

## The UN declare Mental Health a Development Priority

The United Nations have adopted the new Development Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In a historic step they have stressed Mental Health as a priority for sustainable development.

In the Development Agenda 2030 the UN has stressed the importance of mental health in their declaration and has included mental health in Goal 3:

### Declaration: Our vision

7. In these Goals and targets, we are setting out a supremely ambitious and transformational vision. We envisage a world [...] with **equitable and universal access to [...] to health care** and social protection, **where physical, mental and social well-being are assured**.

26. **To promote physical and mental health and well-being**, and to extend life expectancy for all, **we must achieve universal health coverage and access to quality health care**. No one must be left behind. [...] We are committed to the **prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, including behavioural, developmental and neurological disorders, which constitute a major challenge for sustainable development**.

### Goal 3

3.4 By 2030, **reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases** through prevention and treatment and **promote mental health and well-being**

3.5 Strengthen the **prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol**

3.8 **Achieve universal health coverage**, including financial risk protection, **access to quality essential health-care services** and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

## CALL for MENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS in AGENDA 2030

We now call upon the UN to include the two specific mental health indicators proposed by WHO for Agenda 2030 so that the mental health targets become measurable, actionable, and attainable, to achieve their aims and make impact.

FundaMentalSDG fully supports the 2 indicators proposed by the WHO to be used for the SDGs. Advantage of these indicators is that UN States have already agreed to collect this data as part of WHO Mental Health Global Action Plan 2013-2030:

1. **Indicator 23:** Probability of dying between exact ages 30 and 70 from any of cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or suicide
2. **Indicator 28:** Proportion of persons with a severe mental disorder (psychosis, bipolar affective disorder, or moderate-severe depression) who are using services

## Why Mental Health is relevant

**HIGH PREVALENCE: 1 in 4 people experience mental illness**

1 in 4 people experience mental illness in their life, with 600 million people in the world affected, most live in low/middle income countries without treatment

**GLOBAL EMERGENCY: Human rights violations, stigma and discrimination**

Many people with mental illness experience most severe human rights violations, are chained, caged in cells, physically abused or discriminated against

**GROWING BURDEN OF DISEASE: Reduced lifespan by up to 20 years**

Mental illness is the biggest single cause of disability in the world. **In high income countries men with mental health problems die 20 years, women 15 years earlier**. In low income countries the situation may be even worse.

## #FundaMentalSDG

FundaMentalSDG is a global initiative by international mental health leaders to strengthen mental health in the UN Development Agenda 2030.

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#FundaMentalSDG

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#FundaMentalSDG #FundaMentalSDG Co-ordinator

*Handwritten signatures of steering group members: Wanan Tharasinghe, David Minas, Shoba Raja, Vikram Patel, Kathleen M. Pike, and others.*