



Together for Health: An HDHL World Health Day 2026 Statement

On World Health Day, the **Healthy Diet, Healthy Life (HDHL)** initiative proudly joins the global community under the theme: **"Together for health. Stand with science."**

At a time when the interconnectedness of our global systems has never been more apparent, HDHL reaffirms its commitment to an interdisciplinary approach. At HDHL, we believe a healthy life starts with a healthy planet. We recognise that the health of humanity is linked to the health of our animals, our plants, and the very planet that sustains us. To protect one, we must protect all.

Our Core Convictions

As we navigate the complexities of 2026, HDHL stands firm on three pillars of action:

- **The Power of Interdisciplinary Science:** We believe that the greatest challenges in nutrition and public health cannot be solved in a vacuum. HDHL's experience proves that when we bridge the gaps we unlock innovative solutions that a single discipline could never reach.
- **Global Cooperation for Shared Challenges:** Health knows no borders. Our history of fostering cooperation across countries has shown that joint challenges—from food insecurity to the rise of diet-related non-communicable diseases—require a unified, cross-border response. We are stronger when we pool our knowledge and resources.
- **From Evidence to Action:** Research only fulfils its purpose when it reaches the plates and policies of our citizens. HDHL remains dedicated to translating scientific evidence into actionable strategies that empower decision-makers and individuals alike.

Standing with science is not just a preference; it is a necessity. We must ensure trust in the scientific process by being transparent and inclusive, in our pursuit of evidence. HDHL calls on all stakeholders—governments, researchers, and citizens—to embrace the transformative power of proven data. In today's digital landscape, we face a growing epidemic misinformation. When decision-making drifts away from evidence-based reality, public safety is compromised.

Standing together for health, and anchoring our progress in science, we can ensure a resilient future for ourselves and the generations to come.

Eileen Gibney – Chair, HDHL Management Board
Edith Feskens – Vice Chair, HDHL Management Board