

Shared accountability for progress on obesity prevention and management

26.10.2026 | 15:30 to 19:00 CET
Espacio Fundación Telefónica, Madrid



Global
Obesity
Forum

www.worldobesity.org

Held alongside the Madrid Global Obesity Summit co-hosted by WHO and the Government of Spain in collaboration with UNICEF and the World Bank, World Obesity Federation's annual flagship convening – **the Global Obesity Forum** – will focus on shared accountability for progress across the obesity ecosystem.

The Global Obesity Forum 2026 will bring together voices from across the global obesity community – including international organisations, scientific and professional communities, civil society, people living with obesity, and youth – to share perspectives, learn from implementation experience and explore how we can collectively accelerate progress.

The Forum will create a space for meaningful exchange across disciplines and perspectives, recognising that progress depends on different actors with distinct responsibilities, influence and expertise. It will explore where responsibility sits, how different roles connect, and where greater collaboration and accountability can accelerate progress.

[RSVP your attendance](#)[Visit the website](#)

At the Global Obesity Forum 2026, participants will:

- **Shape a shared sense of accountability** — explore the distinct and complementary roles different actors play in driving progress and how we can work together to turn commitments under the WHO Acceleration Plan into action.
- **Learn from implementation in practice** — hear directly from different settings about what is working, what remains challenging, and the lessons and opportunities that can help accelerate progress.
- **Bring lived experience and meaningful participation to the centre of the conversation** — learn from people living with obesity, civil society and young people, ensuring that real-world experiences of policies, systems and services are at the heart of global discussions.
- **Connect, exchange and collaborate** — engage with people across the obesity ecosystem to share ideas, build relationships and explore new opportunities for collaboration.
- **Help shape what comes next** — contribute perspectives, priorities and ideas that will carry beyond Madrid as we look ahead to the 2027 UN High-level meeting on universal health coverage (UHC).

Together, the Forum will help turn shared learning into shared action — strengthening the collective momentum needed to accelerate progress on obesity worldwide.



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Event Programme

Registration opens

15:00

Badge collection at registration desk

OPENING

Obesity in a changing world: Connecting the dots 15:30

Guest Speaker in Conversation with journalist **Jacqui Thornton**

PANEL

Changing the environments that shape health 15:45

Dr Francesco Branca, University of Geneva

Dr Santiago Gómez Santos, Gasol Foundation

Brenda Chitindi, Zambia Heart and Stroke Foundation

Representative from Madrid Salud

PANEL

Navigating the new landscape: from fragmentation to coherent care 16:20

Dr Bruno Halpern, World Obesity Federation

Dr Sara Suliman, Imperial College London Diabetes Centre, Abu Dhabi

Dr Nomathemba Chandiwana, Desmond Tutu Health Foundation

Dr José Manuel Fernández García, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela

Live stream from XXI Latin American Congress of Nutrition (SLAN 2026) 16:45



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Event Programme

(continued)

Coffee break	16:50
Facilitated breakout groups	
Feedback from breakout groups	17:30
FIRESIDE CHAT	
Accountability through participation: who gets a say?	17:45
Karen Sealey , Trinidad and Tobago NCD Alliance Monika Arora , Public Health Foundation of India Youth representative	
PANEL	
From stocktaking to action: what happens next?	18:15
Government and UN representatives from the Global Obesity Summit Joan Matji , UNICEF Luz Maria de Regil , World Health Organization	
Closing remarks	18:50
Johanna Ralston , World Obesity Federation	
Finish	19:00
Networking reception	19:30

This event is partially supported by sponsorships from Novo Nordisk, Eli Lilly and Company and Boehringer Ingelheim. None of the companies have had any control or influence over the content of the event, or any materials/activities that were developed as part of this funding.