



The Coalition in practice

Global Coalition Objectives and Governance

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The Coalition in practice

The three texts that anchor the Coalition



Global Coalition on Oral Health

From pledge to action on UHC for oral health

Concept note

Background and rationale

Oral diseases affect close to 3.7 billion people worldwide, with a disproportionate impact on poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals. These conditions combined have an estimated global prevalence of 47%, which is higher than the prevalence of any other noncommunicable disease (NCD). Global cases of oral diseases have increased by one billion over the last 30 years, showing that in most countries people do not have access to essential oral health care.

In recent years, there has been a momentum around the global oral health agenda with a World Health Assembly resolution on oral health (WHA74.5) adopted in 2021, a Global strategy on oral health (WHA75(11)) adopted in 2022 and then a [Global oral health action plan 2023–2030 \(GOHAP\)](#) (WHA76 (9)) in 2023. The resolution and following policy documents affirm that oral health should be embedded within the NCD agenda and that oral health care interventions should be included in national universal health coverage (UHC) benefit packages. Combined these policy documents set the global oral health agenda and are ready for adaptation and implementation in countries.

To continue this momentum, in 2024, WHO convened the first ever [Global Oral Health Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand](#), to accelerate and scale national oral health efforts to achieve UHC for all. This meeting formed part of the preparatory process leading up to the [4th United Nations High-Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases \(NCDs\) and Mental Health in 2025](#), which further elevated oral health as a priority for 2030. As a result of the Bangkok meeting, Member States adopted the [Bangkok Declaration – No Health Without Oral Health](#) and laid the foundations of the Global Coalition on Oral Health. As the Bangkok Declaration represents a political commitment by Member States, the establishment of the **Global Coalition on Oral Health serves as a platform for non-State actors, and UN agencies to contribute to advancing the global oral health agenda, in alignment with Member State priorities.**

Mission

Aligned with the vision of the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Oral Health 2023–2030, which aims for UHC for oral health for all individuals and communities by 2030, the mission of the Global Coalition on Oral Health as defined in the Bangkok Declaration, is to support the efforts of WHO in



Global Coalition on Oral Health

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A Call to Action for non-State actors and UN agencies

We, representatives of non-State actors and UN agencies, in consultation with a group of World Health Organization (WHO) Member States, who participated in the WHO Global Oral Health Meeting 26–29 November 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand, commit to joining the Global Coalition on Oral Health and in this role, take collective action to support WHO's effort in implementing the Global Oral Health Action Plan 2023–2030 (GOHAP) in countries. We recognize and align with the mission and objectives of the Global Coalition on Oral Health as stated in the concept note.

Based on the capacity, strengths and expertise of our respective organizations, we commit to move forward this initiative in the spirit of collaboration and coordination, as guided by the GOHAP and as expressed by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO, during the Bangkok meeting:

"We must work together to improve access and affordability of essential oral health services through integration with primary health care and national universal health coverage plans."

Workstreams

In alignment with the objectives of the Global Coalition on Oral Health, there are two workstreams defined as: advocacy and knowledge translation¹. These workstreams were identified during discussions at the Bangkok meeting and are based on actions within the GOHAP where gaps persist, and where NSAs and UN agencies have a crucial role to play.

Across both workstreams, activities will be developed and implemented through a strong community-engagement perspective, ensuring that lived experience, community voices, and local knowledge inform advocacy messages; policy dialogue, and the design and implementation of oral health actions aligned with the GOHAP.

The Coalition will serve as a platform for sharing and co-developing practical, action-oriented resources including – but not limited to – publications, country implementation experiences, advocacy tools and lived-experience accounts.

1. Advocacy

Purpose

To develop and disseminate a united, inclusive and evidence-informed narrative that elevates oral diseases as a public health priority and strengthens the integration of oral health into broader global health agendas (NCDs and UHC). This advocacy effort will be grounded in community realities and priorities, ensuring that global and national messages reflect the needs, experiences, and expectations of populations most affected by oral diseases. This narrative must

¹ development of national policies and normative guidance are outside the scope of responsibility of the non-State actor participants of the coalition.



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Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Purpose

To provide clear guidance on the operational processes for the Global Coalition on Oral Health, ensuring effective coordination and implementation of activities aligned with the Global Oral Health Action Plan 2023–2030 (GOHAP).

Scope

This standard operating procedure (SOP) applies to all participants of the Global Coalition on Oral Health, including WHO Secretariat, Member States, UN agencies, and non-State actors (NSAs) such as NGOs, academic institutions, philanthropic foundations, and international business associations.

Operational Processes

The work of the Global Coalition on Oral Health will be centred around two workstreams – advocacy and knowledge translation – which are defined by the call to action to join the Global Coalition on Oral Health.

Participation

Member States

Interested Member States may contact the WHO Secretariat to inform them of their interest in participating in the annual meetings of the Global Coalition on Oral Health. Member States are welcome to join the annual coalition meeting(s) at their discretion and subject to their availability.

UN agencies and NSAs

The first group of UN agencies and NSAs to join the Global Coalition on Oral Health will be based on the organization's history of being invited to attend the WHO Global oral health meeting 26–29 November 2024, indicating that the organization has already passed a due diligence process in line with the [WHO Framework of engagement with non-State actors](#)

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The Concept Note



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Defines the background, rationale, mission, principles, and objectives of the Coalition

Clarifies the Coalition's role as a WHO-convened forum designed to align contributions of diverse stakeholders with Member State priorities to support implementation of the GOHAP

Outlines the coordinating role of the WHO Secretariat including oversight of dissemination platforms such as the Knowledge Action Portal

The Coalition in practice

The Call to Action



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Translates the “pledge to action” into concrete invitation for non-State actors and UN agencies to formally commit through the 2 workstreams:

- **Advocacy** aims to elevate oral health within global health and policy agendas (FDI World Dental Federation, Global Self Care Federation (GSCF), Fondation Université de Montpellier, and WHO Collaborating Centre at UCL)
- **Knowledge translation** promotes sharing evidence, best practices, and country experiences (IADR, Heidelberg University Institute of Global Health (Oral Health), WHO Collaborating Centre at the University of the Western Cape, UNEP (TBC))

Community engagement underpins all activities, ensuring policies and interventions reflect local needs and realities and drive effective, sustainable action

The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)



Operational backbone of the Coalition, setting out clear procedures for:

- participation and adhering to due diligence requirements
- coordination of two workstreams with rotating co-leads, annual workplans and deliverables.
- in-kind contributions to support implementation of workstreams
- communication and engagement coordinating by WHO



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In summary, Overview and governance of the Coalition

- A WHO-convened platform designed to support implementation of the GOHAP 2023–2030 and advance UHC for oral health
- Built on a light, functional governance model to maximize efficiency and minimize administrative burden
- Participation is voluntary and open to all Member States; with UN agencies and non-State actors engaged through eligibility and due diligence processes
- WHO serves as Secretariat, providing coordination, oversight, and alignment with Member State priorities and policies
- Meets at least annually, complemented by ad hoc meetings and webinars to sustain engagement and momentum



In summary, Workstreams and results-oriented approach

- Organized around 2 core workstreams: advocacy and knowledge translation
- Advocacy develops a unified, evidence-informed narrative to position oral health within NCD and UHC agendas and support national policy action
- Knowledge translation bridges evidence to practice through case studies, tools, webinars, and sharing country experiences grounded in community engagement
- Outputs are practical, policy-relevant, and designed to be feasible, accessible, and adapted to country contexts
- Supported by the Knowledge Action Portal, enabling visibility and cumulative learning to drive implementation impact.





The Coalition in practice

In summary,

What the coalition is not intended to be...

- The Coalition is NOT a decision-making body
- The Coalition is NOT a policy-setting or normative body
- The Coalition is NOT in charge of the development of national policies and normative guidance
- The Coalition is NOT an operational implementation entity
- The Coalition is NOT a funding mechanism
- The Coalition is NOT intended to duplicate existing efforts
- The Coalition is NOT an unrestricted multi-stakeholder alliance
- The Coalition is NOT independent from WHO
- The Coalition is NOT a platform for participant to speak on behalf of all participants
- The Coalition is NOT a platform to advance the institutional agenda, commercial interests, or strategic priorities of any individual participating entity
- The Coalition is NOT intended to generate excessive “bureaucracy”



In summary,

The Coalition is a WHO-convened platform that support WHO's work and country efforts to advance the global oral health agenda towards 2030 through sharing and co-developing practical, action-oriented resources including publications, country implementation experiences, advocacy tools and lived-experience accounts.