**THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE WHO FOUNDATION**

Working Together for World Health

WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. It is the directing and coordinating authority on international health, and provides leadership on global environmental health matters, shapes the health research agenda, sets health norms and standards, articulates evidence-based policy options, provides technical support to countries, and monitors and assesses health trends. Whereas WHO has an incredible capacity, through its network of state and non-state partners, to act on impactful initiatives, there is only so much it can achieve with its limited resource base. Recognizing this, the WHO Foundation was created to support and complement WHO’s resource mobilization efforts while respecting the inter-governmental nature of WHO’s governance.

The WHO Foundation is a non-profit grant-making foundation that aims to strengthen world health by providing funding to address the most critical global health issues. Donors can now access and enrich global health in a way that was never possible before.

Partners on the ground benefit from greater resources, while working together enables us to identify projects with the most potential for success.

This unique collaboration between the coordinating world health body and donors brings new opportunities to create highly innovative collective solutions to global health issues.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General and Prof. Dr Thomas Zeltner, WHO Foundation Founder and Chair of the Board originally announced the launch of the WHO Foundation at the WHO Covid-19 press conference on May 27th, 2020. Both WHO and the WHO Foundation are headquartered in Geneva, but the Foundation is legally independent from WHO (created under [Swiss Law Statutes](https://www.whofoundationproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Statutes_FINAL-12.05.2020.pdf)). WHO and the Foundation are bound together by an Affiliation Agreement, also known as a [Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)](https://www.whofoundationproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MOU-WHO-WHOF-signed.pdf), which defines how they interact.