

## WHS News 12/2025: Advancing Health in a Fragmenting World: Thank You for Accompanying us through 2025

World Health Summit <newsletter@worldhealthsummit.org>  
Antwort an: newsletter@worldhealthsummit.org

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# WHS News

NEWSLETTER 12/2025:

## Advancing Health in a Fragmenting World: Thank You for Accompanying us through 2025

Dear World Health Summit Community, dear all,  
As 2025 comes to a close, we reflect on a year that challenged but also inspired the global health community. From the insights and impact captured in the newly released World Health Summit Report 2025 and the WHS Media Report 2025, to the many initiatives, partnerships, and discussions that shaped our shared agenda, this year has underscored the importance of collaboration, resilience, and bold action.

We have witnessed a year in which international cooperation declined, and organizations working to improve health on a global scale were faced with unprecedented cuts and challenges with respect to their mandate and scope. Reduced resources led to severe and unnecessary hardship in vulnerable and poor populations worldwide. On the other hand, many countries did start a necessary discussion on how to become more independent from external help and how to establish sustainable and equitable international cooperation for health. A new ecosystem for health on a global scale seems to be in the making. From many discussions, including those at the Summit in Berlin, I would derive two aims for this development:

Health is a human right – and it is also a crucial factor for prosperity and peace. Thus, engagement for health cannot be traded for investments in defense and military security.

Countries need to strengthen their own efforts, but reliable international cooperation and partnership are indispensable. Global threats need global responses and cooperating on an international level is often the best way to serve national populations.

Looking forward, 2026 brings new opportunities to strengthen our collective efforts in that direction. We enter the new year with renewed commitment to advancing health, equity, and cooperation across borders.

I invite you to explore this month's newsletter, celebrate the achievements of 2025, and join us as we continue working together toward a healthier, more equitable world.

Stay safe, stay healthy  
Axel R. Pries  
President  
World Health Summit



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## Impact and Highlights from WHS 2025

The newly released World Health Summit and Media Report 2025 highlight the impact and reach of this year's Summit in turbulent times for global health.

### World Health Summit Report 2025

The newly published report captures key insights and highlights from this year's Summit. Discover how global leaders are tackling global health challenges, and what's next for international cooperation.



[Read report](#)



[Read report](#)

## WHS Media Report 2025

The WHS MediaReport 2025 offers a clear snapshot of how this year's Summit was portrayed across global media. Explore the key narratives, standout coverage, and emerging themes shaping the conversation around global health.



### A roller-coaster year for global health

#### Reflections on 2025 by Ilona Kickbusch, Chair of the WHS Council

This year was marked by deeply contradictory developments in global health. While countries adopted the Pandemic Agreement and confirmed increased assessed contributions to WHO, signalling a move beyond the pandemic years, the global health ecosystem was simultaneously destabilized by major funding cuts and growing contestation of multilateralism. In her commentary, WHS Council Chair Ilona Kickbusch outlines the three key trends that defined the year and offers an analysis of the state of global health in 2025.

[Read the full text here](#)



### News from the World Health Summit

#### WHS Global Health Dialogue on Europe's Role in Reshaping the Global Health Architecture



The WHS Global Health Dialogue, jointly organized by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the World Health Summit in Berlin on December 3, provided a strategic and confidential forum for dialogue among senior decision-makers. It brought key actors together to explore how Europe can better align efforts, deepen partnerships, and contribute to the



development of resilient and equitable health systems worldwide.

[Read more](#)



## News from the WHS Academic Alliance

### New WHS International President Lukoye Atwoli

As is tradition, the WHS International Presidency shifted during the WHS 2025. Following the successful 2025 Regional Meeting in New Delhi, Balvir S. Tomar (NIMS University) handed over to Lukoye Atwoli (Aga Khan University) as the community looks ahead to the 2026 WHS Regional Meeting in Nairobi.



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## Warm Holiday Wishes from the WHS Team

### Save the Dates

**WHS Regional Meeting**  
April 27-29, 2026  
Nairobi, Kenya

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**World Health Summit 2026**  
Oct. 11-13, 2026  
Berlin, Germany

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