

Public Health Committee Report

General Assembly 2026

This report summarizes all the activities undertaken by the Public Health Committee (PHC) from the General Assembly report of September 2025 through June 2026.

Policy Statements

Two policy statements will be presented to the General Assembly in 2026 and were under review by member national dental associations (NDAs) at the time of writing this report:

1. **Lifelong Oral Health** (Revision) led by Prof. Youn-Hee Choi
2. **Minimal Intervention Dentistry (MID) for Managing Dental Caries** (Revision) led by Prof. Chun-hung Chu

Public Health Committee Fora

2026

The PHC-CDO Forum 2026 will take place on **6 September**, from **09.00–10.50 am** in **Room D7**. The title of the forum will be ***Oral Health for All: Uniting Global Action on the Road to UHC 2027***.

The PHC Vice-Chair Simona Dianišková will chair the session, and the speakers and topics include:

1. **Dr Dympna Kavanagh** (Chief Dental Officer, Ireland), will describe the international advocacy, diplomacy, and coalition-building efforts that secured meaningful inclusion of oral health in the 2025 UN High-Level Meeting Political Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health.
2. **Dr Thanasak Thumbuntu** (Director of National Health Security Regional Office (NHSO), Thailand), will explain how Thailand has translated global oral health commitments into practical reforms in financing, service delivery, and prevention to expand equitable access to oral healthcare under universal health coverage.
3. **Dr Alexandre Deza** (Deputy Secretary-General of the French Union for Oral Health, France), will discuss how France has strengthened oral health within universal health coverage by shifting from reimbursement-focused dental care to prevention, early intervention, and equitable access through recent policy reforms.

2027

The PHC-CDO Forum 2027 will focus on the growing global challenge that tobacco use and vaping pose to oral health.

Committee projects update 2026

Educational module for other healthcare professionals

This project seeks to provide basic oral health knowledge and oral health care skills to non-dental healthcare professionals to enable them to include essential oral healthcare services in their routine work.

Full details are included in the *Projects Report*.

Tobacco Cessation

This project aims to promote tobacco cessation and overall health by disseminating FDI resources in collaboration with NDAs, increasing awareness of the critical role oral health professionals play in tobacco cessation, and enhancing their knowledge and skills to deliver effective interventions in dental settings. Additionally, it seeks to raise public and professional awareness of the integral connection between oral health and overall health and well-being. Full details are included in the *Projects Report*.

Refugee Oral Health Promotion and Care

A session titled “Oral Health in Fragile Settings: Integrating Care Within NCDs, Primary Health Care, and Humanitarian Response” is scheduled to take place on 6 September at the FDI World Dental Congress. The session will be moderated by Associate Professor Elizabeth Shick, and the speakers will include Dr Elham Kateeb (FDI Council Member), Dr Khaleda Zaheer (CEO of the Refugee Crisis Foundation), and Dr Hyewon Lee (Director of the Global Maternal and Child Oral Health Center at the Seoul National University Dental Research Institute).

FDI has renewed its engagement with UNHCR through joint communications marking World Refugee Day on 20 June. As part of this ongoing collaboration, FDI will speak at UNHCR’s Global Public Health Webinar on 15 July and will emphasize that access to oral healthcare is essential to promoting the health, well-being, and dignity of refugee populations.

Grants overseen by PHC

- **World Dental Development Fund (WDDF):** The application deadline for the WDDF is 15 June each year. Funds for 2026 have been allocated to the selected countries, Kenya, Nigeria, and Tanzania, and project implementation commenced in January 2026. Applications for the 2027 cycle are being reviewed by PHC, and the winners will be selected at Congress. Full details are included in the *Projects Report*.
- **Smile Grant:** The application deadline for the Smile Grant is 1 February each year. The winners have been selected by PHC and will be announced at the World Dental Congress 2026 during General Assembly A.

Working Groups and Task Teams reporting to PHC

- **Oral Health for an Ageing Population Task Team:** Prof. Kakuhiro Fukai (Chair); Prof. Judith Jones; Dr Sophie Darteville; Prof. Hiroyuki Hirano; Prof. Gerry McKenna.

Public Health Projects

General Assembly report 2026

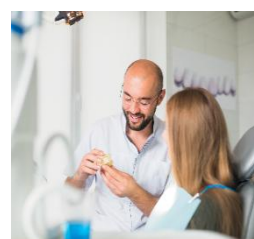
This report summarizes all activities undertaken across FDI's projects from the General Assembly report of September 2025 through June 2026.

Educational Module for Other Healthcare Professionals

Project goal

To equip non-dental healthcare professionals (HCPs) with essential oral health knowledge and skills by developing targeted educational materials. to integrate oral healthcare into routine practice. The project covers oral anatomy, common oral conditions, prevention, early recognition, and appropriate management or referral, strengthening oral healthcare delivery at the primary care level.

<https://www.fdiworlddental.org/educational-module-other-healthcare-professionals>



Project progress and achievements

- A [15th fact sheet](#) on **Dentine Hypersensitivity** has been finalized and is supported by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and the Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF). The accompanying [infographic](#) has also been completed and is available through the FDI website.
- [All fact sheets and infographics](#) continue to be actively promoted through social media to support dissemination and engagement among relevant audiences.
- In collaboration with FIP, a **webinar** held on 3 June highlighted the role of pharmacists in supporting oral care during pregnancy and older age.

Next steps

- An article on the project's rationale and the importance of interprofessional collaboration is being developed. It will be the first FDI article published in the World Medical Journal.
- **Two webinars** will be held in collaboration with the World Medical Association (WMA) and the International Council of Nurses (ICN).
- **Three additional fact sheets** will be developed and finalized on topics relevant to the ICN, WMA, and FIP.

Project stakeholders

Stakeholder type	Name/Composition
Corporate partner	Haleon
Overseeing Expert	Dr Nokukhanya Makwakwa
Oversight committee	Public Health Committee

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Oral Health Integration

Project goal

To drive advocacy to strengthen the role of oral health professionals in HPV prevention and to develop policy recommendations integrating HPV prevention in oral health services.

<https://www.fdiworlddental.org/hpv-human-papillomavirus-oral-health-prevention>



Project progress and achievements

- A **white paper** advocating for the integration of oral health professionals into national HPV prevention strategies is being finalized. It provides practical implementation guidance to support the early detection of HPV-related cancers, strengthen patient education, improve vaccination coverage, and address policy, training, and stigma-related barriers.
- The HPV **communications plan** continues to be implemented to raise awareness about the project and promote available resources through FDI's website, newsletters, and social media platforms.
- **Three infographics** targeting dentists, patients, and policymakers are under development. In addition to being included in the white paper, they will be promoted and disseminated as standalone resources to extend the reach of its key messages.

Next steps

- The **white paper will be translated** to support NDAs in policy development and stakeholder engagement.
- A **webinar** promoting the white paper will take place on 16 July through the Oral Health Campus. HPV Task Team members Dr Nisha D'Silva and Dr Kivanç Bektaş-Kayhan will explore the importance of integrating HPV awareness into everyday dental practice.
- An article for the *International Dental Journal* is being developed to highlight the white paper's key messages and is intended for publication as an editorial or commentary alongside it.
- A **proposal** for the next phase of the project is under development.

Project stakeholders

Stakeholder type	Name/Composition
Corporate partner	Merck
Task Team	• Dr Nisha D'Silva (Chair) • Dr Katalin Nagy • Dr Doniphan Hammer • Dr Kivanç Kayhan
Oversight committee	Science Committee

Mental Health and Well-being in Dentistry

Project goal

To promote mental well-being in dentistry by raising awareness, reducing stigma, and providing resources and training for dental professionals, students, and patients. This goal includes addressing the impact of patient dental phobia on practitioners and equipping both dental teams and patients with tools to manage mental health challenges and dental anxiety.

<https://www.fdiworlddental.org/mental-health-and-well-being-dentistry>



Project progress and achievements

- A **scoping review**, "[The Relationship Between Burnout in Dental Care Professionals and Patient Safety](#)," was published in the *International Dental Journal* in April 2026.

Next steps

- A session titled "**Supporting Those Who Care: Peer-Driven Wellbeing Solutions for Dental Students**" will take place at FDI's World Dental Congress 2026 (WDC26) on 7 September. The speakers are two members of the Mental Health and Well-Being Task Team, Dr Shannu Bhatia and Dr Amanda Johnston. The session will highlight how well-being can be meaningfully embedded across both the formal and informal curriculum, with a particular focus on the transformative role of peer support.
- A **proposal** for the next phase of the project has been developed and is being shared with partners to secure funding and ensure continued implementation and expansion of the initiative.

Project stakeholders

Stakeholder type	Name/Composition
Corporate partner	MPS Foundation (until December 2025)
Task Team	• Prof. Tim Newton (Chair) (until December 2025) • Dr Amanda Johnston • Prof. Matt Hopcraft • Dr Chisung Yuh • Dr Shannu Bhatia
Oversight committee	Dental Practice Committee

Oral Health for an Ageing Population

Project goal

To enhance oral healthcare for older adults through comprehensive, innovative approaches and strategic collaborations. This project aims to improve access to dental care and promote better oral health among older adults.

<https://www.fdiworlddental.org/oral-health-ageing-population>



Project progress and achievements

- An **Advocacy Guide – Promoting Oral Health for an Ageing Population (OHAP)** was launched at WDC25. **French, Japanese and Spanish** translations were released in January 2026, expanding access to a resource that supports advocacy for integrating oral health into healthy ageing policies and broader health agendas.
- A **webinar** on oral health and healthy ageing was held in **January 2026**, focusing on the integration of oral health into long-term care systems, oral disease prevention, and the use of OHAP resources to support healthy ageing.
- The WDC26 session will address the **integration of oral health into long-term care models and community settings** for ageing populations and will include speakers from the OHAP Task Team, including Prof. Kakuhiro Fukai, Prof. Gerry McKenna and Prof. Judith Jones. The session will cover dental insurance and access gaps, as well as the use of OHAP resources to support oral health integration in long-term care settings.

Next steps

- **IDJ Supplement:** the Task Team is drafting a supplement consisting of eight articles for publication by the end of 2026. It will provide an overview of achievements in oral health for ageing populations to date, highlight what still needs to be done, and present evidence that UHC cannot be achieved without addressing oral health for ageing populations.

Project stakeholders

Stakeholder type	Name/Composition
Corporate partner	GC International
Task Team	• Prof. Kakuhiro Fukai (Chair) • Prof. Judith Jones • Dr Sophie Darteville • Prof. Hiroyuki Hirano • Prof. Gerry McKenna
Oversight committee	Public Health Committee

Oral Health within General Health

Project goal

In alignment with FDI's Vision 2030, this project aims to strengthen and accelerate countries' progress toward optimal health for all by engaging key stakeholders, including 1) patients and the general public; 2) oral and non-oral health professionals; 3) policymakers, NDAs, and other key stakeholders. The project seeks to integrate oral health into broader health systems, ensuring a more comprehensive approach to healthcare.

Additionally, the FDI Smile Grant, part of the project, promotes preventive oral care at the local level. This CHF 5,000 award recognizes two NDAs annually for their innovative and sustainable community-based outreach projects that improve oral health in their countries.

<https://www.fdiworlddental.org/whole-body-health>; <https://www.fdiworlddental.org/whole-mouth-health>

<https://www.fdiworlddental.org/fdi-smile-grant>



Project progress and achievements

- A **white paper** providing evidence from the co-design process and practical recommendations to strengthen oral health literacy, support behaviour change, and advance person-centred prevention was launched in December 2025.
- **Two infographics** were launched in December 2025: one describing the co-design approach and the Whole Mouth Health (WMH) Arcade, and another presenting community perceptions of oral health, including its role in function, aesthetics, confidence, and overall well-being.
- A **webinar** on 10 March 2026, featuring Prof. Sarah Baker and Dr Aaron Davis, presented key findings from the white paper and discussed how co-design methodology can support the development of patient-centred oral health education.
- **Analysis of engagement data collected on the WMH Arcade:** Over 1,200 unique visitors have used the platform. Data analysis is identifying gaps in oral health literacy and facilitating the development of targeted resources. The Portuguese version of the **WMH Arcade** will also be released by July 2026.
- The **Whole Body Health (WBH)** platform: Under the guidance of Prof. Iain Chapple, the platform is undergoing a comprehensive content review to reflect the current state of evidence and ensure that information on the links between oral and systemic diseases remains up to date and scientifically robust.

Next steps

- A **peer-reviewed manuscript** is scheduled for submission in Q3 2026, presenting an analysis of global engagement data from the WMH platform and Arcade, together with the project's co-design methodology and implications for oral health education and prevention.

Project stakeholders

Stakeholder type	Name/Composition
Corporate partner	Colgate
Task Team	<i>The Task Team(s) overseeing this work will need to be reappointed by Council once this current phase is completed.</i>
Oversight committee	Dental Practice Committee

Oral Health Observatory

Project goal

To collect standardized global oral health data, assess the needs of patients and dental practitioners at national and international levels, and identify key oral health trends. These insights will be used to inform and influence policymakers, driving greater investment in oral disease prevention, ultimately improving overall health outcomes.

<https://www.fdiworlddental.org/oral-health-observatory>



Project progress and achievements

- A **workshop** with experts from the **Tanzanian Dental Association (TDA)** was held on 5 and 6 March 2026. Data analysis was conducted in collaboration with the OHO Task Team and is being used to support policy development and advocacy activities in Tanzania.
- A **10-year impact report** was developed to showcase the programme's achievements and global impact over the past decade, highlighting key milestones, country experiences and contributions to evidence-based oral health advocacy.
- The **Egyptian Dental Association** is collecting data across more than 20 dental clinics, with a target of 900 patients.
- In **Colombia**, data collection in the public sector is ongoing across 26 institutions, with more than 1,400 patients surveyed to date. The initiative will enable comparisons between public and private sectors and support the integration of oral health indicators into national surveillance systems.

Next steps

- A session is planned for **WDC 2026** featuring Dr Michael Sereny (Chair of the OHO Task Team), Prof. David Williams and Dr Gemma Berege (TDA). The session will present the OHO's objectives and methodology, share key findings from data analysis, and showcase Tanzania as a case study demonstrating how national data can inform policy dialogue and advocacy.
- The **Nigerian Dental Association** will collect data through the implementation of the OHO questionnaire in four local dialects, including English Pidgin, Yoruba, Ibo and Hausa.

Project stakeholders

Stakeholder type	Name/Composition
Corporate partner	Haleon
Task Team	• Dr Michael Sereny (Chair) • Prof. Georgios Tsakos • Prof. David Williams
Oversight committee	Dental Practice Committee

Sustainability in Dentistry

Project goal

To support the dental profession on its sustainability journey by providing educational resources and advocacy guidelines. <https://www.fdiworlddental.org/sustainability-dentistry>



Project progress and achievements

- **MOOC 2** is currently being translated into Spanish, French, and Mandarin.
- The **Sustainability Ambassador Prize winners** were selected and contacted in March 2026.
- A **project audit** assessing its impact since its launch is underway to ensure that the next phase is developed in a strategically relevant and evidence-informed manner.

Next steps

- **Develop a strategy** for the next project phase by Q3.

Project stakeholders

Stakeholder type	Name/Composition
Corporate partner	Partners: Sunstar, Haleon, Dentsply Sirona Supporters: Colgate, Kulzer, SDI Limited
Task Team	• Prof. Nicolas Martin (Chair) • Dr Mick Armstrong • Dr Duygu Ilhan • Dr Steven Mulligan • Dr Hasan Jamal • Asst. Prof. Donna Hackley
Oversight committee	Dental Practice Committee

Tobacco Cessation

Project goal

To promote tobacco cessation and overall health by disseminating FDI resources in collaboration with NDAs, increasing awareness of the critical role oral health professionals play in tobacco cessation, and enhancing their knowledge and skills to deliver effective interventions in dental settings. Additionally, to raise public and professional awareness of the integral connection between oral health and overall health and well-being.



<https://www.fdiworlddental.org/tobacco-cessation>

Project progress and achievements

- A reminder about the opportunity to host NDA-led tobacco cessation workshops was sent to members in May 2026. As in the previous year, up to seven NDAs can be selected to receive a CHF 1,000 tobacco cessation grant, enabling them to implement a workshop in their country in 2026.
- The **Nigerian Dental Association, Pakistan Dental Association, South Africa Dental Association, and Colegio de Cirujanos Dentistas de Costa Rica** are currently preparing to deliver workshops before the end of the summer.
- The **Slovenian Dental Association** will organize its workshop at the end of the year.
- The **Lebanese Dental Association** will organize a second workshop using the remaining funds from their 2025 workshop.

Next steps

- **Three additional applications** are currently under review by the Tobacco Cessation Experts Group.
- A **session** titled “Tobacco and Emerging Nicotine Products Cessation Strategies: Empowering the Dental Team with Evidence” will take place at FDI’s WDC 2026 on 4 September. Speakers include Dr Dongbo Fu, Dr Purnima Kumar, and Dr Eduardo Bianco. The session will equip dental teams with evidence-based strategies to address tobacco use and the growing challenge of emerging nicotine products in clinical practice.
- A **proposal** for the next phase of the project has been developed to expand its scope to include both electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENDDS). The proposal will be shared with partners to secure funding and support the continued implementation and expansion of the initiative.

Project stakeholders

Stakeholder type	Name/Composition
Corporate partner	Lion Foundation
Experts group	• Dr Dongbo Fu (WHO Adviser) • Dr Elham Kateeb (Council) • Dr Hiroshi Ogawa (Council) • Dr Simona Dianišková
Oversight committee	Public Health Committee

World Dental Development Fund

Project goal

To support country-level efforts to improve oral health, primarily through establishing innovative prevention and access programmes in disadvantaged populations. The World Development Fund (WDDF) projects reflect the core values and principles of FDI.

<https://www.fdiworlddental.org/world-dental-development-fund>



Project progress and achievements

During WDC 2025, Public Health Committee selected the following winners for project implementation in 2026:

- **NOMALnutrition** is a project in Oyo State, Nigeria, that integrates oral health into existing nutrition programmes serving vulnerable populations. Working with six local organizations, it provides oral health education, screening, and treatment alongside nutrition interventions for around 500 beneficiaries each month. The project focuses on preventing and identifying Noma and other oral diseases by training nutrition officers and distributing oral hygiene kits. By embedding oral health within established community programmes, it aims to achieve sustainable integration and expand access to care over the long term.
- **Integrating preventive oral health into the Chamas for Change Programme:** this pilot project in Bungoma County, Kenya, integrates preventive oral health education and care into the existing Chamas for Change programme, which supports maternal and child health. It will reach 300 pregnant women, 300 young children, and train 30 Community Health Promoters to deliver oral health education and basic preventive care. Focusing on the critical first 1,000 days of life, the project aims to improve oral health outcomes for mothers and children. The pilot will evaluate the feasibility and scalability of using the trusted Chamas platform to deliver integrated community-based oral healthcare.
- **Strengthening oral health awareness through dental therapist students in Tanzania:** this project aims to improve oral health awareness and access to care for 3,000 children across three regions of Tanzania through school-based education, screenings, and treatment. It will also train 90 final-year dental therapist students in community outreach, leadership, and preventive care. At least 600 children will receive free dental treatment through student-led field activities. By integrating outreach into dental training programmes and establishing school oral health clubs, the project seeks to build sustainable community-based oral healthcare and strengthen the future oral health workforce.

Next steps

- The 2027 winners will be selected during WDC 2026 and announced in October.

Project stakeholders

Stakeholder type	Name/Composition
Corporate partner	Shofu
Reviewers	Public Health Committee reviewers: • Prof. Elizabeth Shick (Vice Chair) • Prof. Islam Tarek Abbas Hassan • Prof. Youn-Hee Choi
Oversight committee	Public Health Committee

FDI funded projects

The Public Health, Advocacy and Communications team support the coordination of the Policy Statements, as well as the following projects, which are overseen by the standing committees and outlined in their respective reports:

Dental Practice Committee

- DIY dentistry
- Illegal dental practice
- Oral health and STDs
- Violence in the Dental Practice

Public Health Committee

- Refugee Oral Health Promotion and Care
- World Dental Development Fund
- Smile Grant

Science Committee

- E-cigarettes and vaping
- Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance and Infections
- Osteonecrosis of the Jaw