

The Revised Global Oral Health Action Plan: An analysis of FDI's impact

From August to September 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) consulted with the Member States and non-State actors, including FDI, to discuss opportunities to strengthen the [draft Global Oral Health Action Plan](#). FDI led a consultation with its stakeholders, including its members, Council, Committees, Task Teams, partners, and other organizations, to ensure a comprehensive and consolidated response. Read FDI's submission [here](#).

WHO has released a [revised version](#) of the Action Plan in January, 2023, ahead of the 152nd Session of the WHO Executive Board (EB152). FDI has led a detailed analysis to identify how its recommendations have influenced the current language of the document.

In summary, the revised Global Oral Health Action Plan:

- Proposes a more prominent leadership role for oral health professions, including in policy development.
- Includes more inclusive language and calls for increased protection for the “poor, vulnerable and/or marginalized members of societies”.
- Recommends prioritizing support for low-and-middle-income countries and the meaningful engagement of communities and relevant stakeholders.
- Still includes the proposal to convene the first-ever WHO Global Oral Health Summit.
- Improved actions to promote government accountability.
- Facilitates much better recognition for Noma, and the life-course approach
- Addresses unhealthy foods/free sugars more broadly (the initial draft focused on sugar-sweetened beverages more)
- Includes stronger language on disease prevention
- In some aspects of the document, the word advocate was replaced, for example, with “promote”.
- The monitoring framework now has **11 core indicators for global monitoring and reporting towards the 11 global targets** (Appendix 1) and **29 complementary indicators** that can be selected and **used by countries to monitor specific actions at the national level** (Appendix 2).
- In the draft published in August 2022, the monitoring framework consisted of 11 core and 30 complementary indicators. The complementary indicator «1.5 National policies, strategies or action plans with a specific policy, goal, or action towards reducing sugar intake (exc. SSBs taxation) “ was deleted.



Overview of the main changes

As seen in the discussion paper (Aug 2022)	As seen in the revised version (Jan 2023)	Comment(s)
Strategic objective 1		
Overarching global target A: UHC for oral health "By 2030, 75% of the global population will be covered by essential oral health care services to ensure progress towards UHC for oral health"	Overarching global target A: UHC for oral health By 2030, 80% of the global population is entitled to essential oral health care services	Target revised upwards, now 80%
Action 1 Develop and implement a national oral health policy, strategy or action plan.	Action 1 Now recommends that the national oral health policy should address access to safe and uninterrupted oral health services during health emergencies.	FDI recommended "Align national policy, strategy or action plan with global strategies for emergency preparedness and response .. »
Action 1	Now includes this recommendation "A periodic review of the policy should be undertaken within five years of its onset."	New and important timeline
Action 2 Strengthen national oral health leadership	Now includes this recommendation "Empower national regulatory agencies to ensure ethical standards of professional conduct and quality oral health care	New leadership role and call-to-action for National Dental Agencies FDI recommended a leadership role for NDAs
Action 3. Create and sustain dedicated oral health budgets	Now includes a recommendation to « Consider directing public health expenditure towards oral health promotion, prevention and care as a distinct budget and a first step towards establishing a guaranteed minimum share of public health expenditure dedicated exclusively to oral health. »	Recommendation to ensure funds to facilitate oral disease prevention and oral health promotion is important for WOHD
Action 5 Forge strategic partnerships for oral health	Now includes a recommendation to "engage policy-makers, researchers, oral health professionals and the general public at the earliest stages of policy and research ..."	FDI recommended the meaningful engagement of oral health professionals and communities



<p>Action 6. Engage with civil society about oral health</p>	<p>Now includes a recommendation to “Provide platforms for engagement and actively seek representation from poor, vulnerable and/or marginalized members of societies.</p>	<p>FDI recommended “Provide platforms for meaningful engagement and co-creation with national dental associations, relevant civil society organizations, ... communities...”</p>
<p>Action 11. Mobilize resources and funding for oral health</p>	<p>Now includes a recommendation to “Include oral health in bi- and multi-lateral conversations with Member States and partners to mobilize resources for WHO oral health activities”</p>	<p>FDI had recommended engagement with the World Bank</p>
<p>Action 18. Advance oral health as a public good</p>	<p>“Advocate for governments to phase out subsidies for unhealthy foods and drinks.”</p> <p>“Support taxation of unhealthy commodities, such as tobacco, alcohol and food and beverages with high free sugars content”</p> <p>“Promote a holistic approach to tackling antimicrobial resistance...”</p>	<p>FDI recommendations and languages were incorporated</p>
<p>Strategic objective 2</p>		
<p>Global target 2.1: Reduction of sugar consumption By 2030, 70% of countries will have implemented a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages.</p>	<p>Global target 2.1: Policies to reduce free sugars intake By 2030, 50% of countries implement policy measures aiming to reduce free sugars intake</p>	<p>Target now addresses policies; and reviewed downwards</p>
<p>Action 25. Support policies and regulations to reduce tobacco consumption and betel-quid and areca-nut chewing</p>	<p>Now includes a recommendation to regulate electronic cigarettes and all other nicotine containing products.</p>	<p>This is aligned with FDI’s call for policies that also address e-cigarettes</p>
	<p>Action 31. Achieve comprehensive promotion of oral health in schools</p>	<p>NEW and comprehensive recommendation on oral health promotion in schools We can promote the FDI school oral health program</p>
	<p>Action 33. Strengthen personal, social, and political oral health skills</p>	<p>NEW and comprehensive recommendation to empower</p>



		people for effective oral health self-care
Strategic objective 3		
Action 49. Improve oral health workforce curricula and training	New and recommends “training on rational antimicrobial prescribing and infection control to prevent the spread of antimicrobial resistance.”	This recommendation is aligned with FDI recommendation to “Include training on dental antimicrobial prescribing, resistance and stewardship for all members of the oral health workforce including undergraduates.”
Action 50. Strengthen oral health professional accreditation	Now includes this recommendation “Support effective oversight bodies to ensure minimum quality standards of oral health education.”	FDI recommendations and language were incorporated
Strategic objective 4		
	Paragraph 32: Now includes this recommendation “The benefits of digital health technologies need to be balanced against potentially negative effects, including those related to digital exclusion and the challenges of data protection”	This is aligned with FDI recommendation to “consider existing digital divide and data protection.”
Global target 4.2: Availability of essential dental medicines By 2030, at least 50% of countries <i>will have included the WHO essential dental medicines in the national essential medicines list.</i>	Global target 4.2: Availability of essential dental medicines By 2030, 50% of countries <i>include dental preparations listed in the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines in their national essential medicines list.</i>	The current language reaffirms the need to ensure dental preparations recommended in the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines are included in national essential medicines list.
	Action 68. Reinforce best environmental practices contains Now includes new recommendations: “Minimize carbon emissions and the use and production of waste from single-use plastic and nonbiodegradable materials.” “When expanding essential oral health care services, explore ways to	This Action reflects FDI’s recommendation and incorporates FDI’s language “to limit the use of single-use plastics and non-biodegradable dental materials.” FDI had encouraged WHO to emphasize the importance of disease prevention through action points on sustainability.



	minimize their impact on the environment, such as through promotion of oral health self-care and preventive lifestyle and behavioural changes, as well as careful treatment planning and efficient use of digital technologies.”	This is well reflected in the recommendation to limit the impact of dentistry on the environment through self-care and preventive approaches.
Strategic objective 5		
Global target 5: Integrated oral health indicators By 2030, 75% of countries <i>will have included oral health indicators in their national health information systems</i> in line with the monitoring framework of the global oral health action plan" in the discussion paper.	Global target 5: Monitoring implementation of the national oral health policy By 2030, 80% of countries <i>have a monitoring framework for the national oral health policy, strategy, or action plan</i>	The current target focuses on a stand-alone monitoring framework for national oral health policies, while the previous addressed integrating OH indicators in national info systems. The target of 80% is also better than the initial 75%.
Strategic objective 6		
Global target 6: Research in the public interest By 2030, at least 20% of countries will have a national oral health research agenda focused on public health and population-based interventions.	Global target 6: Research in the public interest By 2030, 50% of countries have a national oral health research agenda focused on public health and population-based interventions	This is a huge improvement compared to the previous target
	Action 90. Prioritize oral health research of public health interest Now includes a new recommendation to promote research on rare oral diseases	This NEW recommendation is aligned with FDI's recommendation to address neglected conditions such as oro-facial clefts and Noma.
	Action 93. Contribute to Noma research Support or conduct research to develop guidance for Noma treatment, including a list of essential therapeutic agents and rehabilitation best practices.	This Action has become stronger, reflects FDI's recommendation and incorporates FDI's language
	Action 99. Develop public—private partnerships for oral health research Disseminate essential public health research and results in open access	This Action has become stronger, reflects FDI's recommendation and incorporates FDI's language



	<p>platforms so that they are accessible to the public. Ensure low publication fees for low- and middle-income countries.</p>	
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