

Previous prize winners of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion



Year	Decision of the Executive Board	About the Laureate's achievements
2023	Decision EB152(26) : The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion Selection Panel,1 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>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 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 News release</p>
2022	Decision EB150(22) : The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion Selection Panel, awarded	<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</p>

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	<p>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>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>
<p>2021</p>	<p>Decision EB148(17): The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Nelson Mandela 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>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 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>
<p>2020</p>	<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 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>The Equi-Sastipen-Rroma Network (Spain)</p> <p>The Equi-Sastipen-Rroma 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 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-convoked 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 News release</p>