

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus



Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected WHO Director-General for a five-year term by the WHO Member States at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017. In doing so, he was the first WHO Director-General elected from among multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly and was the first person from the WHO African Region to head the world's leading public health agency.

Dr. Ghebreyesus was the Minister of Health, Ethiopia from 2005 to 2012, he led a comprehensive reform of the country's health system, built on the foundation of universal health coverage even in the most remote areas. Under his leadership, Ethiopia expanded its health infrastructure, developed innovative health financing mechanisms, and expanded its health workforce. A major component of reforms he drove was the creation of a primary health care extension programme that deployed 40 000 female health workers throughout the country. A significant result was an approximate 60% reduction in child and maternal mortality compared to 2000 levels.

Dr. Tedros was the Minister of Foreign Affairs, from 2012 to 2016, he elevated health as a political issue nationally, regionally, and globally.



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