



Taking Responsibility for Health in a Fragmenting World

World Health Summit Report 2025



“

As our world navigates shared challenges, from political conflicts and climate change to epidemics and pandemics, the call to take responsibility for the common good has become more urgent than ever.”



FRIEDRICH MERZ
Federal Chancellor of Germany
and Patron of the World Health
Summit 2025

“

Health is not a cost to be contained. It is an investment to be nurtured – an investment in people, stability and economic growth.”



TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS
Director-General, World Health
Organization

The World Health Summit builds bridges across sectors – fostering trust and collaboration in a fragmenting world

Taking Responsibility for Health in a Fragmenting World – this leitmotif of the World Health Summit 2025 captures the defining challenge we are facing. While health has made tremendous strides globally – diseases once deadly are now preventable, access to prevention and care has expanded, and innovation accelerates progress – we face a world increasingly marked by fragmentation. Political tension, social division, misinformation, and the erosion of multilateral cooperation threaten the very foundations on which these achievements were built. It is precisely in such times that responsibility becomes imperative. Taking responsibility for health today means not only advancing science and policy, but also bridging divides between disciplines, nations, and perspectives.

The fragmented globe displayed on the WHS 2025 stage, reassembled through the Japanese Kintsugi technique, stands as a powerful metaphor for our mission. Kintsugi

transforms fragmentation into a new and beautiful unity, creating strength through connection. In a similar way, the World Health Summit brings together leaders and changemakers from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society – restoring trust, aligning efforts, and enabling collaboration to render the global health ecosystem more resilient and cohesive.

Health is the foundation of peace, prosperity, and stability – and vice versa. Each dialogue, partnership, and commitment forged at the World Health Summit contributes to reassembling our fractured world. And by taking responsibility – individually and collectively – we can build a future in which health once again unites rather than divides. The World Health Summit is both a symbol and a catalyst for that transformation.

AXEL R. PRIES
President, World Health Summit



Catalyzing cross-sectoral solutions to improve health worldwide, the World Health Summit is the leading platform for global health

We are living in a fragmenting world – where shifting geopolitics, shrinking aid, and eroding trust are testing our collective responsibility to safeguard health. The World Health Summit exists to counter that fragmentation: by creating dialogue where divisions grow, by enabling cooperation where trust is fragile, and by turning ideas into action. The WHS 2025 showed just how powerful this approach can be. With more than 4,000 participants, over 400 speakers, and representation from 144 countries and territories, the Summit brought together voices and perspectives from every region of the world. Its impact can be measured not only in numbers, but in outcomes: new partnerships, pledges, evidence, initiatives, and launches that emerged directly from the discussions.

The feedback speaks for itself: on average, participants rated the WHS 8.3 out of 10 when asked how likely they would be to recommend it to a colleague or friend, and 90% made valuable new professional contacts. This growing reach and relevance demonstrate that the WHS has become much more than an annual gathering – it

is a continuing framework for global collaboration, grounded in evidence, trust, and shared purpose. A year-round platform for global health catalyzing cross-sectoral solutions to improve health worldwide – with the annual Summit, WHS Regional Meetings, Global Health Dialogues, and other formats.

Our ambition is to build on this foundation and to contribute to shaping a new global health architecture – one that is inclusive, resilient, and sustained. The World Health Summit 2025 has shown what is possible when dialogue becomes action. Let us carry this momentum forward – together – to build a healthier, fairer, and more connected world.

CARSTEN SCHICKER
CEO, World Health Summit





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Impact

WHS 2025 Key Outcomes

Global Burden of Disease 2023 Study

New data by the Institute for Health Metrics show declining overall mortality but rising youth deaths and deepening inequities.

State of the World's Emotional Health

2025 A landmark report by Gallup highlighting the critical links between peace, health, and wellbeing.

Global Preparedness Monitoring Board

2025 Report A landmark report by Gallup highlighting the critical links between peace, health, and well-being.

UNFPA Global Initiatives Launch of the Women's Health Index and the Berlin Roadmap to accelerate progress on closing the women's health gap.

WHS Academic Alliance Declaration

Published in Nature Medicine and advocating for the protection and promotion of academic freedom.

The WHS fosters investments in health that translate into societal resilience, stability, and growth

€1 Billion

Germany's pledge to the Global Fund to combat AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

€8 Million

EU grant to fund a new joint digital initiative with WHO to advance health system transformation across Sub-Saharan Africa.

€100 Million

Germany's contribution to CEPI to accelerate vaccine development and strengthen pandemic preparedness.

Germany Pledges EUR 1 Billion to the Global Fund

At the Opening Night of the World Health Summit 2025, Germany announced a landmark pledge of €1 billion to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, reaffirming its strong commitment to global solidarity, sustainable health systems, and international cooperation. Germany's announcement follows a series of high-level commitments to major global health institutions made at previous World Health Summits, including the WHO Investment Round in 2024.

Rosebella Alungata Iseme-Ondiek, Reem Alabali-Radovan, Peter Sands, Priscilla Ama Addo, Bernd Montag at the WHS Opening Night



Despite painful budget cuts and the enormous pressure to save within the ministry, we have succeeded in providing one billion euros for global health protection. This sends an important signal: Germany will continue to be actively engaged in protecting people around the world from disease. The fight against major infectious diseases is not only a moral imperative but also a matter of reason: pathogens know no borders – they spread wherever they can, where prevention, medicines, and medical care are lacking, and beyond. Every euro invested in the Global Fund pays off: it strengthens the health systems of our partner countries and makes the world more resilient. In doing so, we save millions of lives. That is why we must remain strong together.”

REEM ALABALI-RADOVAN
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation
and Development, Germany



The Global Fund's Eighth Replenishment is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to curb the spread of infectious diseases and further reinforce health and community systems in the most vulnerable countries. Germany's latest contribution sends a powerful signal of global solidarity and sets a strong foundation as we move toward the final pledges at our Eighth Replenishment Summit.”

PETER SANDS
Executive Director of
the Global Fund



For young people like me, living with HIV isn't just about surviving – it's about being seen, heard, and supported. When countries like Germany invest in the Global Fund, they're investing in our dreams and reminding us that we matter.”

PRISCILLA AMA ADDO
Junior Project Officer, Global
Network of Young People
Living with HIV, Y+ Global

Launch of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023

The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023, presented at the World Health Summit 2025 and published in The Lancet, shows global mortality rates are falling but not among youths and young adults.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) now account for nearly two-thirds of the world's total mortality and morbidity – led by ischemic heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Researchers also estimate that nearly half of all deaths and disabilities could be prevented by modifying

some of the leading risk factors, such as reducing high levels of blood sugar and high body mass index (BMI). Based on data from over 16,500 collaborators, the study provides essential insights for policymakers, healthcare leaders, and researchers.



Audience at the launch, co-hosted by The Lancet and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)

Ximena Aguilera at the Launch of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023



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Mental health is an urgent issue, the burden for children is huge. Therefore, we need to integrate all approaches in the response of our health systems.”

XIMENA AGUILERA
Minister of Health, Chile



Christopher Murray
at the Launch of the
Global Burden of
Disease Study 2023

“

The Global Burden of Disease 2023 findings underscore that data is the foundation for informed action. While global mortality continues to decline, persistent inequities and rising deaths among youth in several regions reveal critical gaps in progress. Turning these insights into effective prevention, equitable access to care, and stronger health systems is essential to ensure that all people can live longer, healthier lives.”

CHRISTOPHER MURRAY
Director, IHME

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The reason why we, the Lancet, are so committed to the GBD is because we see the GBD as the most powerful mechanism for independent accountability in health today. And by independent accountability, I mean the ability to use science as a tool for monitoring, holding those with power accountable for the promises and commitments they have made. That’s what all these numbers are about.”

RICHARD HORTON
Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet

Richard Horton at the
Launch of the Global
Burden of Disease
Study 2023



Jane Halton,
Christopher
Murray, Irene
Akua Agyepong,
Ximena Aguilera,
Richard Horton
at the launch



Gallup's new data confirm what we at the World Health Summit see every day: Peace, health and emotional well-being are inseparable. Emotional distress at a societal level is not just an individual burden; it is a warning sign for societal fragility, and a call to collective action. By working together across sectors, we can turn evidence into solutions that strengthen resilience and stability worldwide. That is why the World Health Summit is proud to partner with Gallup: Together, we bring health to the center of the global agenda."

CARSTEN SCHICKER
CEO, World Health Summit



The first Gallup Report published in partnership with the World Health Summit



Launch of the Gallup State of the World's Emotional Health 2025 report in partnership with the World Health Summit



Our work with the World Health Summit brings clarity to a simple truth: emotional well-being and peace are not separate pursuits. When one fails, the other follows. In less peaceful countries, people are far more likely to report sadness and anger, even after accounting for income differences. Positive emotions such as laughter, enjoyment, and respect are less common in less peaceful societies and depend more on GDP. This is not the case for negative emotions, which remain strongly tied to fragile peace – suggesting that while peace reduces distress, it does not deliver a positive emotional dividend above and beyond GDP per capita."

JON CLIFTON
CEO, Gallup

Peace, health, and emotional well-being rise and fall together, according to Gallup's inaugural State of the World's Emotional Health report, launched in partnership with the World Health Summit. Drawing on 145,000 interviews across 144 countries and areas in 2024, Gallup finds nearly four in ten adults worldwide reported experiencing a lot of worry or stress the previous day – hundreds of millions more than a decade ago. In 2024, 39% of adults worldwide reported feeling worried the previous day, and 37% said they felt stressed. Reports of

sadness (26%), anger (22%) and physical pain (32%) remain widespread. All are higher than they were a decade ago. The report pairs Gallup's World Poll data with the Institute for Economics & Peace's Global Peace Index and Positive Peace Index to show how people's emotional lives intertwine with stability and health.

The report, launched during the WHS 2025, is the first of its kind highlighting that peace, health, and emotional well-being are deeply interconnected, showing that they fall and rise together.

WHO Initiatives at the World Health Summit 2025

Release of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB) 2025 Report & WHO-EU Digital Initiative

Chris Elias, Ibrahim Abubakar, Ilona Kickbusch, Victor Dzau, Joy Phumaphi, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Bruce Aylward, Helen Clark at the launch of the 2025 GPMB Report



GPMB Report

The new Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB) 2025 report, presented at the WHS 2025, calls for scaled-up investment in primary health care, real-time risk assessment, and international cooperation to ensure local and global communities are ready to prevent and respond to the next pandemic. The GPMB, established in 2018 following the West Africa Ebola epidemic, monitors the state of the world's preparedness for pandemics and other health crises. It is an initiative supported by the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

Yukiko Nakatani, Mohamed Yakub Janabi, Martin Seychell announcing the agreement at WHS 2025



WHO-EU Digital Initiative

During the World Health Summit 2025, the World Health Organization and the European Union announced a new collaboration to advance the digital transformation of health systems across Sub-Saharan Africa. The partnership, supported by an €8 million EU grant (2025–2028), will promote wider adoption of WHO's Global Digital Health Certification Network, enabling secure, interoperable, and portable digital health credentials. This initiative strengthens pandemic preparedness, supports cross-border health verification, and lays out the foundation for resilient, person-centered health systems.



Joy Phumaphi at the launch of the 2025 GPMB Report

Pandemics are multidimensional shocks that demand coordinated, multisectoral responses. Although there will be other pandemics, they will be different from pandemics of the past, and our preparedness needs to keep up with these changes. We must move beyond fragmented efforts and embrace cooperation and innovation as cornerstones of preparedness."

JOY PHUMAPHI
Executive Secretary, African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA)



Many Initiatives Shaping Global Health at WHS 2025



Germany Pledges EUR 100 Million to CEPI

Germany announced an additional EUR 100 million contribution to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) at the World Health Summit. This pledge is strengthening international efforts to accelerate vaccine development and pandemic preparedness.



Launch of New Edition of “Health: A Political Choice”

The newly launched edition „Health: A Political Choice – The Future of Health in a Fractured World“ was presented at the WHS 2025. The publication brings together leading voices from the World Health Organization, the United Nations, governments, science, and civil society to explore how we can build resilience, equity, and trust in an era of fragmentation.



Science can play a unifying role – but only if its integrity, openness, and societal relevance are protected.”

AXEL R. PRIES
President, World Health Summit



Closing the Women’s Health Gap: UNFPA Calls for Bold Global Action

UNFPA and partners presented the Berlin Roadmap, calling for bold investments and collective action to close the global women’s health gap. This collective pledge was complemented by the launch of a new Women’s Health Index to measure progress.

“When we invest in women’s health, we invest in global wealth.”

DIENE KEITA
Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Charité and GIZ Unite to Advance Equitable and Sustainable Health Systems

At the World Health Summit 2025, Charité and the German Agency for International Cooperation GIZ renewed their strategic partnership to advance global health through science, policy, and implementation, reaffirming their shared commitment to building equitable and sustainable health systems worldwide. The renewed MoU will run for four years.

Delegation meeting
at the annual WHS
Academic Alliance
Assembly



Advancing Science-Based Solutions for Global Health

During this year's Summit, the Alliance demonstrated its growing scientific reach and global impact. It shaped the program as co-host of 11 sessions and launched the first WHS Academic Alliance Working Group, led by NIMS University (Jaipur, India) in cooperation with UNICEF and Blockchain for Impact. The working group aims to advance maternal and child health through scalable, evidence-based

approaches. A Satellite Event, hosted by the University of Coimbra extended the Alliance's activities beyond the main program. A session featuring the Portuguese Minister of Health and former Ambassador Luís de Almeida Sampaio was live-streamed to students and faculty on the Coimbra campus, allowing participants there to engage directly with experts and experience the WHS firsthand.

Rooted in the latest science and best practices, the Summit drives innovative solutions for health

The WHS Academic Alliance is the scientific network of the World Health Summit, bringing together 28 leading academic institutions from all continents. It fosters international and cross-trans-sectoral collaboration, connects the scientific community to inform global health agendas, and supports evidence-based health policy and practice.



Without academic freedom and genuine international cooperation, we cannot overcome global health challenges.”

Excerpt from the WHS Academic Alliance Declaration



WHS Academic Alliance Declaration 2025

Published on the occasion of the WHS 2025 in Nature Medicine, calls for protecting academic freedom, strengthening international collaboration, and countering misinformation to rebuild trust in science. The Declaration underscores that open, independent research and genuine global partnerships are essential for achieving health and well-being for all.

IMPACT

Elevating Youth Engagement at WHS 2025

At the World Health Summit 2025, young leaders and emerging voices played a central role in shaping this year's discussions. Through supporting the participation of youth groups and stipend recipients from around the globe, the World Health Summit Foundation brought fresh perspectives,

lived experiences, and new energy into the global health dialogue. Their contributions underscored the importance of empowering the next generation to drive progress toward a healthier and more equitable future.



WHS 2025 Stipend Program

Through the WHS 2025 Stipend Program, which was open to applicants from low- and middle-income countries and those with lived experience, selected individuals received support to attend WHS 2025 in Berlin. Made possible by the generous contribution of the Wellcome Trust, the program removes financial and logistical barriers and ensures that those directly affected by global health challenges are part of the conversation. Their insights and experiences added essential depth to policy discussions and strengthened the Summit's commitment to equity.



I see the Summit as an opportunity to amplify voices from low- and middle-income countries and contribute to shaping sustainable, equitable health systems worldwide."

AMANUEL M. HAILE
Research project manager and WHS 2025 stipend recipient, Ethiopia



With WHS support, 200+ young people from 26 youth groups across 30 countries joined

Youth Group Opportunity

This year, 26 youth groups with more than 200 young people from 30 countries participated in WHS 2025 through the WHS Youth Group Opportunity. Designed specifically for organizations led by and for young people, the initiative is part of the WHS commitment to strengthening diversity in global health dialogue. By providing complimentary access to the Summit, young people are ensured a place at the table to actively shape debates and solutions. Their ideas, collaborations, and forward-looking perspectives underscored the vital role young leaders play in driving change.



It's important to ensure that youth are at the table so they can also be decision-makers and allow decisions to be made on what's a priority to them."

JONTA KAMARA
Y-Act, Youth in Action



My message to the decision maker would be to be open to listen and collaborate with the youth organizations and the young professionals because we cannot find the solutions to the problems without each other."

JELENA BRANKOVIĆ
Vice President of the Coalition for Global Health Innovation (CGHI)



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Program Highlights

World Health Summit Opening Night with Handover of the International Presidency

At the WHS Opening Night 2025, WHS President Axel R. Pries and Rosebella Alungata Iseme-Ondiek, Assistant Professor at Aga Khan University, warmly welcomed a packed house of global health leaders and changemakers in Berlin. Heyo Kroemer, CEO of Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, and Carsten Schicker, CEO of the World Health Summit, officially opened WHS 2025, setting the stage for three days of high-level dialogue and collaboration.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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As the WHS Regional Meeting baton moves from New Delhi to Nairobi, we at the Aga Khan University are honored to convene leaders, innovators, and partners to address Africa’s health priorities. The Nairobi Regional Meeting will strengthen collaboration across regions and feed into the World Health Assembly and World Health Summit 2026, ensuring Africa’s perspectives shape the global health agenda.”

LUKOYE ATWOLI
The Aga Khan University,
Kenya & WHS Regional
Meeting 2026 President



Rosebella Alungata Iseme-Ondiek, Lukoye Atwoli, Balvir Singh Tomar, Axel R. Pries during the handover of the baton

As is tradition, the Opening Night marked the handover of the WHS International Presidency. Following the successful Regional Meeting 2025 in New Delhi, Balvir S. Tomar (NIMS University) passed the baton to Lukoye Atwoli (Aga Khan University), as the community looked ahead to the 2026 Regional Meeting in Nairobi.



Carsten Schicker at the WHS Opening Night



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The World Health Summit comes at exactly the right time, as the world urgently needs concrete solutions to enhance cooperation for health and build sustainable, equitable health systems. With the 2025 Summit, we want to set a new course – making the WHS 2025 the starting point for a renewed global health architecture that drives collaboration, equity, and lasting impact.”

CARSTEN SCHICKER
CEO, World Health Summit

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Transforming the Global Health Architecture – Rethinking Governance and Financing Models

Recent geopolitical shifts have led to drastic cuts in aid, posing a serious threat to global health programs worldwide. Governments now face a volatile international funding landscape, diminished trust in external donors, rising debt servicing obligations, and weak domestic budgets for public health systems. Yet, this moment also presents a powerful opportunity for regional, national, and global health champions to act decisively, to reimagine and build sustainable, domestically-led health financing models. At the World Health Summit, building on the ONE Campaign's six

pathways to strengthen health financing, speakers focused on three key strategies: expanding fair health taxes, mobilizing diaspora capital, and positioning the health economy as a driver of inclusive growth. The discussion, co-hosted by The ONE Campaign, also highlighted the need to reduce debt, improve coordination, and reform global financing rules. Bringing together voices from government, multilateral institutions, and the private sector, the session called for bold, locally driven solutions to move beyond traditional aid and build resilient, equitable health systems for the future.



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We have to collaborate; we have to draw on the intelligence of all actors from all over the world to build and rebuild this architecture.”

MÓNICA GARCÍA GÓMEZ
Minister of Health, Spain



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It's important to invest in health, because it gives you a return in terms of economic growth. Every dollar invested gives you a return that is four times.”

THOMAS SCHINECKER
CEO, Roche



I would like to see governments in wealthy countries recognize that health, development, and economics are intertwined – and that debt relief, international tax cooperation, and reform of the international financial architecture are critical to achieving better health and development outcomes for all.”

WINNIE BYANYIMA
Executive Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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NCDs spread without headlines, without emergency measures – and thus, they remain a silent pandemic.”

NINA WARKEN
Federal Minister of Health, Germany



Joining Forces to Control NCDs: How to Tackle the Largest Disease Burden

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases – remain major health risks and the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. Alongside them, mental health disorders add a significant global health burden, ranking among the top causes of disability and greatly reducing quality of life, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Many of these deaths are preventable through accessible, integrated health

services supported by strong policies and frameworks. At the World Health Summit 2025, this session, co-hosted by the Federal Ministry of Health of Germany (BMG), centered on NCDs and mental health, spotlighting the follow-up to the UN High-Level Meeting. Speakers emphasized the urgency of closing implementation gaps and creating synergies across sectors to accelerate progress in tackling NCDs and mental health.



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Currently we are living in societies that are promoting sickness over health. Look at the global food system. Look at the way our cities are designed to prioritize cars over pedestrians and healthy walking and activity. Look at the way that we're seeing relentless marketing and advertising of unhealthy products, it is ubiquitous.”

KATIE DAIN
CEO, NCD Alliance



“

I believe that we should not only look at politicians when it comes to health care – science, academia, global companies: there is much more fiber in the world of health care, connecting the dots and influencing how things are done than we sometimes think.”

BERND MONTAG
CEO, Siemens Healthineers AG

Peace and Health: Building Bridges for Global Stability and Well-being

Peace and health are intrinsically connected and interdependent. Violent conflicts across all regions have severe consequences for human health, with health systems increasingly becoming targets. The destruction of healthcare infrastructure, restricted access to medical services, and the spread of disease undermine lives and livelihoods, creating long-term instability. Conversely, healthy populations foster peace by promoting social stability, economic productivity, and resilient communities. Co-hosted by the World Health Organization

(WHO), the session emphasized the need for integrated approaches recognizing that health and peace cannot be addressed in isolation. It explored the World Health Organization's Global Health and Peace Initiative (GHPI), which promotes policies bridging health and security, strengthening resilience, and advancing equity. By reinforcing health systems and promoting justice, the discussion highlighted how societies can build lasting peace, well-being, and global stability.



Making sure that we are restoring the healthcare systems in conflict zones is not just a humanitarian imperative, it is an investment in peace and stability and also in the future that every child deserves.”

INGER ASHING
CEO, Save the Children
International



Resilience for us is not just about endurance – it's about growth. Despite the war, Ukraine's health system keeps moving forward, proving that recovery can start even in the darkest times.”

EDEM ADAMANOV
Deputy Minister of Health,
Ukraine



Health transcends religions, borders, and identities. Whoever you are, you deserve access to high-quality, affordable healthcare.”

BUDI GUNADI SADIKIN
Minister of Health, Indonesia



Women's Health – Global Wealth: Catalyzing Returns on Bold Investments

This session at the World Health Summit 2025, co-hosted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), explored how bold investments in women's health can deliver transformative returns – advancing health outcomes, strengthening economies, and building resilient systems. Women's health stands as both a litmus test and a lever for collective progress, yet it remains chronically underfunded and underprioritized. While global funding for sexual and reproductive health R&D nearly doubled between 2018 and 2023, less than 1% targeted female-specific conditions beyond oncology. The burden of benign gynecologic diseases now exceeds that of malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV combined for women of reproductive age in low- and middle-income countries. This session highlighted how an investment of \$300 million in women's health R&D could yield an estimated \$13 billion in economic returns. Bringing together ministers, multilateral partners, philanthropies, and private sector leaders, it showcased how catalytic capital, blended finance, and strategic alignment could accelerate impact.



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Women's health is both a measure and a driver of collective progress. While women and girls represent half of the world's population, their health remains chronically underfunded and under-prioritized – an afterthought in research and healthcare design.”

DIENE KEITA
Executive Director, UNFPA

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Behind the gender health gap lie deeper, structural issues: Women have long been underrepresented in clinical research. Many health systems lack funding models that address women-specific needs. And women are still not fully included in healthcare decision-making processes. This is the reality we must change, and we at Daiichi Sankyo are committed to contributing to this goal alongside other global health partners.”

HIROYUKI OKUZAWA
President & CEO, Daiichi Sankyo



“

Women's health is not a side issue. It is the cornerstone of humanity's progress, prosperity, and future.”

KRITI SANON
UNFPA India Honorary
Ambassador for Gender Equality

World Health Summit Signature Event: Taking Responsibility for Health in a Fragmenting World



The WHS Signature Event in Three Acts



In an era marked by division, uncertainty, and mounting global threats, the 2025 World Health Summit Signature Event explored what it truly means to take responsibility for health – regionally, nationally, and globally. The event convened leading voices who called for health to be recognized as both a political choice and a strategic investment - one that strengthens equity

and resilience, fosters stability, and drives sustainable growth. High-level speakers emphasized that in a fragmenting world, collaboration among actors at all levels is the most powerful remedy. The discussions highlighted how collective responsibility, grounded in equity and solidarity, can promote health, peace, and global stability.

I. Health is a Political Choice



“Germany is and remains a reliable and committed partner of the World Health Summit and also of the WHO. In view of the current challenges, it is more important than ever to engage in constructive dialogue and work together to strengthen global health. The World Health Summit offers a good opportunity to deepen cooperation with international partners.”

NINA WARKEN
Federal Minister of Health, Germany



“Taking political responsibility is about doing what is right for the people and taking tough decisions even when it’s not popular. It also means choosing cooperation when others are choosing isolation, making sure that your strength at home also helps make countries strong abroad.”

HADJA LAHBIB
Commissioner for Preparedness and Crisis Management and Commissioner for Equality, European Commission

Axel R. Pries, Jane Halton, John-Arne Røttingen, Precious Matsoso, Horacio Barreda, Victor Dzau, Nina Warken, Hadja Lahbib, Jean Kaseya, Carsten Schicker at the WHS Signature Event



II. Health Security Leadership in an Era of Global Threats



“There is a need for international cooperation, but also the need for coordination, and we need to address the issue of financing – that’s what we’re here for.”

VICTOR DZAU
President of the United States
National Academy of Medicine
(NAM) of the United States of
America



“This is a pivotal moment, because we had the Pandemic Agreement, agreed between 124 member states, and that is a signal that the multilateral system is still relevant.”

PRECIOUS MATSOSO
Co-Chair, Intergovernmental
Negotiating Body for the Pandemic
Agreement, World Health
Organization



“Every country will need to unlock resources. We must mobilize health security funding – going beyond traditional ODA spending. Tracking outcomes is essential. We are going to recommend benchmarks, not targets. But those benchmarks should enable you to ask yourself: Are you spending enough to meet this need?”

JANE HALTON
Chair of the Board, CEPI
(Coalition for Epidemic
Preparedness Innovations)



“This is not about either or. It is about investing in individual countries and still investing multilaterally. It is about investing in capabilities on the ground, but also about investing in research and development.”

JOHN-ARNE RØTTINGEN
CEO, Wellcome Trust



“Let me be clear: Africa today is the co-architect of the global health security. We are not the invitee.”

JEAN KASEYA
Director-General, Africa Centres
for Disease Control and Prevention
(Africa CDC)

III. Out of Fragmentation: Building Cooperation



“In our divided and turbulent world, investing in public health has never been more essential, both as the foundation of stable and secure societies, and as a bridge to peace between communities and nations.”

TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS
Director-General, World Health
Organization



“Sustainability begins with leadership and that means investing in young people who are inevitably involved in improving access to health on the ground.”

HORACIO BARREDA
Board Chair, Global Network of
Young People Living with HIV,
Y+ Global



3

Global Reach & Media Impact

World Health Summit 2025 Media Impact at a Glance

210,000

Page visits of the WHS website*

26%

Follower growth across WHS social media platforms since 2024

45,000+

Livestream views

650+

Social media posts on WHS channels*

2,900+

Media reports*

1,700

WHS 2025 app downloads

1.2+ million

Total impressions across WHS social channels*

140

Accredited journalists from 25+ countries at WHS 2025

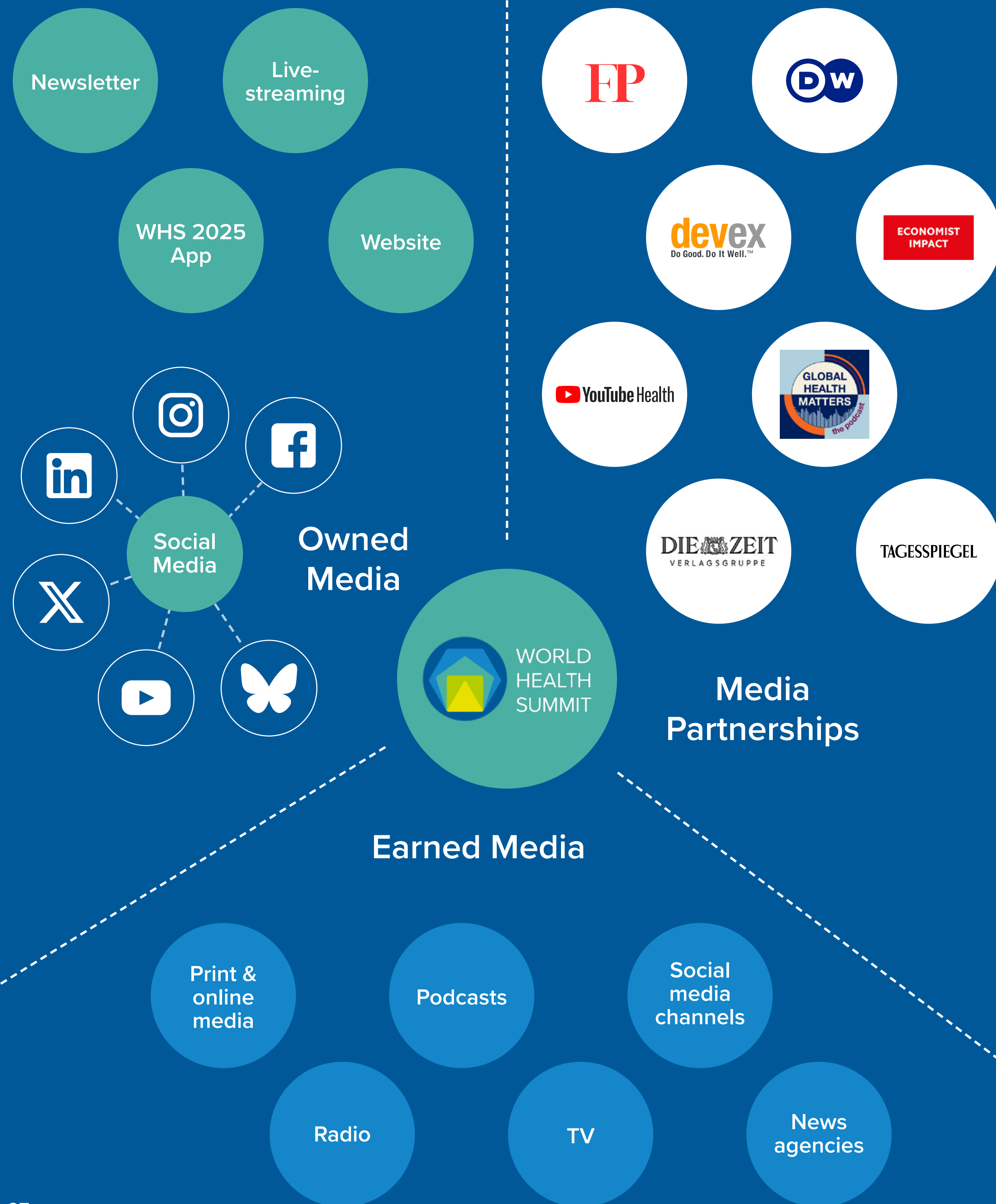
12,700

WHS News subscriptions

2,100+

Uses of the #WHS2025 social media filter for speakers and participants

* in October 2025



Reaching the World: Our Communications Pathways

The World Health Summit engages global audiences through a strategic, multi-channel communications approach. Combining independent media coverage, strong partner collaborations, and our own digital platforms, we reach decision-makers, experts, and the public across regions and sectors. This integrated strategy ensures that key discussions, expert insights, and event highlights resonate globally. Through a proactive, globally oriented media strategy, the World Health Summit is positioned as a trusted and authoritative voice in global health and beyond.

What Our Media Partners Say



“As a global media organization, Deutsche Welle values the World Health Summit as a vital platform for dialogue and collaboration on pressing health challenges. The WHS fosters exchange between science, policy, and society, driving solutions that resonate far beyond Berlin. Amplifying these conversations worldwide is essential to strengthening global health awareness.”

JULIA VAN LEUVEN

Deputy Corporate Spokesperson, Deputy Head of Corporate Communications,
Deutsche Welle



“The World Health Summit remains an important convening for shaping the global health agenda – especially at a moment when financing gaps, geopolitical instability, and health system strain demand new models of collaboration. At Devex, we see WHS as a critical inflection point each year: a place where global health leaders set priorities, pressure-test solutions, and align around the transformations the sector urgently needs.”

MARGARET E.M. RICHARDSON

Senior Director of External Relations,
Devex

ECONOMIST IMPACT

“Participating in WHS 2025 was an incredible opportunity for Economist Impact to spotlight The Health Dividend – our new initiative outlining our vision of health as an investment in growth, resilience, and equity. We explored how treating health as capital – not just a cost – can drive productivity, fiscal sustainability, and inclusive growth. In a world facing fragmentation and inequalities, this year’s Summit reinforced a simple truth: treating health as infrastructure, not overhead, is essential for any society that hopes to thrive. Policymakers and business leaders must move beyond short-term budget cycles and act to realise this ‘health dividend’ – the wide-reaching, compounding returns of a healthier population.”

AMANDA STUCKE

Principal, Health Policy & Insights,
Economist Impact



“The World Health Summit continues to distinguish itself as one of the most dynamic and influential convenings in global health. WHS 2025 set a new benchmark – bringing together visionary leaders, policy-makers, researchers, and industry experts for rigorous, forward-looking dialogue on key health issues. The Summit’s ability to bridge sectors, elevate diverse perspectives, and drive meaningful collaboration is unparalleled. Its thoughtful programming, global reach, and commitment to advancing solutions for a healthier, more equitable world make WHS an essential platform for shaping the future of global health. Foreign Policy was honored to be a media partner, contribute to the conversation, and further elevate some of the Summit’s insights to our key geopolitical audience.”

ZACH PAGOVSKI

Vice President, Strategic Partnerships,
Foreign Policy

TAGESSPIEGEL

“In times as challenging for global health as these, the World Health Summit has truly hit its stride this year: the WHS has by now clearly become the place to be for everyone of stature and relevance in the international health community. It offers its guests not only outstanding networking opportunities, but – through its numerous high-caliber panels – scientific depth rather than superficial solutions. Our Tagesspiegel motto ‘rerum cognoscere causas’ (loosely, ‘to get to the bottom of things’) is not only a fitting guiding principle for Tagesspiegel’s quality journalism, but also an apt compass for global health debates. The WHS 2025 has demonstrated that sustainable solutions can only emerge when their root causes are understood. We are proud to be part of this exceptional conference as a long-standing media partner!”

SUSAN E. KNOLL

Publishing Director for Political Communication,
Tagesspiegel



#WHS2025

4

WHS 2025 in
Numbers

World Health Summit 2025

45,000+

Participants online

4,000+

Participants on site in Berlin

400+

Experts from all sectors of global health

144

Countries and territories at WHS

23

Ministers and state secretaries from 18 countries

90%

Participants made new, relevant contacts

14

Exclusive meetings in board rooms

47

Meeting Suites for bilateral meetings

75

Sessions in main program

69

Side meetings on site

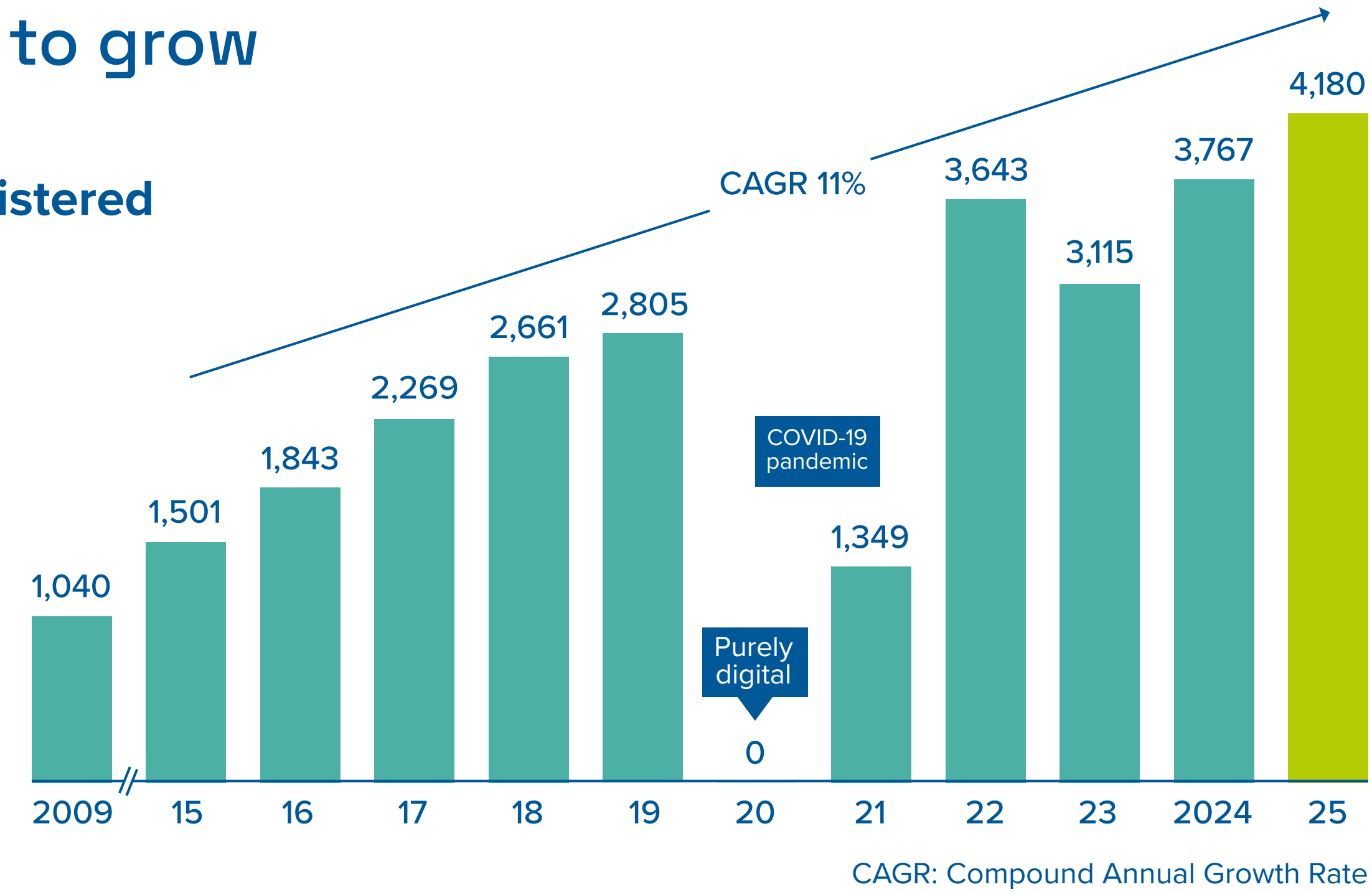
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WHS Dialogues



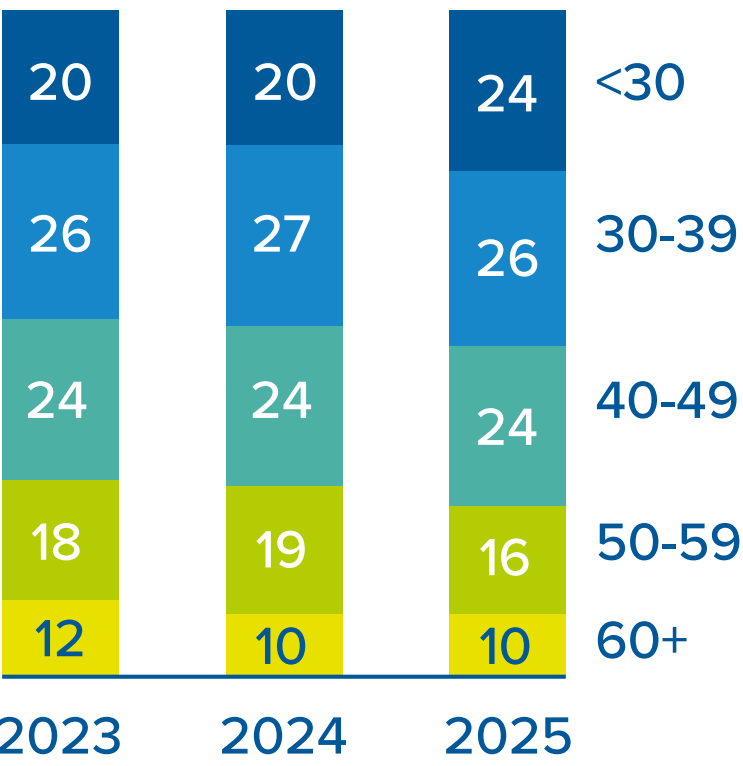
Number of WHS participants continues to grow

Number of registered participants

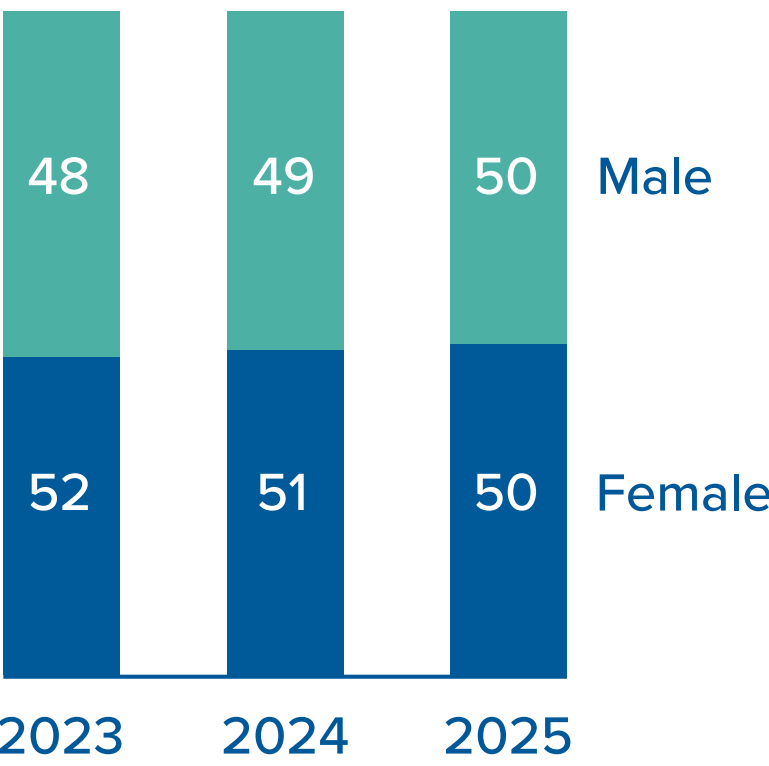


50% of participants younger than 40 and equal gender balance among speakers

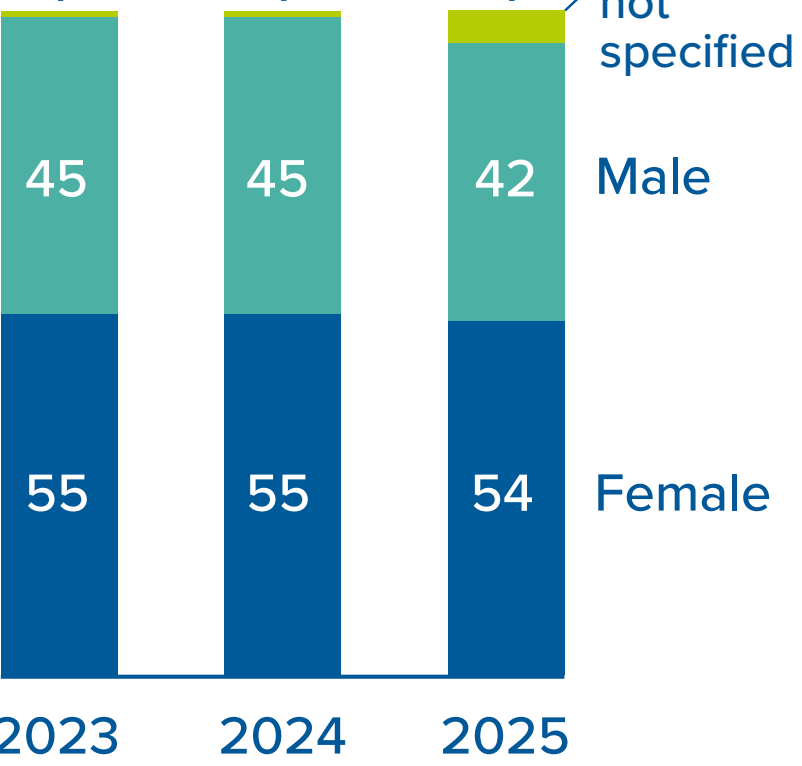
Age distribution
All participants



Gender distribution
Chairs/speakers

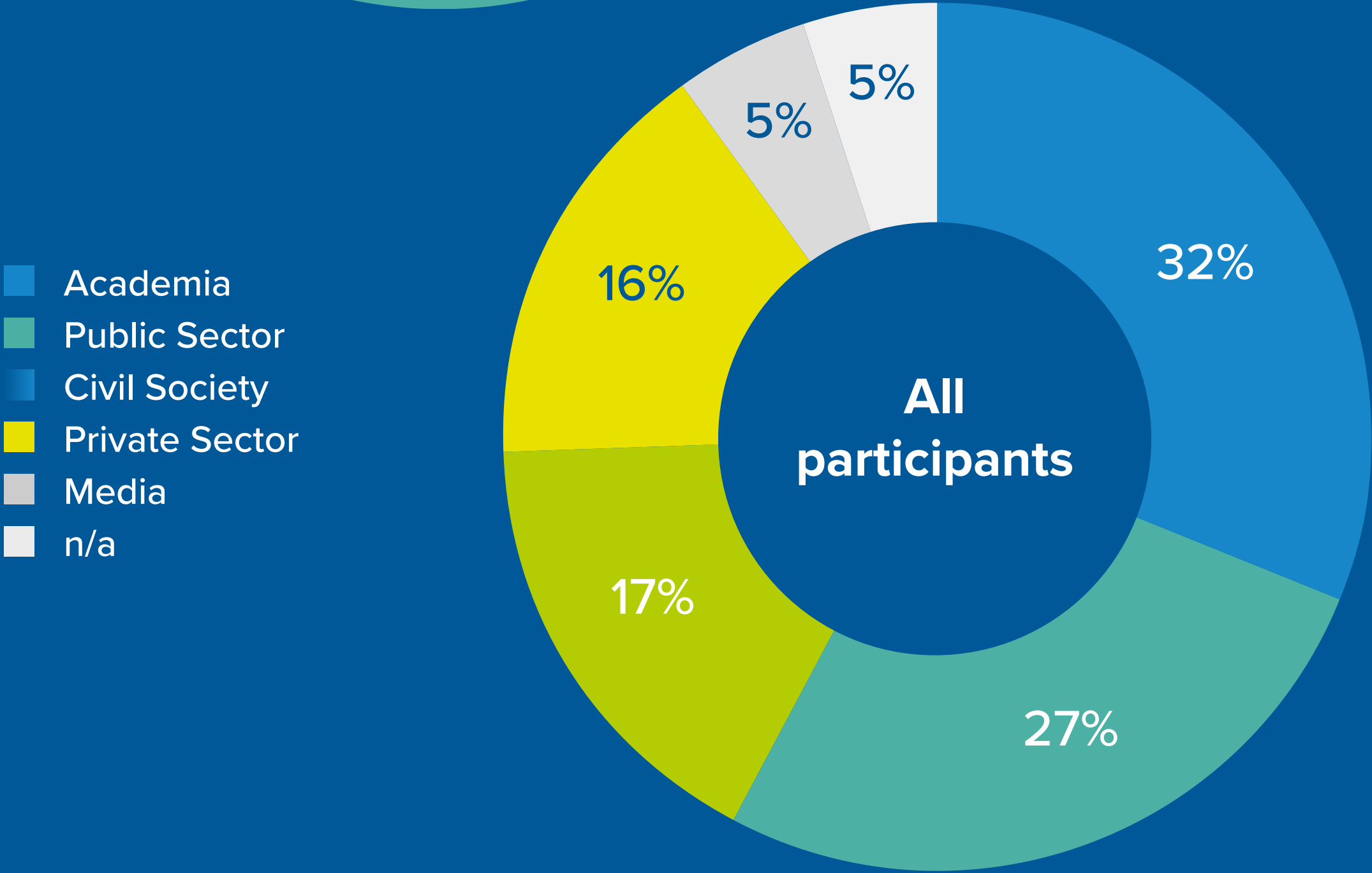
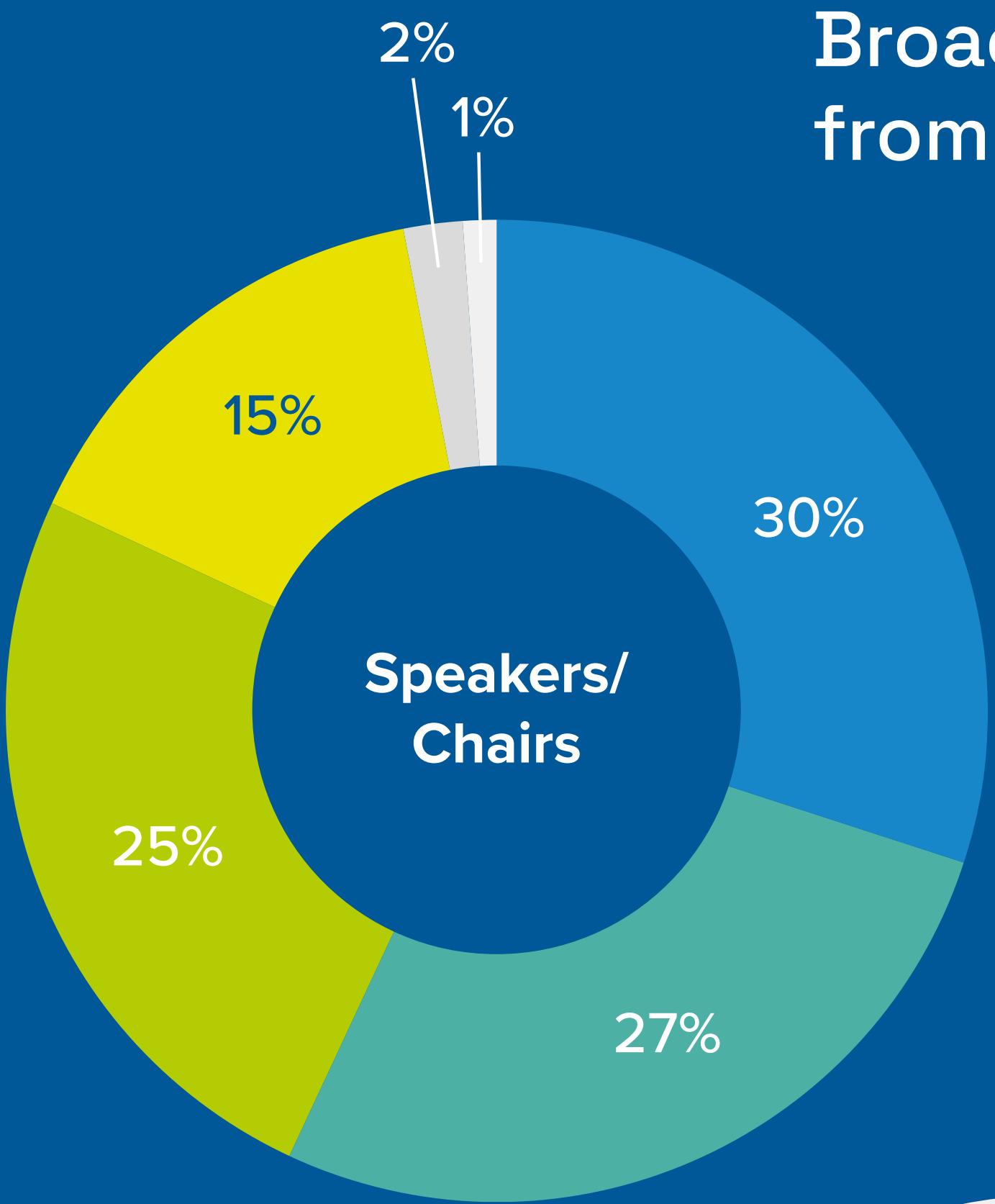


Gender distribution
All participants



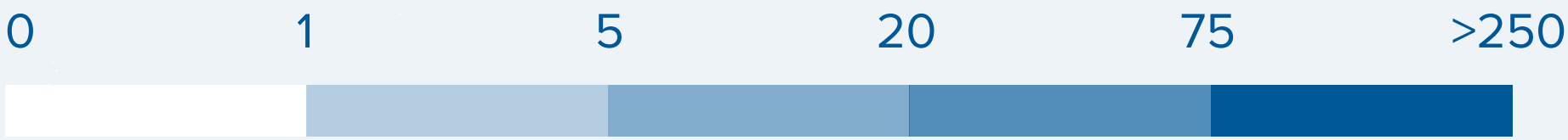
figures in %

Broad participation from all sectors



WHS 2025
brought
the world
to Berlin

Participants at WHS 2025



Global maps shown in World Health Summit materials aim to approach an equal-area projection. This map is based on the official world map of the United Nations (as of November 2025) which uses the Robinson projection, as it reflects officially recognized international borders and offers a balanced visual compromise.



5

Voices from
WHS 2025



“Health is a major tool for peace, investing in health is investing in peace.”

AUSTIN DEMBY
Minister of Health, Sierra Leone



“We all face similar challenges, so let’s talk about this together – demographic changes, new digital tools, climate change and of course a big problem, especially in Poland, is the financing of public healthcare.”

JOLANTA SOBIERAŃSKA-GRENDA
Minister of Health, Poland



“Georgia will stand ready to collaborate through WHO platforms and regional partnerships to help others reach and maintain elimination. Our goal is simple: protect every community from preventable diseases and strengthen the systems that keep us all safe.”

MIKHEIL SARJVELADZE
Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Health, Labour, and Social Affairs, Georgia



“From our experience in Lebanon unfortunately we’ve learned it the hard way: More important than being prepared is preventing the crisis from happening. But once you’re there you should activate your plans.”

RAKAN NASSERELDINE
Minister of Public Health, Lebanon



“Health plays a great role in climate action, environmental protection, and climate adaptation. It makes perfect sense for us to consider how these issues interact with one another.”

CARSTEN SCHNEIDER
Federal Minister for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany



“We know that health challenges do not stop at borders. Equity and solidarity and multilateral cooperation make us as Europe strong and it’s not only good for Europeans, it’s also good for global health.”

ANA PAULA MARTINS
Minister of Health, Portugal



Voices for Global Health – United by the World Health Summit



“The agenda of One Health is crucial. It includes the social determinants of health, but more critically in my region, it also includes the issue of conflicts and wars.”

HANAN BALKHY
Regional Director of the Eastern Mediterranean, World Health Organization (WHO)



“When we talk about inclusion, it is often to hear that it is the moral and smart thing to do. That by promoting inclusion, countries can increase their GDP by up to 7%. Or that persons with disabilities and their families represent an estimated market volume of 13 trillion American dollars. But when it comes to health equity it is not just the smart or moral thing to do, but the urgent thing to do.”

JOSE VIERA
Executive Director, International Disability Alliance (IDA)



“I think we need to start to talk about a mindset shift. We need to start talking about that health is not a cost, health is a capital.”

SAIA MA'U PIUKALA
Regional Director for the Western Pacific, World Health Organization (WHO)



“We are now saying: Africa is ready. We don't want to be invited. We are the co-creator of this global architecture.”

JEAN KASEYA
Director-General, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)



“Countries don't want aid anymore. They want the tools, the capacities to be able to mobilize revenues. So we changed our funding model.”

SANIA NISHTAR
CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance



“We have, in the last four years, created a world of impunity. There is acceptance now to demonize health-care facilities as battlefields. There is acceptance to attack ambulances. For the Red Cross, the last two years have witnessed the deadliest two years for our volunteers and staff. For the Red Cross it is deadly, but for humanity it's worse.”

PETRA KHOURY
Global Director of Health and Care, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



“It really involves moving away from centralized hospital-based models that have dominated the mental health care system of many countries for a long time, and moving more toward community-based and person-centered services that are also integrated into primary health care.”

DION RAS
Advisor & Executive Committee Member, International Association for Youth Mental Health (IAYMH) & Global Mental Health Action Network (GMHAN)



“When Women's health is overlooked, it doesn't just affect women, but it affects their families, their communities and entire economies and that is why we believe now is the time to change the equation.”

RU-FONG JOANNE CHENG
Director Women's Health Innovations, Gates Foundation



“Just having technology for technology's sake can work for a little while, but understanding the problem that it's trying to solve and using it at scale with all of the right stakeholders is a different approach than creating the solution first – starting with the problem.”

KAT ESSER
Global Social Impact Innovation & Strategy Leader, Amazon Web Services (AWS)





6

Outlook
2026

Save the Dates

April 27–29, 2026

WHS Regional Meeting 2026

Nairobi, Kenya & Online

October 11–13, 2026

World Health Summit 2026

Berlin, Germany & Online





The World Health Summit Regional Meeting will focus on a theme that is important for the continent of Africa. We will be looking at the rising burden of chronic disease, changing patterns of infectious diseases, and the health financing landscape in Africa and beyond. By bringing all these experts together, we hope to foster collaboration, share innovative solutions, and develop actionable strategies that will strengthen health systems for the African continent and for all.”

LUKOYE ATWOLI
The Aga Khan University,
Kenya & WHS Regional
Meeting 2026 President

WHS Regional Meeting 2026: Reimagining Africa's Health Systems



WHS
Regional
Meeting

Regional Meeting
Nairobi, Kenya
April 27–29, 2026



The World Health Summit is more than an annual event; it is a year-round platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation in global health. Through Regional Meetings, Expert Gatherings, and Working Groups across continents, the WHS fosters exchange between science, policy, and society to advance solutions that improve health for all. In spring 2026, this mission continues with the WHS Regional Meeting. The WHS Regional Meeting 2026 will take

place April 27–29 in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by The Aga Khan University-Kenya. The meeting, under the theme “Reimagining Africa's Health Systems: Innovation, Integration, and Interdependence”, will offer a platform to focus on regional health priorities, highlight pressing public health challenges, promote evidence-based solutions, and influence health outcomes at local, regional, and global levels.

Central Topics

- Pandemic Preparedness and Health Security in Africa
- Climate Change, Environment, and Health Systems Resilience
- Digital Health, AI, and Technological Innovation
- Health Workforce, Financing, and System Building
- Gender Equity, Youth Leadership, and Social Accountability
- Mental Health, Psychosocial Support, and Well-being
- Primary Healthcare, UHC, and Social Determinants of Health
- Women's, Adolescent, and Child Health and Nutrition



WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT

7

Partners &
Supporters

Thank you

The World Health Summit 2025 marked another milestone in advancing global health through dialogue, collaboration, and shared responsibility. Together we built new connections, generated fresh ideas, and turned conversations into commitment. We sincerely thank all our partners, speakers, participants, and supporters whose dedication and expertise made this event possible. Your contributions, engagement, and shared vision are what drive the impact of the WHS. As the global health landscape continues to evolve, the WHS remains committed to building bridges and driving collective action. Together, these milestones will advance our shared mission to improve health for all, everywhere.



The core team at the WHS 2025: Marie Wolf, Carla Stegen, Johanna Schulte, Reinhard Schäfers, Martin Köppen, Anna Störmer, Royko Kühn, Marinus Fislage, Tatjana Ganski, Konstantin Barteleit, Daniela Levy, Antonia Laß, Lucie Huber, Linda Sebbas, Celina Gleisner, Nina Wildermuth, Jana Nguyenová, Luizza Jordan, Pascale Schulte, Roberta Saldutti, Frederike Sontag, Petra Neitzel, Wim Stavginski, Axel R. Pries, Julia Schiebel, Carsten Schicker, Martin Liedtke, Julian Kickbusch

Thank you to our WHS 2025 partners

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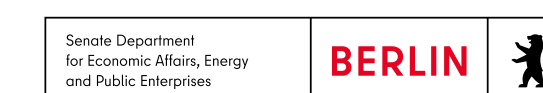
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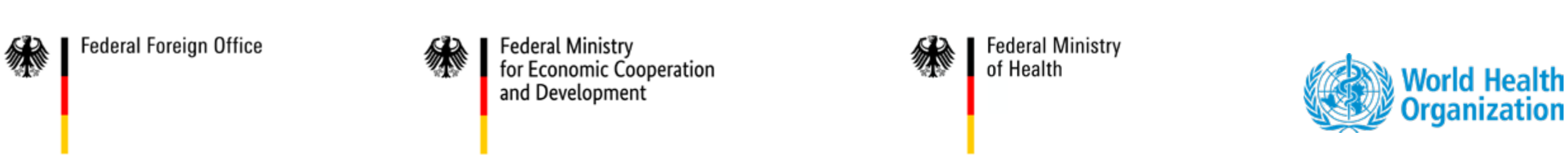
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