

## WHO high-level meeting and investment case launch

The 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024 will be a critical moment in the journey to defeating meningitis by 2030. Governments, civil society, advocates and donors will come together to push forward commitments to defeat meningitis by 2030. This is a momentous milestone, and we are so excited to celebrate this moment with members from across the CoMO network. This is a time to acknowledge the progress that's been made and to push for action to meet the goals of the WHO's Global Road Map to Defeat Meningitis by 2030.

Find out more about the event in our explainer [here](#).

### Get involved on the day

Meningitis Research Foundation and CoMO HQ will be sharing lots of content over the next few days and on 26<sup>th</sup> itself. Keep an eye out and share, like and engage with our posts to celebrate with us.




You can watch the event live by following this link: [www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2024/04/26/default-calendar/the-first-high-level-meeting-to-defeat-meningitis---institut-pasteur-paris-france](http://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2024/04/26/default-calendar/the-first-high-level-meeting-to-defeat-meningitis---institut-pasteur-paris-france)



We have also drafted some suggested content and key messages for you to share on the day of the high-level meeting. You can find these below, with accompanying visuals to share in the toolkit folders.

WHO have asked stakeholders from across the world to share their commitment to defeating meningitis by 2030. Our social media campaign focuses on MRF and CoMO's pledge to action, advocacy and support. You can find our pledge in full below and suggested content for you to share across X, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. Select whichever part of our pledge resonates most with you and your organisation below, personalise our suggested content and use our visuals to create lots of excitement on the day.

Platform	Theme	Suggested content
X	Drive forward WHO's vision of defeating meningitis by 2030	Today at @WHO's first high-level meeting on meningitis, we stand with @COMOmeningitis members and pledge to continue driving forward WHO's vision of defeating meningitis by 2030. Now is the time for action. Read our pledge here <a href="https://rb.gy/f8day6">👉 https://rb.gy/f8day6</a> #DefeatMeningitis @DrTedros  [To share alongside accompanying visual in toolkit]
	United voice	Today is a big day at @WHO's first high-level meeting on meningitis. We stand with @COMOmeningitis members to

		<p>raise our united voice &amp; commit to defeating this devastating disease. Now is the time for action. Read our pledge here <a href="https://rb.gy/f8day6">https://rb.gy/f8day6</a> #DefeatMeningitis @DrTedros</p> <p>[To share alongside accompanying visual in toolkit]</p>
	Advocate for change	<p>Today is a big day at @WHO's first high-level meeting on meningitis. We stand with @COMOmeningitis members and pledge to push decision-makers for change. Now is the time for action. Read our full pledge here <a href="https://rb.gy/f8day6">https://rb.gy/f8day6</a> #DefeatMeningitis @DrTedros</p> <p>[To share alongside accompanying visual in toolkit]</p>
	Raise much-needed awareness	<p>Today at @WHO's first high-level meeting on meningitis, we stand with @COMOmeningitis members and pledge to continue raising awareness of the risks and impacts of meningitis. Now is the time for action. Read our full pledge here <a href="https://rb.gy/f8day6">https://rb.gy/f8day6</a> #DefeatMeningitis @DrTedros</p> <p>[To share alongside accompanying visual in toolkit]</p>
	Support those affected by meningitis	<p>Today at @WHO's first high-level meeting on meningitis, we stand with @COMOmeningitis members and pledge to support people whose lives have been profoundly affected by meningitis. Now is the time for action. Read our pledge here <a href="https://rb.gy/f8day6">https://rb.gy/f8day6</a> #DefeatMeningitis @DrTedros</p> <p>[To share alongside accompanying visual in toolkit]</p>
<b>Facebook</b>	Drive forward WHO's	<p>Today is a big day as we celebrate @WHO's first high-level meeting on defeating meningitis.</p>

<p>(@ConfederationOfMeningitisOrganisations)</p> <p><b>Instagram</b></p> <p>(@como.meningitis)</p> <p><b>LinkedIn</b></p> <p>(@Meningitis Research Foundation)</p>	<p>vision of defeating meningitis by 2030</p>	<p>We stand with global @ConfederationOfMeningitisOrganisations members and pledge to continue driving forward WHO's vision of defeating meningitis by 2030.</p> <p>Now is the time for action.</p> <p>Read our pledge here  <a href="https://rb.gy/f8day6">https://rb.gy/f8day6</a> #DefeatMeningitis @DrTedros.Official</p> <p>[To share alongside accompanying visual in toolkit]</p>
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	<p>Advocate for change</p>	<p>Today is a big day as we celebrate @WHO's first high-level meeting on defeating meningitis.</p> <p>We stand with global @ConfederationOfMeningitisOrganisations members and pledge to push regional, national and global decision-makers for change.</p> <p>Now is the time for action.</p> <p>Read our full pledge here  <a href="https://rb.gy/f8day6">https://rb.gy/f8day6</a> #DefeatMeningitis @DrTedros.Official</p>

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## Key facts and figures

### Why we need a future free from meningitis:

- Every year, there are more than 2.5 million cases of bacterial and viral meningitis around the world. According to WHO, 1 in 6 people who get bacterial meningitis will die.

- In 2019 (the most recent annual estimates), nearly 240,000 people died from bacterial meningitis. Around half of all deaths from meningitis will be in children under 5.
- Across the world, bacterial meningitis leaves 1 in 5 people with lifelong disabilities. These include hearing loss, brain damage, limb loss and epilepsy.
- Around half of all cases and deaths from meningitis occur in the 26 countries within the African “meningitis belt”. However, meningitis remains a threat in all countries of the world.
- Most meningitis deaths can be prevented but progress is behind other infectious diseases. Between 1990 and 2019, meningitis deaths in children under 5 fell by 61% while deaths from measles and tetanus fell by 90%.
- Meningitis can strike anyone at any time, but some people are particularly at risk because of age, living in crowded conditions and with immune deficiencies such as HIV. Babies, children and young adults are some of the groups most at risk of meningitis.

#### **World Health Organization’s Road Map towards Defeating Meningitis by 2030:**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a global plan that will dramatically improve meningitis prevention, diagnosis and treatment, disease monitoring, health advocacy, support and aftercare.
- This is a gamechanger for people at risk of, or affected by, meningitis. Turning the WHO’s Global Road to Defeat Meningitis by 2030 into a reality could save more than 200,000 lives annually and significantly reduce disabilities caused by meningitis. At present, WHO estimates that bacterial meningitis kills 1 in 6 people who contract it and causes severe complications for 1 in 5 people who survive it.

#### **MRF and CoMO pledge**

**Today, Meningitis Research Foundation and CoMO are proud to be a part of the many patients, families, communities and civil society organisations pushing for change as we renew our commitment to bringing together the voices of people affected by meningitis:**

Meningitis Research Foundation, including the global membership of the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations, pledge to provide a platform for advocates around the world to raise and unite their voices in the fight to defeat meningitis.

We will continue to support people whose lives have been profoundly affected by meningitis across the world, working with them to shape patient-centred health campaigns so that lives can be saved and the devastating impacts of meningitis on families and communities are reduced. We will help to bring together the best available data on meningitis, to enable groundbreaking research, to engage with experts and facilitate the sharing of up-to-date and impactful evidence.

By amplifying the voices of people whose lives have been affected by meningitis, we will continue to raise much-needed awareness of the risks and life-long impacts, including through critical mass participation events such as World Meningitis Day.

We pledge to drive forward WHO’s Global Road Map, focusing our work on advocacy and engagement so that grassroots organisations have the resources they need to work with and for meningitis survivors on the implementation of the Road Map. We will support patients, communities and civil

society organisations to effectively advocate for the changes needed in their communities; pushing national, regional and global decision-makers to ensure that health policy is developed and delivered for us all, so that the Road Map's vision of defeating meningitis by 2030 becomes a reality.