

Previous prize winners of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion



Year	Decision of the Executive Board	About the Laureate's achievements
2024	Decision EB154(22) : The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion Selection Panel, awarded the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 jointly to Professor Bontle Mbongwe of Botswana and to the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) of India	<p>Professor Bontle Mbongwe (Botswana)</p> <p>Professor Bontle Mbongwe is Associate Professor of Environmental Health and Head of the School of Public Health at the University of Botswana. In addition to her academic work, Professor Mbongwe is a renowned public health advocate and a passionate tobacco control activist. Through country-level consultations that she initiated during the negotiation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, she contributed to efforts to amend Botswana's Control of Smoking Act, 1992, in 2004. Improvements include the restriction of smoking in public places to protect children, pregnant women and workers, raising the minimum-age restrictions for selling tobacco products, prohibiting their sale to persons under 18 years (previously it was under 16 years), and banning tobacco advertising and promotion. In 2008, Professor Mbongwe's research contributed to influencing government policies away from the use of mercury-containing devices in health care facilities towards mercury-free alternatives. In 2014, she successfully advocated for the introduction of a 30% tobacco levy in Botswana. She then contributed to efforts towards the country's Tobacco Control Act, 2021, which was compliant with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Her relentless work on this helped to lead to the raising of the minimum-age restriction for selling tobacco products, prohibiting their sale to persons under 21 years, banning the sale of single sticks of cigarettes as well as requiring tobacco products to be sold by licensed persons only. Moreover, she successfully advocated for a ban on the sale of tobacco products during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through her efforts in founding the first civil society Anti-Tobacco Network in Botswana, she has played an important role in building a network of media and nongovernmental organizations committed to tobacco control in her home country and beyond. Her research on smoking among young people has informed the development of initiatives such as "SKY Girls BW" and the "Most Teens Don't Smoke" campaigns. Professor Mbongwe was awarded a World No Tobacco Day 2021 award and a WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award in 2021 for her distinctive leadership in anti-smoking.</p> <p>The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) (India)</p> <p>The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bangalore, India, plays an important role in promoting mental health by delivering clinical care, carrying out training and research as well as involving the communities it serves. It also collaborates with central and state governments in framing, informing and implementing national policies and strategies such as the National Mental Health Policy (2014), the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, and the National Suicide Prevention Strategy (2022). NIMHANS involves young people as change agents within district youth-empowerment centres in order to bridge the gap between young people, their</p>

Previous prize winners of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion



		<p>families and an ever-changing society (reaching about 6 million young people). In addition, it is engaged in SAMVAD, a national initiative providing integrated resources for child protection, mental health and psychosocial care (reaching more than 3 million people). Other major programmes led by NIMHANS encompass urban mental health and integrating mental health issues arising out of climate change into primary mental health care delivery. Furthermore, NIMHANS plays a crucial role in training and accrediting community volunteers to enable them to deliver mental health first aid: 18 000 gatekeepers have been trained to facilitate the early identification of suicide risk and to intervene. Other programmes include integrating training on and supervision of psychosocial and mental health care through One Stop Centres to support women facing violence. NIMHANS has initiated numerous digital technology initiatives, including: the Digital Academy, whose courses have been followed by 2500 health care providers; the Tele-SWABHIMAN programme, which enhances maternal nutrition and improves the mental health of pregnant women and postpartum mothers; and smartphone applications for mental health. A national helpline for psychosocial support and mental health services was launched during the first wave of COVID-19 (in which more than 600 000 calls were received). NIMHANS also established in 2022 the National Tele Mental Health Programme to provide equitable, affordable and high-quality mental health care across all Indian States.</p> <p>Report of the Selection Panels (EB154/42)</p> <p>News release</p>
2023	<p>Decision EB152(26): The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion Selection Panel, awarded the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2023 to Dr Mariam Athbi Al Jalahma from Bahrain for her significant contribution to health promotion.</p>	<p>Dr Mariam Athbi Al Jalahma (Bahrain)</p> <p>Dr Mariam Athbi Al Jalahma is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Regulatory Authority of Bahrain and has held various leadership positions in government and academic institutions in her country. Dr Al Jalahma has played a major role in the development of the National Health Plan, the Primary Healthcare Strategy, the Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Health, the National Plan for Childhood and the National Plan for the Empowerment of Women in Bahrain. In addition, as Assistant Undersecretary for Primary Care and Public Health, she led the development of the Strategy of National Health Regulatory Authority and reviewed and implemented Bahrain's antismoking policies. Dr Al Jalahma has also implemented a national accreditation system for health institutions in Bahrain, which received a government best practice award. As Chief Executive Officer, she led the National Health Regulatory Authority's initiative towards digital transformation, to enable the Authority to become a Digital Health Regulator Model in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Her initiatives to increase the Authority's revenue and efficiency – including securing an increase in fees to be paid to the Authority, outsourcing verification of health practitioners' certificates and contracting the test administration industry to conduct examinations for health professionals – have helped to rationalize spending and encourage excellence in the medical sector. During her membership of the Shura Council, remarkable results were achieved in the area of health promotion, including implementation of a law on premarital screening, a campaign for early detection of heart disease in the workplace and an early screening clinic</p>

Previous prize winners of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion



		<p>for chronic diseases and breast cancer in primary care centres. She has also demonstrated her deep commitment to health promotion by engaging in awareness-raising activities on radio and television shows aired across all countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. In addition, when a member of the Executive Body of the Council of Health Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, she contributed to the development of health plans, such as combating chronic diseases, antismoking and adolescent health, covering all countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.</p> <p>Report of the Selection Panels: EB152/44</p> <p>News release</p>
2022	<p>Decision EB150(22): The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion Selection Panel, awarded the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2022 to Dr Wu Zunyou from China for his achievements in health promotion in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention.</p>	<p>Dr Wu Zunyou (China)</p> <p>Dr Wu is the Chief Epidemiologist of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. His achievements in health promotion throughout a 30-year career in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention are outstanding. Dr Wu has designed innovative evidence-based policies targeting each group that is most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. He was a pioneer in designing, piloting and scaling up outreach programmes to increase condom use among sex workers, as well as testing for sexually transmitted infections and setting up HIV-awareness information campaigns, reaching approximately 800 000 female sex workers. He established China's first needle-exchange programme and its first large-scale opioid replacement treatment for 40 000 and 700 000 drug users, respectively. The impact of these measures has been significant: today, drug users represent 1% of all HIV infections in China, while in 2004, they represented half. Additionally, Dr Wu has introduced universal testing and antiretroviral therapy among HIV-infected men who have sex with men. These measures have helped to decrease the number of new HIV infections in 20 cities in China where infections had been rising steeply. Dr Wu's work has resulted in HIV testing becoming a crucial prevention tool among all key groups, with about 300 million tests having been carried out in China in 2020. Dr Wu's recommendations on outreach interventions for several vulnerable groups have become national policy. His work has been recognized in China and globally for his profound dedication, determination, accomplishments and innovation. Building on his vast experience and credibility as a leading science communicator, Dr Wu has leveraged technology and the media to become the most influential coronavirus disease (COVID-19) health promotion specialist of his country, reaching an estimated 1.4 billion people in China and beyond.</p> <p>Report of the Selection Panels: EB150/44</p> <p>News release</p>
2021	<p>Decision EB148(17): The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Nelson Mandela</p>	<p>The Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth) (Thailand)</p> <p>The Thai Health Promotion Foundation has been instrumental in advancing health promotion in Thailand and globally over the past 20 years. Pursuant to the Thai Health Promotion Foundation Act (2001), the objectives of the</p>

Previous prize winners of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion



	<p>Award Selection Panel,¹ decided to award the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2021 to the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth), Thailand, for its significant contribution to health promotion.</p>	<p>Foundation include: to promote health among Thai people of all ages in accordance with national health policy; to reduce the consumption of alcoholic beverages and tobacco; to develop community capacity in health promotion; and to carry out studies and research and develop knowledge on health promotion. The Foundation uses its innovative and sustainable funds to strategically support over 2000 health promotion programmes and projects per year across 15 “plans” or strategic priority areas. These include issue-related initiatives, such as tobacco and alcohol control, road safety and disaster management, healthy diet and the promotion of physical activity. The Foundation supports WHO’s healthy settings approach, such as health promotion in communities, workplaces, schools and families. It also supports initiatives targeted at vulnerable populations, and collaboration between the health sector and other sectors that have a huge impact on health. The achievements of these initiatives are wide ranging, including: the introduction of many pro-health initiatives and laws, including the Thailand Alcohol Control Act (2008) and the establishment of a ThaiHealth happy workplace model, which has now been adopted in over 2000 public and private organizations; shifting social norms towards more inclusive principles in which their initiatives helped over 5000 people with disabilities secure employment in 2017–2020; and leading in promoting an effective model for innovative health financing, which has seen over 20 000 multisectoral partners joining the Foundation in strategic action for health promotion.</p> <p>Report of the Selection Panels: EB148/43 News release</p>
2020	<p>Decision EB146/29: The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Nelson Mandela Award Selection Panel, decided to award the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2020 jointly to the following two laureates, for their significant contributions to health promotion: the Equi-Sastipen Roma Network of Spain, and Professor Dame Sally Davies from</p>	<p>The Equi-Sastipen-Roma Network (Spain)</p> <p>The Equi-Sastipen-Roma Network comprises 21 Sinti and Roma associations that liaise with various governmental agencies in Spain with the objective of developing health promotion interventions, fostering social inclusion and preserving Roma identity. The Network serves as a useful tool to facilitate access to health and social services and to promote health equity in the Roma population. Other areas of work include training in intercultural competence for health professionals (including health care and social workers) to improve practice and increase awareness of the Roma population. In addition, the Network aims at increasing awareness about health issues that affect the Roma population and to address these issues through cooperative activities that improve the trust between Roma communities and health administrations and services. The participants of the Network exchange experiences and discuss their public health approaches and their shared vision for health.</p> <p>Professor Dame Sally Davies (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)</p> <p>Professor Dame Sally Davies has until recently been the Chief Medical Officer of the United Kingdom and a key advocate for health promotion in the United Kingdom and globally. Dame Sally’s impact on health promotion has been profound. At the heart of her efforts lies a desire to improve the quality of the public’s health regardless of their</p>

Previous prize winners of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion



	the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	<p>financial means or location, tackling the root causes of illness through education, research and preventive action. She was pivotal in launching noncommunicable disease risk prevention strategies, and legal and fiscal measures. These include a nationwide sugar levy, standardized tobacco packaging, a smoking ban in cars with children as well as cross-governmental programmes to ensure access to sports and exercise facilities. She is a global leader in combating antimicrobial resistance. At the request of the United Nations Secretary General, she co-convened the United Nations Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and has since been providing solutions and supporting reform, governance and accountability on a global scale</p> <p>Report of the Selection Panels: EB146/44</p> <p>News release</p>
--	---	--