



UN INTERAGENCY  
TASK FORCE ON NCDs



World Health  
Organization



unicef

Powered by



United Nations  
MPTF Office

UNITED NATIONS  
**Health4Life  
Fund**



**Fourth steering committee meeting of the United  
Nations Health4Life Fund  
Summary report, 10-13 December 2024**

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.** Fourth steering committee meeting of the United Nations Health4Life Fund: summary report, 10-13 December 2024. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025. <https://doi.org/10.2471/B09325>. Licence: [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO](#).

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

**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.

This publication contains the summary report of the fourth steering committee meeting of the United Nations Health4Life Fund and does not necessarily represent the decisions or policies of WHO.

## **Content**

A. Objectives and Participants .....	3
B. Welcome and Introductions .....	3
C. Updates on Trust Fund Activities .....	3
D. Discussion and Decision Points .....	4
E. Timing of the Next Meeting .....	5
Annex: Agenda for the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the United Nations Health4Life Fund .....	6

## A. Objectives and Participants

1. The Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund to Catalyze Country Action for Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health also known as the United Nations Health4Life Fund (H4LF) was held as an e-meeting on a dedicated Microsoft Teams channel between 10-13 December 2024, with participants providing inputs through written communication, facilitated by the H4LF Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Jérôme Solomon, Assistant-Director General, World Health Organization (WHO) and Fouzia Shafique, Associate Director-Health, UNICEF on behalf of UNICEF's Director of Health, Helga Fogstad. All H4LF Steering Committee members and observers participated—see Annex for full participant list.
2. The objective of the meeting was for the Steering Committee to: (i) receive an update on the activities of the H4LF, including progress against decisions at the Third Steering Committee Meeting (18 March 2024); and (ii) review the planning forecast for 2025-2026, the programming strategy for the contribution from the U.S Fund for UNICEF (UNICEF United States of America)—Eli Lilly and Company Foundation (Lilly Foundation) committed USD 4 million to U.S Fund for UNICEF (UNICEF USA) for UNICEF USA efforts related to supporting the Health4Life Fund (H4LF)—the 2025 Secretariat and Core Team Project, and a proposed South-South Learning Lab to support knowledge exchange and innovation. The agenda is in the Annex.

## B. Welcome and Introductions

3. The WHO co-chair welcomed the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of the Philippines to the Steering Committee. Steering Committee Members joined the WHO co-chair in welcoming new members and acknowledged the efforts of others in driving forward the aims and objectives of the Fund, the shared emphasis on Global South leadership, and ensuring the focus continued to be on country grants, while making strategic investments in crucial complementary areas for sustainability and expanding impact, including South-South cooperation, advocacy, resource mobilization, and communications.
4. The Philippines reaffirmed its commitment to the H4LF, continuing to finalize funding avenues to support its USD 1 million pledge over a period of four years (2025 to 2028), with an initial transfer of at least USD 50,000 expected for 2025. Mauritius indicated that it was finalizing the Standard Administrative Agreement for their initial pledged contribution of USD 50,000 and it would be submitted shortly. Any additional contribution would require further approval from the requisite authorities within the Government of Mauritius.

## C. Updates on Trust Fund Activities

5. The H4LF Secretariat shared a set of six background papers that provided updates on: (i) progress since the last Steering Committee Meeting; (ii) the Fund's financial status, including an overview of the current pledges, inflows and expenditure, and grant allocations across the various donor contributions; (iii) the Fund's strategy for programming and grantmaking for the USD 4 million

contribution from UNICEF USA; (iv) current grants under the first round of funding and potential countries for the second cycle; (v) partnerships, resource mobilization and advocacy efforts; and (vi) a potential South-South Learning Lab (SSLL) to promote cooperation, knowledge exchange and innovation among countries. See Annex for the titles of the papers.

## D. Discussion and Decision Points

6. Steering Committee members noted that following the contribution of the Scottish Government’s announcement of funding for the H4LF in 2023, 2024 has represented a significant step forward in resource mobilization with new funding from UNICEF USA, and pledges from the Philippines and Mauritius. The financial forecast and plans for 2025 were reviewed. The Funding Framework of the H4LF (as of 4 December 2024) prepared by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and the H4LF planning forecast for 2025-2026 prepared by the H4LF Secretariat were both reviewed and approved.

D1: The Steering Committee approves the Funding Framework of the H4LF and the planning forecast for 2025-2026.

7. The Steering Committee reviewed the Secretariat and Core Team’s recommendations for use of UNICEF USA funds, acknowledging that these funds were not to be used for mental health activities. The Steering Committee endorsed the six countries—three from Africa (Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire and Sierra Leone); two from South-East Asia (Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar) and one from Western Pacific (Papua New Guinea), with two of the six being Small Island Developing States—that were proposed for being invited to submit a concept note for support under the second H4LF grant cycle. The need to ensure that civil society organizations, academic institutions, and people with lived experience are included in developing proposals was highlighted.

D2: The Steering Committee approves the Secretariat and Core Team’s recommendation for the use of UNICEF USA funds and the six countries to be invited to submit proposals.

8. The Steering Committee welcomed the establishment of the SSLL in addressing the needs of low- and middle-income countries as part of the H4LF’s commitment to enhance Global South leadership in co-creating solutions and engaging stakeholders across sectors. The importance of establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the impact of the SSLL on country-level policy, resource mobilization, and program outcomes was emphasized. The Steering Committee also highlighted the need to align with and leverage relevant existing platforms and networks.
9. The Steering Committee noted that the 2025 NCDA Forum in Kigali, Rwanda in February 2025 could be used by those Steering Committee Members and Observers attending to continue discussions on the SSLL as well as strategize in view of the Fourth High-level Meeting on NCDs (see Paragraph 11).

D3: The Steering Committee: (i) approves the budget for the SSLL; (ii) requests the Secretariat and Core Team to develop a multi-year roadmap and results framework to assess the impact of the SSLL; and (iii) asks the Secretariat to explore the possibility of a working session in the margins of the NCDA Forum.

10. The budget for Secretariat and Core Team activities in 2025 was reviewed and approved, including the carryover of an estimated USD 15,000 of underspend from the 2024 Secretariat and Core Team Project budget for activities in 2025.

D4: The Steering Committee approves the 2025 budget for Secretariat and Core Team activities, including carryover of underspent funds from 2024 to 2025.
--

11. The Steering Committee encouraged the Secretariat and Core Team to develop a succinct strategy to garner political commitment, partnerships, and mobilizing resources for the H4LF in the lead up to the Fourth High-level Meeting on NCDs in September 2025. Steering Committee members emphasized the need for the Steering Committee, Core Team and Secretariat to encourage Member States to include the H4LF in the political declaration, emphasizing the Fund's roots in the 2018 Political Declaration (paragraph 48 on new financing mechanisms).
12. The Steering Committee encouraged the Secretariat and Core Team to develop promotional videos during 2025 to increase the H4LF's visibility.

D5: The Steering Committee requests the Secretariat and Core Team to develop a strategy to raise the profile and funding for the H4LF in 2025 in view of the Fourth High-level Meeting on NCDs.
---

## E. Timing of the Next Meeting

13. Members discussed the timing of the Fifth Steering Committee Meeting. While some members welcomed a meeting in Kigali in February 2025, others considered this too soon following the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting. The co-chairs therefore proposed that the next Steering Committee meeting be held in Summer 2025, with an informal working session in Kigali for those attending the NCD Alliance Forum to discuss preparations for the Fourth High-level Meeting and to further discuss the SSL. The Secretariat could arrange virtual participation for Steering Committee members not in Kigali. The Secretariat was requested to explore options for holding the Fifth Meeting in-person.

## Annex: Agenda for the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the United Nations Health4Life Fund

*96 -hour Electronic Meeting,  
09.00 CET Tuesday 10 December – 23:00 CET Friday 13 December 2024*

Agenda Item	Background Paper	Prepared by	Decision Point
1. Review of progress of decision points from the Third H4LF Steering Committee Meeting	1.1 Progress against decisions at the <a href="#">Third Steering Committee Meeting, 18 March 2024</a> .	H4LF Secretariat	
2. H4LF planning forecast for 2025-2026	2.1 H4LF planning forecast, 2025-2026  2.2 Funding framework of the H4LF as of 4/12/2024	H4LF Secretariat	<i>Approval of the planning forecast, 2025-2026</i>
3. Programming strategy for UNICEF USA/Lilly Foundation Funds	3.1 Programming strategy for Lilly Foundation contribution.	H4LF Secretariat	<i>Approval of recommendations for use of UNICEF USA/Lilly Foundation Funds</i>
4. Operational planning for global-level support function	4.1 Secretariat and Core Team Budget.  4.2 South-South Cooperation, Knowledge Exchange, and Innovation Platform proposal and budget.	H4LF Secretariat  UNDP	<i>Approval of budget for Secretariat &amp; Core Team Activities 2025</i>  <i>Approval of 2025 budget for South-South Learning Lab to Accelerate Knowledge Sharing and Innovation in NCD Prevention and Control</i>
5. Plans for Steering Committee meetings in 2025			<i>Date and location for the fifth and sixth meetings. (One option for the fifth meeting is ahead of the rescheduled NCDA Forum, Kigali, 13-15 February 2025. Note: partners would need to fund their costs.)</i>

## Annex 2: List of Participants

### WHO

**Jérôme SALOMON:** Assistant Director-General, UHC, Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO (*Co-Chair*)

**Christopher FITZPATRICK:** Executive Officer, Assistant Director-General Office, HQ/UCN/UCA, WHO

**Guy FONES:** Ag. Director, Global NCD Platform, WHO

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

**Vinayak PRASAD:** Head of Unit, TFI

**Mark VAN OMMEREN:** Coordinator, Mental Health

### UNICEF

**Fouzia SHAFIQUE** on behalf of **Helga FOGSTAD:** Director of Health, Programme Division, UNICEF (*Co-Chair*)

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

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

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

### UNDP

**Mandeep DHALIWAL:** Director, HIV, Health and Development Group, UNDP

**Roy SMALL:** Policy Specialist, Health and NCDs

### MPTF Office

**Olga ALESHINA:** Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

### Kenya

**Elizabeth ONYANGO,** on behalf of **Patrick AMOTH:** Director General of Health, Ministry of Health

### Mauritius

**Dr F KHODABOCUS:** Regional Health Director, Ministry of Health

### Philippines

**Teodoro HERBOSA:** Secretary of Health, Department of Health

### Scottish Government, United Kingdom

**Niall MCCUMESTY and Adeeb NAASAN,** on behalf of **Professor Sir Gregor SMITH:** Chief Medical Officer, Scottish Government

### Uruguay

**Marianela BUZZI:** Advisor to the Minister of Health

### Observers

**Alison COX:** Director of Policy and Advocacy, NCD Alliance

**Sarah KLINE:** CEO, United for Global Mental Health

### Health4Life Fund Secretariat



**Mamka ANYONA:** Policy and Strategy Lead, Health4Life Fund

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

**Alexandra LADAK:** Administrative Assistant, UN Inter-Agency Task Force on NCDs

**Linda MERIEAU:** Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Lead, Health4Life Fund