



**Eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency
Task Force on the Prevention and Control of
Non-communicable Diseases**

29–31 March 2022

Eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, 29–31 March 2022

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This publication contains the collective views of the eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and does not necessarily represent the decisions or policies of WHO.

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A. Objectives and participating agencies

1. The eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases was held by videoconference on 29–31 March 2022. Twenty-six Task Force member organizations participated¹. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) co-chaired the meeting.
2. The main objectives of the meeting were:
 - (i) to review progress since the seventeenth meeting of the Task Force (6–8 December 2022);
 - (ii) to receive updates on a range of joint programmes and other workstreams, with a particular focus on tobacco control in order to identify opportunities for further interagency collaboration;
 - (iii) to review and adopt the Task Force Strategy 2022–2025;
 - (iv) to discuss the Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026 and its implications for Task Force Members;
 - and (v) to discuss opportunities to scale up multisectoral support to countries through UN Country Teams, including through the NCD and Mental Health Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

B. Review of the summary of the seventeenth meeting, update on global events and assignments, and updates from members

3. Members reviewed the summary of the seventeenth meeting of the Task Force and noted that progress has been made across the majority of agreed actions. Members reviewed and agreed on the Task Force Strategy 2022–2025, subject to strengthening the language around human rights.
4. The result of surveys to understand opportunities for building greater support for NCD responses among the senior leadership and governing bodies of Task Force agencies was presented by the Task Force Secretariat as a follow-up action to Recommendation 11 of the mid-point evaluation of the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2030 (the Task Force and ECOSOC to identify ways in which support for NCDs can be built at senior levels across the United Nations).
5. The Task Force received an update from WHO on global events and assignments since the seventeenth meeting. Participants were also briefed on the upcoming [International Strategic Dialogue on NCDs and Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\), 12th April 2022 in Accra, Ghana](#). The expected outcomes are the launch of the NCD Compact 2020–2030 and the NCD Presidential Council.
6. The following UN agencies provided updates: FAO, IAEA, UNEP, UNICEF, and UNODC. FAO is providing country support on food systems and nutrition and food-based dietary guidelines that often have as a goal the prevention of overweight, obesity and NCDs. In addition, FAO has developed an [evidence platform for agrifood systems and nutrition](#), gathering operational

¹ African Development Bank (AfDB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Office of Migration (IOM), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Nutrition (UN Nutrition), World Food Programme (WFP), WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat (WHO FCTC), World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO), World Health Organization (WHO).

tools and supportive evidence for country support delivered by FAO and other UN agencies and for the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition of the [Committee on World Food Security](#) that also addresses overweight, obesity and NCDs. UNODC highlighted work on quality of services for drug treatment and care, as well as advocacy action to promote provision of health services for illegal drug users, as alternatives to conviction and punishment in the context of the criminal justice system. UNODC, WHO and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) are collaborating to promote access to control medicines, including those used for pain management.

7. UNEP highlighted work around the co-benefits to human health of projects related to climate change and biological diversity, including recommendations to quantify the health benefits of UNEP's environmental interventions and to establish a surveillance and information management system to link environment and public health assessments. UNICEF reported the launch of NCD-related projects focused on children and adolescents in Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Philippines and Zimbabwe.

Actions

Review of actions agreed at the seventeenth meeting

B1. Task Force Strategy, 2022–2025 to be published electronically, with members ensuring widespread dissemination within the agencies, including senior management (and where appropriate at governing body level), with implications of the strategy for the agency concerned.

B2. Task Force Secretariat to establish a small group of Task Force Members to monitor and evaluate the Task Force Strategy, 2022–2025.

B3. Task Force Secretariat to engage with individual agencies to develop ever greater opportunities to highlight the work of the Task Force with their senior management and governing bodies and highlight the need for this in the Task Force's 2022 report to ECOSOC.

Update on global events and assignments

B4. Task Force Members to disseminate the WHO/GCM call for submissions: multisectoral action for the prevention and control of NCDs and mental health conditions.

Update from members

B5. Members to provide a further update at the nineteenth meeting of the Task Force.

C. Tobacco control

8. WHO updated Task Force members around the efforts made to engage with Heads of UN agencies, in order to promote adoption of smoke free policies across UN campuses. UNHCR demonstrated its experience in turning the Geneva campus smoke-free during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting opportunities, challenges and lessons learned.
9. The FCTC Secretariat discussed opportunities for the implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade of Tobacco Products, and highlighted potential areas of interagency collaboration, including with regard to assistance on tax administration, combating corruption, enhancing transparency in free trade zones, and conducting illicit trade research.
10. WHO, FAO and WFP presented preliminary results of the joint programme around alternative livelihood to tobacco growing, which has been piloted in Kenya. Interagency collaboration and

multisectoral approaches contributed to enabling farmers in Kenya to switch from tobacco plants to iron beans, which led to measurable positive socioeconomic outcomes (i.e. reduced child labour). FCTC Secretariat is currently finalizing a global toolkit to scale up such strategies.

11. The Convention Secretariat presented recent achievements from the joint programme FCTC 2030, including the launch of a number of new tobacco control investment cases and other technical tools to support multisectoral action on tobacco control. Stemming from the analytic work done so far to advocate for greater investments in tobacco control, the joint programme aims at building wider partnerships across the UN to support implementation of relevant multisectoral strategies at country level.
12. Members were informed that the theme for World No Tobacco Day 2022 will be Tobacco Threat to our Environment, focusing on the environmental damage caused by the full cycle of tobacco.
13. Updates were provided on workstreams related to tobacco-free schools and the implementation of the [Model Policy](#).

Actions

Smoke-free UN campus

C1. Identify UN campuses and other priority locations and initiate dialogues to implement relevant smoke free policies. (Convention Secretariat, WHO)

C2. Continue dialogue with UNAIDS Executive Director to implement smoke free policies at the UNAIDS campus. (Convention Secretariat, UNAIDS).

C3. Aim to achieve 100% smoke free UN campus by 2025. (All)

Implementation of the Protocol

C4. Analyse areas of collaboration among interested Task Force members and produce a report to be included in the ECOSOC report in 2023. (Convention Secretariat).

Alternative livelihood for tobacco farmers

C5. Explore areas of collaborations with the thematic working groups on NCDs and nutrition and NCDs and the environment.

C6. Include results and lessons learned from the WHO, FAO and WFP pilot project in Kenya into the alternative livelihood toolkit. (Convention Secretariat (CS)

C7. Explore the opportunity to pilot the toolkit in African countries. (CS, ILO, WHO)

Model Policy

C8. Task Force Members renew commitment to abide by the Model Policy. (All)

C9. Remove it from the list of standing agenda items and regular updates in future Task Force meetings.

FCTC 2030

C10. Promote multisectoral engagement by UN Country Teams for WHO FCTC implementation, particularly in FCTC 2030 project countries. (CS, UNDP)

Tobacco free schools

C11. Explore further collaboration with UNICEF at country level. (WHO, UNICEF)

World No Tobacco Day 2022

C12. Amplify the World No Tobacco Day 2022 campaign and messages. (All)

D. Update on other joint programmes and initiatives

14. Updates were received from the following joint programmes and initiatives that Task Force members are working on: (i) NCD2030; (ii) SAFER; (iii) UN Joint Action on Cervical Cancer; (iv) Global RECAP; and (v) Digital Health for NCDs and mental health. Progress on each of these, along with other joint programmes and initiatives, has been included in this year's report to ECOSOC.

Actions

SAFER

D1. SAFER Secretariat to provide a briefing to interested members of the Task Force to identify entry points to take forward recommendations coming out of SAFER country missions.

Digital health for NCDs and mental health

D2. Task Force Secretariat to provide regular updates with interested members on ongoing work around digital health for NCDs and mental health, including opportunities to share key messages (and tweets) on social media.

E. Lessons learned emerging from WHO-UNDP activities under EU funding

15. Task Force members received a progress update around activities delivered in collaboration between WHO and UNDP at the country level, in the context of the WHO-UNDP joint programme NCD 2030 and aligned with strategic priorities of the WHO-EU Health System Strengthening for Universal Health Coverage Partnership. WHO and UNDP country teams² in 2021 have supported strengthening governance, developing legal and investment frameworks, and forging multisectoral partnerships for NCD and mental health responses, with teams in the regions and headquarters providing ad hoc technical and advocacy support.
16. Activities designed to catalyse national dialogue around NCDs and mental health, contributed to key achievements at the country level, with relatively low technical and financial support. Results and lessons learned from the joint programme can inform strategic directions for the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).

Actions

E1. Explore other Task Force Members' ongoing or planned support to the WHO-UNDP joint programme countries under the UHC partnership and identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration at country level.

² African region: Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Uganda; Caribbean: Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago; Pacific: Fiji as a base.

E2. Continue to distil emerging results, lessons and opportunities to inform MPTF processes.

F. Update on working groups

17. Updates were received from: (i) UN Nutrition on behalf of the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Nutrition and NCDs; (ii) the TWG NCDs and the environment; (iii) TWG on comorbidities and coinfections; and (iv) WHO with regard to initiatives around health taxes. Progress on each of these, along with other joint programmes and initiatives has been included in this year's report to ECOSOC.

Actions

Nutrition

F1. Community of Practice on nutrition, human rights and law to continue moving forward its action plan and to report to Nineteenth Task Force Meeting.

Environment

F2. Explore opportunities to implement the Compendium of WHO and other UN guidance on health and environment at the country level.

F3. Disseminate messages around World Health Day 2022: one planet, one health.

Nutrition and Environment

F4. The two thematic working group are encouraged to continue collaborating towards: (i) the development and dissemination of joint advocacy messages for relevant global events, including COP 27; and (ii) the identification of relevant technical products to promote at country level.

Comorbidities and coinfections

F4. Members of the working group to finalize and agree on terms of reference.

F5. Task Force members are invited to assist identifying countries and opportunities to provide technical support to mobilize and use resources to address co-morbidities and co-infections.

G. UN initiatives on mental health

18. WHO provided updates on joint UN initiatives around mental health, specifically around: (i) mental health system development, including investment and legal frameworks; (ii) child and adolescent mental health, in collaboration with UNICEF; (iii) the work of the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in emergencies, including activities related to MHPSS during COVID-19 and to the response in Ukraine; and (iv) the collaborations around substance use, between WHO and UNODC and through the SAFER initiative.

Actions

G1. Task Force members to follow up with and work together to support countries that have completed a national mental health investment case, to maximize opportunities for implementation of investment case findings and recommendations.

H. NCDs in emergencies and humanitarian settings

19. WHO and UNHCR provided Task Force Members with an update of the work of the informal inter-agency group on NCDs in humanitarian settings³ convened by UNHCR. The working group has continued to provide essential medicines and services to people living with NCDs to ensure continuity of care in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
20. The health and humanitarian response to Ukraine has required significant support to those with NCDs and mental health conditions and WHO provided an update on ongoing activities in this area. The challenges of meeting needs with disrupted supply chain systems and insufficient health workforce were described.

Actions

H1. Strengthen interaction between the informal working group on NCDs in emergencies and Task Force members, for instance inviting Task Force members with a specific interest to the informal working group meetings and through regular updates.

I. Integrating human rights in the work of the task force

21. OHCHR presented the rationale for the establishment of a human rights team within the Task Force (including WHO, OHCHR, UN Nutrition Secretariat, UNDP, UNICEF, and IDLO). This was welcomed by Task Force members. The main activities of the human rights team will be to: (i) mainstream human rights in Task Force outputs; (ii) provide support to joint initiatives and missions; and (iii) engage with partners within and beyond the UN system.

Actions

I1. Human Rights group to report back on activities and achievements at future Task Force meetings.

J. NCD and mental health multi-partner trust fund

22. The MPTF Secretariat provided an update on its activities since the Seventeenth Task Force meeting, including: (i) process for finalization and endorsement of foundational documents to guide resource mobilization, operations and governance of the MPTF; (ii) proposal for an alternative short name for the MPTF under consideration by the Steering Committee; (iii) proposal for two Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to be invited to participate as observers, also under consideration by the Steering Committee; (iv) advances in engagement with potential investors including fund-raising campaigns under development; and (v) ongoing discussions with other UN programmes for potential collaboration. Task Force members were urged to engage with the Secretariat to identify potential avenues for advocacy, collaboration and fundraising.

³ Other members are the: International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Rescue Committee and Médecins Sans Frontières.

Actions

J1. Trust Fund to continue to mobilize resources (maximizing the opportunities from innovative approaches), with the MPTF Secretariat bringing in Task Force members (beyond the three founding UN agencies) as required and Task Force members sharing opportunities for advocacy/resource mobilization with the MPTF Secretariat.

J2. UNFPA on behalf of the UN Joint Action for Cervical Cancer Elimination that has been established to support delivery of the Cervical Cancer Global Elimination Initiative, to continue to work with the MPTF Secretariat to use the MPTF as a financing mechanism to catalyse country action on cervical cancer.

K. Global aids strategy 2021–2026: implications for task force members

23. The Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026 recognizes the importance of ensuring holistic health and other services for people living with, affected by and at risk of HIV for their best HIV and health outcomes, wellbeing and quality of life, including by addressing comorbidities and coinfections, among those with NCDs and mental health conditions. The Global AIDS Strategy and the 2021 UN Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS call for and lay down global commitments to ensure comprehensive integrated people-centred and context-specific approaches, systems and delivery of services. The Global AIDS Strategy and global HIV targets, including integration targets, are also fully aligned with the WHO NCD Global Action Plan, Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan, Global Strategy for cervical cancer elimination, and other global and key partners' strategic priorities and frameworks.
24. Opportunities for advocacy and support were discussed, including: (i) integration of HIV and NCD, including mental health, policies, programmes, systems and services; (ii) increasing access to and uptake of integrated NCD and mental health screening, diagnostic and treatment services through HIV and primary health-care platforms; (iii) scale up of HPV and HBV vaccination, including for those living with and at risk of HIV; (iv) mobilization of and leveraging domestic and external resources; (v) addressing social and structural drivers of vulnerabilities to HIV and NCDs, including stigma, discrimination and health disparities; (vi) strengthening capacity and engagement of communities and supporting community-based and -led service delivery; (vii) establishing and strengthening integrated health information and surveillance systems; and (viii) in the context of COVID-19, supporting innovative ways of mitigating and responding to service disruptions through differentiated and integrated service delivery.

Actions

K1. Relevant Task Force members to follow up with and work together to further advocate for and support countries in rolling out the Global AIDS Strategy in the context of integrated HIV-NCD policies, programmes and services and meeting the HIV-NCD integration targets by 2025 (including for cervical cancer, mental health and other NCDs).

L. 2022 report to ECOSOC

25. The Task Force Secretariat provided an update on the status of the WHO Task Force report to ECOSOC in 2022, which is at its final stage of development. The report will be considered by ECOSOC during its session in July.

Actions

L1. Members that have yet to provide inputs for the draft to do so by return.

L2. Draft to be shared with Task Force members for rapid review before onward transmission to DESA/ECOSOC.

M. Task force awards 2022

26. The Task Force Secretariat presented the draft call for the 2022 edition, with a proposal that this year the Task Force would join forces with the WHO Special Programme on Primary Health Care to highlight the importance of primary care in the prevention and control of NCDs and mental health. Task Force members agreed to this. Task Force members were encouraged to join the selection committee.

Actions

M1. Once available, Task Force members to disseminate the call for nominations.

M2. Secretariat to work with Members to agree a small group to serve on a joint Task Force - WHO Special Programme on Primary Health Care Awards evaluation panel.

N. Dates and venues for future task force meetings

27. It was agreed that the nineteenth meeting should be held in the third quarter of 2022, using a hybrid approach, if possible.

Actions

N1. Nineteenth meeting of the Task Force to be held Autumn 2022. Members to inform the Task Force Secretariat of competing events in order to avoid those dates.

N2. Task Force Secretariat to explore dates, hosts and potential venues.

Annex 1. Agenda

Co-moderators

Werner Obermeyer, Director, WHO Office at the United Nations, New York

May Abdel-Wahab, Director, Division of Human Health, Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, IAEA

DAY 1: Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Time	Agenda item	Presenters/Leads	Background papers
Agenda item 1 14:30–15:00	Welcome and introductions	Werner Obermeyer (WHO) May Abdel-Wahab (IAEA) Tea Collins (WHO)	01.01 List of participants
Agenda item 2 15:00–17:30	Tobacco control segment. This segment will cover: - Updates from members - Smoke free UN campus - Implementation of the Protocol - Alternative Livelihood - Model Policy (FCTC Article 5.3) - FCTC 2030 - Tobacco free schools - 2022 World No Tobacco Day	Convention Secretariat, WHO and members of the Tobacco TWG	02.01 Presentation World No Tobacco Day 2022 02.02 How to make your campus smoke free 02.03 Tobacco and its environmental impact: an overview 02.04 Presentation Smoke-free campus 02.05 Presentation FCTC 2030 02.06 Presentation on implementation of the protocol
Agenda item 3 17:30–18:00	NCDs and mental health in emergencies and humanitarian settings	Slim Slama (WHO) and Michael Woodman (UNHCR)	03.01 Presentation NCDs and mental health in emergencies

DAY 2: Wednesday, 30 March 2022

Time	Agenda item	Presenters/Leads	Background papers
Agenda item 4 14:30–15:00	Review of actions agreed at the 17th Meeting	Task Force Secretariat	04.01 Review of actions agreed at the 17 th meeting 04.02 Summary of 17 th TF meeting 04.03 Task Force Strategy 2022-2025 04.04 Building support for NCD responses among the senior leadership of United Nations agencies
Agenda item 5 15:00–15:45	Update on global events and assignments	Slim Slama (WHO)	05.01 Presentation global events
Agenda item 6 15:45–17:00	Updates 1 1. Catalyzing multisectoral action 2. Harmful use of alcohol including SAFER 3. Cervical Cancer 4. Global RECAP 5. Digital Health for NCDs and mental health	1. Alexey Kulikov (WHO), Dudley Tarlton (UNDP) 2. Sarah Roache (WHO) 3. Petra ten Hoopen-Bender (UNFPA) 4. Giulia Zevi (IDLO) and Kathryn Roberts (WHO) 5. Jaimie Guerra (WHO), Alexey Kulikov (WHO), Maristela Monteiro (PAHO)	06.01 Presentation NCD 2030 06.02 Presentation SAFER 06.03 Presentation cervical cancer 06.04 Presentation Global RECAP 06.05 Presentation digital health

Agenda item 7 17:00–17:30	UN initiatives on mental health	Dan Chisholm (WHO)	07.01 Presentation mental health
Agenda item 8 17:30–18:00	Updates from Members	FAO, IAEA, UNEP, UNICEF, UNODC	

DAY 3: Thursday, 31 March 2022

Time	Agenda item	Presenters/Leads	Background papers
Agenda item 9 14:30–15:30	Updates 2 1. Nutrition TWG / UN Nutrition 2. NCDs and the environment / HECCC 3. Working group on comorbidities 4. Health taxes	1. Stineke Oenema (UN Nutrition) 2. Maria Neira (WHO) 3. Giuseppe Troisi (WHO) 4. Itziar Belausteguigoitia (WHO)	09.01 Presentation UN Nutrition 09.02 Presentation NCD and the environment 09.03 The Health Argument for Climate Action 09.04 COP26 Health Programme 09.05 Compendium of WHO and other UN guidance on health and environment 09.06 Presentation comorbidities 09.07 Advocacy piece on comorbidities 09.08 Terms of reference working group on comorbidities 09.09 Presentation health taxes
Agenda item 10 15:30–15:50	Integrating human rights in the work of the Task Force	Lynn Gentile (OHCHR)	10.01 Presentation human rights 10.02 Draft Terms of Reference
Agenda item 11 15:50–16:10	NCD and Mental Health Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Mamka Anyona and Linda Merieau (MPTF Secretariat)	11.01 Presentation MPTF
Agenda item 12 16:10–16:30	Lessons learnt emerging from WHO-UNDP activities under EU funding	Giuseppe Troisi (WHO), Roy Small (UNDP)	12.01 Presentation on WHO-UNDP activities funded by the EU
Agenda item 13 16:30–17:00	Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026: implications for Task Force Members	Ani Shakarishvili (UNAIDS)	13.01 Presentation on Global AIDS Strategy 13.02 Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 13.03 Additional background papers
Agenda item 14 17:00–17:15	ECOSOC 2022 report – current status and headline messages	Task Force Secretariat	
Agenda item 15 17:15–17:30	Task Force Awards	Task Force Secretariat	15.01 Call for interest Task Force Awards
Agenda item 16 17:30–17:40	Dates and venues for future Task Force meetings	Task Force Secretariat	
Agenda item 17 17:40–18:00	Review of action points	Task Force Secretariat	

Annex 2. List of participants

EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES 29, 30 AND 31 MARCH 2022 VIRTUAL MEETING

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Sagal Adam

Public health consultant, Security and Social Protection division

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Derran Williams

Principal Health and Safety Officer

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Trudy Wijnhoven

Nutrition Officer
Food and Nutrition Division

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

Michael Borowitz

Chief Economist

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

May Abdel-Wahab

Director, Division of Human Health

Alfredo Polo

Radiation Oncologist

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION

Maria Chiara Campisi

Program Coordinator, Health Law

Giulia Zevi

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

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Health Specialist - Child Development, Disabilities, Injuries and NCDs
Health Section, Programme Division

Zeinab Hijazi

Mental Health Specialist

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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Programme Specialist, HIV, Health and Development Group

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Programme Specialist, Health and Development

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Senior Public Health Officer

Shari Nijman**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
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Chief Waste Management and Sanitation
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Technical Specialist (Country Support)
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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND**Petra ten Hoope-bender**

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UN NUTRITION**Stineke Oenema**

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UN Nutrition Technical Adviser

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