

Event Highlights

Cracking the code: Innovative approaches to unlock sustainable financing for NCDs in LMICs

WHA77 - SIDE EVENT

Tuesday, 28 May 2024

Ensuring effective, sustainable financing for NCDs (including mental health) is critical to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. With key discussions on the horizon, including the WHO/World Bank Second Global Dialogue on Sustainable Financing for Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health (June 2024) and the 4th UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs (September 2025), Access Accelerated hosted a special WHA side event on Tuesday 28 May, 2024.

Featuring country insights and local perspectives, keynote speaker Dr. Elizabeth Wangia, Director of Health Financing at Kenya's Ministry of Health, shared the ambitious initiatives being launched in Kenya. Dr. Wangia set the stage for discussions on impactful, locally-driven solutions for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

In addition, speakers from the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation highlighted an extensive range of measures being undertaken by the World Bank Group to reach people in need and improve global health, including a strong focus on partnerships and NCDs.

The discussion sparked a robust exchange, surfacing powerful insights and highlighting the need for deeper collaboration between global health and financing communities. As the conversation on health and NCD financing matures, fostering closer ties between these communities is crucial to bridge the NCD financing gap.

Participating organizations

ATOM Coalition, UICC

Bamboo Capital Partners

Bristol Myers Squibb

City Cancer Challenge Foundation

Deloitte

Eli Lilly

IDA Foundation

IFPMA

International Finance Corporation

Lombard Odier

Ministry of Health, Kenya

Medtronic Labs

NCD Alliance

Novo Nordisk

PATH

Results for Development

Roche (IFPMA GHAC)

UBS Optimus Foundation

World Bank Group

World Diabetes Foundation

World Health Organization

Access Accelerated member companies



Bristol Myers Squibb



IPSEN



MENARINI group



Takeda



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KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE NCD FINANCING IN LMICs

Concrete and locally-driven solutions: Move beyond global-level discussions and create actionable local implementation plans with a long-term perspective. Ensure financing mechanisms are tailored to each country's specific context in order to address the most important local needs and achieve the greatest local impact. Measures may include mobilizing additional resources as well as optimizing health system spending for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

Financial protection: National health programs should prioritize making healthcare affordable. This could involve redesigned national insurance schemes and other programs that reduce copayments and out-of-pocket expenses.

Improved financing for health systems: Explore and implement a variety of different financing models for health systems, e.g., hybrid public-private partnerships, innovative financing models, development assistance for health, donor funding, innovative financing models, to attract additional investment, reduce government risk, and lower project costs, enabling successful implementation and expansion.

Data improvement and evidence gathering: Financing decisions should be based on robust local data and evidence of impacts and outcomes. Improved data systems are crucial to identify waste, inefficiencies, cost drivers, and potential savings. This allows for optimized resource allocation and a clearer understanding of which types of investments improve health outcomes for patients and health system performance.

Investment readiness: Investment readiness hinges on proactive preparation of health systems, identification of step-change opportunities and inflection points, support for local expertise development (including country-to-country learnings), and presentation of clear and compelling investment cases to potential financiers.

Matching financing tools to challenges: A clear mapping of financing tools to specific NCD-related problems is crucial to bridge the gap between financing and global health. There is no one-size-fits-all solution for the full spectrum of NCD financing needs. Therefore, we need to identify the most appropriate financing solutions that best address each specific NCD challenge.

A holistic health systems approach: The most powerful investment lies in a comprehensive health systems approach. This involves reorienting care towards primary healthcare (PHC) levels, integrating different services, leveraging innovation and digital health, and placing a greater focus on health promotion and prevention.

