



UN INTERAGENCY
TASK FORCE ON NCDs



@un_ncd



World Health
Organization



unicef



Summary report of Second Steering Committee meeting on United Nations Health4Life Fund

22 June 2023

This publication was originally published under WHO reference number WHO/UCN/GNP/UNIATF/2023.1

© **World Health Organization 2023**

Some rights reserved. This work is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo>).

Under the terms of this licence, you may copy, redistribute and adapt the work for non-commercial purposes, provided the work is appropriately cited, as indicated below. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that WHO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the WHO logo is not permitted. If you adapt the work, then you must license your work under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If you create a translation of this work, you should add the following disclaimer along with the suggested citation: “This translation was not created by the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the binding and authentic edition”.

Any mediation relating to disputes arising under the licence shall be conducted in accordance with the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization (<http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules/>).

Suggested citation. Summary report of Second Steering Committee Meeting 22 June 2023. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2023. Licence: [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO](#).

Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) data. CIP data are available at <http://apps.who.int/iris>.

Sales, rights and licensing. To purchase WHO publications, see <https://www.who.int/publications/book-orders>. To submit requests for commercial use and queries on rights and licensing, see <https://www.who.int/copyright>.

Third-party materials. If you wish to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, it is your responsibility to determine whether permission is needed for that reuse and to obtain permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

General disclaimers. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by WHO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by WHO to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall WHO be liable for damages arising from its use.

Contents

A. Objectives and participants	4
B. Welcome and introductions	4
C. Update on Trust Fund activities.....	4
D. Discussion and decision points	4
E. Timing of next meeting	6
Annex 1: List of participants and observers.....	7
Annex 2: Agenda for the Second Steering Committee Meeting of the United Nations Health4Life Fund, 22 June 2023.	9

A. Objectives and participants

1. The second meeting of the United Nations Health4Life Fund (H4LF)¹ Steering Committee was held on 22 June 2023. The meeting was co-chaired by Svetlana Akselrod, Director of the Global NCD Platform, World Health Organization (WHO) on behalf of Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Deputy Director-General and Dudley Tarlton, Programme Specialist, Health and Innovative Financing, on behalf of Haoliang Xu, Under-Secretary General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The list of participants is in annex 1. Thailand sent apologies as their government is currently in transition following the recent general election.
2. The objective of the meeting was for the Steering Committee to receive an update on progress of the H4LF and discuss further efforts to mobilize resources for the Fund. The agenda is in annex 2.

B. Welcome and introductions

3. Opening remarks were provided by WHO. NCD Alliance and United for Global Mental Health provided additional remarks as this was the first time that they were participating in a steering committee meeting. Both welcomed the creation of the Fund and expressed support for its approach towards pooling resources to provide catalytic support to countries for the under resourced area of NCDs and mental health. NCD Alliance highlighted their commitment to the second Global NCD Financing Dialogue, believing that such a meeting would harness commitment from Member States to help mobilize resources for the Fund – and that H4LF should therefore be a key stakeholder in the Dialogue.

C. Update on Trust Fund activities

4. The H4LF secretariat provided an update on progress, including: (i) a review of the previously approved foundational documents (governance arrangements, operations manual and resource mobilization strategy), (ii) the draft guidance that has been developed for engagement with non-state actors; (iii) ongoing work on illustrative country proposals; (iv) advocacy and communications activities; and (v) emerging partnerships with Member States and non-state actors.

D. Discussion and decision points

5. The Steering Committee welcomed the draft guidance for engagement with non-state actors, noting the importance of having robust policies in place to ensure private sector engagement that does not compromise H4LF's values and vision.

¹ The United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund to Catalyze Country Action for Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health

6. The process of conducting due diligence was discussed and the risk assessment tools were described. It was explained that as WHO undertakes the Framework for Engaging with Non-State Actors (FENSA) review, it is not in a position to conduct the H4LF or the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) risk assessments. UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) agreed to take responsibility for this in line with decision point D2.

Decision points/action

D1. The Steering Committee to review the draft guidance on engagement with non-state actors within the two weeks of the final summary of the Second Steering Committee meeting being issued, providing any final comments for the Secretariat to finalize the guidance.

D2. UNDP and UNICEF will together take on responsibility for recruiting any consultants required for undertaking the H4LF and MPTF Office risk assessments.

7. An overview of a proposed partnership for H4LF with the Soroptimist International Africa Federation (SIAF) was presented. The Steering Committee welcomed progress on the SIAF as a H4LF partner, recognizing that UNDP and UNICEF core team members have approved the H4LF & MPTF Office risk assessments with WHO core team member approval to follow imminently. WHO core team member approval of the aforementioned risk assessments was subsequently provided on 28 June 2023.

Decision point/action

D3. The Steering Committee will receive all relevant documentation for review within two weeks of the final summary of the Second Steering Committee meeting being issued. If there are no objections made, SIAF will formally become a H4LF partner.

8. The Steering Committee noted progress made by the Secretariat and PUNOs in engaging with Member States and non-state actors and requested the Secretariat and PUNOs to continue to develop these partnerships.
9. The Steering Committee discussed the ongoing challenges the Fund faces in mobilizing resources, and their implications for the future of the Fund. The MPTF Office acknowledged the importance of patience in resource mobilization, recognizing that H4LF Secretariat and PUNOs have successfully created a strong foundation for programming, operations, and partnerships; finding the first anchor donor continues to be a high priority. The WHO Coordinated Resource Mobilization representative acknowledged the considerable efforts of

the Secretariat in garnering political and financial support for the Fund and urged ever greater action to identify anchor donors from the leadership of each of the three PUNOs.

10. The Steering Committee agreed on a set of actions to accelerate engagement with Member States and non-state actors for resource mobilization during 2023 and 2024, including the development of a costed roadmap and joint budget as well as greater engagement of PUNOs principals.

Decision points/action

D4. The H4LF Secretariat and the core team will develop a costed roadmap for engaging with Member States (including in-country missions and other relevant activities) and non-state actors to mobilize resources during 2023 and 2024.

D5. The core team to develop a joint budget for the Secretariat and PUNOs that identifies and allocates resources for the delivery of the above roadmap for approval by the Steering Committee; and for this to be shared with head of agencies to build and harness political support.

11. As part of the ongoing branding of the Fund, which included the identification and adoption of a public-facing short name (H4LF), the Steering Committee requested the Secretariat to develop a visual identity for H4LF as well as a short video on the Fund.

Decision point/action

D6. The Secretariat to develop a visual identity for H4LF and a short video on the Fund for review and subsequent approval by the Steering Committee.

E. Timing of next meeting

12. The Steering Committee requested that the next meeting take place in six months.
13. Ahead of the third meeting a summary of the second meeting will be prepared and made available on the [H4LF webpage](#) on the UN Inter Agency Task Force for NCDs website.

oooOOOooo

Annex 1: List of participants and observers

Steering Committee Members

Svetlana AKSELROD: Director, Global NCD Platform, WHO (a.i. permanent co-chair)

Dudley TARTLTON: Programme Specialist, Health and Innovative Financing, UNDP (rotating co-chair), on behalf of Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support

Genevieve BOUTIN: Director a.i., Programme Group on behalf of Mr. Omar Abdi, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director for Programmes

Founding Strategic Partners

Gladwell GATHECHA: Deputy Head of NCD division, on behalf of Patrick Amoth, Director General of Health, Ministry of Health, Kenya

Miguel ASQUETA : Advisor to the Minister of Public Health, Uruguay

Steering Committee Ex-Officio Member

Olga ALESHINA: Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

Observers

Alison COX: Director of Policy and Advocacy, NCD Alliance

James SALE: Director, Policy, Advocacy and Financing, United for Global Mental Health

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Secretariat, Global NCD Platform, WHO

Mamka ANYONA: Policy and Strategy Lead

Nick BANATVALA: Head of Secretariat, UN Inter-Agency Task Force on NCDs

Linda MERIEAU: Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Lead

Delegations

UNDP

Emily ROBERTS: Policy Analyst, Health and NCDs

Roy SMALL: Policy Specialist, Health and NCDs

Rachael STANTON: Policy Analyst, Health and NCDs

UNICEF

Raoul BERMEJO: Health Specialist, Child, Community Health and NCDs, Health Section

Zeinab HIJAZI: Senior Mental Health Technical Advisor, Child Protection Section

Joyce MPHAYA: Chief Health, Health Programmes, Addis Ababa. UNICEF Ethiopia Country Office

Rory NEFDT: Senior Advisor Health, Head Child, Community Health and NCDs, Health Section

Luwei PEARSON: Associate Director Health, Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health, UNICEF HQs, New York

WHO

Coordinated Resource Mobilization

Susana MARTINEZ: Lead, Interagency Collaboration, Funds, Banks and Multilaterals, Coordinated Resource Mobilization

Global NCD Platform

Tea COLLINS: Cross-Cutting Lead, Global NCD Platform

Alexey KULIKOV: External Relations Officer, UN Inter-Agency Task Force on NCDs

Kenya

Ephantus **MAREE:** Head on NCD division

Elizabeth **ONYANGO:** Head of NCD prevention and control unit

Uruguay

Soledad MARTINEZ: Minister Counselor, Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN in Geneva

Annex 2: Agenda for the Second Steering Committee Meeting of the United Nations Health4Life Fund, 22 June 2023.

	Agenda Item	Presenter/Moderator	Background Papers
15:00-15:10	1. Welcome and introductions.	WHO and UNDP co-chairs.	1.1. List of participants.
15:10-15:20	2. Introductory remarks from NGO observers, who are joining for the first time.	NCD Alliance United for Global Mental Health.	
15:20-15:40	3. Report from the Secretariat and core team members.	Health4Life Fund Secretariat.	3.1 Summary report of the first Steering Committee meeting. 3.2 Progress report (PowerPoint). Previously approved foundation documents: 3.3 Governance arrangements. 3.4 Operations manual. 3.5 Resource mobilization strategy.
15:40-17:20	4. Discussion and decision points.	All (moderated by co-chairs).	4.1 Draft guidance on engagement with non-state actors. 4.2. Proposed partnership with Soroptimists International Africa Federation. 4.2a Soroptimist partnership supporting documents 4.3 Progress report on engaging with Member States beyond the three Founding Strategic Partners.
17:20-17:30	5. Wrap up and date and timing of next meeting.	WHO and UNDP co-chairs.	