara Kathmandu - 3 Nepal	Mobile phone: +9779851334168 Email: acharyashambhu58@gmail.com

II. DEGREES OBTAINED

Degree obtained	Issuing Institution
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Public Health Major area: Health Policy and Financing	Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA (1995)
Master of Arts (MA), Sociology Major area: Social Policy	Ball State University, Indiana, USA (1989)
Master of Business Administration (MBA) Major area: Public Finance and Strategic Management	Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, India (1981)
Bachelor of Business Administration and Commerce (BBAC) Major area: Strategic Management and Public Finance	Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal (1978)

III. KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES

		Mother Tongue	Speak	Read	Write
For language other than mother tongue, enter the appropriate number from the code below to indicate the level of your language knowledge. If no knowledge, please leave blank. CODE: 1. Limited conversation, reading of newspapers, routine correspondences 2. Engage freely in discussions, read, and write more difficult material 3. Fluent (nearly) as in mother tongue	Arabic				
	Chinese				
	English		3	3	3
	French		1	1	1
	Spanish				
	Russian				
	Others (please specify):				
	Nepali	Yes	3	3	3
	Hindi		2	2	2
	Bengali		1	1	1

IV. POSITIONS HELD

Please indicate here the positions and work experience held during your professional career, with the corresponding dates, duties, achievements/accomplishments, and responsibilities. Additional pages may be added.

Global and Regional Experience

Director, Country Strategy and Support, Office of the Director-General, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland (2013 – Present)

I provide strategic direction and vision across a multidisciplinary programme of work within the department at WHO headquarters, bringing cohesion to the Organization's global health policies and organizational needs across its three levels to achieve results and impact in countries. I oversee 152 country offices and work across all pillars at headquarters and provide high-level advice and guidance to the Director-General and senior management. Key achievement(s):

- ***Provision of country intelligence and strategic information for policy dialogue:***
 - I provide timely, incisive advice to the WHO Director-General on political, diplomatic, and public health matters for meetings with political leaders and senior national officials and during country visits.
 - Under my leadership, WHO produced and widely disseminated a collection of 80 country experiences on WHO support to its member states on the COVID-19 pandemic response.
- ***Strengthening country-level leadership on policy and diplomacy to support member states in achieving the Triple Billion Targets and SDGs:***
 - I lead the organization of the WHO Global Management Meeting focused on policy dialogue among senior management across the Organization and am currently leading the development of a plan of action for strengthening WHO's presence and work in countries for better results and impact.
 - I oversee the WHO country-level leadership enhancement process focused on producing the next generation of WHO leadership to effectively support member states in achieving health and health-related SDG targets.
 - I lead the capacity development of country-level teams on health and SDGs to provide a framework for policymakers to help them better understand the interconnectedness of the health-related SDG targets and goals.
- ***Positioning health in the UN system:***
 - I successfully represented WHO as a member of UN High-Level Committee on Programmes and positioned WHO's health agenda in the UN system.
 - As a member of the UNDG, I actively engaged in UN reform processes and successfully positioned health within the UN Strategic Cooperation Framework and country teams.

Coordinator and Senior Public Health Officer, Department of Country Focus, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland (2007 – 2013, 2002 – 2007)

I drove the WHO Country Focus agenda for results in countries through building WHO country offices' capacities and streamlined the management and competency development of WHO country teams. Key achievement(s):

- ***Establishing WHO's country cooperation strategies:***
 - I played an active role, as a founding member, in the development of the WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) for putting countries at the center of WHO's work.
- ***Engaging external partners and positioning WHO in the UN system:***
 - I successfully coordinated WHO's participation in the 2010 and 2013 Multilateral Organizations Performance Assessment (MOPAN) and Joint Inspections Unit (JIU) evaluations on WHO's partnership and performance at country level.
 - I led the development of guidance on WHO's country cooperation strategy to shape the health dimension of in UN Development Assistance Framework.
 - I successfully led the survey and reporting on monitoring of aid effectiveness and Paris Declaration principles.
- ***Developing effective partnerships with funds and foundations:***
 - I led the defining of WHO's role in implementing resources from the Global Fund and GAVI at country level.
- ***Leading policy dialogue:***
 - I led dialogues with ministers of health, environment, planning, and finance.

Senior Public Health Specialist, Department of Health Financing and Stewardship, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland (1999 – 2002)

I initiated and guided the development of the Organization's response to issues relating to health policy analysis, strategic planning, and management. Key achievement(s):

- As part of a team, I participated in the design and development of a health systems performance framework to enhance assessment of performance in member countries.
- In close collaboration with the Programme on Immunization, I contributed to the work on strengthening health systems through immunization programme initiatives.
- I established linkages across health systems strengthening and technical programs, working across departments and technical areas (e.g., HIV/AIDS, immunization).

National Health Systems and Policies Officer, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, New Delhi, India (1997 – 1999)

I served as Regional Technical Adviser to member states and the Regional Office in health financing, planning, and management. Key achievement(s):

- I established the Asia Pacific Health Economics Network on behalf of WHO South-East Asia Region in close collaboration with member states, to promote health economics and financing across the Region.
- I presented, at the invitation of the Government of Japan's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health, on the implications of health crises in East Asia together with the Asian Development Bank in Tokyo.

National Experience

Programme Manager, World Health Organization, Dhaka, Bangladesh. (1992 –1997)

I coordinated and managed 25 out of 64 sub-projects with an estimated budget of US \$86 million under the Fourth Population and Health Project funded by the World Bank and 11 co-financiers.

Long-term Consultant, World Bank, and Resident Mission for Bangladesh Fourth Population and Health Project, Washington, DC, and Bangladesh (1991 – 1992)

I prepared project implementation volume (PIV) for 72 project subcomponents, which was adopted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as its main monitoring tool for the Fourth Population and Health Project.

Director, Branches Division, Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN), Kathmandu, Nepal (1985 – 1987)

As head of all district branch offices, I oversaw 250+ staff and 20 community-based family planning and maternal health projects. I established the field (branch) division and significantly strengthened capacity of field offices across the country.

Project Director Community-based Nutrition Project, funded by CEDPA/USA under Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN), Kathmandu, Nepal (1982 – 1985)

I developed a community-based health and nutrition project for five rural districts of Nepal and oversaw their effective implementation.

Additional Positions

Board and Faculty Appointments:

- Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Global Health, University of Washington, Seattle, USA (2022 – Present)
- Academic Advisory Board Member, College of Health Sciences, University of Sharjah, UAE (2021 – Present)
- Governing Board Member, UN System Staff College nominated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez (2016 – 2018)
- Member, UN High Level Committee on Programme (2015 – 2018)
- Member, United Nations Development Group in policy formulation and implementation in relation to UN reform (2013 – 2017)
- Adjunct Faculty, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA (2014 – 2017)

Professional Activities:

- Editorial Adviser, Bulletin of the World Health Organization (2012 – Present)
- Member, Global Evaluation Network, World Health Organization (2012 – 2016)
- Chair, Health Leadership Development Officer Committee, World Health Organization (2004)
- Member, WHO Transformation Agenda, Country Focus Committee (2017 and 2018)
- Secretary, Task Force on Health in Development, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, New Delhi, India (1998)
- Member, Working Group on WHO Managerial Process, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (1998)

(Please see **Annex 1** for full details of positions held and work achievements.)

V. Publications

- Ranabhat C, Acharya S, Adhikari C, Kim CB. Universal health coverage evolution, ongoing trend, and future challenge: A conceptual and historical policy review. *Frontiers in Public Health*. Forthcoming in 2023.
- Coates A, Warren KT, Henderson C, McPherson M, Obubah O, Graaff P, Acharya S. The World Health Organization's frontline support to countries during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. *Frontiers in Public Health*. 2022.
- Yadav U, Mistry S, Ghimire S, Schneider C, Rawal L, Acharya S, Harris-Roxas B, Harris M. Recognizing the roles of primary health care in addressing non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries: Lesson from COVID-19, implications for the future. *Journal of Global Health*. 2021.
- Acharya S, Lin V, Dhingra N. The role of health in achieving sustainable goals. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. 2018.
- Ranabhat C, Kim C, Park M, Acharya S. Multiple disparities in adult mortality in relation to social and health care perspective: results from different data sources, *Globalization and Health*. 2017.
- Dye C, Acharya S. How can Sustainable Development Goals improve global health? *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. 2017.
- Ullrich A, Acharya S. Making cancer control part of the health agenda: The World Health Organization's country cooperation strategy and comprehensive cancer control planning. *Cancer Control*. 2015
- Zurn P, Romisch M, Acharya S, Barber S; Menabde N, Migliorini L, Molina J, O'Leary M. BRICS and global health: A call for papers. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. 2013.
- Acharya S: Contracting in commercial sector, a chapter in *Contracting*, World Health Organization. Edited by Jean Perrot. 2003
- Thomas S, Killingsworth J, Acharya S. User-fees, self-selection and the poor in Bangladesh. *Health Policy and Planning*. 1998.

(Please see **Annex 2** for additional publications and research work.)

VI. Miscellaneous

Please list hobbies, sports, skills and any other relevant facts that might help in the evaluation of your application.

- I am a regular runner and hiker. I believe in WHO's "move for health" motto and I advocate for regular exercise to promote health and prevent disease.
- I enjoy talking to and engaging with youth and listening to their enthusiasm and innovative ideas in making a difference in the health and lives of people, communities, and populations.
- I am an avid reader of books on leadership, diplomacy, global health, and experiences of high-profile political leaders and CEOs of multinational corporations.
- I enjoy listening to music, especially relaxing and spiritual music for meditation.

VII. WRITTEN STATEMENT

Please evaluate how you meet each of the “Criteria of candidates for the post of the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region of World Health Organization” (see attached sheet). In so doing, please make reference to specific elements of your curriculum vitae to support your evaluation. The criteria that should be used for assessing candidates for the post of Regional Director are contained in resolution SEA/RC65/R1, Annex C and are the following:

- (1) A strong technical and public health background and extensive experience in global health;*
- (2) Competency in organizational management;*
- (3) Proven historical evidence for public health leadership;*
- (4) Sensitiveness to cultural, social, and political differences;*
- (5) A strong commitment to the work of WHO;*
- (6) The good physical condition required of all staff members of the Organization;*
- (7) Commitment to personal compliance with the WHO policy on non-recruitment of smokers or other tobacco users; and*
- (8) Sufficient skill in the official working language of the Region*

“Think global, act local, stay humble.” This motto sums up the most important principles, priorities and perspectives that have guided me along a 30+ year career, starting from remote, rural Nepal up through the present, where I have become an internationally recognized global health leader working at the helm of WHO with the Director-General and other global leaders. Born in a farmer’s family, I grew up in a rural village of western Nepal in Palpa district. There were no roads, electricity, health centers, or proper water and sanitation. I experienced lack of access to basic health and essential services, and the significant effects on health, education, and human capital. From an early age, I was passionate about improving health at the national, regional, and global level.

(1) Technical Background

I possess a strong technical and public health background and extensive experience in global health. During my career as a public health practitioner, I have amassed a wealth of experience by working in several countries across six regions at the local, national, and global level.

I started my career at the Family Planning Association of Nepal, where I led programs, built capacity of staff in 41 of Nepal’s 75 districts, and travelled to 64 districts, often trekking more than a week to visit remote health centers to interact with community workers and residents. I pursued higher education to learn how to transform their needs into impact the population level.

I obtained a master's degree in social policy and a PhD in global public health at a top university in the United States. During my studies, I wrote several technical papers in health and population and consulted for the World Bank, contributing to the development, appraisal and negotiation of a major health and population project with the Government of Bangladesh. Subsequently, I worked with WHO, managing health and population projects totaling USD 86 million. I played an instrumental role in building strong partnerships and developing key monitoring and reporting tools for ensuring transparency and accountability of resources.

After nearly six years in Bangladesh with the World Bank and WHO where I travelled to the most remote areas of the country to administer polio drops and oversee implementation of TB and leprosy prevention and control programmes, I moved to the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office as a National Health System and Policies Officer. I played a key role in establishing the Asia Pacific Health Economics Network to build the health financing capacity of member states and advocate for increasing or maintaining health sector budgets, particularly as countries faced economic and financial crises.

In 1999, I moved to WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and assumed various technical, managerial, and senior positions. I have provided counsel and guidance on health policy and health systems and technical advice on health financing, health systems and linkages between health and the SDGs. I possess substantial diplomatic and policy experience working across all three levels of WHO: global, regional, and country.

My transdisciplinary experience spans health systems, epidemiology, health security, planning, policy, monitoring and evaluation and public health partnership building across sectors and government agencies.

(2) Organizational Management

I have more than 25 years of managerial experience with an unblemished and exemplary record as a manager, coordinator, and director. I have effectively promoted gender, equity, and diversity at WHO, leading from behind to empower my staff to progress, innovate, and succeed. I am told it is my kindness and positive demeanor, combined with my dedication, relentless work ethic, and commitment to a shared vision and purpose, that enable me to build lasting, impactful partnerships and results. In a recent 360-degree assessment, my peers and supervisor gave me one of the highest rates in this current position.

In 2016, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon nominated me to serve on the UN System Staff College Board, which was extended by current Secretary-General António Guterres to 2019. I believe that we can achieve exponentially more when staff are well cared for. I enjoy cultivating valuable interpersonal connections with colleagues across WHO, including in SEAR.

(3) Public Health Leadership

I have served in high-level policy and strategy leadership positions at all levels of WHO, working directly alongside the Director-General and other senior leaders – including during the

COVID-19 pandemic – and meeting with heads of government, ministers, ambassadors, and other high-level political leaders and senior national officials. I contribute to nuanced dialogues in numerous countries across the world, including in South-East Asia, in defining WHO’s medium-term strategic agenda for technical cooperation with member states.

I have represented WHO as a member of various UN bodies, successfully positioning and advocating effectively for health and WHO’s interests within the UN development agenda and strategic cooperation frameworks.

I have led several WHO initiatives at all levels, including the development of a plan of action on strengthening WHO technical cooperation at country level. As Executive Secretary, I organized successfully four global policy dialogues with WHO representatives from across the world, facilitating discussions on emerging global and country level health issues and challenges and understanding how WHO can help member states achieve health and the health-related SDGs.

My leadership and ability to make progress on challenging priorities outlined in the WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13) and the SDGs and through multilevel stakeholder collaboration has been appreciated by colleagues at all levels of the Organization, including by the Director-General. Two former WHO Director-Generals, Dr. Margaret Chan and Dr. Lee Jong-wook, have publicly recognized my leadership and significant contributions to substantial progress made by WHO.

(4) Cultural, Social, And Political Sensitivity

From my missions to more than 100 countries throughout my career, I have witnessed firsthand the complex, diverse needs, and challenges of everyday people, including those in hardest-to-reach areas. I have always been a strong advocate for human rights, non-discrimination and equality, including gender equality, for everyone, both in the workplace and in the achievement of health outcomes for everyday people all around the world. I use my position to strongly advocate for diversity, inclusion, and equality of all voices, backgrounds, and perspectives.

(5) Commitment to the Work of WHO

I understand and believe in the mission of WHO, evidenced through my extensive career at WHO at all three levels. I am determined to do everything I can in my position to leave no one behind while working to achieve the GPW13 priorities and the health-related SDG targets. I am committed to ensuring a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuilding systems to better address the complex challenges facing the Region in the coming decades.

I have authored numerous publications on health, health development, policy, and systems, including as an editorial advisor of the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* since 2012. I have helped strengthen WHO and have introduced many innovative ideas and tools, for example: i) country cooperation strategies; ii) country case studies on various topics to member states and a broader audience; and iii) WHO country presence report on what WHO does in countries, with what resources, with whom, and how it delivers results and impact in countries.

(6) Good Physical Condition

I stay physically and mentally fit and active by running and hiking regularly, especially enjoying the mountainous regions and views of Switzerland and neighboring France, as well as of those back home in Nepal. I will drive with full energy the Regional health agenda with the guidance of SEAR member states.

(7) Commitment WHO policy on non-recruitment of smokers or other tobacco users

I have remained a non-smoker throughout my life and will continue to ban the use of tobacco products in WHO offices in countries and the South-East Asia Region.

(8) Sufficient skill in the official working language of the Region

I am fluent in Nepali (mother tongue) and English, proficient in Hindi, and beginner in Bengali.

VIII. VISION

Please state your vision of priorities and strategies for the World Health Organization, in particular the South-East Asia Region.

Our Region is home to over one quarter of the world's population and one quarter of the world's potential health and well-being. Good health is critical for equity, productivity, and happiness. The health of the people of our Region – particularly those left furthest behind – must become an enormous source of pride.

My Vision: Our Health. Our Region. Our Pride.

I envision a WHO South-East Asia Regional Office that is fit for the future to support countries to achieve their national health objectives built around the WHO Triple Billion Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. My leadership will promote and guide a reorientation of Universal Health Coverage across the Region that is primary health care-focused, rights-based, gender-responsive, people-centered, locally tailored and quality- and equity-driven. I dream of a Region where health is center in all sectors and all policies.

My Mission, for everyone, everywhere: Health promotion, provision and protection, and powering innovation and performance.

In line with WHO's global five 'P' priorities, I will focus SEARO efforts in five areas.

1. Promote Health and Well-Being Approaches that Impact Population Health

I will support countries to undertake a fundamental shift towards health promotion, disease and injury prevention, and planetary health, by addressing their root causes through collaboration and practical action across all sectors, all sections of government and society, including with social movements.

Key Actions:

- *Learn and share lessons on meaningful community engagement.*
 - *Advocate for and provide tools for results-driven multi-sectoral responses.*
 - *Prioritize issues of climate change, planetary health, air pollution and decarbonizing the health system in the Region.*
 - *Support member states in addressing social, economic and commercial determinants of health.*
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2. Accelerate Universal Health Coverage with Strong, Inclusive Primary Health Care to Achieve Health-Related Sustainable Development Goals

I will support countries to complete the task of eliminating key communicable diseases, dramatically scale up WHO Best Buys for NCD prevention and control and undertake a far-reaching re-orientation of PHC to ensure services are affordable and accessible to all while expanding gains made in RMNCH and SRH and prepared for any health emergencies.

Key Actions:

- *Mobilize increased investments for health.*
 - *Expand, support, and retain a high-quality health workforce in the Region.*
 - *Create a systematic approach to health care delivery grounded in primary health care with the support of a cascade of referral services to ensure a high-quality continuum of care for all people.*
 - *Keep the promise of eliminating communicable and neglected tropical diseases.*
 - *Pivot to address shifts in the Region's disease burden—scale up services to address non-communicable diseases.*
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3. Prepare for and Protect from Future Pandemics and Emergencies

I will support countries and Regional institutions to benefit from the IHR revisions and pandemic treaty, strengthen real time surveillance and mobilize new resources for development of diagnostics, drugs and vaccines, while combatting Anti-Microbial Resistance and stepping up collaboration on One Health.

Key Actions:

- *Substantially enhance surveillance systems to mobilize rapid action through time bound targets.*

- *Establish a Regional Rapid Health Response Team for deployment at the request of member states.*
 - *Develop a Regional Blueprint for Comprehensive Responses to Novel Pathogens.*
 - *Strengthen the ‘One Health’ approach, address antimicrobial resistance and manage zoonotic diseases.*
 - *Launch ‘Catch-up Action Plans’ to recover lost ground and momentum on UHC and specific disease elimination efforts.*
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4. Innovate and Digitize to Accelerate Health Equity and Solidarity

I will support innovation and use of novel data tools and state-of-the-art point-of-care products to reach everyone, everywhere and digital health and technology to bridge inequity.

Key Actions:

- *Deliver quality health care through innovation.*
 - *Leap frog access to health care.*
 - *Harness digitization, programme implementation science and monitoring.*
 - *Strengthening capacity in data generation and data use in decision making and policy making.*
 - *Align medicine production, distribution and storage in the Region to global standards.*
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5. Champion “One WHO” to Enhance Country Support Across Three Levels

I will support three game-changers: delegation of authority to country offices for rapid responses to country needs; better communication and coordination across the Organization’s three levels of to ensure HQ and partners better respond to Regional priorities; and a cadre of diverse talents on equity, gender and inclusion to inform WHO business models and engagements.

Key Actions:

- *Ramp up Regional leadership in global decision-making.*
- *Undertake knowledge brokering and showcase the Region’s potential, assets, and innovation as global public goods.*
- *Establish and capitalize a Regional Health Fund.*
- *Ensure greater sustainability and predictability of finance for WHO country offices.*
- *Cultivate a strong, fair, and safe SEARO.*

More details on my vision, mission, priorities, and strategic action areas are in my Manifesto.