



# SIDS High-level technical meeting on NCDs and mental health

17–18 January 2023

## Background

The World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization and the Government of Barbados are co-hosting a High-level technical meeting on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health in recognition of the high burden of NCDs and the impact of climate and COVID-19 on health and economies in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The meeting will serve as a follow up to the virtual WHO SIDS Summit for Health held in July 2021 and will be a precursor to the SIDS ministerial conference on NCDs and mental health due to be held in June 2023.

The SIDS High-level technical meeting will be webcast for virtual participants and will look to engage heads of state and government, ministers of health from the WHO SIDS Member States, as well as technical experts from key regional and subregional bodies; partner governments and agencies; civil society; youth; public–private partnerships and academia.

## Purpose

To build political momentum for the SIDS ministerial conference on NCDs and mental health to be held in June 2023 and to promote increased domestic action and international cooperation on NCDs and mental health in SIDS.

## Objectives

- To discuss progress, challenges, and opportunities to scale up multisectoral actions on NCDs and mental health to promote well-being, as part of the commitments made under the SIDS Health Summit 2021 and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.
- To present and discuss the WHO NCD Implementation Road Map 2023–2030 and its application in SIDS countries, while considering priorities such as the impact of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, to accelerate national responses towards SDG target 3.4 on NCDs and mental health.
- To share experiences from SIDS countries on multisectoral and multistakeholder strategies, especially on NCDs and mental health as they relate to climate change, health emergencies, the COVID-19 pandemic, obesity prevention and food systems, among others; and to present the feasibility of adapting and applying these experiences in other countries.
- To discuss and identify key recommendations to be included in the outcome document to be endorsed/adopted by the subsequent SIDS ministerial meeting to scale up action on NCDs and mental health.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



## Expected outcome

A meeting report with key recommendations, to serve as the zero draft for the negotiated outcome document of the WHO SIDS ministerial conference on NCDs and mental health in June 2023 which will again take place in Barbados.

## WHO SIDS ministerial conference on NCDs and mental health (14–16 June 2023)

The proceedings of the WHO SIDS technical meeting on NCDs and mental health will provide the input to the SIDS ministerial conference on the prevention and control of NCDs and mental health, co-hosted by the Government of Barbados on 14–16 June 2023 in a hybrid modality (virtual and in-person in Bridgetown, Barbados). The Conference will set out an ambitious agenda to transform the capability of SIDS countries to proactively respond and effectively deliver health outcomes in relation to NCDs and mental health, and so become a vital partner for reaching SDG target 3.4. The outcome document of the Conference in 2023 will serve as an input into the preparatory process leading to the fourth High-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on NCDs in 2025 and to future global summits on mental health.

The ministerial conference in June 2023 will be organized in response to paragraph 75(e) of resolution A/RES/69/15 (SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action [SAMOA] Pathway), which includes a commitment to “enable cooperation among Small Island Developing States on diseases by using existing international and regional forums to convene joint biennial meetings of ministers of health and other relevant sectors to respond in particular to NCDs”.