

## **World Hepatitis Alliance's Response to the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration of the UN High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health**

**28<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

The World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA) and our network of 400 civil society and community organisations across more than 100 countries welcome the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration for the High-Level Meeting (HLM) on NCDs and Mental Health.

Hepatitis is the leading cause of liver cancer, the third most common cause of cancer deaths worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Many of these cases are preventable, as testing, treatment and vaccination can help prevent hepatitis and in turn reduce liver cancer cases and mortality, decreasing the burden of NCDs.

Despite this, the number of liver cancer cases is expected to increase and potentially double.<sup>2</sup> To find out more about hepatitis and liver cancer, please read the World Hepatitis Alliance's (WHA) new white paper, '[Beating cancer through hepatitis elimination – working together to reduce NCDs.](#)'

We welcome the inclusion of hepatitis and liver cancer within the Zero Draft but encourage Member States to include the below amendment to paragraph 34 of the zero draft of the political declaration on NCDs and mental health to strengthen the inclusion of hepatitis.

**ORIGINAL** Paragraph 34: Prevent liver cancer through scaling up hepatitis B immunization in all countries with high prevalence of hepatitis infection;

**AMEND** Paragraph 34: Prevent liver cancer, the third most common cause of cancer deaths worldwide, and reduce mortality through scaling up: (i) hepatitis B and C diagnosis and treatment (ii) hepatitis B vaccination and (iii) for those already affected by hepatitis, cancer monitoring to increase early detection and improve survival rates.

Further details on WHA requests to Member States are outlined in our [advocacy briefing](#) on priorities for the UN HLM on NCDs.

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<sup>1</sup> World Hepatitis Alliance. Hepatitis, Liver Cancer and NCDs [Internet]. 2024. [Accessed 6 February 2025]. Available from: <https://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/hepatitis-liver-cancer-ncds/>

<sup>2</sup> International Agency for Research on Cancer. Press Release No. 320 Number of new cases and deaths from liver cancer predicted to rise by more than 55% by 2040 [Internet]. 2022 [Accessed 10 March 2025]. Available from: [https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/pr320\\_E.pdf](https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/pr320_E.pdf)