

UNITED NATIONS
**Health4Life
Fund**



2023

Annual Report

**The United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund to
Catalyze Country Action for Non-Communicable Diseases
and Mental Health**



Promoting Global-South leadership

because local priorities and expertise
must guide global investment in NCDs
and mental health



2023

- Health4Life Fund starts being capitalised at the UN General Assembly.
- First call for proposals launched.



2021

- Three UN agencies, UNDP, UNICEF and WHO, and the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office agree a partnership for a new, bold and visionary Fund for NCDs and mental health.
- Three Global South leaders in NCDs and mental health, Kenya, Thailand and Uruguay join as Founding Strategic Partners.

2024



- New set of agreements in the first half of the year between the Fund and Member States and Foundations will significantly scale up Health4Life Fund's capital.
- Second call for proposals to be launched.
- New set of innovative partnerships to be announced.
- World Bank-WHO International dialogue on sustainable financing for NCDs and mental health will highlight the Health4Life Fund as a crucial financing instrument for low- and middle-income countries as they look to urgently scale up action ahead of the 2025 Fourth UN High-level Meeting on NCDs on the road to meeting the NCD and mental health SDG targets.

2022



- Operational and governance arrangements established for the new Health4Life Fund.
- Civil society organizations join up.

Activities in 2023

January

- Health4Life Fund highlighted as a critical financing mechanism for NCDs and mental health at the WHO Executive Board.

February

- Health4Life Fund Secretariat collaborates with WHO to develop a corporate approach to multi-partner trust funds.

March

- WHO, UNDP and UNICEF update the Twentieth Meeting of the UN NCD Task Force on the work of the Health4Life Fund ● Health4Life Fund featured on Vital Talks' podcast and Voices for a Health Revolution, with the Fund being highlighted as an exemplar for advancing new models of collaboration for public health that put countries from the global south at the forefront of policy and strategy.

April

- Health4Life Secretariat visits Sierra Leone to participate in a workshop to finalize an illustrative proposal for scaling up action on NCDs and mental health ● WHO Member States receive an update on the Health4Life Fund.

May

- WHO, UNDP and UNICEF update country delegations during the World Health Assembly on the work of the Fund.

June

- Second meeting of the Steering Committee ● NCD Alliance and United for Global Mental Health welcomed as observers.

July

- Soroptimist International Africa Federation join the Health4Life Fund, with a commitment to provide support through the Fund for the global cervical cancer elimination initiative ● Health4Life Fund Secretariat and UNFPA highlight the Fund at the Soroptimist International quadrennial conference in Dublin ● ECOSOC reviews the annual report of the UN NCD Task Force, with the recommendation for WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and other Task Force members to work with bilateral, multilateral and other development partners to mobilize resources for the Fund.

August

- Health4Life Fund Steering Committee approved the Fund's guidance for engaging with non-State actors.

September

- Scottish Government announces a contribution of £2.5 million over 5 years for the Fund during the UN General Assembly ● Annual Friends of the Task Force receives an update on the Health4Life Fund during the UN General Assembly ● Health4Life Secretariat holds meetings in New York with a number of Member States and development partners and presents at an Aspen Global Innovators Group event.

October

- Health4Life Secretariat has discussions with representatives from leading private sector companies at the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh ● A new visual identity for the Health4Life Fund is in place.

November

- Discussions in Lusaka with potential Health4Life Fund partners during the Third International Conference on Public Health in Africa ● Health4Life Fund highlighted during a side event on strengthening governance for NCDs and mental health in Africa Union Member States cohosted by Africa CDC, the UN NCD Task Force, UNDP and World Diabetes Federation ● Health4Life Fund Secretariat visits Nairobi to hold meetings with the Government of Kenya, UN agencies on the ground, and development partners.

December

- First competitive call for counties to submit expressions of interest for catalytic country action on NCDs and mental health of up to US\$ 1 million over 3 years.

How Funds are being used

The Health4Life Fund supports countries to catalyse action for a scaled up NCDs and mental health response for the purpose of:

- Mobilizing and maximizing the impact of domestic financing and resources.
- Developing and implementing effective policy, legislative and regulatory measures, including fiscal measures to reduce risk factors.
- Increasing access to essential health services and medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies as part of universal health coverage benefit packages.
- Promoting policy coherence and mutual accountability across government sectors of different spheres of policy making.
- Engaging relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, as appropriate to enhance population-wide responses.
- Strengthening the collection and use of data.

The Fund also supports innovation and/or implementation research across the areas above.



Catalyzing country-level investments

on NCDs and mental health to
achieve universal health coverage
and the SDGs



The Fund provides the best opportunity to support a One-UN response to NCDs and mental health toward country-led action. I urge Member States and development partners to contribute.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
Director-General, WHO, UN General Assembly, September 2023

Health4Life Steering Committee

The following were represented on the Health4Life Fund Steering Committee in 2023: WHO (permanent co-chair), UNDP (rotating co-chair), UNICEF, governments of Kenya, Thailand and Uruguay, the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, NCD Alliance, and United for Global Mental Health.

The Steering Committee is guided by the Fund's Terms of Reference, Governance Arrangements, and Operations Guidance. All are available on the Health4Life website.

Resource mobilization is guided through a resource mobilization strategy and a roadmap. Guidance exists for the way that the Fund engages with non-State actors.



Uniting partners across government and society

because multisectoral action
is required to tackle NCDs and
promote mental health

Multi-partner trust funds provide a way of promoting coherence to deliver on common objectives ... for a more effective and efficient use of resources, better transparency and accountability, and an ability to see overlaps and avoid duplication.e solutions that are better adapted to those countries' health needs and priorities.

Jennnifer Topping, Executive Coordinator in the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office,
WHO Member State briefing on the Health4Life Fund, April 2023

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The Health4Life Fund was established in 2021 to galvanize domestic financing and scale up country action for the prevention and control of NCDs and for improving mental health – areas of health and development that have been neglected over many years, and continue to remain poorly resourced, despite the impact of COVID-19 on NCDs and mental health conditions.

The Health4Life Fund supports governments, the United Nations development system and other partners to work together towards common NCD and mental health results, in a way that responds to the global, regional and country level commitments on NCDs and mental health. The Fund is based on established financing-for-development and aid & development effectiveness principles.

The Fund was established by the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF and the World Health Organization – three members of the United Nations NCD Task Force and is administered by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. The Task Force brings United Nations system agencies and intergovernmental organizations together to support governments reduce the burden of NCDs, including mental health conditions, to meet the goals and targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

We welcome the approach taken to establish this fund as a catalytic [instrument] to increase domestic resources.

Peace Masinde-Mutuma, Permanent Mission of Kenya to the UN in Geneva, WHO Member State briefing on the Health4Life Fund, April 2023

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The Fund will support collaboration led by the Global South...and will focus overdue attention upon a major global health challenge. By promoting the leadership of the Global South, it will encourage solutions that are better adapted to those countries' health needs and priorities.

Humza Yousaf, First Minister Scotland, UN General Assembly, September 2023

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