Health4Life Fund

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund to Catalyze Country Action for Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health

OUR PURPOSE
Supporting low- and middle-income countries to prevent and optimally manage mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs),¹ such as heart attacks and stroke, asthma, diabetes and cervical cancer.

Enabling countries to forge healthy, happy, prosperous and secure futures.

OUR PLAN
A bold and novel approach to development financing, bound by global solidarity and led by the Global South.

OUR PRINCIPLES
Country-led, catalytic, participatory and inclusive.

¹ The four main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.
THE ISSUE

Each year, NCDs take 41 million lives; this is more than all deaths from HIV/AIDS since the start of that epidemic.

Over 40% of lives lost are premature and largely preventable; 86% of these ‘early’ deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Hundreds of millions of people suffer from mental health conditions, yet their needs remain largely unaddressed, impacting the functioning and well-being of their communities.

Exposure to risk factors for these conditions begins at a young age and children are vulnerable to adopting life-long, unhealthy behaviours and diets.

Nine out of ten people worldwide do not breathe safe air, a major yet invisible risk factor for NCDs, with low- and middle-income countries the most exposed.

Poor, vulnerable and marginalized populations are the worst affected by these conditions, trapping them in poverty and reinforcing inequalities.

THE PROBLEM

Decades of underfunding and inattention to NCDs and mental health due to development assistance often not based on need.

Fragmented and uncoordinated responses caused by scarce resources.

Dominance of Global North decision making perpetuating a model of dependence.

“Leaders must see health and well-being as an investment in sustainable development with very high rates of return.”

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator
It is time to translate policies into action for visible, measurable results around mental health and NCDs through a robust, global financing partnership that promotes:

**COUNTRY OWNERSHIP**
Through need-driven seed funding and technical support based on country demand.

**CATALYTIC ACTION**
By unlocking domestic resources and driving efficiencies.

**PARTICIPATORY & INCLUSIVE APPROACHES**
Generating coordinated, whole-of-government, whole-of-society action, fully involving affected communities and with the support of ‘One-UN’.

**EQUITY**
Centering on the needs of low- and middle-income countries and their most vulnerable populations, while shifting the power dynamics with co-created solutions.

**LOCAL EXPERTISE**
South-South and triangular cooperation will be central to operations to promote and value local knowledge, enhancing learning and exchange across countries.

The burden of NCDs and mental health conditions damages economies and threatens our collective efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. We can change this by catalyzing country action to scale up proven measures that improve care and reduce risk factors such as tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and air pollution.

“Health4Life Fund is at the forefront of innovation in inclusive health financing in an evolving global health landscape. UNICEF calls on all Member States, foundations and other development partners to join us in helping Health4Life Fund achieve its immense potential.”

Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director
OUR TARGET

The Trust Fund intends to mobilize and invest US$ 250 million over 5 years to leverage both international and domestic financing and accelerate action to achieve SDG 3.4, a one-third reduction in premature mortality.

OUR ACTION TOGETHER WILL CONTRIBUTE TO

39 million lives saved
US$ 2.7 trillion in economic benefits realized

INVEST TODAY FOR TOMORROW

“I call on all development partners to support the Trust Fund, a critical initiative whose time has come.”

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization

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United Nations Health4Life Fund
Established in 2021 to trigger increased action in low- and middle-income countries to prevent and control NCDs and improve mental health, the Trust Fund will serve as a partnership platform to pool contributions from governments, foundations, public, and relevant private sector entities and ensure that the funds are used effectively and transparently.