



World Federation for Mental Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The World Federation for Mental Health calls on all leaders in the mental health community to join a global movement to press for the inclusion of mental health, with specific targets, in the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The World Federation for Mental Health supports the #FundaMentalSDG initiative to advocate adding clear, measurable mental health targets to the United Nations' Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, which are about to be negotiated by the UN member states following the UN High-level Stocktaking Event on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in New York on 11-12 September 2014.

The initiative follows the release of a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) last week of a report on *Preventing Suicide, A Global Imperative*, at a meeting of mental health leaders in Geneva, Switzerland, just a year after WHO launched implementation discussions for the Mental Health Action Plan adopted by its 66th World Health Assembly.

According to the new report by WHO, suicide is preventable and mental health disorders are treatable, and yet because they are not addressed adequately over 800,000 lives are lost to suicide annually. Suicide is the second leading cause of death globally for youth aged 15-29. It is a major public health problem. The World Federation for Mental Health invites other organizations to support #FundaMentalSDG in asking the United Nations to include **a specific mental health target and two indicators** in the critical post-millennium agenda.

There is no sustainable development without both mental and physical health. We ask the United Nations to recognize this by including relevant language in the new Sustainable Development Goals. We hope that organizations around the world will join in supporting this initiative.

The July 19th 2014 draft produced by the UN Open Working Group for the Sustainable Development Goals includes an overall Health Goal—“*Proposed Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.*” A recent Editorial in the British Medical Journal by Professors Graham Thornicroft and Vikram Patel, of King's College London and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine respectively, calls upon colleagues worldwide to press for inclusion within this Health Goal of the following **specific mental illness target**:

“The provision of mental and physical health and social care services for people with mental disorders, in parity with resources for services addressing physical health.”

They also propose that this target should be directly supported by **2 indicators** related to the WHO Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020, adding that it is very difficult to achieve results without specific measurements:

- (1) “To ensure that service coverage for people with severe mental disorders in each country will have increased to at least 20% by 2020 (including a community oriented package of interventions for people with psychosis; bipolar affective disorders; or moderate-severe depression).
- (2) To increase the amount invested in mental health (as a % of the total health budget) by 100% by 2020 in each low and middle income country.”

WFMH urges you to support this important initiative—visit www.fundamentalsdg.org/show-your-support to take action.

For more information, see www.fundamentalsdg.org; www.facebook.com/fundamentalsdg; and twitter.com/FundaMentalSDG, and be sure to use hashtag #FundaMentalSDG in communications efforts.

About the World Federation for Mental Health:

WFMH is an international membership organization founded in 1948 to advance, among all peoples and nations, the prevention of mental and emotional disorders, the proper treatment and care of those with such disorders, and the promotion of mental health. Its organizational and individual membership includes mental health workers of all disciplines, consumers of mental health services, family members, and concerned citizens. WFMH’s signature program is World Mental Health Day (10 October), established in 1992 to provide mental health information for public education each year. The organization’s broad and diverse membership contributes to collaboration among governments and non-governmental organizations to advance the cause of mental health services, research, and the inclusion of mental health in health policy advocacy. The mission of the World Federation for Mental Health is to support the advancement of mental health awareness, prevention of mental disorders, advocacy, and best-practice recovery-focused interventions worldwide. For more information or to see this year’s World Mental Health Day material on “Living with Schizophrenia”, go the WFMH website (www.wfmh.org).

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