



**UN INTERAGENCY
TASK FORCE ON NCDs**



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

1–3 April 2025

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This publication contains the report of the twenty-fourth 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 twenty-fourth meeting of the United Nations (UN) Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (hereafter Task Force) was held on 1–3 April 2025 at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland. Twenty-six Task Force member organizations participated.¹ WHO and the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) co-chaired the meeting. The agenda and list of participants are included as Annex 1 and Annex 2.

2. The main objectives of the meeting were to: (i) review progress on actions agreed at the twenty-third Task Force meeting (30–31 October 2024); (ii) prepare for the Fourth High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) and the Promotion of Mental Health and Well-being; (iii) review progress and identify actions to strengthen joint programmes and other workstreams; and (iv) discuss recommendations from the independent Task Force evaluation and how to reflect these into the new Task Force Strategy.

B. Review of actions agreed at the twenty-third Task Force meeting

3. The Task Force Secretariat reviewed actions agreed at the twenty-third meeting (Annex 3).

Action

B1. Continue to identify opportunities to highlight NCDs and mental health and the work of the Task Force at meetings of senior management and governing bodies of Task Force members (*Task Force Secretariat and Task Force members as appropriate*).

C. Joint independent evaluation of the Task Force and development of the 2026–2030 strategy

4. The final report of the Task Force evaluation was presented. Plans for developing a management response were discussed. It was agreed that the evaluation, together with the outcomes of the Fourth High-level Meeting, recent ECOSOC resolutions, and the resources available to Task Force members and the Secretariat, would all be used to inform the development of the 2026–2030 strategy and the 2026–2027 workplan.

Actions

C1. WHO to publish the evaluation and Task Force Secretariat and members to disseminate it (*WHO, Task Force Secretariat and Task Force members*).

C2. Task Force Secretariat to draft a management response in consultation with Task Force members (*Task Force Secretariat*).

¹ Asian Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), United Nations Nutrition (UN Nutrition), United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF), WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat (Convention Secretariat), World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Trade Organization (WTO).

C3. Draft an ambitious but realistic Task Force strategy for 2026–2030 and a 2-year workplan for review at the twenty-fifth meeting (*Task Force Secretariat and a selected group of members*).

D. Fourth High-level Meeting

5. WHO briefed Task Force members on the [preparatory process](#) for the Fourth High-level Meeting, including outcomes of the [International dialogue on sustainable financing for NCDs and mental health](#), the [Secretary General's progress report](#) on the prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion of mental health and well-being, and the Multi-stakeholder Hearing on NCDs. Members reviewed recent developments in global health and development financing, and the likely impact on the work of the Task Force.

Actions

D1. Task Force Secretariat to continue to ensure that Task Force members are contributing to preparations for the Fourth High-level Meeting, including participation in the Multistakeholder Hearing and the Fourth High-level Meeting on 25 September 2025 (*Task Force Secretariat, and other members of the Task Force as appropriate*).

D2. Task Force members to share plans for side events during the UN General Assembly (UNGA) with the Secretariat and look to align activities as much as possible (*Task Force Secretariat, and other members of the Task Force as appropriate*).

E. Chronic respiratory diseases

6. WHO, including the Director-General's Special Envoy for Chronic Respiratory Diseases, provided an update on activities related to chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs). A training workshop for international journalists was held in Mexico City on the 30–31 March 2025. The workshop aimed to deepen journalists' understanding of CRDs, encourage the development of compelling narratives, and connect them with a network of experts and data. Additionally, WHO is updating its guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in primary care. WHO is also collaborating with the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases to develop key messages for the upcoming Fourth High-Level Meeting.

F. Updates on selected joint workstreams and programmes

7. United for Global Mental Health provided an update on the Interagency Working Group on [Mental Health Comorbidities](#), including: (i) the submission to a journal of a joint commentary on the urgent need to integrate health services; (ii) the refreshed [Technical ToolBox](#) to support advocacy and programmatic efforts to integrate mental health into HIV and TB programmes; and (iii) the ongoing Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 tracking exercise on NCDs and mental health integration.

8. The UN-Nutrition Secretariat outlined recent activities of the [Nutrition Technical Working Group](#), including (i) the organization of a NCD focused side event at the fifty-second session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS); (ii) integrating NCD messaging into the UN Nutrition Chair's speaking points for the Seventy-ninth UNGA High-Level Ministerial Roundtable on Transforming Food Systems; (iii) contributing to key guidance documents, including background papers for the international dialogue on sustainable financing for NCDs and mental health, and the systems thinking guide for resident coordinators and UN country teams; (iv) supporting the organization of a joint programming mission in Cabo Verde; and (v) finalizing the publication on the methodology for nutrition investment cases.

9. WHO presented the plan to develop a guidance on human rights-based approaches to health and informed Task Force members that they will be invited to review the draft. OHCHR informed Task Force members that UN Women, ILO and the Task Force Secretariat briefed the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to raise awareness on the importance of NCDs in women as a health, development and human rights issue.
10. WHO provided an update on the activities of the WHO Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative (CCEI) and the CCEI UN Joint Action Group, including supporting the second Global Forum for Cervical Cancer Elimination scheduled for June 2025 and plans to organize national dialogues and side events ahead of the G20 in November 2025. Promising developments are expected in 2025 for the group and elimination efforts, including introduction and scale up of HPV vaccination and high-level advocacy events.
11. UNHCR and WHO provided an update on the work of the Interagency Working Group on NCDs in Humanitarian Settings, collaborations include preparations for a World Health Assembly (WHA) side event on NCDs in emergencies, disseminating a report on [research priorities for NCDs in humanitarian settings](#), contributing to a [handbook on peer support for people living with NCDs in humanitarian settings](#), and ongoing work in developing NCD indicators in humanitarian settings. WHO also shared updates on their operational support and plans to strengthen capacity in countries with ongoing emergencies, including addressing NCDs through emergency response and health security frameworks. In addition, a number of reports are being finalized: (i) [Operational manual](#) on NCDs integration in all-hazards emergency preparedness and response, (ii) Mental health and psychosocial support assessment toolkit for field testing, and (iii) WHO Build back better for mental health and psychosocial support.
12. UN Habitat described their urban health activities, including (i) outcomes of the World Urban Forum and the UN Habitat, WHO, Task Force Secretariat-led side event on [Working in partnership to improve health and wellbeing in urban settings](#); (ii) a new collaboration with the Global Commission on Drug Policy; (iii) the IOC and UN Habitat collaboration on Sport for Sustainable Urban Development; (iv) plans to join the Task Force human rights team; and (iv) the development of the new UN Habitat Strategic Plan for 2026-2029. Task Force members highlighted the need for the Strategic Plan to reflect more strongly action to deliver improved health, following feedback from the Task Force Secretariat, who had reviewed an earlier draft. WHO shared resources to support intersectoral collaboration, including [the Urban Health Capacities Assessment and Response Resource Kit](#) and [a series of policy briefs for a strategic approach for urban health](#). WHO announced the upcoming launch of a Strategic Guide for Urban Health later this year, which will present a clear vision for a holistic, integrated approach. WHO also highlighted several key updates, including the ongoing [Young Gamechangers Initiative](#), jointly led by UN Habitat and WHO; [a workshop scheduled for 7 May 2025](#) to discuss the WHO–UN Habitat partnership on urban health; and an upcoming guide on creating public spaces for urban children, developed collaboratively by UNICEF, UN Habitat, and WHO.
13. WHO described a resolution on [primary prevention and integrated care for sensory impairments including vision impairment and hearing loss, across the life course](#) that will be discussed at the upcoming WHA, the publication of the [WHO-ITU Global standard on safe listening for video gameplay and esports](#), and other ongoing UN joint activities, including recent discussions with UNESCO and ILO on addressing sensory impairments in school and workplace settings.
14. WHO shared plans to convene a meeting with ILO to discuss a range of issues currently being addressed by the two organizations on health in the workplace. ILO highlighted its ongoing work with other UN agencies, including chemical hazards, radiation safety, and extreme weather events. They also announced that the [World Day for Safety and Health at Work](#) will take place on 28 April 2025, with a special focus on digitalization and artificial intelligence.
15. IDLO and WHO described ongoing activities under the [Global Regulatory and Fiscal Capacity Building Programme](#) (RECAP) for promoting healthy diets and physical activity. Examples of recent policy progress in

the ten participating countries include strengthening nutrition labelling, restrictions on marketing of unhealthy foods, fiscal policies to promote healthy diets and physical activity, and developing national physical activity policies and regulations.

16. WHO provided an update on (i) the country-level [assistive technology](#) investment case methodology that is being piloted in Bangladesh and soon to be piloted in Kiribati and the Solomon Islands; (ii) the WHO Model Priority Assistive Products List; (iii) the webinar held in December 2024 to present to Task Force members the [WHO-UNICEF Global Report on Assistive Technology](#) and its ten key recommendations; (iv) the postponement of the [GATE Summit](#) from May 2025 to a date to be confirmed; and (v) the organisation of a roundtable, that will be hosted in April 2025 by China and Pakistan, to promote among Member States the call to action to mobilize support for access to assistive technology and rehabilitation in humanitarian crises.

17. WIPO presented the WHO-WIPO-WTO [Trilateral Cooperation](#) on [Public Health, Intellectual Property and Trade](#) and the outcomes of the December 2024 [symposium](#) on strengthening manufacturing capacity to respond to the NCD burden.

Actions

Mental Health Comorbidities

F1. Present results of the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 tracking exercise on NCDs, mental health and substance use conditions at the twenty-fifth Task Force meeting (*United for Global Mental Health and UNAIDS*).

Nutrition and NCDs Working Group

F2. Finalize the 2025-2026 Nutrition and NCD Working Group workplan, ensuring that obesity is central to the group's activity (*UN Nutrition and the Nutrition and NCDs Working Group*).

F3. Continue to explore feasibility of a joint programming mission to Cabo Verde on NCDs and nutrition, with special attention to activities to accelerate obesity prevention, and in line with the commitments made in the 2023 Bridgetown Declaration (*UN Nutrition, Task Force Secretariat, WHO, and other Task Force members as appropriate*).

F4. Pilot the revised Nutrition Guidance in at least one country to generate evidence about policy and legislative implementation, with a particular emphasis on improving the food environment to prevent obesity (*Nutrition and NCDs Working Group*).

F5. Encourage use of country voices and stories to showcase cost-effective and affordable interventions aimed at preventing obesity and other diet-related NCDs (*Nutrition and NCDs Working Group*).

Human Rights Team

F6. Identify further opportunities to work jointly with human rights mechanisms, including other treaty bodies and special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to draw attention to NCDs and mental health (*Human Rights Team*).

F7. Review and discuss how to best integrate the gender and equity recommendations from the Task Force independent evaluation in Task Force activities (*Human Rights Team*).

NCDs in emergencies

F8. Share the (i) final report of the Global High-level technical meeting on NCDs in humanitarian settings, and (ii) the policy brief, operational manual and roll out plan on NCDs in all hazards emergency preparedness and response (*WHO and Task Force Secretariat*).

NCDs and urban health

F9. UN Habitat to reflect the recommendations of the Task Force to strengthen action on health (including mental health and NCDs) in the 2026-2029 UN Habitat strategy (*UN Habitat*).

F10. Continue to explore opportunities to mobilise resources to promote physical activity in urban settings, including through the Health4Life Fund (*IOC, UN Habitat, WHO, and Task Force Secretariat*).

Addressing sensory impairments

F11. At the twenty-fifth Task Force meeting, report on the progress of collaborative UN efforts to address sensory impairments (*WHO and other Task Force members as appropriate*).

Assistive technology

F12. Explore the possibility of providing evidence on assistive technology to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (*Human Rights Team, WHO and Task Force Secretariat*).

Trilateral Cooperation on Public Health, IP and Trade

F13. WIPO and WTO to develop individual agency briefs on NCDs (*WIPO, WTO and Task Force Secretariat*).

G. Scaling up action on obesity

18. WHO described the current global burden of obesity and the WHO acceleration plan to stop obesity that has engaged 34 countries in collaboration with UNICEF and the World Bank. Support to countries includes setting goals and targets, developing national implementation plans, and conducting thematic deep dives. As part of the acceleration plan, WHO announced the launch of the WHO Technical Package to Stop Obesity that includes a selected set of multisectoral actions. The Task Force discussed how the Task Force could support advocacy, development of impact-oriented partnerships, and support to countries, for instance through digital service delivery platforms and by developing investment case methodology for obesity.

Actions

G1. Continue to support the WHO Acceleration Plan to Stop Obesity through advocacy and impact-oriented partnerships at global and country level, leveraging Task Force members' platforms (*Task Force Secretariat, WHO and relevant members of the Task Force as appropriate*).

G2. Develop investment case methodology and evidence-based digital solutions to support the obesity pandemic response (*Task Force Secretariat and WHO*).

H. WHO Global Alcohol Action Plan 2022-2030 and the SAFER initiative

19. WHO updated Task Force members on country work under the SAFER programme, including Kenya, Nepal and Uganda, and the intercountry learning that was held in Ghana in April 2025. An update was also provided on discussions with civil society partners on a potential alcohol awareness day. A number of agencies indicated commitment to support implementation of the WHO Global Alcohol Action plan 2022-2030, in response to the WHO Director-General's letter. Agencies that had yet to respond, were encouraged to do so. WHO also provided key elements of what good practice should consist of for the Task Force with regards to alcohol and the alcohol industry.

Actions

H1. Agencies that have yet to respond to the WHO Director-General's letter on driving an ever-stronger whole-of-UN responses to support Member States tackle harmful use of alcohol to do so (*AfDB, ILO, ITU, ONODC, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNRSF, UNICEF, UN Women, WTO*).

H2. WHO to lead a webinar to discuss coherent action across the UN on the Global Alcohol Action Plan, taking into account responses received from agencies to the WHO Director-General's letter (*WHO, Task Force members and Task Force Secretariat*).

H3. After the Fourth High-level Meeting, review options for a dedicated day each year to raise awareness on the harmful impact of alcohol (*Task Force Secretariat, WHO and relevant members of the Task Force*).

H4. Draft a good practice paper for the way that UN system agencies interact with the alcohol industry as well as UN workplace standards for review at the twenty-fifth Task Force meeting (*WHO and Task Force Secretariat*).

I. Digital health

20. ITU, WHO, and Task Force Secretariat presented their joint activities, highlighting the adaptation of the methodology from the report [Going Digital for Noncommunicable Diseases: The Case for Action](#) to support the development of country-level investment cases in Kyrgyzstan and The Gambia, with requests from other countries. An update on [Be He@lthy, Be Mobile](#) was also provided, with agencies encouraged to contribute to scaling up digital interventions for NCDs and mental health.

Action

I1. WHO, ITU and Task Force Secretariat to work with other Task Force members to determine opportunities to scale up and align digital action on NCDs (*ITU, Task Force Secretariat, UNDP and WHO*).

J. Tobacco control

21. The Convention Secretariat shared [campaign material](#) for the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the WHO Framework Convention on [Tobacco control](#) (FCTC) and other advocacy products. The Convention Secretariat encouraged Task Force members to involve their communications teams to amplify the campaign messages.

22. Task Force members were reminded that the [Eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties \(COP\) to the WHO FCTC and the Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties \(MOP\) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products](#) will be held in Geneva, 17–22 November 2025 and 24–26 November 2025 respectively, and that Task Force members that are observers to the COP and MOP should register to attend and apply for observer status if required.

23. WHO provided an update on the [Alternative Livelihoods Project](#), which includes FAO, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations World Food Programme, and WHO. The initiative aims to transform the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by supporting their transition from tobacco farming to the production of nutrient-dense food crops. Key factors contributing to the success of this initiative include strong community engagement, coordinated efforts across UN agencies, and the cost-effectiveness of transitioning from tobacco farming to the cultivation of other crops at scale.

24. The theme of World No Tobacco Day 31 May, 2025 will be '[Bright products. Dark intentions. Unmasking the appeal.](#)' The campaign will focus on how tobacco and nicotine industries use insidious strategies to make their harmful products appealing, especially to young people and action that is required to tackle this.

Actions

COP11 and MOP4

J1. Continue to encourage intergovernmental organizations accredited as observers (including country, sub-regional and regional offices where appropriate) to participate in COP and MOP meetings (*Convention and Task Force secretariats*).

J2. Explore establishing a booth to highlight the work of the Task Force on tobacco control at COP11 (*Convention and Task Force secretariats*).

World No Tobacco Day 2025

J3. Encourage Task Force members to participate in the 2025 World No Tobacco Day campaign and share the campaign material with their networks, including joining a webinar on 13 May 2025 (*WHO and all members of the Task Force*).

Twentieth anniversary of the entering into force of the WHO FCTC

J4. Convention Secretariat and Task Force Secretariat to work with Task Force members to identify ways of marking the twentieth anniversary of the entering into force of the WHO FCTC (*All*).

J5. Finalize the analysis on the inclusion of tobacco in UNSDCFs to be launched during the twentieth year of the FCTC coming into force (*Convention and Task Force secretariats, and WHO*).

K. Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health

25. WHO updated Task Force members on its new [roadmap](#) to strengthen the global response to health threats from [air pollution](#). The roadmap includes new voluntary targets. WHO reported on outcomes of the [Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health](#), that took place in March 2025 in Colombia.

Action

K1. Update Task Force members on global air pollution targets and joint tracking activities at the twenty-fifth meeting (*WHO*).

L. Legislators initiative

26. The Task Force Secretariat and UNDP provided an update on the [NCD and Mental Health Legislators Initiative](#). Four hearings, held from March to May, are focusing on action that legislators need to take to reduce the burden of NCDs and improve mental health. Evidence gathered at the hearings will enable recommendations to be included in a short report together with a model resolution that will be launched at the H20 Summit, Geneva, 19-20 June 2025. The report will then be disseminated to regional and national parliaments.

Action

L1. (i) Task Force members to consider joining the launch of the legislators report (H20 Summit, Geneva, 19-20 June 2025); (ii) Task Force Secretariat to disseminate the report to Task Force members after its launch; and (iii) Task Force Secretariat and UNDP to host a webinar with G20&G7 HDP for Task Force members to explore how they can support further dissemination of the report and uptake of recommendations (*Task Force Secretariat, UNDP and relevant members of the Task Force as appropriate*).

M. NCD situation in Gaza

27. UNRWA provided an update on the NCD situation in Gaza. Between October 2023 and February 2025, UNRWA provided 1.6 million NCD consultations in Gaza focusing on diabetes and hypertension. In Gaza, health services have been severely disrupted, with a drastic reduction in the number of operational health facilities. Key health services have been suspended, including early detection screenings and mental health integration for patients with NCDs, and there are shortages of essential medications. Urgent action is required to sustain healthcare workers and facilities, address critical shortages of essential medicines, and ensure access to dignified services including palliative care. There is a pressing need for capacity building across various medical specialties, as well as robust risk communication and community engagement strategies focused on NCDs. UNRWA concluded calling for global health solidarity and efforts in rebuilding and strengthening Gaza's health system.

Action

M1. Share background information on the NCD situation in Gaza presented during the Task Force meeting (*Task Force Secretariat and UNRWA*)

N. NCD2030

28. UNDP and the Task Force Secretariat provided an update on the [UNDP/WHO Joint Programme to catalyse multisectoral action on NCDs](#) (NCD2030). The update highlighted that: (i) investment cases are ongoing in 17 countries; (ii) follow-up activity is in progress with country teams regarding the implementation of recommendations included in investment case reports; (iii) an [investment case methodology](#) for addressing air pollution was developed by UNDP and implemented with [Mongolia](#), [India](#) and [Ethiopia](#); and (iv) an interactive website for health investment cases was launched in February on the UNDP Data Futures Exchange (DFx) - [Making the Case for Investment in Health](#) - a centralized and open-source space to explore investment case findings and methods, along with policy actions countries have taken in line with investment cases. The importance of driving fuller implementation of national investment cases was emphasised, including by promoting their findings with Member States.

Actions

N1. Develop a short summary on investment case for the WHO New York Office and UNDP to share with Member States ahead of the Fourth High-level Meeting (*Task Force Secretariat and UNDP*).

O. Health4Life Fund

29. The Health4Life (H4LF) Fund Secretariat informed Task Force members that the first round of funding is currently underway in Rwanda and Zambia and that country selection is ongoing for the second round.

UNDP shared an update on the Fund's South-South Learning Lab, which will provide a platform for Global South leaders to exchange experiences, with a focus on governance, financing, and country-led action. UN Habitat indicated that they are exploring opportunities with IOC to mobilize funds for the Health4Life Fund.

Action

O1. Highlight the opportunities in the current environment for partners to invest in the Health4Life Fund as an example of more effective ways of working and efficiency savings, in line with the UN Funding Compact (*H4LF Secretariat, UNDP, UNICEF and WHO*).²

P. Other updates

30. The WHO Global Coordination Mechanism (GCM) on NCDs updated Task Force members on two events: the WHO Multistakeholder Hearing on NCDs and Mental Health for Young Professionals on 15 April 2025, and the GCM [Second General Meeting](#), scheduled for 23–25 April 2025.

31. WHO shared its new guidance on [mental health policy and strategic actions](#), along with progress in finalising sector-specific guidance for protecting and promoting mental health, which has been developed in collaboration with a range of stakeholders, including 11 UN agencies.

32. OECD outlined the contents of its recently published report, [Tackling the impact of cancer on health, the economy and society](#), that estimates the burden of cancer on the OECD/G20 countries economy. The methodology was applied to 51 countries, and it covers six risk factors (tobacco use, alcohol consumption, overweight, physical activity, diet and air pollution).

Action

Mental health briefs

P1. Develop a dissemination plan for the mental health briefs once finalised, including increasing mental health into UNSDCFs (*WHO and Task Force Secretariat*).

Q. Task Force awards

33. The [2025 call for nominations](#) is currently open (extended until the end of May) and awards this year will recognise exclusively outstanding commitments in obesity prevention and control. The 2025 [Task Force Awards](#) Ceremony will be held during the twelfth Friends of the Task Force meeting, on the sidelines of the Eightieth Session of the UN General Assembly, in New York, September 2025. The first [meeting](#) of the Task Force Award Winners Network was held on 19 March 2025.

Action

Q1. Task Force members to join the Selection Committee and encourage nominations for the 2025 awards (*Task Force Secretariat and other members of the Task Force as appropriate*).

² The [May 2024 funding compact for UN support to the SDGs](#) says that Member States should increase their contributions to interagency pooled funds to enhance the collective results of the UN development system. An aspirational target of a 30% increase by 2027 has been set ([Monitoring and Reporting Framework](#)). The compact also says that UN agencies should enhance joint resource mobilization and partnerships, and pooled funding mechanisms.

R. Report to ECOSOC

34. The 2025 ECOSOC report is currently being finalised. The Task Force Secretariat thanked members for their inputs.

S. Dates and venues of future Task Force meetings

35. It was agreed that the twenty-fifth meeting will be held in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Action

S1. Task Force Secretariat to identify a venue and host for the twenty-fifth meeting.

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Annex 1. Summary Agenda

Co-moderators:

Werner Obermeyer (WHO Office at the United Nations)

Nneka Henry (UNRSF)

Day 1: Tuesday 1 April 2025

Time	Agenda Item
Agenda item 1 14.00–14.15	Welcome and introductions
Agenda item 2 14.15–14.35	Review of actions agreed at the 23 rd Task Force meeting
Agenda item 3 14.35–15.30	Discussions on the Task Force evaluation and updating the Task Force Strategy
Agenda item 4 15.45–16.45	Preparations for the Fourth High Level Meeting on NCDs and mental health
Agenda item 5 16.45–17.30	Global health and development financing, its impact on Task Force members, and mitigation strategies

Day 2: Wednesday 2 April 2025

Time	Agenda Item
Agenda item 6 13.00–13.10	Scaling up action on chronic respiratory diseases through the Task Force
Agenda item 7 13.10–14.00	Updates on selected Task Force thematic working groups (mental health comorbidities, nutrition, human rights, cervical cancer, and NCD in emergencies)
Agenda item 8 14.00–15.00	Scaling up action on obesity
Agenda item 9 15.15–15.35	Alcohol control
Agenda item 10 15.35–15.45	Digital health
Agenda item 11 15.45–17.00	Updates on selected Task Force workstreams (urban health, sensory impairments, RECAP, assistive technology, Trilateral Cooperation on Public Health, IP and Trade)

Day 3: Thursday 3 April 2025

Time	Agenda Item
Agenda item 12 13.00–13.10	Addressing NCDs in the workplace
Agenda item 13 13.15–14.15	Updates from the Convention Secretariat and WHO No Tobacco group (COP11 and MOP4, Alternative livelihoods, World No Tobacco Day, and the 20th anniversary of the entering into force of the WHO FCTC)
Agenda item 14 14.15–14.30	Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health
Agenda item 15 14.30–14.45	Legislators initiative
Agenda item 16 14.45–15.00	The impact of NCDs on the economy, ongoing work from OECD
Agenda item 17 15.00–15.20	NCD 2030
Agenda item 18 15.20–15.30	Update from UNRWA

Agenda item 19 15.40–15.50	Health4Life Fund
Agenda item 20 15.50–16.00	Global Coordination Mechanism
Agenda item 21 16.00–16.15	Other updates from members
Agenda item 22 16.15–16.35	Updates from the Task Force Secretariat
Agenda item 23 16.35–16.50	Review of action points
Agenda item 24 16.50–17.00	Closing remarks

Annex 2. List of participants

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Annex 3. Review of actions agreed at the twenty-third Task Force meeting, 30-31 October 2025, Geneva (as presented by the Secretariat on Day 1).

B. Review of actions agreed at the twenty-third Task Force meeting

Actions

B1. Continue to identify opportunities to highlight NCDs and mental health and the work of the Task Force at meetings of senior management and governing bodies of Task Force members, taking into account the findings of the independent joint evaluation of the Task Force (*Task Force Secretariat and Task Force members as appropriate*).

UN Women, ILO and Task Force Secretariat provided evidence to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 10 February 2025.

UN Habitat, WHO and Task Force Secretariat co-organized a side event on 6 November 2024 at WUF12 in Cairo, on [Working in partnership to improve health and wellbeing in urban settings](#).

Task Force Secretariat is providing inputs into UN Habitat's next strategy.

UNEP, WHO and the Task Force Secretariat will brief the Committee of Permanent Representatives, an intersessional subsidiary body of the United Nations Environment Assembly in May 2025.

Task Force Secretariat will provide a briefing at a [UNEP organized side event](#) at the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on 1 April 2025.

B2. Continue to engage with UN regional commissions to develop a collaborative plan of action to raise awareness about NCDs and mental health and the work of the Task Force, taking into account the findings of the independent joint evaluation of the Task Force (*Task Force Secretariat, UN regional commissions, and Task Force members as appropriate*).

Plan is to reengage once the evaluation is finalized and solicit their support for the development of the next Task Force strategy and workplan.

C. Tobacco control

Actions

COP11 and MOP4

C1. Continue to encourage intergovernmental organizations accredited as observers (including country, sub-regional and regional offices where appropriate) to participate in COP and MOP meetings (*Convention and Task Force secretariats*).

Update on progress to be provided at Twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

C2. Explore establishing a booth to highlight the work of the Task Force on tobacco control at future meetings (COP11 and beyond) (*Convention and Task Force secretariats*).

As above.

Human Rights

C3. In line with FCTC/COP10(20) continue to raise the visibility of the WHO FCTC as a tool to promote the right to the highest attainable standard of health and the broader human rights agenda in UN fora (*Convention Secretariat, Task Force Secretariat, Human Rights Group*).

The Convention Secretariat contributed to the WHO action on the Health of Indigenous Peoples 2024, as well as the WHO Survey on women's health, gender equality data. Key messages were developed to highlight the WHO

FCTC as a tool for promoting human rights, including the right to health. OHCHR also participated as a speaker in the celebrations marking the twentieth anniversary of the FCTC's entry into force.

Tobacco-free UN campuses

C4. Contact the UN campus administration in Nairobi to stop on-campus sales of tobacco products (*Convention and Task Force Secretariats, and WHO*).

The administration has been contacted, but no response has been received.

Alternative livelihoods

C5. Share the most recent report on the outcomes of the alternative livelihoods project with Task Force members (*Task Force Secretariat and WHO*).

The outcome report is being finalized, a summary one-pager will be shared during the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

C6. Provide a full briefing on the alternative livelihoods project at the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting (*Convention and Task Force Secretariats, and WHO*).

Update scheduled for the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

World No Tobacco Day 2025

C7. Encourage Task Force members to participate in the 2025 World No Tobacco Day campaign (*WHO and all members of the Task Force*).

Update to be provided at the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

Tobacco and HIV

C8. Share the Tobacco and HIV brief with the Inter-Agency working group on NCDs and communicable diseases comorbidities (*Task Force Secretariat, WHO and other members of the Task Force as appropriate*).

Actioned.

Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

C9. Task Force members to provide inputs into joint United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Convention Secretariat publications on (i) tackling illicit tobacco to advance the SDGs; and (ii) available support for countries from UN agencies and international organisations on tackling illicit trade in tobacco products (*Convention Secretariat, Task Force Secretariat, UNDP and other members of the Task Force as appropriate*).

Actioned. Feedback received from WHO, the World Bank, UNODC.

20th anniversary of the entering into force of the WHO FCTC

C10. Convention Secretariat and Task Force Secretariat to work with Task Force members to identify ways of marking the 20th anniversary of the entering into force of the WHO FCTC during 2025 (*All*).

The in-person celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the entering into force of the WHO FCTC took place at WHO Headquarters on 27 February 2025. Task Force members were invited to attend, and anniversary campaign materials were also shared.

D. Digital Health

Actions

D1. Encourage Task Force members to respond to a very brief (2 minute) survey that is being circulated to a wide range of stakeholders to guide the future direction of Be He@lthy, Be Mobile (*All*).

Task Force members responded to the survey with feedback incorporated in the development of BHBM 3.0 strategy.

D2. Explore opportunities for collaboration with the [African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa \(2020-2030\)](#) and Africa CDC, including synergies for joint strategies and blueprint solutions (*ITU and WHO*).

Meeting with Africa CDC digital division held 7 March 2025. Investment cases identified as good opportunity to support countries with digital health strategies. Follow up in Q2 2025 to discuss next steps for joint work.

D3. Report on the progress of country-level digital health investment cases for NCD in Kyrgyzstan and Gambia at the next Task Force meeting (*ITU and Task Force Secretariat*).
Update scheduled for the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

E. WHO Global Alcohol Action plan 2022-2030 and the SAFER initiative

Actions

E1. Once WHO Director-General's letter is issued, Task Force focal points to work with heads of agencies to provide timely responses. Task Force Secretariat to support this process and collate responses to drive forward an ever-stronger whole-of-UN responses to support Member States tackle harmful use of alcohol (*Task Force Secretariat, WHO and relevant members of the Task Force as appropriate*)

WHO Director-General's letter issued at the end of 2024. Responses received from a number of agencies, responses from others requested.

E2. Continue to explore options regarding a dedicated day each year to raise awareness about the harmful impact of alcohol (*Task Force Secretariat, WHO and relevant members of the Task Force as appropriate*).

WHO has consulted with civil society to map existing observances and identify a potential international day. Further discussion to be held during the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

E3. Continue to explore the potential for a model policy for the way that UN system agencies interact with the alcohol industry (*Task Force Secretariat, WHO and other members of the Task Force*).

Key elements for an Alcohol Model Policy to be presented at the twenty-fourth Task Force Meeting.

F. Joint independent evaluation of the Task Force

Actions

F1. WHO Evaluation Office, Task Force Secretariat, Task Force Evaluation Reference Group, and Task Force Evaluation Management Group to review the draft report ahead of the joint independent evaluation team submitting their final report (*WHO Evaluation Office, Task Force Secretariat, Task Force Evaluation Management and Reference Groups*).

Actioned. Report now being copy edited. Tabled for discussion at this meeting.

F2. Task Force Secretariat to lead the process of developing the management response in consultation with Task Force members (*Task Force Secretariat*).

Process will be discussed at the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting. A draft reflecting comments received at the meeting will be used as the basis for a draft that will be shared with members for their inputs ahead of being finalised.

G. Seventy ninth UN General Assembly and preparations for the Fourth NCD High-level meeting during the Eighty General Assembly

G1. Task Force Secretariat to ensure that the Task Force and its achievements are reflected in the WHO Director-General's report to the UN Secretary-General on progress since the Third High-level Meeting 2025 (*Task Force Secretariat, WHO, and other members of the Task Force as appropriate*).

Inputs were provided to those drafting the report. The UN Secretary-General's (UNSG) report is available on the Task Force webpage.

G2. Task Force Secretariat to continue to work with WHO to ensure that Task Force members are central to the preparation of the Fourth High-level Meeting on NCDs in 2025 (*Task Force Secretariat, WHO, and other members of the Task Force as appropriate*).

Ongoing, with Task Force members being informed of UNSG's report, modalities resolution, preparatory meetings, with the Task Force Secretariat providing support to the co-moderators through the WHO Office in New York.

G3. Task Force Secretariat to share the report of the International Dialogue on Sustainable Financing for NCDs and mental health once finalized (*Task Force Secretariat*).

The report has been shared as a background document for the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

G4. Task Force Secretariat to update the Task Force's Terms of Reference to reflect the political declarations from all UNGA high-level meetings as well as ECOSOC resolutions and decisions on the work of the Task Force (*Task Force Secretariat*).

Completed and published on the Task Force website.

H. Updates on selected joint workstreams and programmes

Actions

Mental Health Comorbidities

H1. At the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting, present the results of the Global Funds Grant Cycle 7 tracking exercise on NCDs, mental health and substance use conditions (*United for Global Mental Health and UNAIDS*).

An update will be provided at the next Task Force meeting.

Nutrition and NCDs Working Group

H2. Continue to progress on planning a joint programming mission to Cabo Verde with a focus on NCDs and nutrition and in line with the commitments made in the 2023 Bridgetown Declaration (*UN-Nutrition Secretariat, Task Force Secretariat, WHO, and other Task Force Members as appropriate*).

Terms of Reference for the mission have been finalized, and relevant UN agencies have been informed. Currently waiting for the Ministry of Health to confirm a date for the mission.

H3. Pilot-test the revised Nutrition Guidance in at least one country to generate evidence about policy and legislative implementation (*Nutrition and NCDs Working Group*).

The Nutrition Guidance will be tested during the mission in Cabo Verde.

H4. Publish and disseminate the methodology for nutrition investment cases. Encourage uptake in one country through a multisectoral approach and with new and/or updated economic tools (*Nutrition and NCDs Working Group*).

UNDP is exploring options for publishing the methodology, including disseminating pilot findings at country level. Methods and pilot findings have already been distributed at the UNGA, Nutrition for Growth, and International Congress of Nutrition.

H5. Encourage use of country voices and stories to showcase cost-effective and affordable interventions aimed at preventing diet-related NCDs (*Nutrition and NCDs Working Group*).

Country stories on preventing diet-related NCDs are currently being explored by the members of the Nutrition and NCDs Working Group.

Human Rights Team

H6. Following the planned mission to Liberia in early 2025, hold a special session on human rights at a Task Force meeting (*Human Rights Team*).

Mission on hold.

NCDs in emergencies

H7. Once finalized, Task Force Secretariat to share the final report of the Global High-Level Technical Meeting on NCDs in Humanitarian Settings and the operational manual on NCDs in humanitarian settings (*WHO and Task Force Secretariat*).

The report will be published following the twenty-fourth Task force meeting.

NCDs and urban health

H8. Use WUF12 to explore opportunities to develop linkages between the Task Force and existing collaborations with cities and mayors (*Task Force Secretariat, UN Habitat and WHO*).

UN Habitat to report back at the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

H9. At the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting, update Task Force members on the activities conducted by UN Habitat on the links between crime and drug policies in cities with health and NCDs (*UN Habitat*).

Update scheduled for the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

H10. Further the collaboration between IOC and UN Habitat on a global partnership on sport for sustainable urban development, and explore the opportunities to mobilise resources for the Health4Life Fund (*IOC, Task Force Secretariat, and UN Habitat*).

UN Habitat has written to IOC about potential collaboration. UN Habitat and IOC to report back at the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

Addressing NCDs in the workplace

H11. Continue exploring opportunities to collaborate with UN human rights mechanisms, including treaty body mechanisms, on prevention and control of NCDs in the workplace (*ILO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [OHCHR], and WHO*).

Task Force Secretariat, UN Women, ILO provided evidence to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on NCDs in women in workplace settings and the need to tackle root causes of gender inequality on 10 February 2025.

H12. Bring the perspective of NCDs in the workplace to Task Force missions and explore how to engage with UN offices in the country to improve occupational health and NCD risk factors (*ILO, Task Force Secretariat, and WHO*).

To be actioned, pending confirmation of mission dates.

Addressing sensory impairments: an integrated approach

H13. Continue to develop action across the UN system to support Member States in strengthening eye and hearing health, in line with UN and WHA resolutions (*Task Force Secretariat, WHO and Task Force Members as appropriate*).

WHO and the Task Force Secretariat held meetings with UNESCO and ILO to explore further avenues of collaboration.

Assistive technology

H14. Invite Task Force members to a webinar to discuss how members can support the implementation of the 10 recommendations of the WHO Global Report on Assistive Technology (*Task Force Secretariat, WHO, and all Task Force members*).

Actioned. The following Task Force members participated: ILO, ISDB, ITU, UN Women, UNRWA, WIPO.

H15. Explore with the Task Force's Human rights Team on the possibility of briefing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (*Human Rights Team, Task Force Secretariat and WHO*).

To be explored with the CRPD Secretariat prior to the next CRPD session in September 2025.

H16. Provide an updated at the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting on the results of the pilot assistive technology investment cases, development of a global road map on access to assistive technology, and progress in integrating and raising resources for assistive technology into humanitarian crisis (*Task Force Secretariat and WHO*).

Update scheduled for the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

I. Chronic respiratory diseases

Action

I1. Task Force Secretariat to explore with WHO and the WHO Special Envoy for CRDs on opportunities to use the Task Force as a platform to support action on CRDs (*Task Force Secretariat and WHO*).

Update to be provided at the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

J. Health4Life Fund

Action

J1. Continue to drive forward the Fund's [resource mobilization and operations strategy](#) in line with the Fund's Terms of reference (*H4LF Secretariat, UNDP/UNICEF/WHO core team*).

Update to be provided at the twenty-fourth Task Force meeting.

K. NCD2030

Action

K1. Organize an awareness-raising session on investment cases for UN missions in New York (*Task Force Secretariat, UNDP and WHO*).

Completed. Ahead of the Fourth NCD and Mental Health High-Level Meeting, WHO and the UN Foundation co-hosted a thematic dialogue on investing in NCDs and mental health with Antigua and Barbuda, Belgium, Ghana, Georgia, Japan, and Thailand. UNDP briefed participants on the NCD and mental health country investment case conducted so far and their impact in driving forward the WHO 'best buys'.

K2. Coordinate with the H4LF Fund on how to drive forward investment case recommendations through country grants and the South-South platform (*H4LF and Task Force Secretariat and UNDP*).

To be included in H4LF report back at the twenty-fourth Task Force.

K3. Develop a summary of findings from a selection of institutional context analyses conducted to date as part of supporting Member States in their preparation for the Fourth High-level Meeting (*Task Force Secretariat and UNDP*).

Ongoing. UNDP and the Task Force Secretariat are in the process of developing a report on barriers to implementing NCD action at the national level, using the results of institutional context analyses.

K4. Explore the potential for more structured collaboration with ITU as part of NCD2030 (*ITU, Task Force Secretariat and UNDP*).

Task Force and ITU to explore possibilities to collaboratively support countries where digital health investment cases will be launched. Meeting(s) to be held in Q2 2025.

L. Special Session on the integration of NCDs and mental health in UNSDCF

Actions

L1. Conduct an in-depth analysis on the inclusion of tobacco in UNSDCFs to be launched during the 20th year of the FCTC coming into force (*Convention and Task Force secretariats, and WHO*).

Data on tobacco inclusion in UNSDCFs has been collected and analysed. Report currently under development.

L2. Develop a peer-review publication that brings together analysis to date on how NCDs and mental health are included in UNSDCFs, including trends over time (*Task Force Secretariat*).

Ongoing.

L3. Maintain ongoing support to UN country teams in countries with an expiring UNSDCF to highlight the opportunities of including NCDs and mental health as a development priority (*Task Force Secretariat, All*).

WHO representatives with a UNSDCF expiring in 2025 have been contacted to encourage the inclusion of NCDs and mental health in the new UNSDCF as well as to share relevant Task Force UNSDCF guidance documents.

M. Other updates

Actions

M1. Finalize the Terms of Reference of the mission in Thailand on NCDs and air pollution (*Task Force Secretariat, UNEP UN Nutrition, and WHO*).

Ongoing. Pending feedback from Government focal points.

M2. Invite Task Force members to participate in a webinar to start the process of providing inputs into the development of the WHO guidance on policy and strategic actions to protect and promote mental health and well-being for key government sectors (*Task Force Secretariat and WHO*).

Completed. Nine agencies participated: IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UN Habitat, UNODC, UNRWA, UNRSF, UNICEF, UN Women.

N. Task Force awards

Action

N1. Continue to build the network of former winners to determine the impact of the award, encourage continued action and share best practices (*Task Force Secretariat*).

On March 19 2025, a first virtual meeting of the Task Force Award Winners Network was held, with the participation of approximately 30 institutions, including both State and non-State award winners.

N2. Share the recommendation from the Task Force for the awards to be held again in 2025 with the WHO Director-General. Advertise the 2025 Task Force Awards early in the year with a focus on Obesity Prevention and Management (*Task Force Secretariat*).

Actioned. Call for nominations available [here](#).

P. Dates and venues of future Task Force meetings

Action

P1. Task Force Secretariat to identify a venue and host for the twenty-fourth meeting.

Actioned. Twenty-fourth Task Force meeting being held in Geneva. Co-hosted by WHO and the UN Road Safety Fund.