IDF ADVOCACY: STRATEGIC AIMS

- Improving the health outcomes of people with diabetes
- Preventing the development of type 2 diabetes
- Stopping discrimination against people with diabetes
IDF campaign in the run-up to the UN High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

In 2019, IDF advocacy efforts focused on a campaign in the run-up to the UN High Level Meeting (HLM) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) which took place on September 23 in New York. The HLM was a great opportunity for UHC champions and advocates (including IDF Blue Circle Voices and Young Leaders in Diabetes) to make their voices heard and help mobilize high-level political attention globally and in their countries.

As part of the HLM UHC campaign, IDF developed a call to action to encourage the development and implementation of national health-in-all-policies to achieve UHC by 2030. The call to action is available in five languages on the IDF website. This call to action, together with instructions on how to promote it at the national level, was distributed to the IDF network of advocates, including IDF Members.

The HLM UHC campaign also had an online component, focused on highlighting on social media the cost of essential diabetes care around the world through #HLMUHC_selfies. IDF developed an online diabetes expenditure calculator, which allowed people with diabetes to calculate their monthly expenditure on insulin and essential diabetes care. By end 2019, the calculator had registered more than 1,000 visits.
Letters, statements and participation at events

- **April**: IDF signed the joint letter “The urgent need for a high-level UN response to help address the crisis in innovation and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines, diagnostics and vaccines”, an initiative of Oxfam International directed to the President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly.

- **July**: on occasion of the Lions Clubs International Convention 2019 held in Milan, IDF participated in a discussion panel on advocacy and diabetes.

- **November**: on the occasion of the 11th BRICS Summit (November 13-14) in Brasilia, IDF sent call to action letters to relevant BRICS national ministries to request the implementation of the KIDS project— an IDF initiative aiming to foster a safe and supportive school environment for children with diabetes, with the support of Sanofi.

- **December**: IDF welcomed the launch of the first WHO insulin prequalification programme with a statement welcoming WHO’s efforts to achieve better care for all.

Online advocacy on key international dates

In 2019, IDF continued raising awareness and advocating for better diabetes care on occasion of key international days, including: World Obesity Day, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Universal Children’s Rights Day, World Mental Health Day and World Refugee Day.

On occasion of the G7 and G20 Leaders’ Summits, IDF organised social media campaigns to raise awareness of the economic impact of diabetes and request G7 and G20 governments to adopt Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030 or, if they had already achieved it, collaborate with lower income countries on their road to UHC. The social media campaigns were supported by call to action letters to G20 Leaders and Health Ministries, signed by IDF and some of its national Members.
Since 2017, IDF is part of the Global Coalition for Circulatory Health (GCCH), a coalition of organisations with an interest in heart disease and stroke, in official relations with WHO, and whose purpose is to drive urgent action for circulatory health.

On September 24, the GCCH held a side-event to the UN HLM on UHC “Exploring solutions for multi-morbidities prevention and control: the case of circulatory health”, that aimed to discuss multi-sectoral and comprehensive health system strategies to address circulatory health multi-morbidities. IDF strongly supported this event on social media.

In 2017, IDF joined 22 partners from nine European countries and the US in Hypo-RESOLVE. With a €26.8 million budget, partly financed by the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2, this four-year project officially launched its activities in May 2018. The project aims to better understand the underlying mechanisms of hypoglycaemia, define predictors and consequences of hypoglycaemia and calculate its cost in European countries, with the ultimate objective of achieving better treatments for people living with diabetes. The project is organised around eight work packages. More information on each one can be found here.

IDF leads the project’s Patient Advisory Committee (PAC), alongside JDRF and Novo Nordisk. The PAC is an integral part of Hypo-RESOLVE and ensures that the voice of people living with diabetes is heard across all project components.
IDF Collaboration Plan with WHO

In 2019, with the support of WHO, IDF organised two capacity building workshops on diabetic foot for healthcare professionals:

**IDF workshop on Diabetic Foot – Jaipur (India)**

This workshop was held on February 28 on occasion of the 9th World Congress of Diabetes India. Dr Hardik Chandarana served as workshop Rapporteur and Dr Rajnish Saxena and Dr Archana Sogani as workshop Chairs.

The workshop covered the four mantras for diabetic foot physicians (check, protect, treat and refer), as well as the existing measures to prevent diabetic foot, wound healing and wound chronicity and the minor foot procedures that can be developed in diabetes care centres. The workshop was attended by some 200 healthcare professionals, including diabetic foot surgeons, diabetologists, podiatrists, and diabetes educators from different parts of India.

**IDF-Diabetes Association of Thailand Foot Workshop – Bangkok (Thailand)**

The second workshop took place on October 21-22 and was coordinated by the Thailand Diabetes Association. Its aim was to enhance diabetic foot knowledge and skills, encourage multi-disciplinarity in diabetic foot care and promote networking, experience and knowledge-sharing among healthcare professionals from the Western Pacific region.

33 attendees and 16 speakers from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam attended the workshop. Following the workshop, participants confirmed that all their gaps on diabetic foot had been addressed by the speakers.
IDF side event to the World Health Assembly

On May 22 2019, IDF organised the side event to the 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) "Joining forces to fight CVD in people with diabetes: Pathways to Solutions", which focused on decreasing CVD-related premature mortality among people with diabetes and the role of Universal Health Coverage in achieving this.

The event brought together high-level policymakers, scientists, healthcare professionals and inspiring health advocates to discuss strategies to prevent and fight cardiovascular disease in people with diabetes. The panelists discussed the social determinants of health, the taxation of unhealthy products and the role of healthcare professionals and global institutions such as WHO. They also addressed the need to build an enabling environment for people living with CVD, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Event panellists included:

- **Dr Larry Sperling**, Katz Professor in Preventive Cardiology and Director of the Emory Heart Disease Prevention Center
- **Dr Brett Giroir**, US Assistant Secretary of Health
- **Mr Veli Auveinen**, Economist from the Finnish Ministry
- **Dr Cherian Varghese**, NCD Management Coordinator, WHO
- **Ms Stela Prgomelja**, Vice-President of the Diabetes Association of Serbia and member of IDF Blue Circle Voices
- **Prof Rajeev Gupta**, Researcher, Preventive Cardiologist, Rehabilitation Specialist and Consultant Physician
- **Mr Lucas Xavier de Oliveira**, Nursing student at the University of Sao Paolo and IDF Young Leader in Diabetes

More information about the event, which received very positive feedback from attendees, can be found in the [here](#).