

## SIDE EVENT DURING THE 78<sup>TH</sup> WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

### Digital health transformation in the global NCD response – a call for unified approaches and scaled investment

Co-hosted by International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and World Diabetes Foundation (WDF)

Monday 19 May 18:00-20:00 CEST

Red Cross Museum

Avenue de la Paix 17, Geneva

Opening remarks	
18:00-18:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome by moderators: Prof Peter Schwarz, IDF President, and Mr Bent Lautrup-Nielsen, WDF Head of Global Advocacy.</li> <li>Opening remarks by Prof Peter Schwarz.</li> </ul>
Panel 1 – Digital health transformation in the global NCD response 20' keynote interventions (7' per speaker) followed by 15' Q&A	
18:05-18:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Farshad Farzadfar, Scientist, World Health Organization.</li> <li>Mr Michael Frost, Senior Advisor, Health Information Systems Programme (HISP), University of Oslo.</li> <li>Dr Jackie Maalouf, IDF Vice-President and President of DiaLeb.</li> </ul>
Lived experience perspective: the importance of digital solutions to improve the lives of people living with diabetes and other NCDs	
18:40-18:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Nupur Lalvani, IDF Blue Circle Voice member from India and founder of Blue Circle Foundation</li> </ul>
Panel 2 – Digital health solutions in practice: the case for scaling up 25' keynote interventions (5' per speaker) followed by 15' Q&A	
18:45-19:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Jacklynne Ogutu, WDF Head of Digital Health Solutions.</li> <li>Dr Elizabeth Onyango, Head of NCD Prevention and Control Unit, Kenya Ministry of Health</li> <li>Dr Omary Ubuguyu, Assistant Director, Non-communicable Diseases, Tanzania Ministry of Health</li> <li>Dr Champika Wickramasinghe, Deputy Director General MoH NCD Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>
Reflections and plenary debate	
19:25-19:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Derrick Muneene, Unit Head of Capacity Building and Partnerships, Digital Health and Innovation Department, WHO</li> </ul>
Closing remarks	
19:40-19:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Sanne Frost Helt, Senior Director Policy and Partnerships, WDF.</li> </ul>



## Dr Farshad Farzadfar

Dr. Farshad Farzadfar is a Professor of Global Health and Population and a Scientist at the WHO, specialising in NCDs and health metrics. He has provided technical leadership to national governments in developing NCD surveillance systems, including WHO monitoring guidance and digital health platforms for diabetes prevention and management.

He has contributed to global initiatives to advance data-driven NCD strategies, particularly in LMICs.

In Iran, he has served as principal investigator of national health surveys, informing key policy reforms. He has authored over 470 peer-reviewed publications, with a focus on diabetes and other NCDs, and has played a leading role in mentoring health professionals and advancing research on global NCD control and prevention. Dr. Farzadfar holds a Doctor of Science (ScD) in Global Health and Population from Harvard University and an MD degree from Tehrn University of Medical Sciences.



## Michael Frost

Mike is a Senior Advisor at the HISP Centre, University of Oslo, as a member of the core team behind DHIS2—the health information system of record for ministries of health in over 80 LMICs.

Mike has supported the rollout of health information systems in more than a dozen countries across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. From 2016 to 2024, he served as Product Manager for DHIS2 Tracker.

Prior to that, he led technology implementation for several EU-funded digital health research trials at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and founded the Center for mHealth at John Snow, Inc. in Washington DC.

His current focus is on building and strengthening global partnerships in digital health.



## **Sanne Frost Helt**

Sanne Frost Helt is Senior Director for Policy, Programme and Partnerships at the World Diabetes Foundation. Sanne has more than 20 years' experience in international development cooperation and partnerships on a range of issues related to health, including reproductive, maternal and child health, communicable and NCDs, and pandemic response.

Her experience spans Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark, the UN system, and the private sector. Before joining the World Diabetes Foundation, Sanne was Denmark's representative to the Board of the World Bank Group. Prior to that, she was Chief Advisor for Global Health at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark at which time she also served as co-Chair of the WHO/Global Coordinating Mechanism on NCDs Working Group on inclusion of NCDs in other programmatic areas.



## **Ms Nupur Lalvani**

Nupur Lalvani is the Founder Director of the Blue Circle Diabetes Foundation and IDF Blue Circle Voice member

Founder at India's largest patient-led diabetes non profit organization, she is an advocate for Universal Health Coverage and NCDs.

She is also a certified Diabetes Educator, patient advocate living with type 1 diabetes since 29 years, public speaker, runner and experienced management professional.



## Jackie Kassouf Maalouf, PhD

Dr. Jackie Maalouf is the Vice President and Global Board Member of the International Diabetes Federation and the Founder of Dialeb, Lebanon's leading diabetes organization, established in 2010 with her daughter Sylvie, who has type 1 diabetes.

With 15 years of experience in diabetes awareness and a certified diabetes educator, she advocates for individuals living with diabetes and non-communicable diseases through educational talks worldwide. Dr. Maalouf leads the sustainability committee for the IDF and heads the youth committee under IDF-MENA. She is also a consultant for the WHO and an educator at AUB and AUCE. Fluent in four languages, she champions global collaboration and community empowerment, receiving multiple awards for her work in diabetes, nutrition, and public health.



## Bent Lautrup-Nielsen

Bent Lautrup-Nielsen is Head of Global Advocacy at World Diabetes Foundation (WDF). Over the past decade he has developed some of WDF's largest national NCD response partnerships with governments in particular in East Africa and the Middle East.

He leads WDF's global collaboration with the WHO, NCD Alliance, Africa CDC and other international agencies and plans and attends high-level policy events and international meetings on diabetes and other NCDs. More recent focus areas of his work include NCDs and intersections and dynamics towards multisectoral frameworks, development financing, humanitarian settings, and integrated primary care. Prior to joining WDF he was based in East Africa with the UN system and involved with humanitarian operations.



## Dr Derrick Muneene

Dr Derrick Muneene is the Unit Head of Capacity Building and Partnerships of the Digital Health and Innovation Department at the WHO Headquarters. He has 25 years of progressive experience in global digital health, global public health informatics, digital health governance & literacy and digital health capacity building.

He holds a PhD and an MSc in Public Health, an MSc in Computer Science along with various project management certifications such as PRINCE2 and project+. Previously, he served as the regional mHealth and eHealth advisor for the WHO Regional Office for Africa, where he supported 47 African countries with the adoption of eHealth strategies and eHealth solutions. Before this, he served with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as acting branch chief for Health Informatics and Health Systems Analysts / Health Applications Manager.



## Ms Jacklynne Ogutu

Head of Digital health solutions at the World Diabetes Foundation, Jacklynne Ogutu leads the organisation's efforts in digital transformation for health systems in LMICs.

With over fifteen years of healthcare experience, Jacklynne has worked in multiple geographies in both low- and high-income countries leading multi-stakeholder projects, including design, development and deployment of digital health systems and digital therapeutics solutions. She is an advocate for human-centered innovations that address challenges faced by people living with chronic illnesses in low resource settings.



## Dr Elizabeth Onyango

Dr. Elizabeth A Onyango is a seasoned Public Health Specialist with over 25 years of experience in Kenya's Ministry of Health. She currently serves at the national level as the Head of the NCD Prevention and Control Section at the Ministry of Health.

A passionate advocate for health system strengthening, she is committed to providing authentic leadership and enhancing access to integrated NCD services at all levels including primary health care facilities.

She is a Fellow of WomenLift Health, an organization whose vision is to see diverse, accomplished leaders transform global health outcomes. She is currently playing a key role in several NCD projects and initiatives, including the World Diabetes Foundation Project, Afya Dhabiti, PEN PLUS, PEN-HIV, Changing Diabetes in Children (CDiC), iCARE, and AMGEN NCD projects. Her hobbies include reading, cooking and shopping.



## Prof Peter Schwarz

Prof Schwarz specialises in the prevention and care of diabetes and is a research group leader at the Paul Langerhans Institute Dresden (PLID), a partner site of the German Center for Diabetes Research (DZD).

His research covers molecular and clinical mechanisms to treat and prevent type 2 diabetes. He is also developing and evaluating digital tools such as mobile smartphone applications targeting the common lifestyle-associated risk factors of type 2 diabetes.



## Dr Omary Ubuguyu

Dr. Omary Ubuguyu is the Assistant Director of NCDs at the Ministry of Health in Tanzania, bringing over 5 years of experience in this role. He has previously held positions as the Director of Curative Services and Program Manager for the National NCD Prevention and Control Program.

With 10 years of clinical experience and certification as an addiction counselor, he specializes in behavioural change techniques. He also serves as an honorary lecturer at Muhimbili University and the University of Dodoma, contributing to teaching and research.

Dr. Ubuguyu leads initiatives to reform NCD prevention and control, focusing on comprehensive health strategies. He holds a psychiatry degree, a Public Health certificate from St. Radboud University, and a Leadership certificate from Uongozi Institute. He is a Certified Level II trainer in addiction counseling.



## Dr Champika Wickramasinghe

Dr. Shiranee Champika Wickramasinghe is a public health specialist holding the post of Deputy Director General NCDs.

Dr. Wickramasinghe has experience in working at peripheral and ministry level in Sri Lanka. She has also worked in the curative and public health sectors.

Currently she is involved in the Resolve to Save Lives funded project on protocol based management of hypertension and in the diabetes compass project which is piloting a new screening protocol for diabetes and hypertension with a digital solution.