



NEWSLETTER 01/2026:

From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health in 2026

Dear World Health Summit Community, We begin 2026 at a crucial moment for global health. Across the world, health systems are challenged by overlapping crises, from conflict, geopolitical tensions, and economic strain to climate change and social injustice. Addressing these challenges requires more than crisis response; it requires rethinking and innovating across all levels and sectors. The World Health Summit takes this forward in its leitmotif for 2026, "From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health," entering the year with a clear focus and renewed determination. This sets out a forward-looking agenda to strengthen health systems and societies for the long term. The health challenges of our time call for a fundamental shift in thinking and innovation across all sectors and levels. Breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, new medicines, and bioscience are already shaping health worldwide but "innovating for health" goes far beyond technological breakthroughs. It includes innovation in financing, governance, leadership, regulation, partnerships, service delivery, supply chains, and workforce capacity. It also means learning faster, scaling what works responsibly, and aligning efforts across sectors to deliver impact at scale. Done well, innovation builds resilience — the ability of systems and societies to anticipate, absorb, adapt to, and transform in response to shocks. Building resilience means safeguarding essential services, strengthening preparedness, sustaining trust, and enabling systems to function amid rapidly changing realities. During the WHS Regional Meeting in Nairobi, WHS 2026 in Berlin and all year around, the World Health Summit will bring together leaders, experts, and partners to turn innovation into equitable, resilient, and future-ready health systems that reach people everywhere and in all settings.

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



In this Newsletter:

[WHS Leitmotif 2026](#)
[Registration open for WHS Regional Meeting 2026](#)
[Reflections on 2026 by WHS CEO Carsten Schicker in Economist Impact](#)
[Session Highlight: Advancing Cancer Control](#)
[News from the WHS Academic Alliance](#)
[Save the Dates](#)



WHS Leitmotif 2026

From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health

The global health landscape faces unprecedented challenges, from conflict, geopolitical tensions, and economic strain to climate change and social injustice. This year, the World Health Summit focuses on “From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health,” exploring how to turn innovation into more equitable, continuous, and future-ready systems that strengthen health and well-being over the long term.

[Find out more](#)



Registration Open for WHS Regional Meeting 2026



Registration is now open for the WHS Regional Meeting 2026 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) taking place from 27–29 April 2026. The meeting will bring together leaders, innovators, and changemakers to discuss Africa’s health priorities, advance global solutions, and explore key themes including pandemic preparedness, climate resilience, digital health, health workforce development, gender equity, and primary healthcare.

[Read more and register](#)



Reflections on 2026 by WHS CEO Carsten Schicker, published in Economist Impact

In a new editorial, published in Economist Impact, Carsten Schicker, CEO of the World Health Summit, looks ahead to the year 2026 and identifies five major shifts set to shape the global health landscape. From the restructuring of global governance under UN80 and the future of pandemic preparedness, to changing power dynamics, new models of public-private collaboration, and growing pressure on scientific integrity, the piece outlines the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



[Read the editorial](#)



Session Highlight: Advancing Cancer Control



[Watch the session](#)

With the upcoming World Cancer Day on February 4 and the Cervical Cancer Prevention Week underway, we are spotlighting on cancer prevention and control. As cancer cases continue to rise globally, strengthening prevention, early detection, and access to innovation is more urgent than ever. Watch the session "Advancing Cancer Control & Sustaining Innovation in the NCD Era – From Plans to Action" from WHS 2025 to explore how National Cancer Control Plans can be translated into action.



News from the WHS Academic Alliance

Welcome to two new WHS Academic Alliance members



We are pleased to welcome United Nations University – International Institute for Global Health and Peking University Institute for Global Health and Development to the WHS Academic Alliance, further strengthening our global network of academic institutions.

[Find out more](#)



Save the Dates

Looking ahead, the WHS invites you to the annual World Health Summit in Berlin, as well as to the Regional Meeting in 2026 in Nairobi, followed by Hong Kong in 2027 and Rio de Janeiro in 2028.

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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