

**Issue 9/2024**

# **WHO Public Health Report**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**3 June 2024**

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## WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AGREEMENT REACHED ON AMENDMENTS TO IMPROVE THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS

### And sets date for finalizing negotiations on a proposed Pandemic Agreement



In an historic development, the World Health Assembly, the annual meeting of the 194 Member States of the World Health Organization, agreed on a package of critical amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR 2005), and made concrete commitments to completing negotiations on a global pandemic agreement within a year, at the latest. These critical actions have been taken in order to ensure comprehensive, robust systems are in place in all countries to protect the health and safety of all people everywhere from the risk of future outbreaks and pandemics.

These decisions represent two important steps by countries, taken in tandem with one another on the final day of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, to build on lessons learned from several global health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic. The package of amendments to the Regulations will strengthen global preparedness, surveillance and responses to public health emergencies, including pandemics.

*“The historic decisions taken today demonstrate a common desire by Member States to protect their own people, and the world, from the shared risk of public health emergencies and future pandemics,”* said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. *“The amendments to the International Health Regulations will bolster countries’ ability to detect and respond to future outbreaks and pandemics by strengthening their own national capacities, and coordination between fellow States, on disease surveillance, information sharing and response. This is built on commitment to equity, an understanding that health threats do not recognize national borders, and that preparedness is a collective endeavour.”*

Dr Tedros added: *“The decision to conclude the Pandemic Agreement within the next year demonstrates how strongly and urgently countries want it, because the next pandemic is a matter of when, not if. Today’s strengthening of the IHR provides powerful momentum to complete the Pandemic Agreement, which, once finalized, can help to prevent a repeat of the devastation to health, societies and economies caused by COVID-19.”*

Full report on this: <https://www.who.int/news/item/01-06-2024-world-health-assembly-agreement-reached-on-wide-ranging--decisive-package-of-amendments-to-improve-the-international-health-regulations--and-sets-date-for-finalizing-negotiations-on-a-proposed-pandemic-agreement>

## GROUND-BREAKING PROGRESS MADE IN MEMBER STATE NEGOTIATIONS ON AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR)



In a historic milestone for global public health, State Parties agreed in principle on a large, ground-breaking package of amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005). These amendments build on over 300 proposals made by countries in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. They set out to improve the ability of countries to prepare for, detect and respond to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEICs), and were part of a package put forward to the World Health

Assembly (WHA).

The IHR, first adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1969 and last revised in 2005, was conceived to maximize collective efforts to manage public health events while at the same time minimizing their disruption to travel and trade. They have 196 State Parties, comprising all 194 WHO Member States plus Liechtenstein and the Holy See. These Parties have led the process to amend the IHR through the [Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#) (WGIHR). Today marked the end of the [resumed session of the eighth meeting of the WGIHR](#).

This process has been running in parallel to an [intergovernmental process to develop an international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response](#).

A potential new pandemic agreement and the amended IHR would be complementary international instruments designed and negotiated by Member States to help countries protect their peoples better from future pandemic threats. The IHR focus on building countries' capacities to detect and respond to public health events which could take on international dimensions, whilst the draft pandemic accord focuses on a coordinated international response to pandemics, with equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics at the centre.

More on this: [https://www.who.int/news/item/18-05-2024-ground-breaking-progress-made-in-member-state-negotiations-on-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-\(ihr\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/18-05-2024-ground-breaking-progress-made-in-member-state-negotiations-on-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-(ihr))

## NEW CLIMATE AND HEALTH RESOLUTION WINS STRONG SUPPORT FROM WHO MEMBER STATES



WHO member states approved the [first resolution on climate and health](#) to come before the World Health Assembly in 16 years – even as 50°C temperatures in Delhi, flooding in southern Brazil and devastating Caribbean storms are driving home the message to more and more countries that climate change is real.

In several hours of late-night debate, states large and small, landlocked and ocean-bound, described in painful detail, their efforts to cope with growing trends of climate-triggered storms and drought, sea level rise, and food insecurity – all leading to more deaths and disability from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), health emergencies, vector-borne diseases as well as mental health impacts.

Developing countries along with developed nations also detailed new plans to promote greener health systems and climate-smart food production, ban single-use plastics, and better manage urban waste and other forms of environmental contamination – noting their deep inter-relationship with climate action.

Whereas the last resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2008 focused mostly on health sector “adaptation” to climate change, the new resolution carves out a much broader and more proactive roll for Member States and their health sectors in efforts to shape future trends as well as respond to the inevitable. Among the measures, it urges member states to commit to:

- ✓ “Decarbonization” and “environmentally sustainable health systems, facilities and supply chains” including consumption, procurement, transport, and disposal of water, energy, food and waste, as well as medical supplies, equipment, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, “with a view to lower greenhouse gas emissions” without compromising health care provision and quality;
- ✓ Multisectoral cooperation between national health ministries and other national authorities on environment, the economy, health, nutrition and sustainable development, “for a coherent and holistic approach to building resilience and addressing the root causes of climate change;”
- ✓ Resource mobilization, including funding from multilateral development banks, climate funds, health funds and “innovative sources”;
- ✓ Awareness among the public and health sector on the interdependence between climate change and health, “engagement in the development of climate and health policies, fostering recognition of health co-benefits and sustainable behaviour.”

[First resolution on climate and health](#)

Full news item here: <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/new-climate-and-health-resolution-garners-strong-support-from-who-member-states/>

# AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENTED DURING THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY



During a special ceremony at the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in Geneva on 31 May 2024, awards were presented to persons and institutions from around the world for their outstanding contributions to public health.

Eight winners were awarded by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly President, Dr Edwin Dikoloti of Botswana, together with high-level representatives of the foundations providing the public health awards and prizes and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, as Administrator for the prizes.

The call for nominations of candidates for each prize is sent out each year after closure of the World Health Assembly. Nominations can be made by national health administrations of a WHO Member State and by former recipients of the prizes. At its 154<sup>th</sup> session in January 2024, the Executive Board designated the 2024 winners of the prizes, on the basis of proposals made by the dedicated selection panel for each prize.

The eight laureates have been selected to celebrate their unique role and contribution for public health in their countries and globally. They come from four WHO Regions: Africa, the Eastern-Mediterranean, South-East Asia and the Western Pacific.

## Winners of the 2024 prizes

Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health: **Dr Bader Al-Rawahi, Oman**

Sasakawa Health Prize: **Dr Doreen Ramogola-Masire, Botswana**

United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize: **National Death Registry System, Saudi Arabia**

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His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion: **Chinese Geriatrics Society, China**; and **Dr Ahmed Hamed Saif Al Wahaibi, Oman**

Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion: **Professor Bontle Mbongwe, Botswana**; and **National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), India**

Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize: **Dr Jamila Taiseer Yasser Al Abri, Oman**

## WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY AWARDS 2024: CHAMPIONS OF THE TOBACCO-FREE FUTURE



Every year, 31 May marks World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), a global campaign spearheaded by WHO to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco use. This year's theme – Protecting children from tobacco industry interference – highlights a critical battleground. Despite significant progress, millions of young people remain vulnerable, with a staggering 37 million aged 13–15 years using some form of tobacco globally.

However, there is hope. The 2024 WNTD awards celebrate six exceptional people and organizations from the WHO European

Region who are leading the fight back. From exposing deceptive marketing campaigns used to target youth (including through engaging social media influencers) to advocating for stricter regulations on e-cigarettes and nicotine products, these champions are making a significant difference.

### Winners

- Professor Charlotta Pisinger, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
- Mervi Hara, Executive Director, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), Finland
- Dr Francisco Rodríguez Lozano, Chair of the Board, Cancer Patients Europe, Spain
- Nongovernmental organization (NGO) “A Non Smoking Generation” and its Secretary General, Helen Stjerna, Sweden
- Ministry of Health (MoH) and Lviv Oblast Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Ukraine
- Dr Raouf Alebshehy, Managing Editor of Tobacco Tactics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The winners of the 2024 WNTD awards represent just a few of the many dedicated persons and organizations working tirelessly to create a tobacco-free future. Their relentless pursuit of a healthier world and their innovative approaches to tackling tobacco use serve as an inspiration to us all. The fight against tobacco is far from over, but with continued dedication and collaboration, we can create a world where future generations can live free from the devastating effects of tobacco and nicotine use.

More on this and short biographies of the winners at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/24-05-2024-world-no-tobacco-day-awards-2024--champions-of-the-tobacco-free-future>



## PEERING THROUGH TOBACCO'S SMOKESCREEN: YOUNG PEOPLE FIGHT FOR CLARITY AND FREEDOM



*“It’s really important for my generation to feel like they’re fighting for something, like they’re part of a trend, they’re part of a movement. And we see that this works.”* So says youth leader Karina Mocanu, who oversees a group of young people dedicated to improving tobacco control in Europe.

The European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP) launched ENSPNext, the group that Karina coordinates, in response to an alarming rise in tobacco use among youth in Europe.

The group aims to help young people recognize the manipulative tactics used by an industry keen to exploit them and foster a lifelong nicotine addiction.

*“When you’re addicted to something, you aren’t free to do whatever you want because you depend on a product and need to spend money on that product,”* Karina points out. *“It isn’t cool to consume, it’s a trap. We aim to empower young people to take back their freedom.”*

Karina also believes that her generation needs to understand that, in fighting against the tobacco industry, they are also contributing to a good cause.

*“Tobacco impacts so many aspects of our lives and there are so many reasons for which we need to fight,”* she explains when asked about what motivates her. *“These include impacts on our mental health and the environment, issues of poverty and food insecurity, alongside health effects and industry manipulation. I really believe that tobacco is not a niche sector at all.”*

### **A history of deception**

Dr Raouf Alebshehy is Managing Editor of Tobacco Tactics, part of the Tobacco Control Research Group at the University of Bath, United Kingdom. Highlighting the need to inform young people about the tobacco industry’s dirty

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tactics, he details how the industry has influenced the narrative around tobacco from as far back as the 1950s by funding research results favourable to their products and using their own science to address policy-makers.

*“There was a time when tobacco advertisements shamelessly claimed that tobacco is not harmful. Over decades, the industry pushed against the proven facts: that tobacco is harmful and addictive, tobacco causes cancer, second-hand smoking is harmful, and tobacco control measures are effective and absolutely needed,”* Dr Alebshehy explains.

Full news release here: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/31-05-2024-peering-through-tobacco-s-smokescreen--young-people-fight-for-clarity-and-freedom>

## JOINT PRESS RELEASE FROM WHO AND UNICEF: MEASLES CASES ACROSS EUROPE CONTINUE TO SURGE, PUTTING MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AT RISK

**Rapid response to measles outbreak is critical, as cases this year predicted to soon exceed total number reported in 2023**



According to the latest available data, 56 634 measles cases and four deaths were officially reported across 45 out of 53 countries in the WHO European Region during the first three months of 2024. Throughout 2023, 61 070 cases and 13 deaths were reported by 41 countries.

Measles has a devastating effect on children's health, with young children most at risk of severe complications. High rates of hospitalization and long-lasting weakening of children's immune systems make children more vulnerable to other infectious diseases. More than half of those who contracted measles in the Region in 2023 were hospitalized, demonstrating the severe burden on individuals, families and health-care systems.

*“Even one case of measles should be an urgent call to action,”* noted Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe. *“No one should suffer the consequences of this devastating but easily preventable disease. I applaud every country that has accelerated their efforts to interrupt transmission through catch-up vaccination. I urge all countries to take immediate action, even where overall immunization coverage is high, to vaccinate the vulnerable, close the immunity gaps and thereby prevent the virus from taking hold in any community.”*

Nearly half of reported cases in 2023 occurred among children under 5 years of age, reflecting an accumulation of children who missed routine vaccinations against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with slow recovery in vaccination coverage in 2021 and 2022.

[Full dataset available here: EpiData 4/2024](#)

Full press release: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/28-05-2024-joint-press-release-from-who-and-unicef--measles-cases-across-europe-continue-to-surge--putting-millions-of-children-at-risk>

## NEW REPORT FLAGS MAJOR INCREASE IN SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, AMIDST CHALLENGES IN HIV AND HEPATITIS



Global HIV, viral hepatitis epidemics and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) continue to pose significant public health challenges, causing 2.5 million deaths each year, according to a new WHO report – Implementing the global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, 2022–2030.

New data show that STIs are increasing in many regions. In 2022, WHO Member States set out an ambitious target of reducing the annual number of adult syphilis infections by ten-fold by 2030, from 7.1 million to 0.71 million. Yet, new syphilis cases among adults aged 15-49 years increased by over 1 million in 2022 reaching 8 million. The highest increases occurred in the Region for the Americas and the African Region.

Combined with insufficient decline seen in the reduction of new HIV and viral hepatitis infections, the report flags threats to the attainment of the related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

*“The rising incidence of syphilis raises major concerns,”* said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. *“Fortunately, there has been important progress on a number of other fronts including in accelerating access to critical health commodities including diagnostics and treatment. We have the tools required to end these epidemics as public health threats by 2030, but we now need to ensure that, in the context of an increasingly complex world, countries do all they can to achieve the ambitious targets they set themselves”.*

### Sustainability planning across the three disease areas needed

The report outlines the following recommendations for countries to strengthen shared approaches towards achieving the targets:

- implement policy and financing dialogues to develop cross-cutting investment cases and national-level sustainability plans;
- further consolidate and align disease-specific guidance, plans, and implementation support within a primary health care approach;
- accelerate efforts to address ongoing criminalization, stigma, and discrimination within health settings, particularly against populations most affected by HIV, viral hepatitis, and STIs;
- expand multi-disease elimination approaches and packages, drawing from lessons learned from the triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission; and
- strengthen the focus on primary prevention, diagnosis and treatment across the diseases to raise awareness especially for hepatitis and STIs.

While the ambitious targets set by Member States for 2025 and 2030 are helping to drive progress – the progress is patchy across disease areas. With many indicators remaining off-track to achieve global targets, more political will and commitment are to urgently accelerate the efforts.

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[Implementing the global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, 2022–2030](#)

More on this: <https://www.who.int/news/item/21-05-2024-new-report-flags-major-increase-in-sexually-transmitted-infections---amidst-challenges-in-hiv-and-hepatitis>

## WHO LAUNCHES ITS FIRST INVESTMENT ROUND TO SUSTAINABLY FINANCE ITS HEALTH FOR ALL MANDATE



The World Health Organization (WHO) launched its first-ever Investment Round as part of a broader plan to transform the way the Organization is funded heading into an era of climate change, mass migration, pandemic threats, an ageing world population, and turbulent geopolitics.

The launch, on the eve of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, marked the start of a year-long series of engagements and events, co-hosted by countries, where Member States and other donors will be invited to contribute funds to WHO's strategy for 2025 through 2028 and

show high-level political commitment to WHO and global health.

The Investment Round will culminate in November with a major pledging event to be hosted by Brazil around the G20 Leaders' Summit.

*"It's about ensuring WHO is fully funded and improving the quality of the funding we receive. Much of the funding we receive is unpredictable, reactive, and tightly defined,"* Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, opening the high-level event on the eve of the Health Assembly. *"The Investment Round aims to change that, by generating funding that is more flexible, predictable, and resilient."*

WHO's third investment case, launched at the World Health Assembly on 28 May 2024, estimates that full funding of the strategy, the [Fourteenth General Programme of Work \(GPW 14\)](#), will contribute to saving 40 million lives from 2025-2028.

The WHO Executive Board approved the Investment Round in January, noting that funding had not kept pace with the Organization's mandate to promote well-being, prevent disease, expand access to health care, and coordinate the world's response to a growing number of health emergencies brought on by war, disease outbreaks, and natural disasters.

By 2022-23, Member States' assessed contributions (membership dues) covered only 13% of WHO's budget, which left the Organization reliant on voluntary, often earmarked and unpredictable contributions to fund its work, a dynamic that created uncertainty and inefficiency across the Organization and left areas where approved activities went unfunded.

Holding an Investment Round was one of the key recommendations put forward by the Member State-led WHO Working Group on Sustainable Financing and approved by Member States to make WHO a predictably-, sustainably-, flexibly-funded organization. Member States have also approved an increase in their assessed contributions, on the pathway to providing 50% of WHO's base budget by 2030. With the Investment Round, WHO is seeking to expand its donor base by mobilizing new contributions from the WHO Member States that have not yet provided voluntary contributions and by tapping into new private sector donors through the WHO Foundation.

### [Investment Round](#)

More on this: <https://www.who.int/news/item/26-05-2024-who-launches-its-first-investment-round-to-sustainably-finance-its-health-for-all-mandate>

## WHO'S INVESTMENT CASE LAUNCH DRAWS EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT, PLEDGES TO SUSTAINABLY FINANCE FOUR-YEAR STRATEGY

WHO launched an [investment case](#) that lays out the Organization's essential contribution to global health and seeks investment in its 2025–2028 strategy to save 40 million lives and improve the health of 6 billion people.

The investment case underpins WHO's [Investment Round](#), which kicked off recently and has gained many robust expressions of support, commitments from countries to co-host, and a number of initial pledges that build momentum toward the Investment Round's culmination later this year.

Statements of support and funding commitments came from Member States, and the European Union during Tuesday's launch event at a strategic roundtable of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly.

*"I thank Brazil, which will host the Investment Round as President of the G20, alongside co-hosts France, Germany and Norway, and Mauritania in its capacity as Chair of the African Union,"* said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, speaking at Tuesday's event. *"I also thank the G7 finance ministers, who recently called for increased funding for WHO through the Investment Round. And I thank all Member States and other donors for their voluntary contributions, especially those who already provide predictable and flexible funding."*

The 40-page investment case is rich in data and examples of WHO's achievements – from women's health to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to the elimination of infectious diseases – showcases how the Organization amplifies the impact of its work to generate a return of US\$ 35 for every US\$ 1 of investment and sets out what can be achieved if WHO is sustainably financed.

WHO's strategy for global health, the [General Programme of Work \(GPW 14\)](#), approved on Tuesday, calls for deep collaboration with Member States and partners across a wide domain of health needs in a time of climate change, geopolitical turbulence, mass migration and other complex challenges.

More on this: <https://www.who.int/news/item/28-05-2024-who-s-investment-case-launch-draws-expressions-of-support--pledges-to-sustainably-finance-four-year-strategy>

## WHO/EUROPE AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION JOIN FORCES TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



WHO and the European Commission are entering a new phase in their cooperation to promote health-enhancing physical activity and help European Union (EU) member states to enhance their policies and actions to support a healthier population.

Heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are a major burden in Europe, both in terms of human lives and health-care costs. But there is a powerful weapon against these threats – getting physically active.

### Best practices for a healthier EU

The latest data from Eurobarometer show that 1 in 3 people in the EU are not active enough. Regular physical activity can make people happier, significantly reduce the number of NCD cases and save lives. If all people in the EU practice 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week as recommended by WHO, it will result in over 10 000 deaths prevented annually and **€8 billion saved in health-care costs annually**.

*“With the meeting of the EU Physical Activity Focal Points Network in Brussels, we enter a new phase in our cooperation with WHO. This is a new step in the implementation of the EU’s recommendation on health-enhancing physical activity across sectors from 2013,”* said Floor van Houdt, Head of the Sports Unit at the European Commission.

### HEPA tools for better policies

*“The collaboration between WHO/Europe and the European Commission goes way beyond promoting the direct benefits of exercise. Health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA) policies recommended by WHO/Europe and the EU encompass a whole set of measures across multiple settings, such as schools, workplaces and cities, creating a cumulative positive effect on health, economies and social well-being,”* said Kremlin Wickramasinghe, Regional Advisor for Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at WHO/Europe.

With the new phase, WHO/Europe and the European Commission are supporting EU Member States in the implementation of HEPA policies and tracking progress through the HEPA Monitoring Framework.

The framework, with its 23 indicators, allows for tailored policy adjustments based on real data collected every three years. Additionally, the EU Focal Points Network plays a crucial role in coordinating national data collection and fostering cooperation across sectors like sports, education, transportation and urban design.

[Step up! Tackling the burden of insufficient physical activity in Europe](#)

[HEPA Europe \(European network for the promotion of health-enhancing physical activity\)](#)

More on this: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/22-05-2024-who-europe-and-european-commission-join-forces-to-promote-physical-activity>



## THE INEQUALITY EPIDEMIC: LOW-INCOME TEENS FACE HIGHER RISKS OF OBESITY, INACTIVITY AND POOR DIET

**New WHO/Europe report finds alarming disparities in diet, exercise and weight among adolescents from different socioeconomic backgrounds**



A new report released by WHO/Europe reveals alarming disparities in the health of young people across the WHO European Region, with those from less affluent families disproportionately affected. The report, based on data from 44 countries participating in the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study, highlights unhealthy eating habits, rising rates of overweight and obesity, and low levels of physical activity among young people, all of which are significant risk factors for a range of noncommunicable diseases including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and cancer.

### Unhealthy eating habits on the rise

The report paints a concerning picture of adolescents' dietary habits, with a particular focus on the decline in healthy eating behaviours and the rise of unhealthy choices. Fewer than 2 in 5 adolescents (38%) eat fruit or vegetables daily, and these figures decline with age (from 45% of 11-year-olds to 33% of 15-year-olds for fruit, and from 40% to 36% for vegetables). Worryingly, more than half of adolescents report eating neither fruit nor vegetables every day (56% of boys and 51% of girls aged 15).

Conversely, the consumption of sweets and sugary drinks remains high, with 1 in 4 adolescents (25%) reporting daily consumption of sweets or chocolate. This rate is higher among girls (28%) than boys (23%) and has seen an increase since 2018, particularly among girls (from 23% to 27% for 11-year-old girls and from 26% to 28% for 15-year-old girls).

While daily soft drink consumption has seen a minor overall decline since the last survey in 2018, it still stands at 15% of adolescents, with higher rates among boys (16% versus 14% for girls) and those from less affluent families.

The report also reveals a concerning link between socioeconomic status and unhealthy dietary habits, with adolescents from lower-income families more likely to consume sugary drinks (18% versus 15%) and less likely to eat fruits (32% versus 46%) and vegetables (32% versus 54%) daily.

Dr Martin Weber, Team Lead for Quality of Care and Programme Manager of Child and Adolescent Health at WHO/Europe, said, *"The affordability and accessibility of healthy food options are often limited for families with lower incomes, leading to a higher reliance on processed and sugary foods, which can have detrimental effects on adolescent health."*

[Health Behaviour in School-aged Children \(HBSC\) international report from the 2021/2022 survey. Volume 4](#)

[Health Behaviour in School-aged Children \(HBSC\)](#)

More on this: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/23-05-2024-the-inequality-epidemic--low-income-teens-face-higher-risks-of-obesity--inactivity-and-poor-diet>

## WHO IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### World No Tobacco Day; 31 May 2024

A thematic discussion titled "Implementation of Tobacco Control Policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina" took place on 31 May 2024, World No Tobacco Day. World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is a globally recognised observance held annually on 31 May. Established by the Member States of the World Health Organization in 1987, WNTD serves to spotlight the tobacco epidemic and its avoidable consequences of death and illness.

The theme for this year's World No Tobacco Day was **"Protecting children from tobacco industry interference"** **#TobaccoExposed**, giving the platform to young people across the world, who are urging governments to shield them from predatory tobacco marketing tactics. The industry targets youth for a lifetime of profits, creating a new wave of addiction. Children are using e-cigarettes at rates higher than adults in all regions and globally an estimated 37 million youth aged 13–15 years use tobacco.

The primary emphasis of the event was to galvanise international action to enforce stricter regulations safeguarding young people from the dangers of tobacco products and misleading advertising tactics employed by the industry. This event aimed to assess accomplishments, pinpoint obstacles, and deliberate on strategies to bolster tobacco control policies in the country.

The event consisted of two interactive panel sessions, facilitated by a designated moderator guiding the discussions by posing questions to the participants.

The event was organised by PROI with the esteemed support of the Swiss Embassy and in collaboration with the Faculty of Economics of the University of Banja Luka.



## WHO EMERGENCIES

### Health emergencies list

The health emergencies list details the disease outbreaks, disasters and humanitarian crises where WHO plays an essential role in supporting countries to respond to and recover from emergencies with public health consequences.

[Conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory](#)

[Armenia refugee response](#)

[Climate crisis: extreme weather](#)

[Türkiye and Syria earthquakes](#)

[Monkeypox](#)

[Ukraine emergency](#)

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)

[Syrian crisis: WHO's response in and from Turkey](#)

[Ukraine's humanitarian crisis 2014-2022](#)

[Measles emergency in the European region](#)

[Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) and the risk to Europe](#)

## WHO CAMPAIGNS

### World Food Safety Day; 7 June 2024

World Food Safety Day on 7 June 2024 will draw attention to food safety incidents. This year's theme "**Food safety: prepare for the unexpected**" underlines the importance of being prepared for food safety incidents, no matter how mild or severe they can be.

Food safety incidents are situations where there is a potential or confirmed health risk associated with food consumption. A food incident can happen, for example, due to accidents, inadequate controls, food fraud or natural events. While being ready to manage food safety incidents requires dedicated efforts from policymakers, food safety authorities, farmers and food business operators, consumers also can play an active role.

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-food-safety-day/2024>

### World Blood Donor Day 2024; 14 June 2024

On World Blood Donor Day, celebrated on 14 June 2024, WHO, its partners and communities across the world will unite behind the theme: **20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors!**

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Blood Donor Day is an excellent and timely opportunity to thank blood donors across the world for their life-saving donations over the years and honour the profound impact on both patients and donors. It is also a timely moment to address continued challenges, and accelerate progress towards a future where safe blood transfusion is universally accessible.

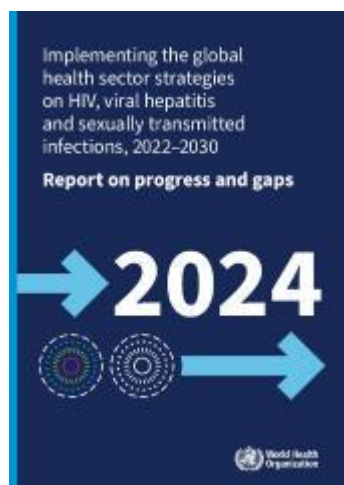
The objectives of the campaign:

- thank and recognize the millions of voluntary blood donors who have contributed to the health and well-being of millions of people around the world.
- showcase the achievements and challenges of national blood programmes and share best practices and lessons learned.
- highlight the continuous need for regular, unpaid blood donation to achieve universal access to safe blood transfusion.
- promote a culture of regular blood donation among young people and the general public and increase the diversity and sustainability of the blood donor pool.

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-blood-donor-day/2024>

## PUBLICATIONS

### Implementing the global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, 2022–2030: report on progress and gaps 2024



HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) continue to impose a major public health burden worldwide, collectively causing an estimated 2.5 million deaths and million cases of cancer annually. Four curable STIs together account for more than 1 million new infections each day. An estimated 3.5 million cases of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C transmission occur each year. Despite ongoing progress, the current global response is not sufficient to meet the ambitious targets of the Global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections for the period 2022–2030 (hereafter referred to as the global health sector strategies 2022–2030). Viral hepatitis is one of the communicable diseases for which mortality is increasing, and in countries with strong surveillance systems, case notification rates for STIs also show increases.

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/376814/9789240094925-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

### Hooking the next generation: how the tobacco industry captures young customers



Young people across the world are urging governments to shield them from predatory tobacco marketing tactics. The industry targets youth for a lifetime of profits, creating a new wave of addiction. The latest data show that children are using e-cigarettes at rates higher than adults in many countries and globally an estimated 37 million youth aged 13–15 years use tobacco.

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/376853/9789240094642-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

### Working for a brighter, healthier future - How WHO improves health and promotes well-being for the world's adolescents, Second Edition

WHO has progressively strengthened its work for adolescent health, growing its portfolio of research, norms and standards, country support and advocacy, and expanding the scope of work across over 17 departments, regional and country offices to address the multifaceted needs of the global adolescent population. Central to a coordinated approach

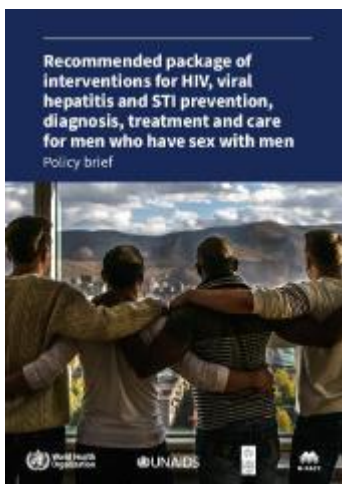


to adolescent health across the organization is the HQ Interdepartmental Technical Working Group on Adolescent Health and Well-being. In 2021, the group produced the first report on its work on adolescent health and well-being, celebrating efforts across many areas of work and all levels of the organization.

This is the second in the series of biennial reports that comes on the wake of the Global Forum for Adolescents 2023 and is powered by its 1.8 Billion Young People for Change campaign. The report describes WHO's efforts to elevate adolescent health and well-being through collaboration and by coordinating new initiatives, addressing emerging needs and establishing ambitious objectives with its development partners and adolescents.

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/376861/9789240093966-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

### Recommended package of interventions for HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for men who have sex with men – Policy brief

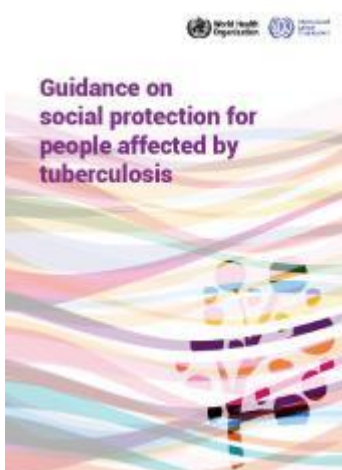


In 2022, WHO published the *Consolidated guidelines on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations*. These guidelines outline a public health response to HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for five key populations (men who have sex with men, sex workers, people in prisons and other closed settings, people who inject drugs and trans and gender diverse people).

In this policy brief, we give an update on those parts of the guidelines which are relevant for men who have sex with men.

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/376921/9789240076174-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

### Guidance on social protection for people affected by tuberculosis



Social protection, a component of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s End TB strategy, has been upheld by Member States as an essential part of the response to tuberculosis in several political declarations, including the 2017 Moscow Declaration to End TB, and the political declarations of both the 2018 and 2023 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) high-level meetings on the fight against TB. Furthermore, during the 2023 high-level meeting, member states agreed on a new target to ensure that all people with TB have access to a comprehensive package of health and social benefits by 2027.

In this context, the Guidance on social protection for people affected by tuberculosis jointly developed by WHO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) will enable all key stakeholders in the provision of TB and social protection services to

plan and implement coverage of social protection programmes for people affected by TB. Implementation of this guidance will require active engagement and coordination across different sectors. As such social protection is a clear of investment for the establishment of a multisectoral accountability framework to accelerate progress towards the end of TB (MAF-TB) as part of the multisectoral response towards ending TB

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/376542/9789240089327-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

## WHO EVENTS & COURSES

**#EndTB Webinar: WHO Guidance on conducting reviews of tuberculosis programmes;** 5 June 2024 10:00-12:30 CET

The World Health Organization (WHO) is organising a global webinar on its newly-released [guidance](#) on conducting reviews of tuberculosis (TB) programmes and undertaking TB epidemiological reviews and assessments of TB surveillance and vital registration systems.

**The** webinar aims to highlight the importance of bolstering review mechanisms, underscoring the urgency and importance of effective monitoring and evaluation strategies in the global fight against TB. The webinar will provide a comprehensive overview of the guidance and features sharing of country experiences and discussions of its practical application.

Key speakers include WHO leadership, representatives of the WHO Civil Society Task Force on TB and of communities affected by TB, ministries of health, national TB programmes and key partners.

The event is open to all stakeholders in the fight to end TB, including ministries of health, other relevant ministries and government departments, civil society organizations, affected communities, external consultant epidemiologists, staff from WHO country and regional offices, and technical and funding partners.

The event will be held on **Wednesday 5 June 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CEST.**

<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2024/06/05/default-calendar/endtb-webinar--who-guidance-on-conducting-reviews-of-tuberculosis-programmes>

[Register here](#)

**WHO Technical Webinar Series on Climate Change and Health;** 24 April-23 October 2024 online

WHO is conducting a series of technical webinars on various climate change and health topics with the aim of building capacity for implementation at country level. These webinars will integrate training, experience sharing, interactive activities and group discussion.

The first series of webinars will explore specific topics related to:

- Conducting a climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessment

- Developing a Health National Adaptation Plan
- Accessing climate finance for health
- Climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities

<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2024/04/24/default-calendar/who-technical-webinar-series-on-climate-change-and-health>

## WHO STORIES

### Have you heard of white snus? A Swedish tobacco control activist rings the alarm

*“There is a lot of talk about Sweden becoming smoke-free, but this is a narrative that has been created by the tobacco industry,”* warns Helen Stjerna, leader of the Swedish non-profit foundation, A Non-Smoking Generation. The organization has been working for 45 years to reduce the number of young people in the country who start using tobacco. For the last 35 years, shops in Sweden have not been allowed to advertise tobacco. By 1993 the country had banned workplace smoking, which was followed by minimum age limits for buying tobacco, and then laws introducing smoke-free restaurants in 2005 and smoke-free outdoor seating in 2019. This meant fewer young people taking up smoking. Now, Helen says, the industry can circumvent all these tobacco laws.

<https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/feature-stories/item/have-you-heard-of-white-snus--a-swedish-tobacco-control-activist-rings-the-alarm>

### Health is the best investment

Health is the best investment – Central Asia International Health Investment Forum 2024

<https://www.who.int/europe/multi-media/item/health-is-the-best-investment>

### “There are no borders”: treating sick and injured Ukrainians abroad through the medical evacuation and repatriation programme

Vitali is one of over 70 sick or severely injured Ukrainian patients brought to Austria to receive specialist medical treatment through a dedicated medevac and repatriation programme.

As of 30 April 2024, 4069 patients had been evacuated for specialist trauma treatment and oncological, rehabilitation or prosthetic care in hospitals and rehabilitation centres across the WHO European Region and further afield. The programme, co-funded by the European Union and run with technical and operational support from WHO, is helping to relieve some of the pressure on Ukrainian health services caused by the war.

<https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/photo-stories/item/there-are-no-borders---treating-sick-and-injured-ukrainians-abroad-through-the-medical-evacuation-and-repatriation-programme>



## A day in the life of a community nurse in Romania – bringing care and solace into people's homes

Loredana is a community nurse in the commune of Țigănași in north-east Romania. She serves four villages which have a total population of 4826. Her working day begins when she packs her medical bag with all the equipment she will need and checks her itinerary.

<https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/photo-stories/item/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-community-nurse-in-romania---bringing-care-and-solace-into-people-s-homes>

## WHO VIDEOS

<https://www.youtube.com/c/who/playlists>.

## WHO PODCAST

### Health In Europe: H5N1 - The Bird Flu

In this episode, we are putting a special focus on the H<sub>5</sub>N<sub>1</sub> bird flu. We explore the ongoing efforts to prepare for future pandemics by speaking with experts like Peter Sousa Hoejskov, who explains the constant risk of zoonotic diseases jumping from animals to humans; and Maria van Kerkhove, who emphasizes the importance of global surveillance and preparedness in the face of potential influenza pandemics. The discussion sheds light on how close human-animal interactions, even in regions like Europe, keep the threat of these diseases ever-present.

The insightful contributions from leading scientists provide a comprehensive understanding of why we must remain vigilant and proactive. Tune in to Health in Europe with host Alice Allan to discover what's being done to protect us all from the inevitable next pandemic.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1109867/15128389-h5n1-the-bird-flu>

## SOURCES

- <https://www.who.int/>
- <https://www.un.org/en/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/whoregionalofficeforeurope>
- <https://www.bmj.com/company/>

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*Prepared by WHO CO in Bosna and Herzegovina.*