

WHO Dialogues with Non-State Actors on Scaling Grassroots Innovations for NCD Prevention and Control

Background and Rationale

Pursuant to the strategic shift of WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13)¹ Output 3.2. ("Risk factors reduced through multisectoral action and in line with WHO's focus global public goods for impact, including through research and innovation"), the WHO Secretariat through the Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (GCM/NCD) is convening a set of dialogues with non-State actors to address challenges in enhancing public sector demand for grassroots innovations to support the prevention and control NCDs. The dialogues with non-State actors are also in line with the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020 particularly to strengthen national and regional capacity and to enhance knowledge on innovation capacities to support the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases)², the WHO Innovation in Health Strategy, and WHO's technical guidance and recommendations. The multistakeholder dialogues will be organized in accordance with WHO policies, including the WHO [Framework of engagement with non-State actors \(FENSA\)](#). They aim to provide knowledge-sharing opportunities on strengthening the capacity of the grassroots innovation ecosystem (relevant non-State actors including academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, philanthropic foundations, and private sector entities) to scale. The dialogues will also provide the opportunity to share views on adopting and implementing innovative, evidence-based and needs-assessed practices and solutions on the prevention and control of NCDs at country level in response to GPW13. The multistakeholder dialogues will focus on disseminating knowledge on practical scaling pathways, information on policy mechanisms, levers, and other essential technical components towards scaling, adopting and implementing innovative solutions within national NCD programmes and policies.

Objectives of the WHO Dialogues with non-State actors on scaling grassroots innovations for NCD prevention and control

The objectives of the dialogues are to encourage knowledge sharing and dissemination on the prevention and control of NCDs by bringing multisectoral and evidence-informed perspectives that are contextualized to local communities and countries. Multistakeholder knowledge-sharing can strengthen the capacity of stakeholders in the grassroots innovation ecosystem to achieve greater impact and scale at country level. The dialogues intend to encourage discussion and exchange of views on the value of grassroots innovations in bringing contextualized solutions to address the burden of NCDs and strengthen the knowledge of relevant stakeholders in the grassroots innovation ecosystem to ensure information on how such innovations can achieve scale at country level is shared. The added value of these dialogues is to enhance public sector demand and know-how on adopting and implementing innovative practices to prevent and control NCDs in countries. On this basis, WHO proposes to initiate and lead dialogues with non-State actors including academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, private sector entities, and philanthropic foundations to share experiences, opportunities, and challenges in ensuring grassroots innovations achieve scale in line with WHO's recommendations.

The primary objective of the dialogues is to:

¹ WHO GPW 13. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/324775/WHO-PRP-18.1-eng.pdf>

² Global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2020
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241506236>

- Leverage knowledge sharing and information dissemination with relevant stakeholders in the grassroots innovation ecosystem (non-State actors: academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, philanthropic foundations, and private sector entities) on scaling, adopting, and implementing innovative, evidence-based and needs-assessed practices and solutions on the prevention and control of NCDs at country level in response to GPW13

Through the following secondary objectives:

- Share and disseminate knowledge, skills and WHO's technical resources including on practical scaling pathways towards achieving scale with relevant stakeholders in NCD prevention and control
- Identify local innovative practices in public health programmes at country level

Discussion Points

Participants will exchange views, share experiences and discuss the specific issues in line with the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030, WHO Innovation in Health Strategy, and WHO recommendations on prevention and control of NCDs. Views of non-State actors will be sought on the following points:

- The value and potential of locally-adapted, contextualized and evidence-informed grassroots innovations to provide effective, equitable and sustainable responses to the global NCD epidemic;
- Practical solutions, including scaling pathways and policy mechanisms and levers which may inform grassroots innovators to achieve scale;
- Strategies to encourage and support public sector demand, adoption and implementation of innovative grassroots solutions in national NCD programmes and policies.

Participation and Meeting Modalities

The WHO Secretariat will apply pre-defined eligibility criteria when inviting non-State actors to the dialogue, guided by the objectives established for the dialogues and in accordance with relevant WHO policies including FENSA. Dialogue participants will include nongovernmental organizations, philanthropic foundations, academic institutions, and private sector entities. Entities meeting the selection criteria will be reviewed and, following satisfactory due diligence and risk assessment by WHO, will be invited by the WHO Secretariat to the dialogues. Modalities for their participation virtually or in-person will be established, led, overseen, and indicated by WHO. WHO reserves the right to withdraw an invitation at its own discretion.

Selection Criteria

WHO Secretariat will apply the following eligibility criteria when inviting non-State actors to participate in the meeting:

- The non-State actor must be an entity, and not an individual, to be invited to the dialogues.

- Non-State actors are to provide all background documents as per paragraph 39 of the WHO FENSA and complete the tobacco-arms disclosure statement.³
- The non-State actor may have technically engaged with WHO on the prevention and control of NCDs and mental health conditions.
- The non-State actor demonstrates expertise in leveraging locally-adapted and innovative solutions to addressing national challenges to the prevention and control of NCDs and scaling innovative responses to NCDs as evidenced by successful proof-of-concept, case studies, results and evaluation.
- The non-State actor commits to WHO's strategies and programmes related to the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030, WHO Innovation in Health Strategy to be developed in 2023 and recommendations and guidance from the TAG-NCD-R&I.

Subject to due diligence and risk assessment as per WHO FENSA, acceptance of non-State actors as participants to the dialogues is governed by the following principles:

- Demonstrate a clear benefit to public health and WHO's mandates to deliver on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.4 – by 2030, to reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being – and other NCD-related SDGs.
- Adhere and supports WHO's Constitution, rules and procedures including but not limited to the overarching principles contained in the Framework for engagement with non-State actors (FENSA).
- Respect the intergovernmental nature of WHO and the decision-making authority of Member States as set out in the WHO's Constitution.
- Support and enhance, without compromising, the scientific and evidence-based approach that underpins WHO's work.
- Not compromise WHO's integrity, independence, credibility and reputation.
- Does not engage with the tobacco industry nor with non-State actors that work to further the interests of the tobacco industry.
- Does not engage with the arms industry.
- The participation of the non-State actor should not be considered as co-sponsoring or jointly organizing WHO's meeting.
- The entity shall not use the name and/or emblem of WHO, or any abbreviation thereof, in relation to its business or activities, or otherwise.
- Participation does not imply any endorsement of the non-State actor's name, brand, product, views or activity.
- The non-State actors should not seek promotion from the fact that they have engaged with WHO including participation in the meeting (no press releases, nor co-branding) nor use the results of the engagement, including participation, for promotional and/or commercial purposes.

³ Entities in official relations with WHO are not required to provide documents as these are collected annually through separate procedures required to maintain official relations with WHO.