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

22 June 2023
Health4Life: Summary of Second Steering Committee meeting, 22 June 2023

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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 Members 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foundational documents (governance arrangements, operations manual and resource mobilization strategy), (ii) the draft guidance that has been developed for engagement with non-state actors; (iii) ongoing work on illustrative country proposals; (iv) advocacy and communications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 The Steering Committee welcomed the draft guidance for engagement with non-state actors, noting the importance of having robust policies in place to ensure private sector engagement that does not compromise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.

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\(^1\) 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.

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<tr>
<th>Decision points/action</th>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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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.

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<td>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.</td>
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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.

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Annex 1: List of participants and observers

**Steering Committee Members**
Svetlana AKSELROD: Director, Global NCD Platform, WHO (a.i. permanent co-chair)
Dudley TARLTON: 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

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<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Presenter/Moderator</th>
<th>Background Papers</th>
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<tr>
<td>15:00-15:10</td>
<td>1. Welcome and introductions.</td>
<td>WHO and UNDP co-chairs.</td>
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<td>15:10-15:20</td>
<td>2. Introductory remarks from NGO observers, who are joining for the first time.</td>
<td>NCD Alliance United for Global Mental Health.</td>
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| 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. | |