



# 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)<sup>1</sup>, such as heart attacks and stroke, asthma, diabetes and cervical cancer.

## **OUR PRINCIPLES**

Country-led, catalytic, cross-sectoral, impact-oriented and equity-driven action.

## **OUR PLAN**

A bold and novel approach to development financing, bound by global solidarity, to recover better together post-pandemic.

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

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

## THE ISSUE

NCDs now cause almost 3 out of 4 deaths globally with low- and middle-income countries overly affected.

More than one in three lives lost to NCDs is premature<sup>2</sup> and largely preventable, yet these conditions remain overwhelmingly neglected by development financing.

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.

## PANDEMIC PERIL



COVID-19 has exposed the shortcomings of our model for health and development – inadequate attention to prevention and determinants of health as well as siloed approaches within and beyond the health sector.

NCDs and their risk factors increase the severity of COVID-19 and the potential for complications or death.

Underlying neurological conditions increase the risk of hospitalization for COVID-19.

Strained health systems have and will continue to disrupt continuity of care for people with these conditions, impeding early detection and worsening outcomes.

*“From the climate crisis to obesity and harmful commercial marketing, children around the world are having to contend with threats that were unimaginable just a few generations ago. It is time for a rethink on child health.”*

Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director

<sup>2</sup> Defined as deaths between the ages of 30 to 69 years

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.

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

## COUNTRY-LED

Identifying priorities for support, by countries themselves, to clear bottlenecks which impede progress.

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## CATALYTIC

Providing funding and technical support to drive impact and ensure sufficient domestic funding is available for mental health conditions and NCDs.

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## CROSS-SECTORAL

Generating coherent, whole-of-government, whole-of-society action, fully involving affected communities and with the support of 'One-UN'.

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## EQUITY-DRIVEN

Centering on the needs of low- and middle-income countries and their most vulnerable populations, ensuring that we truly leave no-one behind.

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## IMPACT-ORIENTED

Strengthening data collection to inform programming in real-time; and improving governance, laws, regulations and fiscal measures to drive long-term, effective solutions that integrate NCDs and mental health into universal health coverage.



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

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator

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## OUR TARGET

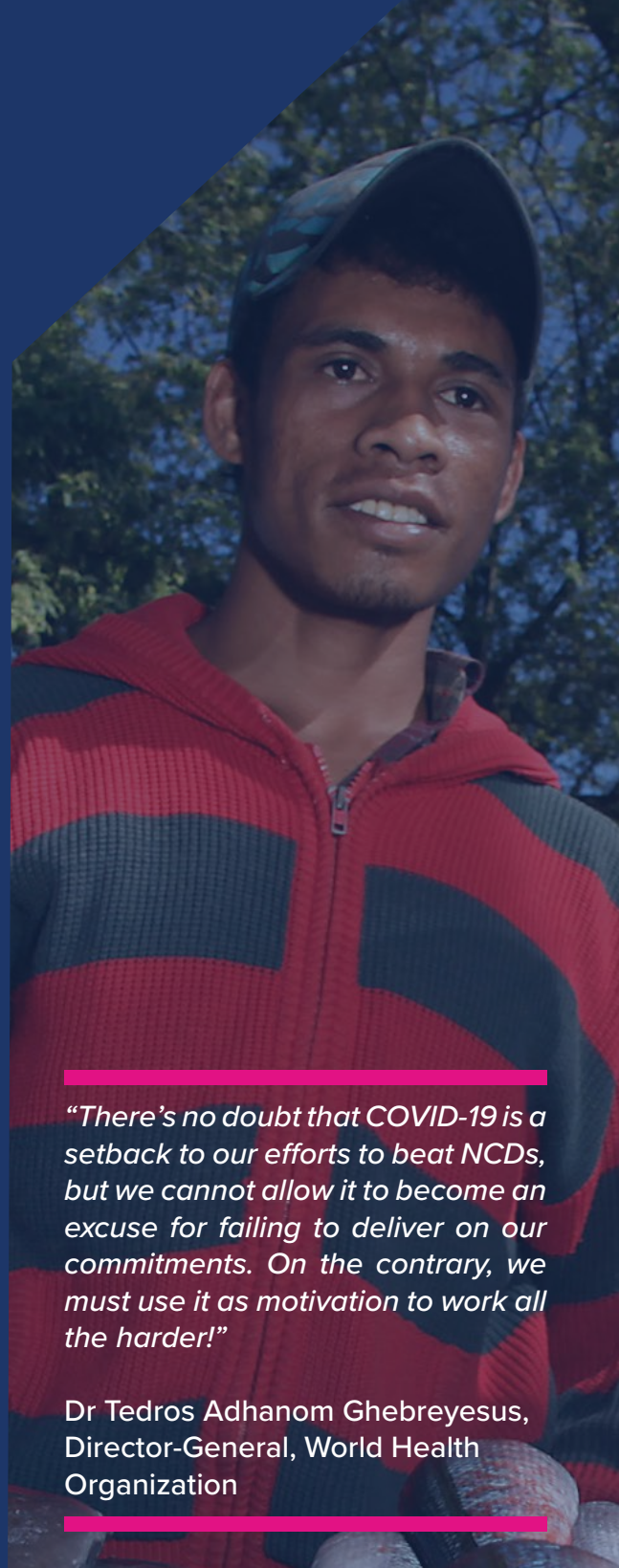
The Trust Fund will mobilize and invest US\$ 250 million over 5 years to leverage both international and domestic financing and accelerate action to achieve SDG 3.4.

## OUR ACTION TOGETHER WILL CONTRIBUTE TO

**39 million lives saved**

**US\$ 2.7 trillion in economic benefits realized**

## INVEST TODAY FOR TOMORROW



*“There’s no doubt that COVID-19 is a setback to our efforts to beat NCDs, but we cannot allow it to become an excuse for failing to deliver on our commitments. On the contrary, we must use it as motivation to work all the harder!”*

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



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Lead Agencies for the

[United Nations NCD and Mental Health Catalytic Trust Fund](#)

Established in May 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.