

UNITED NATIONS
**Health4Life
Fund**



2024 Annual Report

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

Timeline



Philippines Secretary of Health Herbosa with UNICEF and WHO colleagues at the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific

2024



- [See page 3](#)

2022



- Operational and governance arrangements established.
- NCD Alliance and United for Global Mental Health join as civil society partners.

2025



- Call for proposals for the second funding round, with the aim of supporting 3 further countries.
- Plans for the new South-South and Triangular Cooperation Lab to be operational.
- Health4Life Fund to be highlighted ahead of, and during the fourth high-level meeting on NCDs, mental health and well-being.
- Multi-partner Trust Funds and Joint Programs: [WHO's corporate approach to Inter-Agency Pooled Funds](#) published.
- Encourage new partners to provide additional funds for the Health4Life Fund.

2023



- Health4Life Fund starts being capitalised at the UN General Assembly.
- Call for proposals for the first funding round, with the aim of supporting 2 countries.

2021



- UNDP, UNICEF and WHO, and the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office agree to establish a new UN fund for NCDs and mental health.
- Kenya, Thailand and Uruguay join as Founding Strategic Partners.



The Health4Life Fund presents an unprecedented opportunity for us to not only scale up our investments in these areas but to do so in a way that promotes equity, efficiency, and global solidarity.

Ted Herbosa, Secretary of Health, Philippines
75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific

Activities in 2024

January

- Health4Life Fund holds discussions with current and prospective partners during the WHO Executive Board.

March

- Health4Life Fund Steering Committee holds its [third meeting](#) ● Health4Life Fund Secretariat participates in discussions with UN agencies and Soroptimist International Africa Federation during a WHO-led mission on cervical cancer to countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

May

- Government of Kenya and Scottish Government host [Health4Life Fund side-event](#) during the World Health Assembly ● [Mauritius and Philippines announce that they are joining the Health4Life Fund, with commitment to provide financing support](#) ● Soroptimist International Africa Federation launches AI-enabled digital health tool to raise awareness on cervical cancer prevention at the Health4Life event.

July

- First round of proposals reviewed by WHO, UNICEF and UNDP.

September

- [Annual Friends of the Task Force](#) receives an update on the Health4Life Fund during the UN General Assembly ● [Eli Lilly and Company Foundation announces USD 4 million to the Fund through UNICEF USA at the Friends of the Task Force meeting.](#)

November

- Health4Life Fund is highlighted at the 20th Annual International Conference on Urban Health in Marrakesh, Morocco ● Health4Life Fund is highlighted at the [12th World Urban Forum in Cairo](#).

February

- First round of Funding: country concept notes received. Following a competitive call for submissions, Zambia and Rwanda invited to submit full proposals.

April

- Health4Life Fund Secretariat started working with other WHO-hosted multi-partner trust fund secretariats to develop a WHO corporate approach to inter-agency pooled funds for launch at the start of 2025.

June

- Secretariat participates in proposal validation exercises for Rwanda and Zambia ● Secretariat, UNDP, UNICEF and WHO highlight Health4Life Fund as a key financing instrument at the [WHO-World Bank international dialogue](#) on sustainable financing for NCDs and mental health in Washington, D.C. ● Government of Philippines announces a USD 1 million contribution to the Fund.

August

- Steering Committee approved proposals and funding for Rwanda and Zambia.

October

- Philippines, with the support of UNICEF and the Health4Life Fund's Secretariat bring Member States and partners together at the [WHO Western Pacific Regional Committee](#) meeting to showcase the Fund ● Health4Life Fund Secretariat raises the profile of the Fund during the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) Summit in Qatar ● World Hospice Palliative Care Alliance express interest in partnering with the Fund.

December

- Health4Life Fund Steering Committee holds its [fourth meeting](#), approving a second round of funding and a new South-South and Triangular Cooperation Lab.

How Funds are being used

Funds were awarded to Rwanda and Zambia in 2024.

Rwanda will use funds to develop a holistic model for the integration of mental health and NCD services into multisectoral settings, focusing on workplaces, schools, and refugee settings.

Zambia's will use fund to reduce risk factor exposure among their youth by strengthening legislative and policy frameworks, and by developing models for the prevention and early detection of mental health conditions in the young.

Funds are catalytic. Both countries are committed to support ongoing activities at the end of the funding period – a requirement of Health4Life Fund grants.

Funds are also being used to establish a new South-South and Triangular Cooperation Lab, under the leadership of the UNDP. The Lab will serve as a platform for accelerating inclusive and sustainable innovations in the prevention and control of NCDs by facilitating peer-to-peer learning, knowledge exchange, and technical support across countries.

With a focus on H4LF grant recipients while also engaging countries beyond the Fund's financial reach, the Lab will complement country grantmaking to support scaling proven interventions, promoting policy coherence, and supporting national capacity-building through cost-effective and contextually grounded approaches.



Catalyzing country-level investments

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



Promoting Global-South leadership

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

How Funds are being used

Key area	Rwanda	Zambia
Focus	Integrating NCD and mental health services into multisectoral care systems.	Prevention and control of NCDs, promoting mental health among adolescents and youth.
Strategic alignment	2024–2029 Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP-V).	Multisectoral action, focusing on youth health.
Core components	1. Multisectoral system-building (joint NCD and Mental Health Technical Working Group, frameworks, workforce strengthening). 2. Pilot implementation (schools, workplaces, health centers, refugee communities). 3. Coordination (data systems, evidence use, and accountability).	1. Policy reform (health taxes, legislative changes to reduce alcohol/tobacco/sodium/sugar, school health policies). 2. Youth-friendly service delivery (psychosocial programs, digital platforms, peer counseling, behavior change campaigns).
Target populations	Genocide survivors, victims of gender-based violence, refugees, vulnerable adolescents, general population.	Vulnerable youth populations: adolescents with disabilities, out-of-school youth, orphans, pregnant teens, survivors of violence, youth in humanitarian contexts.
Delivery settings	Schools, workplaces, health facilities, community-based primary health structures, refugee-hosting settings.	Schools, youth resource centers, primary healthcare settings, community-based settings.
Innovations	Digital health tools for screening, referral, and education; tailored service packages and digital platforms for integrated care.	Digital platforms for mental health support, peer counseling, behavioral insight-driven campaigns for healthy lifestyles.
Geographic focus	Pilot implementation in three districts: Gasabo (urban), Huye (rural), Kirehe (refugee-hosting).	National scale, with a focus on youth resource centers and schools.
Coordination mechanisms	Joint NCD and mental health technical working group, multisectoral collaboration, investment case, costed national action plans, whole-of-society partnership.	National coordinating mechanism for NCDs, multisectoral collaboration across health, education, finance, agriculture, commerce, and policy advocacy for health taxes and health promotion fund.
Outcomes	Long-term improvements in access to NCD and mental health services, building a resilient and integrated health system.	Holistic and sustainable improvements in adolescent and youth health, with an integrated multisectoral approach to mental health and NCD prevention.



Through the Health4Life Fund, Rwanda intends to use schools as the best way (to reach) children even (for) mental health programs.

Minister Sabin Nsanzimana of Rwanda
Health4Life Fund partners meeting, 77th World Health Assembly

Health4Life Steering Committee

The following were represented on the Health4Life Fund Steering Committee in 2024: WHO (permanent co-chair), UNICEF (rotating co-chair), UNDP, governments of Kenya, Mauritius, Philippines, Scotland and Uruguay, the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, NCD Alliance, and United for Global Mental Health. Summary of Steering Committee meetings are available on the [Health4Life Fund website](#). The Steering Committee is guided by the [Fund's ToRs](#), [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.



Government of Kenya and Scottish
Government-hosted Health4Life
Fund side-event during the 77th
World Health Assembly

Uniting partners across government and society

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



We are a big believer in multi-partner trust funds. I'm very happy that the Health4Life Fund gives so much attention to mental health.

Ambassador Bekker, Netherlands
Health4Life Fund partners meeting, 77th World Health Assembly



We are proud to support the US Fund for UNICEF in this innovative initiative tackling NCDs in resources-limited communities in low-and middle-income countries.

Cynthia Cardona, President of the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation
Friends of the Task Force Meeting, 79th UN General Assembly, September 2024

The Health4Life Fund was established in 2021 by UNDP, UNICEF and WHO (three members of the [United Nations NCD Task Force](#)) following the third high-level meeting on NCDs. It is administered by the [UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office](#). The Fund catalyzes domestic financing and action to prevent and control NCDs and to improve mental health. It also enables governments, the United Nations development system and other development partners to work together towards country-level priorities in line with evidence-based norms and standards. The Fund is based on established financing-for-development, as well as aid and development effectiveness principles.



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