

## Briefing on the 4th High-level Meeting

### of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion of Mental Health and Well-being



#### What is the 4<sup>th</sup> UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health?

The Fourth UN High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and the Promotion of Mental Health and Well-being is a crucial gathering, led by Member States of the United Nations, and managed by the UN Headquarters in New York City, USA. Heads of State and Government will convene during the time of the UN General Assembly in September 2025, **to follow up on the previous UNHLM on NCDs**, held in 2018, and adopt a new political UN declaration on NCDs and Mental Health. This declaration intends to revitalize the commitments across all of governments to accelerate global NCD prevention and control and the promotion of mental health and well-being, to progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal of one-third reduction in NCD premature mortality.

#### When and where will the 4<sup>th</sup> UN HLM on NCDs and Mental Health take place?

The 4<sup>th</sup> HLM on NCDs and Mental Health is scheduled for **Thursday, 25 September 2025** at the United Nations office in New York City. Heads of State and Heads of Government attending the UN General Assembly are expected to participate in this meeting. In addition, civil society groups as well as PAHO and WHO will host related side events during this time, on specific topics. Once the PAHO side event is confirmed, information will be shared.

#### Who will participate in 4<sup>th</sup> HLM?

Participants will include Heads of State and Government, UN agencies, international organizations, civil society representatives, and other key stakeholders committed to addressing NCDs and mental health challenges. PAHO will have a presence at the UN on the margins of the UNHLM on a side event, with topic and date to be determined by the Director. Information will be shared.



## What is PAHO's role in the lead-up to the 4<sup>th</sup> UN HLM?

PAHO is actively involved in the preparatory process for HLM4, coordinating with the global activities led by WHO headquarters. In 2024, virtual meetings were held with national NCD program managers to review progress towards the NCD targets; and in March 2025 a regional NCD meeting will be held with national NCD program managers to continue to discuss how to accelerate progress towards the NCD targets.

PAHO is also calling for 'Best Practices in NCDs' to create a collection of successful NCD interventions according to the PAHO Best Practices standards. The selected best practices will be presented on PAHO's webpage, social media and through the PAHO side event at the UNHLM. Please encourage submissions from your country here: [\[OPEN\] Call for Good Practices in the Prevention, Control and Surveillance of Noncommunicable Diseases | Good Practices in Public Health Portal](#).



## What key messages should be conveyed to Ministers of Health regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> UN HLM on NCDs and Mental Health?

- **Urgency of Action:** Emphasize the critical need to accelerate efforts in preventing and controlling NCDs and promoting mental health and well-being to achieve Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 by 2030 of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> reduction in NCD premature mortality.
- **Multi-sector collaboration for NCD and the promotion of mental health:** Advocate for the adoption and implementation of multisectoral policies that address the major risk factors for NCDs, including tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets, and physical inactivity, as well as key risk factors for mental health conditions, including poverty, violence, and inequality.
- **Implement Better Care for NCDs and Mental Health:** Highlight the importance of accelerating the integration of NCDs and Mental Health into primary health care to ensure equitable access and improvements in NCD diagnosis, treatment and control, building on any experiences with Hearts for hypertension control.
- **Sustainable Financing:** Stress the necessity of securing sustainable financing for the national NCD and mental health programs to ensure that NCD prevention and mental health promotion policies are in place, NCD and mental health services in primary care are well established and that NCD and mental health surveillance take place on an ongoing basis.

## How can PAHO country representatives prepare for the 4<sup>th</sup> UNHLM on NCDs and Mental Health?

- **Engage more, and more often on NCDs and mental health with health authorities and civil society:** meet regularly and participate actively in meetings with national health authorities and civil society organizations in your country to provide NCD and mental health data, information on effective interventions, and advocate for acceleration of implementation of the Better Care for NCD initiative, NCD prevention and mental health promotion policies and NCD and mental health and risk factor surveillance.
- **Organize NCD and Mental Health advocacy and awareness events in the PAHO country office:** Organize national and multi-sector events with key NCD and mental health stakeholders in the country to disseminate information on progress in NCDs and mental health and generate awareness and a self-sustaining advocacy movement for NCDs and mental health.
- **Disseminate NCD data:** utilize and disseminate the information on NCDs and mental health in the PAHO ENLACE database - [ENLACE: Data Portal on Noncommunicable Diseases, Mental Health, and External Causes - PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization](#)
- **Expand partnerships:** Collaborate with other government sectors, including education, agriculture, finance, and civil society organizations including patient groups in your country, to implement comprehensive NCD prevention and control and mental health promotion strategies.
- **Advocate for resources:** Work with national governments to secure political commitment and allocate adequate resources for NCD and mental health policies, services and surveillance.

## What are the anticipated outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> UN HLM on NCDs?

The primary outcome of 4<sup>th</sup> UNHLM on NCDs and Mental Health will be a political declaration to fortify the political commitments and strategic directions for an all of government and all of society approach to NCD prevention and control and the promotion of mental health and well-being. This declaration will guide global and national actions, policies, and investments in the lead up to reach the relevant 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

## How does the 4<sup>th</sup> HLM align with global health agendas?

The 4<sup>th</sup> HLM aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG target 3.4, which aims to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by one-third through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being. The meeting also builds upon the 3 previous UNHLM on NCDs.

## **What resources are available to support countries in preparing for the 4<sup>th</sup> UNHLM on NCDs?**

PAHO provide various resources, including technical guidance, policy frameworks, and capacity-building workshops, to assist countries in their preparations. Additionally, web-based consultations and international dialogues offer platforms for sharing best practices and lessons learned. For more information, please visit: [On the road to 2025. Preparatory process for the Fourth High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs - PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization.](#)