



---

## **Investment Case 2025–2028 and latest on WHO Investment Round**

### **Executive summary**

1. The world faces severe inequities and inequalities in health, which were amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. More than half the world's population is not fully covered by one or more essential health services, and 2 billion people face financial hardship due to out-of-pocket health spending. For WHO's recently-approved strategy for the next four years (2025–2028), the WHO Fourteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 14), to be implemented effectively a total base budget of US\$ 11.1 billion is proposed. Projected assessed contributions (fully flexible funds paid annually by all Member States as a “membership fee” to WHO) will cover US\$ 4 billion of this total. This leaves a funding gap of US\$ 7.1 billion, to be filled through voluntary contributions.

2. In May this year, the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly urged Member States to actively participate in the first WHO Investment Round, launched to mobilize predictable and flexible resources for WHO's core work over the next four years (2025–2028). The Investment Round involves an inclusive engagement with Member States and donors to raise awareness about the importance of fully funding the work of WHO to achieve our common global health agenda to protect, provide and promote health and well-being for all, including the most vulnerable.

### **Goal and objectives**

3. The overall goal of the Investment Round is to ensure WHO is fully and sustainably funded over the next four years to tackle the emergencies and outbreaks that threaten lives and jeopardize global health security, reduce disease and continue working to improve well-being for everyone, especially the most vulnerable.

4. Its specific objectives are to ensure that:

- flexible funding untied to specified areas of work allows WHO to allocate resources strategically and ensure adequate and equitable funding across the Organization;
- predictable and upfront resources at the start of the four-year cycle are available so that WHO can plan effectively, keep a stable workforce and allocate funds efficiently; and
- resilience is increased through broadening the donor base to avoid reliance on a small set of donors.

### **Background**

5. WHO requires sustainable financing to carry out its mandate that is agile enough to respond to global health threats and provide quality support to Member States in reaching their agreed goals for health for all. This means funding that is flexible, predictable and resilient. In 2022–2023, Member States' assessed contributions (membership dues) covered only 13% of WHO's budget, which left the Organization reliant on voluntary, often earmarked and unpredictable contributions to fund its work. This created uncertainty and inefficiency across the Organization and left areas where approved activities went unfunded. The Investment Round is a new mechanism proposed by the WHO Working Group on Sustainable Financing to mobilize resources for WHO's core work (known as WHO's base budget, which excludes special programmes, initiatives and emergency response).

## Approach

6. The Investment Round is based on the principle of every Member State and partner contributing. It is supported by a growing group of co-hosts: Brazil, France, Germany, Mauritania (for the African Union), Norway, Saudi Arabia and South Africa. These co-hosts are key to raising awareness about the importance of fully funding the work of WHO, as well as providing support and commitment to our common global health agenda. Working with existing donors and other partners, the Investment Round also aims to attract new donors through an inclusive engagement process that will culminate at the G20 leaders' summit chaired by Brazilian President Lula da Silva.

## Key actions

7. The Investment Round is an inclusive engagement process, and existing and potential new donors are invited to make commitments at a series of events co-hosted by interested Member States, that will culminate at the G20 Leaders' Summit chaired by Brazilian President Lula da Silva.

8. WHO would be pleased to receive pledges towards the Investment Round at any point before the conclusion of the campaign at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 18–19 November 2024. However, to ensure that the announcements of pledges encourage others to step forward, prospective contributors may consider announcing their pledges at one of several events on the Investment Round timeline that will present opportunities for pledging. These include:

Event	Date	Location
World Health Assembly → <a href="#">Investment Round launch event</a> → <a href="#">Investment Case launch event</a>	26 and 28 May 2024	Geneva
WHO Regional Committee for Africa → <a href="#">Special event on the Investment Round</a>	27 August 2024	Brazzaville
High-Level UN General Assembly Week (UNGA)	Week of 22 September 2024	New York
WHO Regional Committee for the Americas → <a href="#">Special event on the Investment Round</a>	1 October 2024	Washington, DC
WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia → <a href="#">Special event on the Investment Round</a>	7 October 2024	New Delhi
World Health Summit → <a href="#">Signature event</a>	14 October 2024	Berlin
WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean	16 October 2024	Doha
WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific → <a href="#">Special event on the Investment Round</a>	22 October 2024	Manila
G20 Leaders' Summit	18–19 November 2024	Rio de Janeiro

## Links with GPW 14 and the regional strategic operational plan

9. Through GPW 14, WHO will catalyze action to deliver results in a final push to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing global health challenges, setting the agenda on access and innovation, accelerating universal health coverage through a primary health approach, and better supporting countries in their differentiated needs based on the world's best standards. The Investment Round will help to secure the full financing of GPW 14 through front-loaded, predictable and flexible resources, and will help save an additional 40 million lives across the world, including in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. The WHO strategic operational plan for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2025–2028, while aligning with GPW 14, will contextualize and prioritize its investment based on regional needs.

## **Expected outcomes and results**

10. WHO's unique infrastructure of data, country coordination and priority-setting provides the conditions for global and regional health partnerships to set and drive investment and progress.

11. WHO will, over the next four years, save at least 40 million lives through concrete actions such as:

- increasing the number of vaccines delivered to priority countries;
- providing access to health services for more than 150 million people in humanitarian settings in 30 countries;
- bringing solar electrification to 10 000 health facilities;
- supporting 55 countries to educate and employ 3.2 million health workers;
- helping 84 countries reach targets for eliminating malaria, mother-to-child HIV transmission and other diseases;
- strengthening access to timely and reliable health data; and
- prequalifying 400 health products per year.