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Wilms Cancer Foundation Highlights New WHO Report on Community-Driven Health Innovation and Global Cancer Advocacy

New World Health Organization report examines how community-led health initiatives, international partnerships and public-sector collaboration can strengthen healthcare systems, expand patient advocacy and improve equitable access to care worldwide.

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND & WASHINGTON, D.C., USA — November 19, 2026 — The Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF), an international nonprofit organization dedicated to Wilms tumor and childhood kidney cancer, welcomes the publication of a new World Health Organization (WHO) technical report highlighting the importance of community-driven health innovation, patient engagement and international collaboration in strengthening public health systems.

Published on September 30, 2026, the WHO report, *From Local Innovation to System Change – Public-Sector Pathways for Scaling Community-Driven Initiatives on Noncommunicable Diseases*, examines how locally developed health initiatives can expand into sustainable programmes through partnerships between governments, civil society organizations, healthcare professionals, researchers and affected communities.

Although the report addresses noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health conditions broadly, its findings offer important lessons for organizations working to improve childhood cancer awareness, patient education, access to healthcare and international collaboration.

For the Wilms Cancer Foundation, these findings reinforce the importance of ensuring that families affected by rare childhood cancers have a meaningful voice in shaping the resources, support services and international initiatives intended to meet their needs.

WHO Report Identifies Five Factors for Scaling Community Health Initiatives

Drawing on evidence and practical experiences from the WHO NCD Lab's 2021–2024 activities, the report examines the challenges faced by community organizations seeking to expand successful local health initiatives.

It identifies five interconnected areas influencing whether promising community-driven programmes can achieve wider implementation:

- **Community ownership and engagement:** Ensuring affected individuals, families and communities participate meaningfully in designing and delivering health initiatives.
- **Alignment with national health policies:** Connecting locally developed programmes with public health priorities and healthcare systems.
- **Government capacity and leadership:** Strengthening the ability of public institutions to recognize, evaluate and support promising innovations.
- **Strategic partnerships and collaboration:** Bringing together community organizations, healthcare providers, researchers, governments and funding partners.
- **Evidence generation and communication:** Demonstrating programme effectiveness, documenting outcomes and communicating the potential for sustainable expansion.

The report also highlights the role of digital health technologies, including artificial intelligence, in supporting knowledge exchange, communication and collaboration, while recognizing the need to address inequalities in digital access and health literacy.

These findings are particularly relevant to patient advocacy organizations seeking to extend educational resources and community support beyond individual institutions, regions or national borders.

What the WHO Findings Mean for Wilms Tumor and Childhood Kidney Cancer

Wilms tumor, also known as nephroblastoma, is the most common form of kidney cancer in children. Although treatment outcomes have improved considerably in well-resourced healthcare systems, children and families worldwide continue to experience differences in access to timely diagnosis, specialist treatment, reliable educational information and long-term follow-up care.

For families affected by rare childhood cancers, access to understandable and trustworthy information can be an important part of navigating diagnosis, treatment, recovery and survivorship.

The WHO report's emphasis on community participation, health literacy and equitable collaboration provides a useful framework for considering how patient organizations can contribute to addressing these challenges.

Community-based organizations can help identify barriers that may not be immediately apparent to healthcare institutions, including language differences, limited access to educational materials, geographic isolation and the practical difficulties families experience when accessing specialist care.

Importantly, the report recognizes that community knowledge and lived experience can complement scientific evidence and professional expertise in developing more responsive healthcare programmes.

For the Wilms Cancer Foundation, this approach reflects the value of combining family perspectives, clinical knowledge, research information and international collaboration to support children affected by Wilms tumor.

Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™ Supports International Education and Collaboration

The Foundation's **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™ (GWTI)** provides an overarching framework for advancing international awareness, education, family support and collaboration focused on Wilms tumor and childhood kidney cancer.

Through the initiative, the Foundation seeks to improve the accessibility of educational resources, strengthen relationships across the international childhood cancer community and encourage greater attention to the challenges facing children in different healthcare settings.

An important component of this work is the Foundation's expanding multilingual educational literature programme, which makes Wilms tumor information available in 15 languages.

By providing educational resources across linguistic and geographic boundaries, the Foundation aims to help families and healthcare communities access information that might otherwise be difficult to obtain.

The Foundation's digital resources, including the **Wilms Tumor Knowledge Index™**, **Wilms Tumor WebApp™** and **Wilms Tumor AI™**, further support its efforts to make childhood kidney cancer information more accessible internationally.

These programmes illustrate how patient-focused organizations can use educational infrastructure and digital technologies to support knowledge sharing, although their impact and scalability must be evaluated independently.

International Partnerships Are Essential to Sustainable Progress

One of the report's central messages is that community-driven health innovation cannot achieve sustainable expansion through local commitment alone.

Successful implementation frequently requires collaboration among healthcare institutions, national governments, international organizations, researchers, civil society groups and funding partners.

This finding has particular relevance for rare childhood cancers, where individual patient communities may be relatively small and expertise is often concentrated within specialist treatment and research centres.

The Wilms Cancer Foundation supports international engagement through relationships and activities involving childhood cancer organizations, pediatric oncology communities and wider kidney cancer advocacy networks.

Its participation in international discussions provides opportunities to share resources, identify unmet needs and strengthen the visibility of Wilms tumor within broader global health conversations.

The Foundation believes that connecting community experience with clinical expertise, research and institutional collaboration can contribute to more inclusive approaches to childhood cancer education and support.

From Community Innovation to Global Health Impact

The WHO report concludes by identifying three priorities for strengthening the expansion of community-driven health initiatives: improving government leadership and capacity, empowering community innovators, and investing in coordinated partnerships.

These priorities provide a useful reference point for organizations working to translate patient advocacy and locally developed educational initiatives into programmes with wider international reach.

For the Wilms Cancer Foundation, the publication reinforces the importance of maintaining a clear focus on community needs while developing the partnerships, evidence and infrastructure required to support sustainable progress.

As international attention to childhood cancer continues to develop, the Foundation remains committed to strengthening access to Wilms tumor information, encouraging collaboration and supporting families affected by childhood kidney cancer worldwide.

Access the WHO Technical Report

Report: *From Local Innovation to System Change – Public-Sector Pathways for Scaling Community-Driven Initiatives on Noncommunicable Diseases*

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Read the official WHO report:

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240124936

WHO Knowledge Action Portal:

https://knowledge-action-portal.com/en/content/local-innovation-system-change-public-sector-pathways-scaling-community-driven-initiatives

About the Wilms Cancer Foundation

The **Wilms Cancer Foundation** is an international childhood kidney cancer organisation dedicated to improving awareness, education, support, research communication and global collaboration for children and families affected by Wilms tumor.

Through the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™** and its international programmes, WCF works to expand access to trusted information, strengthen patient and caregiver education, support healthcare professional engagement and address inequalities in childhood kidney cancer outcomes worldwide.

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