Background information

Public Health Prizes and Awards
About the Public Health Prizes and Awards: history and founders*

- **1980**
  - Sasakawa Health Prize
    - Founded by Mr Ryoichi Sasakawa, Chairman of the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation and President of the Sasakawa Health Foundation, Japan

- **1984**
  - Ihsan Doğramaci Family Health Foundation Prize
    - Founded by Professor Ihsan Doğramaci, Türkiye

- **1993**
  - United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize
    - Founded by the Government of the United Arab Emirates

- **2004**
  - The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation’s His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion†
    - Founded by the Government of the State of Kuwait

- **2008**
  - Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health
    - Founded by the Government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Fund)

- **2019**
  - Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion
    - Founded by the Ministers of Health of Member States of the African Region

* List of active prizes and awards. For further information, please consult [WHO | Public health prizes and awards](https://www.who.int/health-topics/public-health-prizes-and-awards#interactive_timeline).
† The State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion until 2015.
About the Public Health Prizes and Awards: focus and statutes

Sasakawa Health Prize
Statutes and Guidelines, including selection criteria and composition of the Selection Panel

Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion
Statutes, including composition of the Selection Panel

United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize
Statutes and Guidelines, including selection criteria and composition of the Selection Panel

The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation's His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion
Statutes and Guidelines, including selection criteria and composition of the Selection Panel

Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize
Statutes, including composition of the Selection Panel

Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health
Statutes and Guidelines, including selection criteria and composition of the Selection Panel

*Only awarded every 2 years.
Prizes awarded in 2023

The National Center for Chronic and Noncommunicable Disease Control and Prevention (China)
An evidence-based innovative model of health promotion and care for older people designed to improve health literacy of patients.

Dr Abla Mehio Sibai (Lebanon)
Who designed a holistic approach to healthy ageing, and developed the national strategy for older persons in Lebanon (2020–2030)
Laureates of the 2023 The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation’s His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion

Dr Jorge Francisco Meneses (Guatemala)
Who improved patient care in hospitals through a community–centered approach to health and developed the first national strategy of integrated health services in Central America.
Laureate of the 2023 Dr Jack E..Global Award for Public Health

Dr Mariam Athbi Al Jalalma (Bahrain)
A lifelong commitment to leadership in health promotion, and improving standards for primary health care.
Laureate of the 2023 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion

The Nick Simons Institute (Nepal)
A community organisation equipping hospitals and training a new generation of flexible health workers in rural areas.

Professor Vichai Tienthavorn (Thailand)
Who has designed innovative approaches to tackling the rising burdens of thalassemia, diabetes, and hypertension.
Laureates of the 2023 Sasakawa Health Prize

Dr Maria Asuncion Silvestre (The Philippines)
Who has designed a pioneering effort to improve newborn health across the Western Pacific Region and bridge the equity gap.
Laureate of the 2023 United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize
About the candidatures: regional and annual distribution 2017-2023

**NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY REGION***

- **EMRO** = 58 / 22%
- **AFRO** = 28 / 10%
- **AMRO** = 55 / 21%
- **SEARO** = 32 / 12%
- **WPRO** = 44 / 16%

**NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY YEAR***

- 2017 = 38
- 2018 = 39
- 2019 = 28
- 2020 = 52
- 2021 = 32
- 2022 = 28
- 2023 = 53

36% of WHO Member States have submitted candidatures for any award since 2017. Applications received from 20 Member States in 2023 (average annual level since 2017).

2023 applications have exceeded the 2019-20 level.

*This corresponds to the full set of applications received every year. Applications are screened for compliance, and a small number of applications may not be deemed compliant.*
The awards ceremony

Award ceremony held during the Plenary meeting of the World Health Assembly in May.

Recognition by the President of the World Health Assembly, the WHO Director-General and a Foundation Representative. Laureates and Foundation Representatives pronounce a speech.

Laureates receive recognitions, such as a certificate, a plaque or statuette and/or an honorarium of an amount to be confirmed by the relevant selection panel.

WHO news story and amplification by national health administrations.
The awards: showcasing WHO Member States successes

Administered by the Director-General of WHO on behalf of their prestigious founders
showcasing scientific and medical excellence, and diversity of approaches in Member States across every region of the world
Recognizing lifelong career achievements and pioneering initiatives of national experts
Inspiring the newer generations
May include seed funding to stimulate and scale up their work
Recognizing scientists and medical doctors, institutions, and community workers, and how they succeed in their unique regional context

“These awardees embody lifelong dedication, relentless advocacy, a commitment to equity, and selfless service of humanity”.

- WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, May 2019, World Health Assembly.
The awards ceremony

The laureates’ public health achievements are recognized at an awards ceremony held as part of the Plenary meeting of the World Health Assembly every year in May. Laureates receive the following recognitions:

- **Sasakawa Health Prize**
  - A statuette and an amount up to US$ 40,000*

- **Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion**
  - A plaque

- **United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize**
  - A certificate of award, a plaque from the Founder, and an amount up to US$ 40,000*

- **Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health**
  - A plaque from the Founder and an amount up to US$ 100,000*

- **The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation’s His Highness Sheik Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion**
  - A certificate of award, a plaque and an amount up to US$ 40,000*

- **Ilhan Doğramaci Family Health Foundation Prize**
  - A gold-plated silver medal, a certificate and an honorarium*

*To be determined by the relevant Selection Panel.*
Timeline for Prizes and Awards administered by the WHO Director-General

**MARCH-MAY**
Finalization of the composition of the Selection Panels

**JULY-AUGUST**
Dispatch of Circular Letter inviting national health administrations of WHO Member States’ governments to propose candidatures

**EARLY NOVEMBER**
Deadline for submitting candidatures

**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**
Screening of candidatures for compliance

**JANUARY-FEBRUARY**
Selection Panels proposals and decision by the Executive Board on the laureates

**MAY**
Presentation of the Prizes and Awards to the laureates during the World Health Assembly

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confirmation of the Selection Panels → The application process → The selection process → The awards ceremony
Procedure for submitting candidates for the prizes and award in 2024

01. WHO Member States submit nominations for candidates by email to foundationprizes@who.int by the timeline.

02. The candidature must include:
   a transmittal letter or Note Verbale; the candidature form(s) in English, French or Spanish; both documents must be signed and stamped by the submitting national health authority; and adequate justification and documentation should be enclosed.

03. Each national health administration can nominate only one candidate per award.

04. Candidates not selected in past years can be nominated again.

05. Current or former WHO staff member and current members of the Executive Board are ineligible to receive such prizes and award.

06. Former laureates of a Prize may put forward the name of a candidate for that same Prize.

The candidature forms for each prize and award are available on the Governance website at apps.who.int/gb/awards. Queries can be sent to foundationprizes@who.int
Background information about the prizes and award

https://apps.who.int/gb/awards/

Queries: foundationprizes@who.int