

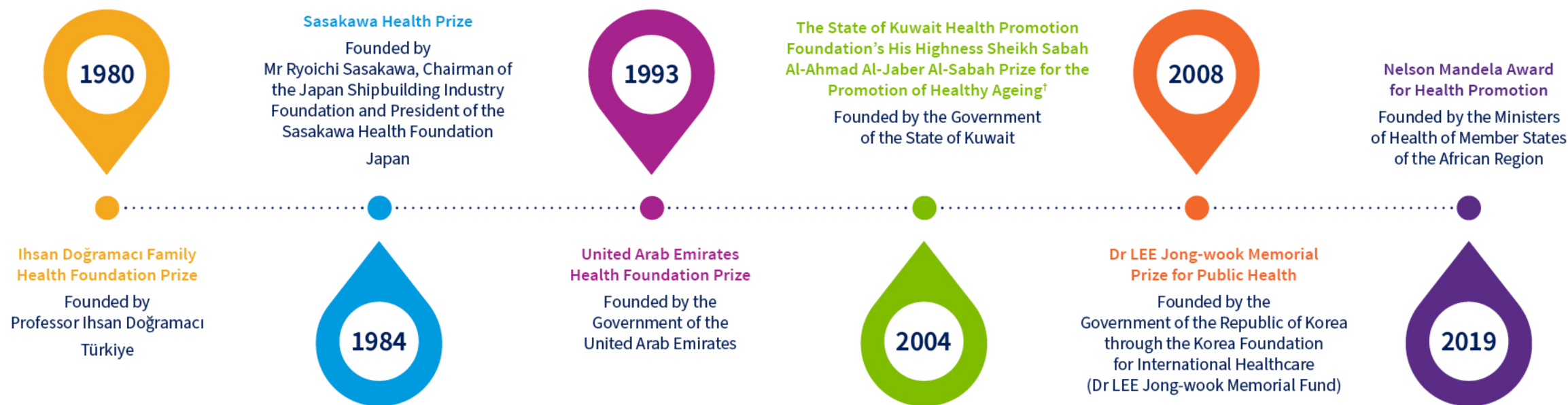


Background information

Public Health Prizes and Awards

Promote **health** | Keep the world **safe** | Serve the **vulnerable**

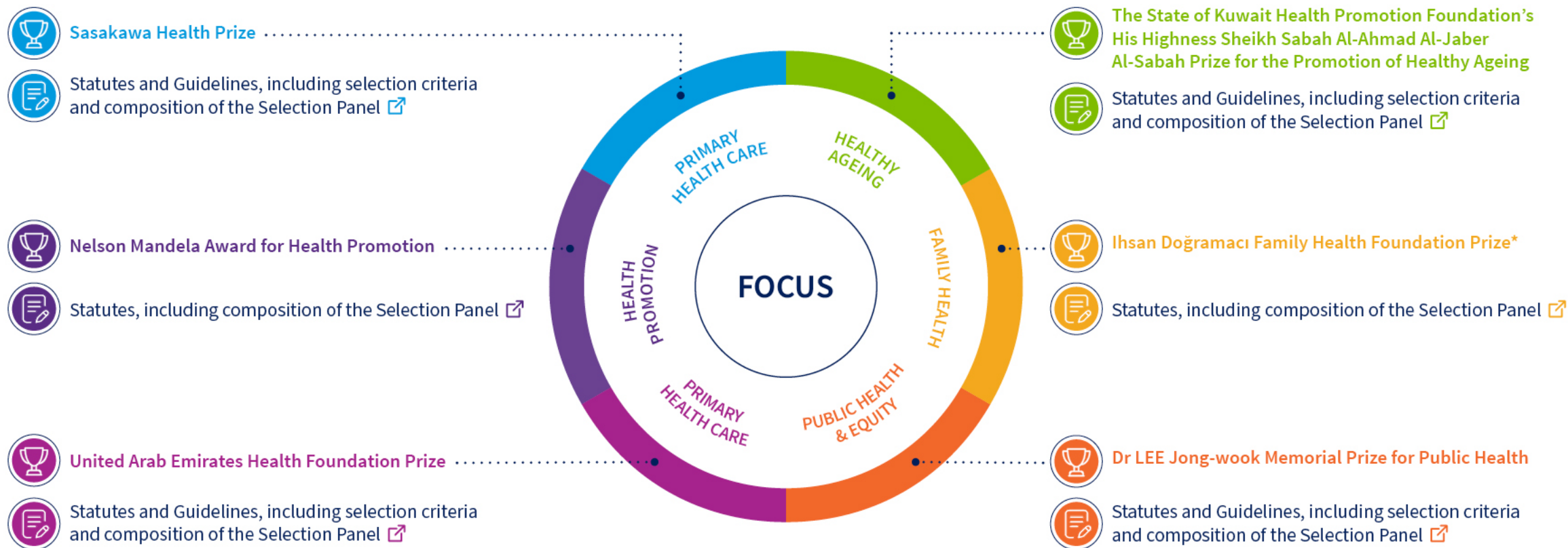
About the Public Health Prizes and Awards: history and founders*



* List of active prizes and awards. For further information, please consult [WHO | Public health prizes and awards](#).

† The State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion until 2015.

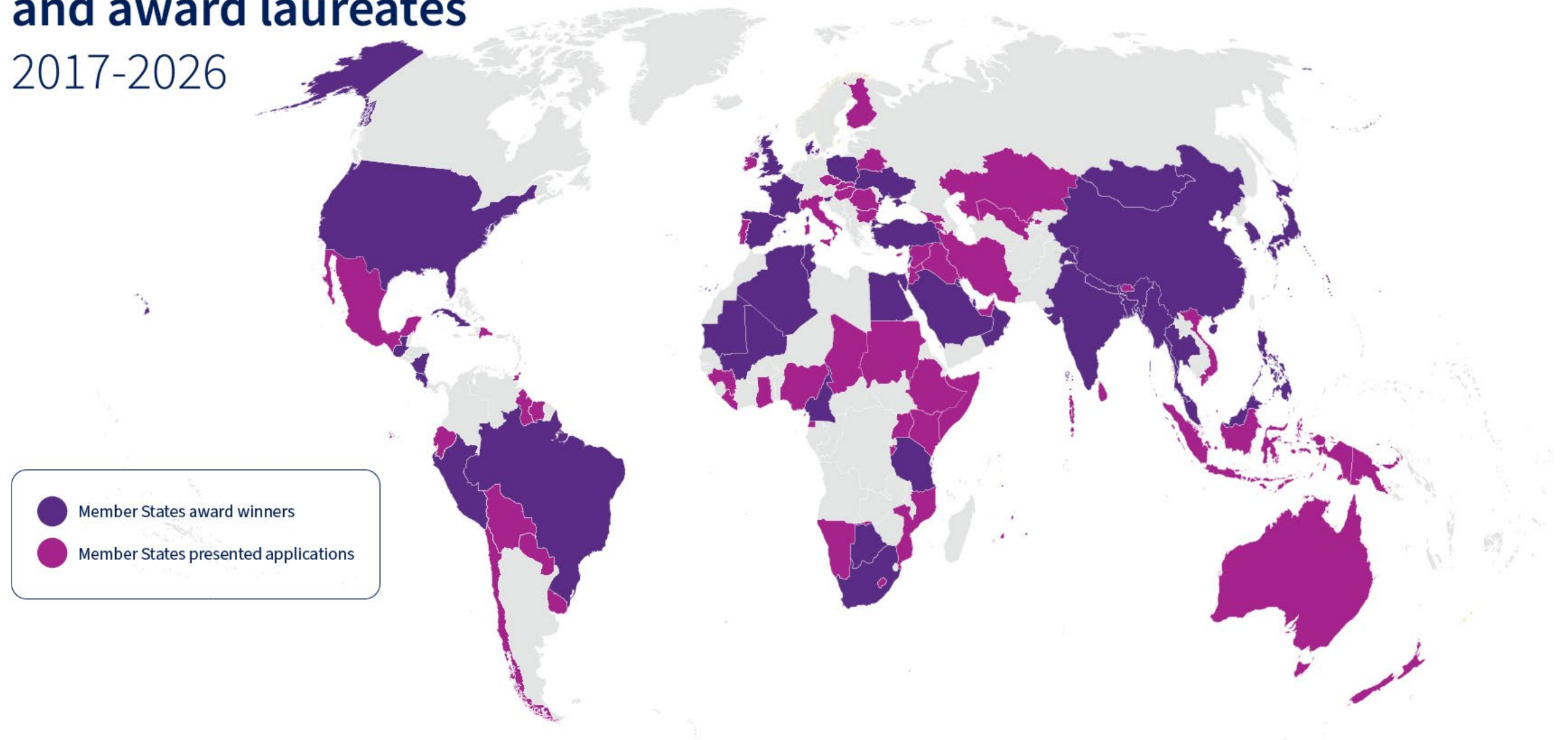
About the Public Health Prizes and Awards: focus and statutes



*Only awarded every 2 years.

Member States submitting applications and award laureates

2017-2026



About the candidatures: regional and annual distribution 2017-2026

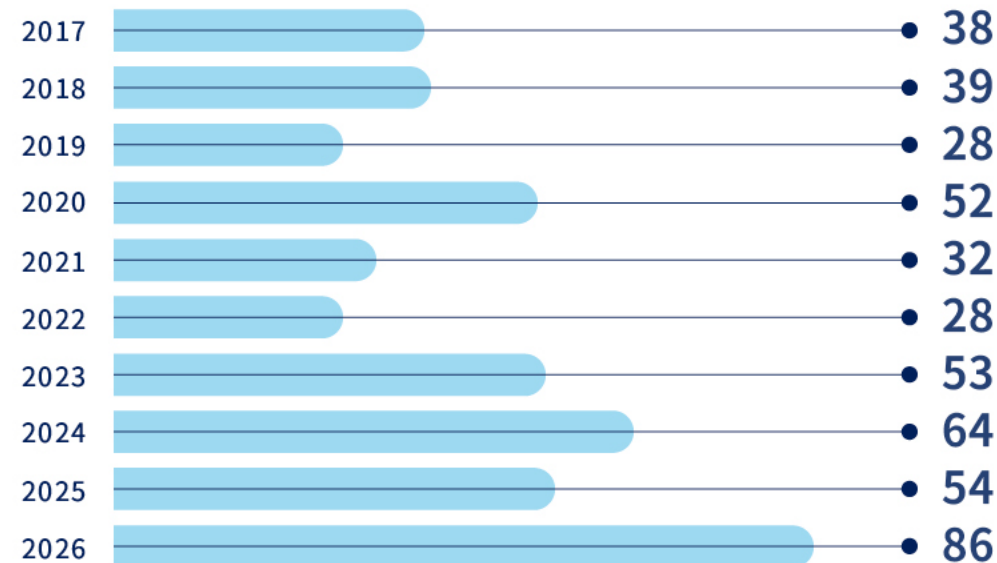


PROPORTION OF APPLICATIONS BY REGION*



50% of WHO Member States have submitted candidatures for any award since 2017.
Applications were received from more than **40** Member States in 2026, doubling the previous level.

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS PER YEAR*



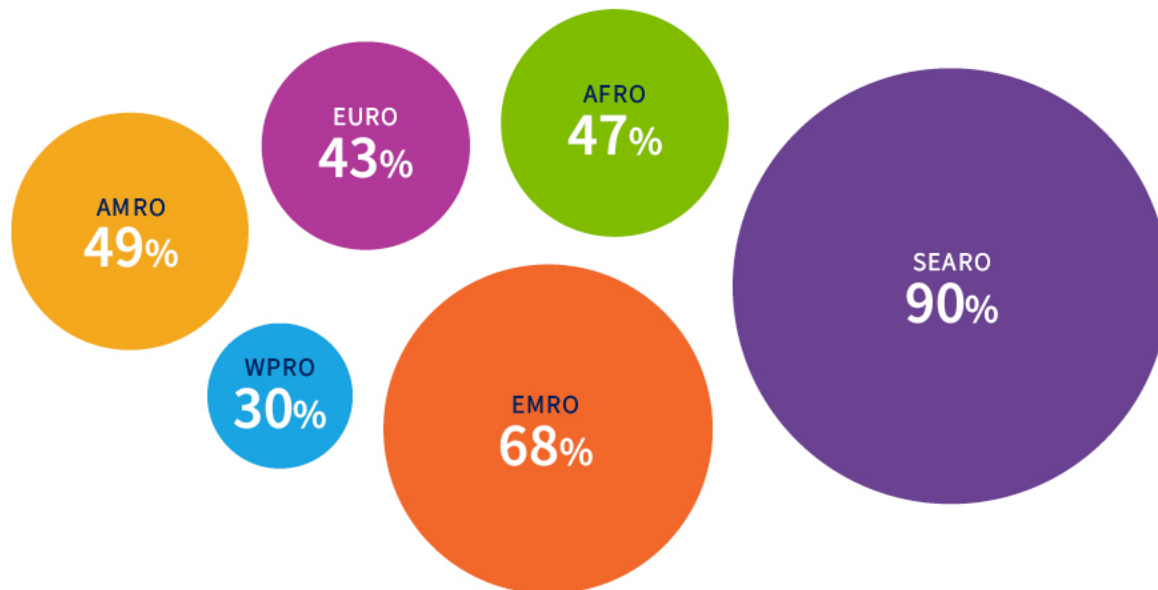
2026 applications have **doubled** the past average level.

*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.

About the candidatures: regional and annual distribution 2017-2026



PROPORTION OF MEMBER STATES APPLYING WITHIN EACH REGION*



ANNUAL APPLICATIONS BY MEMBER STATES



*MS applying. The rest of the camembert (up to 100%) represents MS not applying.

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



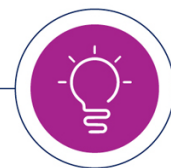
Administered by the
Director-General of
WHO on behalf of their
prestigious founders



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

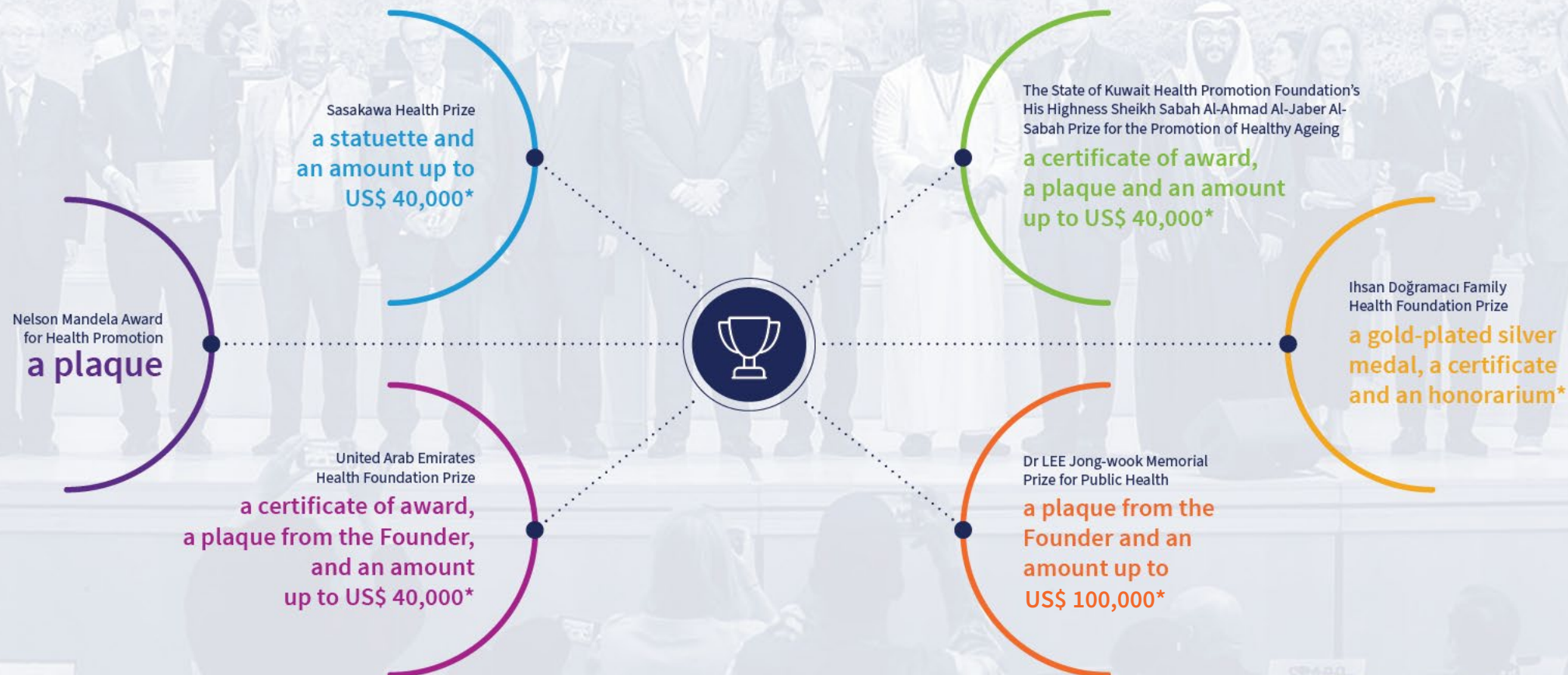
“These awardees embody lifelong dedication, relentless advocacy, a commitment to equity, and selfless service of humanity”.

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

The awards ceremony

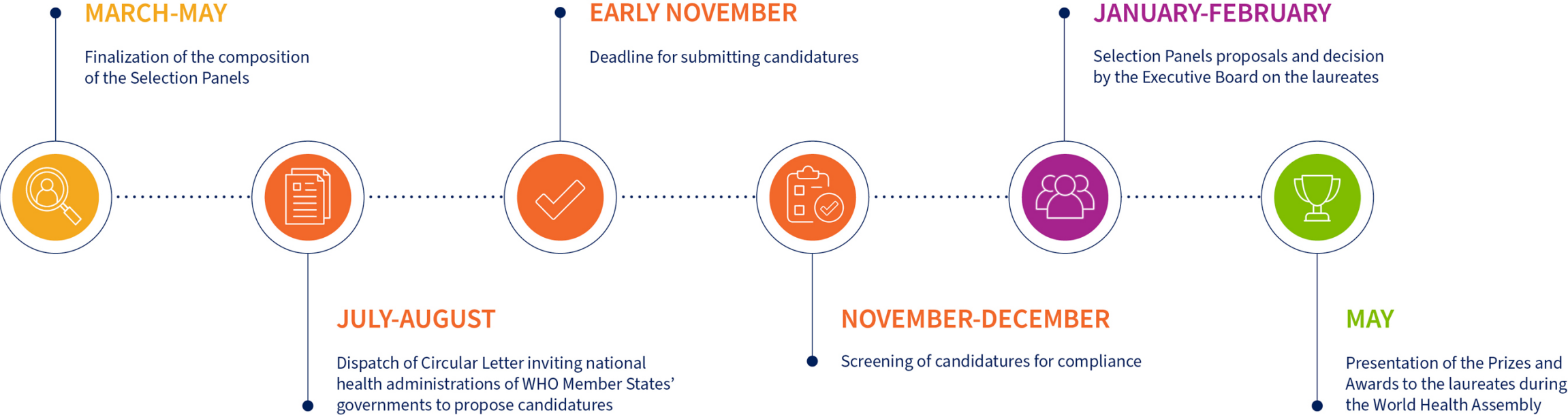


The laureates' public health achievements are recognized at an awards ceremony held as part of the Plenary meeting of the World Health Assembly every year in May. Laureates receive the following recognitions:



* To be determined by the relevant Selection Panel.

Timeline for Prizes and Awards administered by the WHO Director-General



Confirmation of the Selection Panels → The application process → The selection process → The awards ceremony →

Procedure for submitting candidates for the prizes and award



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 signed and stamped by the submitting national health authority; a transmittal letter or Note Verbale signed and stamped by the same authority or the Permanent Mission in Geneva; and adequate documentation 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.



Background information about the prizes and award

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

Queries: foundationprizes@who.int