



Second General Meeting of the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on Noncommunicable Diseases (WHO GCM/NCD)

Renewing the multisectoral and multistakeholder agenda on NCDs beyond 2025

24 and 25 April, 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

Pre-meeting draft agenda V1, 9 January 2025

Background

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) continue to pose a serious threat to health equity and global development. They are the leading cause of death globally, directly linked to issues of poverty, health inequality, rapid urbanization and population aging, and disproportionately affecting countries, communities and individuals in vulnerable settings and low- and middle-income countries. To achieve **SDG target 3.4** (by 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being), strengthening **multisectoral, whole-of government approaches** as well as **multistakeholder, whole-of-society collaboration** engaging civil society and other partners remain a key priority.

Since 2014, the World Health Organization's **Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (WHO GCM/NCD)** supports the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013-2030, and the NCD-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and targets by facilitating multisectoral and multistakeholder collaborations at local, national, regional and global levels. A Member-State led platform, the GCM/NCD connects and convenes Member States, UN Organizations, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, people with lived experience of health conditions, academic institutions and other partners for a coordinated, effective and equitable NCD response. In 2018, the GCM/NCD held its [First General Meeting](#).

2025 will mark a major milestone for global NCD and mental health prevention and control efforts, with the Fourth High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNHLM4)¹ convening Heads of States and Government to adopt a political declaration at the UN General Assembly in September. Leading up to the high-level meeting, WHO and partners are coordinating several complementary preparatory meetings and discussions, including a thematic dialogue series hosted jointly with the United Nations Foundation and Member State co-sponsors. In May 2025 (tbc), a dedicated dialogue and briefing will focus on multisectoral action, multistakeholder collaboration, and meaningful engagement of people with lived

¹ For an overview of activities and meetings leading up to HLM4, see <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/on-the-road-to-2025>.



experience and communities as core elements of enhancing effective governance and policy coherence on NCDs and mental health conditions.

In direct support of the UNHLM4 preparatory process, the WHO GCM/NCD will hold its **Second General Meeting on 23 and 24 April 2025** (tbc). To facilitate collective reflections and gather insights and expertise from GCM Participants, an inclusive process has been put in place by the Secretariat of the GCM/NCD, encompassing a series of consultations, virtual and in-person meetings, and the production of thematic issue briefs under the joint leadership of the Secretariat and selected GCM Participants². The issue briefs will provide one of the core pieces feeding into the thematic briefing in New York in May.

Purpose of the meeting

The Second General Meeting will offer GCM Participants including Member States, non-State actors, and people with lived experience an opportunity to reconvene and mobilize additional support for accelerating multisectoral and multistakeholder actions on NCDs. It will provide space to reflect on past success stories, lessons and remaining gaps across the Mechanism's work of the last years. In addition, the meeting will identify current challenges and priorities, including mobilization of resources and expertise, multistakeholder partnerships, and knowledge sharing to propel global, national and local NCD responses. Discussions from the Second General Meeting will also feed into a zero draft of the forthcoming new workplan of the GCM/NCD, outlining priorities and key activities for the period 2026-2030.

Meeting objectives

The Second General Meeting of the GCM/NCD aims to achieve three main objectives:

1. Take stock of the contributions of the GCM/NCD to NCD prevention and control efforts since the last General Meeting in 2018, in line with Objective 2 of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan³;
2. Discuss and action novel approaches to addressing persisting challenges and new priorities in sustaining multisectoral and multistakeholder engagement for effective and equitable NCD prevention and control, for input into thematic dialogue on multisectoral and multistakeholder action ahead of UNLHM4; and
3. Identify priority action areas for the GCM/NCD's work beyond 2025, reflecting on findings from the recent mid-term evaluation and exploring new pathways to support the NCD response at national and subnational levels.

² For an overview of the preparatory process, see <https://knowledge-action-portal.com/en/second-general-meeting-thewho-gcmncd>.

³ Objective 2 of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan: “to strengthen national capacity, leadership, governance, multisectoral action and partnerships for NCDs”



Key meeting outputs & deliverables

Objective 1:

- An updated multistakeholder knowledge resource and country story repository, and interactive GCM/NCD Participant database on the WHO Knowledge Action Portal on NCDs

Objective 2:

- A series of three issue briefs led and developed by GCM/NCD Participants with support of the GCM/NCD Secretariat for input into thematic dialogue on multisectoral and multistakeholder action in New York
 - *Theme 1: Institutionalizing multisectoral action for sustainable collaboration for NCDs: Strengthening government capacity in and beyond the health sector*
 - *Theme 2: Advancing data-driven, evidence-informed multisectoral action: The role of multistakeholder data sharing and knowledge collaboration*
 - *Theme 3: Advocating for government-wide multisectoral leadership for a coherent NCD response: Building narratives on the role and responsibilities of government sectors and stakeholders beyond health*
- Insights from a Participant-led dialogue on principles guiding private sector engagement on NCDs
 - *Co-hosted with IFPMA, insights from dialogue with private sector entities on the application of the principles guiding private sector engagement on NCDs in the lead-up to and beyond the Fourth High-level meeting (4HLM) on NCDs (Principles: 1) Sustainable and responsible practices; 2) Added value to the NCD response; 3) Accountable and transparent governance)*
- Intention to action statement from the pilot conversation format on shaping future leaders for a changing world with Deans of Business and Public Health Schools
 - *Dialogue format highlighting examples of initiatives between business and public health schools to advance health and/or sustainable development and shape the mindset of future new leaders on public health issues.*
- An advocacy strategy and key messages from the WHO Symposium on Meaningful Engagement of people living with NCDs, mental health, and neurological conditions.
 - *Sustainably financing and remunerating engagements with individuals with lived experience,*
 - *Upholding equal participation, safe spaces, respect, inclusiveness and diversity in joint decision-making, recognizing lived experience as expertise,*
 - *Addressing and eliminating stigmatization.*

Objective 3:

- Synthesis of the 2024 GCM/NCD mid-term evaluation
- A zero-draft for the WHO GCM/NCD workplan 2026-2030

Date, Location & Format

- Two-day, fully hybrid meeting, 24-25 April 2025
- Held at WHO Headquarters, Avenue Appia, 1211, Geneva, Switzerland



- Plenaries with dedicated break-out sessions aligned with meeting objectives and deliverables.
- GCM/NCD Participants' input/highlights and interactive Member States Case studies to frame main panels and plenaries
- A reception with additional showcase/presentation opportunities on the evening of the first day on the WHO Campus

Draft Agenda

Day 1: Thursday 24 April 2025

Time	Plenaries & Objectives
From 08:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
09:00-09:30	Welcome & Opening Opening remarks: On the road to 2025 Welcome notes from Member States Lived experience perspective
09:30-10:30	Plenary: Taking stock: contributions of the GCM/NCD since 2018 and new opportunities <i>Interactive presentation:</i> The GCM/NCD today: key numbers, contributions, impact), major milestones <i>Panel:</i> GCM Participants perspectives: Progress and Impact
10:30-11:00	Group photo, Coffee break
11:00-11.45	<i>Member States & GCM Participant Panel:</i> Challenges and perspectives in leveraging multisectoral and multistakeholder action on NCDs at country level
11:45-12:00	Interactive Country/GCM case study 1
12:00-12.30	<i>Presentation</i> Towards HLM4: Major themes and key messages from the GCM/NCD <i>Introduction:</i> The GCM/NCD Issue Briefs: Background and consultative process to date <i>Presentation:</i> Present Issue Brief 1: Institutionalizing multisectoral action for sustainable collaboration for NCDs <i>Presentation:</i> Present Issue Brief 2: Advancing data-driven, evidence-informed multisectoral action <i>Presentation:</i> Present Issue Brief 3: Advocating for government-wide multisectoral leadership for a coherent NCD response:
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	<i>Break-Out Session:</i> Consultations on Issue briefs 1-3 <i>Consultation:</i> Room 1: Issue Brief 1



Consultation:

Room 2: Issue Brief 2

Consultation:

Room 3: Issue Brief 3

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-15:45 Interactive Country/GCM case study 2

15:45-16:30 *Plenary:*

Highlights from Issue brief consultations

Presentation:

Key themes from breakout discussions

Plenary discussion:

Final Issue Brief Inputs

16:30-16:45 Interactive Country/GCM case study 3

16:45-17:30 *Input:*

Navigating a dual reality: Challenges and opportunities of private sector engagement in NCD prevention and control

Presentation:

WHO Decision Making Tool and principles for private sector engagement

Presentation:

WHO Country Connector on Private Sector and Health

Presentation:

WHO's NCD Department input on private sector engagement

Fireside chat with mentimeter interaction:

Challenges and opportunities of public-private engagement: multistakeholder reflections

17:30-17:45 **Animated Recap of Day 1**

18:00-20:00 **Reception** (tbc)

Day 2: Friday 25 April 2025

Time	Session & Focus
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09:30-09:45 **Opening Day 2**

Look back Day 1 & Agenda Day 2

09:45-11:15 *Input:*

The power of lived experience and grassroots innovation

Teaser video:

Best of grassroots innovation across countries: NCD Lab highlights

Input presentation:

The power of grassroots innovation: Firsthand accounts from innovators

Input presentation:

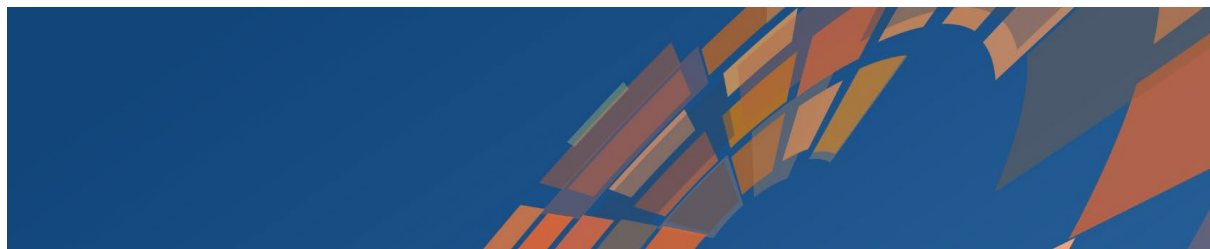
Symposium Advocacy Messages and Implementation Progress

MS/CSO panel:

Discussion on implementing the lived experience framework

11:15-11:45 Coffee Break

11:45-12:00 Interactive Country/GCM case study 4



12:00-12:45	<i>Member States & GCM Participant Panel:</i> Equipping for the future: Trends, innovations, and promising practices for coherent NCD policies and programmes
12:45-13:45	Lunch
13:45-14:00	Interactive Country/GCM case study 5
14:00-14:45	<i>Input:</i> Intention to action statement on shaping future leaders for a changing world <hr/> <i>Presentation:</i> Outcomes and key messages from Business/Public Health School Dialogue <hr/> <i>Fireside Chat:</i> Shaping future leaders for a changing world
14:45-15:15	Coffee Break
15:15-15:30	Interactive Country/GCM case study 6
15:30-16:30	<i>Plenary & Break-out groups:</i> The road ahead: The GCM beyond 2025 <hr/> <i>Presentation:</i> Mid-term evaluation key findings <hr/> <i>Input presentations</i> Align with WHO partner workstreams and other key initiatives <hr/> <i>Presentation & Open floor discussion :</i> First-outline/focus of GCM 2026-30 workplan
16:30-17:00	Wrap-up: Meeting summary and outputs ahead of HLM4 <hr/> <i>Presentation:</i> Summary presentation of key outcomes/publications of the meeting <hr/> <i>Moderated Mentimeter Poll & open floor discussion</i> Key outcomes, missing pieces, new opportunities <hr/> <i>Presentation:</i> Timeline for rest of 2025 and beyond
17:00-17:15	Closing remarks & end