

Together for the Triple Billion

A new era of partnership between WHO and civil society

ESTABLISHING THE WHO-CSO TASK TEAM

In January 2018, at the invitation of WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, a Civil Society Task Team was established to advise WHO on how to strengthen its engagement with civil society to advance the 13th General Programme of Work (GPW). Joined by representatives from 17 countries, and co-facilitated by the United Nations Foundation and RESULTS, the Task Team has developed a set of concrete, actionable recommendations that will enhance our collective ability to keep the world safe, protect the vulnerable, and achieve health for all.

COLLABORATING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are uniquely positioned to represent and reach target populations and help advance universal health coverage. Ranging from community-based organizations to research institutions, CSOs play a variety of roles, such as knowledge generation, policy input and guidance, advocacy, and implementation support, and actively support vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations.



WHO-CSO TASK TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Collective action from WHO, CSOs and Member States will be needed to transform WHO-CSO engagement. Drawing on insights from multiple consultations and surveys, the Task Team identified a set of recommendations:

Recommendations for Collaboration in Priority Areas of the GPW:



POLICY DIALOGUE

Build in explicit, accessible opportunities for civil society to provide input into health policies and governance at all levels.



HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Strengthen emergency response by expanding country-level tripartite Health Cluster leadership.



GENDER EQUALITY, HEALTH EQUITY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Establish an independent "Inclusivity Advisory and Oversight Group" at WHO to develop and implement policies on gender, youth, equity, and rights.



DATA, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION

Develop a platform to crowdsource complementary, disaggregated data from CSOs.

Recommendations for Improving Systematic WHO-CSO Collaboration:



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHO

- Establish incentive mechanisms and build staff capacity to promote strengthened CSO engagement.
- Launch an online platform for WHO staff and CSOs to track and share collaboration.
- Establish an "Advisory Committee for WHO-CSO Engagement" to support and monitor ongoing cooperation.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CSOs

- Articulate and advocate around civil society's value-add to WHO and Member States, and proactively participate in policy creation and national roadmap development.
- Increase organization and coordination among CSOs, particularly within countries.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEMBER STATES

- Create space for WHO to deliver on its commitments under FENSA and ensure WHO is accountable.
- Recognize the diverse role and value of CSOs and invite civil society into planning and policy processes.