Abstract:

The development of standard indicators and meta data to monitor traditional medicine system performance
Solveig Wiesener[1], Vinjar Fønnebø[1]

[1]National Research Center in Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NAFKAM), Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, UiT the Arctic University of Norway, 9037 Tromsø, Norway

Corresponding author: Solveig Wiesener, e-mail: Solveig.wiesener@uit.no

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Background
Policymakers and managers lack tools to develop policies and monitor the performance of their Traditional & Complementary Medicine (T&CM) systems. WHO has prepared a guide with Core and Reference Indicators in order to improve the T&CM monitoring systems.

The aim of the study is to analyze if the developed "*WHO Core and Reference Indicators for monitoring Traditional and Complementary Medicine in South-East Asia*" is suitable for policymakers and managers when considering how to monitor performance of their T&CM systems.

Materials and Methods
The document "WHO Core and Reference Indicators for monitoring Traditional and Complementary Medicine in South-East Asia" was reviewed. Analyses are based on experiences from the EU FP7 CAMbrella project on regulation of CAM in 39 European countries.

Results
The "WHO Core and Reference Indicators for monitoring T&CM in South-East Asia" can be suited for policymakers globally, if clarification of definitions and indicators are undertaken before use. Policies for regulation, education, treatment standards or funding of T&CM differs widely, and experiences from one country will hardly be useful for policymakers in another country. This situation may challenge the credibility of data collected by using the indicators.

Conclusions
The indicators for monitoring T&CM can be an effective tool for policymakers and managers. It is important that clarifications are developed for each indicator before use. Comparison

between countries should be performed with caution due to different definitions and regulation systems.