

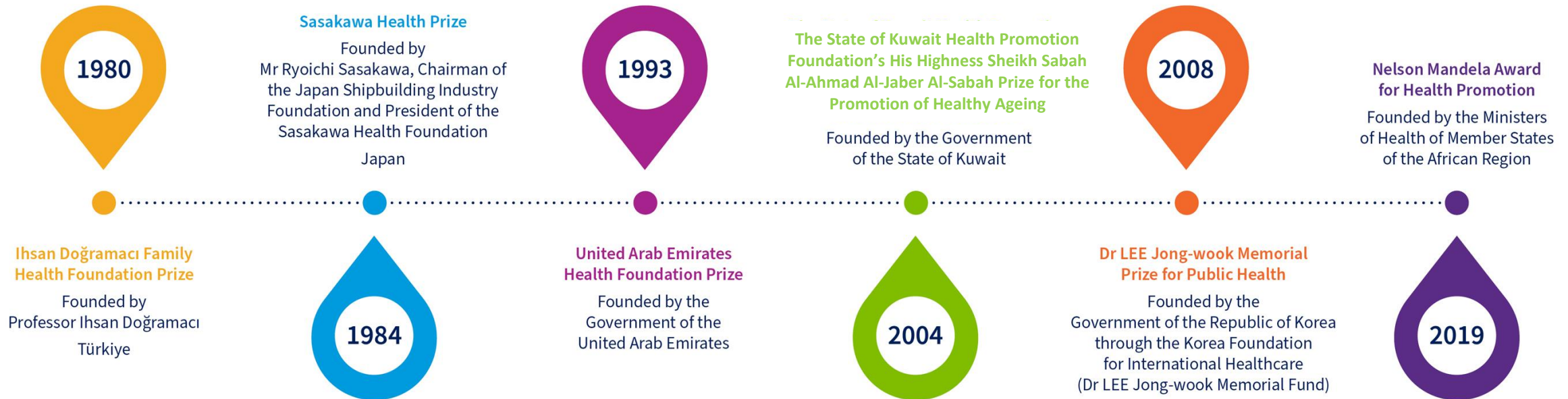


Background information

Public Health Prizes and Awards

Promote **health** | Keep the world **safe** | Serve the **vulnerable**

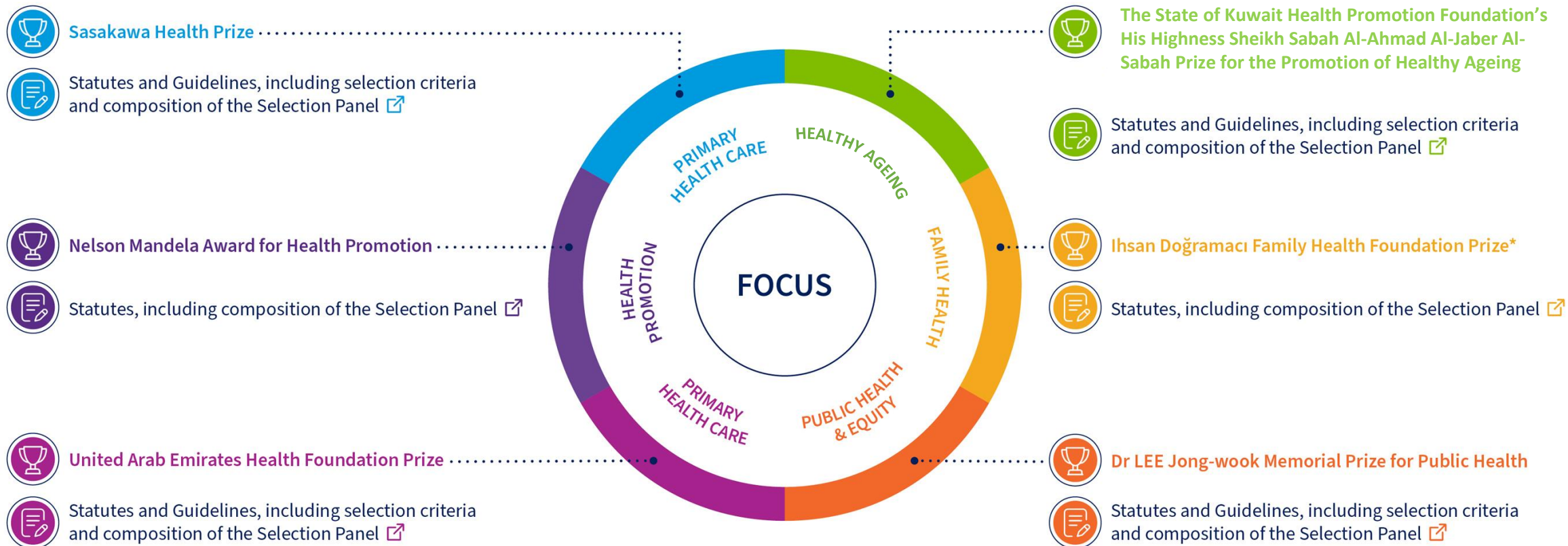
About the Public Health Prizes and Awards: history and founders*



* List of active prizes and awards. For further information, please consult [WHO | Public health prizes and awards](#).

† The State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion until 2015.

About the Public Health Prizes and Awards: focus and statutes



*Only awarded every 2 years.

Prizes awarded in 2023



The National Center for Chronic and Noncommunicable Disease Control and Prevention (China)

An evidence-based innovative model of health promotion and care for older people designed to improve health literacy of patients.



Dr Abla Mehio Sibai (Lebanon)

Who designed a holistic approach to healthy ageing, and developed the national strategy for older persons in Lebanon (2020–2030)

Laureates of the 2023 The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation's His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion



Dr Jorge Francisco Meneses (Guatemala)

Who improved patient care in hospitals through a community-centered approach to health and developed the first national strategy of integrated health services in Central America.

Laureate of the 2023 Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health



Dr Mariam Athbi Al Jalahma (Bahrain)

A lifelong commitment to leadership in health promotion, and improving standards for primary health care.

Laureate of the 2023 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion



The Nick Simons Institute (Nepal)

A community organisation equipping hospitals and training a new generation of flexible health workers in rural areas.



Professor Vichai Tienthavorn (Thailand)

Who has designed innovative approaches to tackling the rising burdens of thalassemia, diabetes, and hypertension.

Laureates of the 2023 Sasakawa Health Prize



Dr Maria Asuncion Silvestre (The Philippines)

Who has designed a pioneering effort to improve new-born health across the Western Pacific Region and bridge the equity gap.

Laureate of the 2023 United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize

About the candidatures:

regional and annual distribution 2017-2023

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY REGION*



36% of WHO Member States have submitted candidatures for any award since 2017. Applications received from 20 Member States in 2023 (average annual level since 2017).

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY YEAR*



2023 applications have exceeded the 2019-20 level.

★ Over 70 applications in 2024!

*This corresponds to the full set of applications received every year. Applications are screened for compliance, and a small number of applications may not be deemed compliant.

The awards ceremony



Award ceremony held during the Plenary meeting of the World Health Assembly in May.



Recognition by the President of the World Health Assembly, the WHO Director-General and a Foundation Representative. Laureates and Foundation Representatives pronounce a speech



Laureates receive recognitions, such as a certificate, a plaque or statuette and/or an honorarium of an amount to be confirmed by the relevant selection panel.



WHO news story and amplification by national health administrations.

The awards:

showcasing WHO Member States successes



Administered by the Director-General of WHO on behalf of their prestigious founders



showcasing scientific and medical excellence, and diversity of approaches in Member States across every region of the world



Recognizing lifelong career achievements and pioneering initiatives of national experts



Inspiring the newer generations



May include seed funding to stimulate and scale up their work



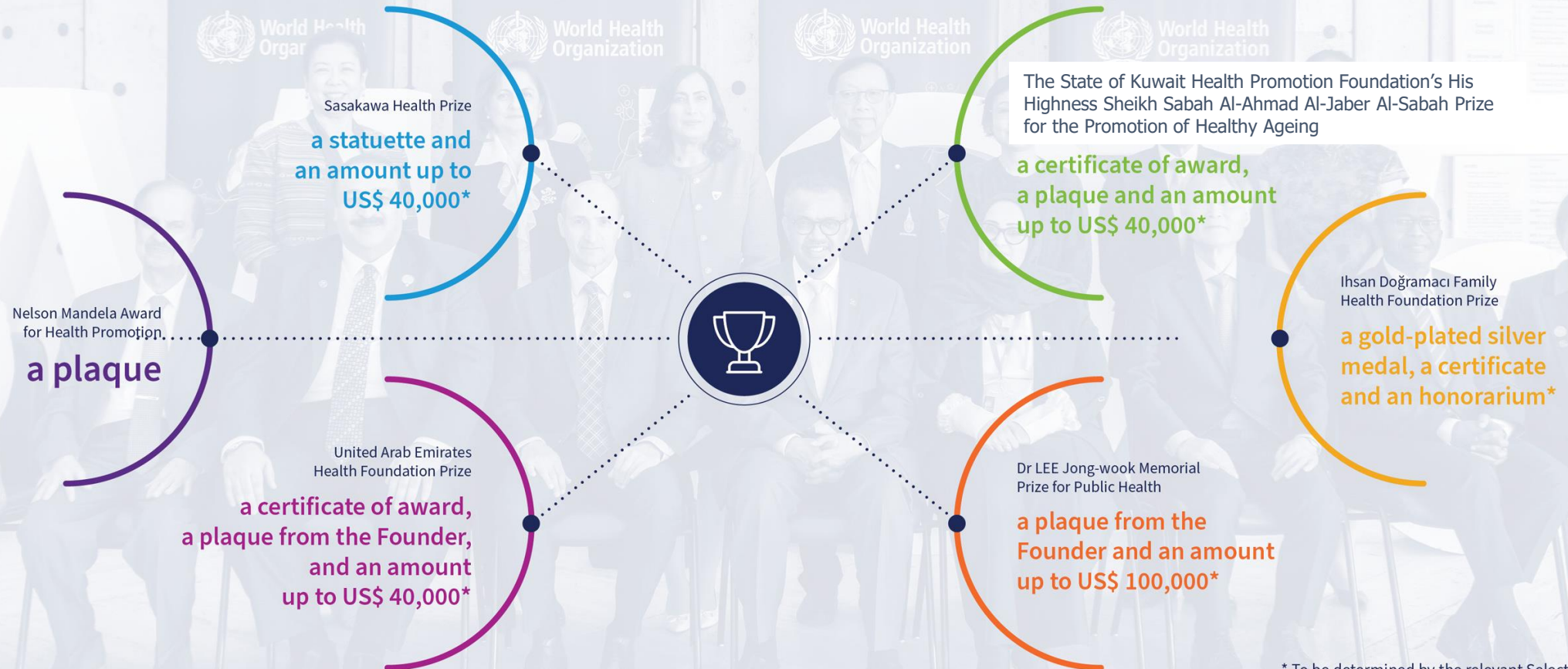
Recognizing scientists and medical doctors, institutions, and community workers, and how they succeed in their unique regional context

“These awardees embody lifelong dedication, relentless advocacy, a commitment to equity, and selfless service of humanity”.

- WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, May 2019, World Health Assembly.

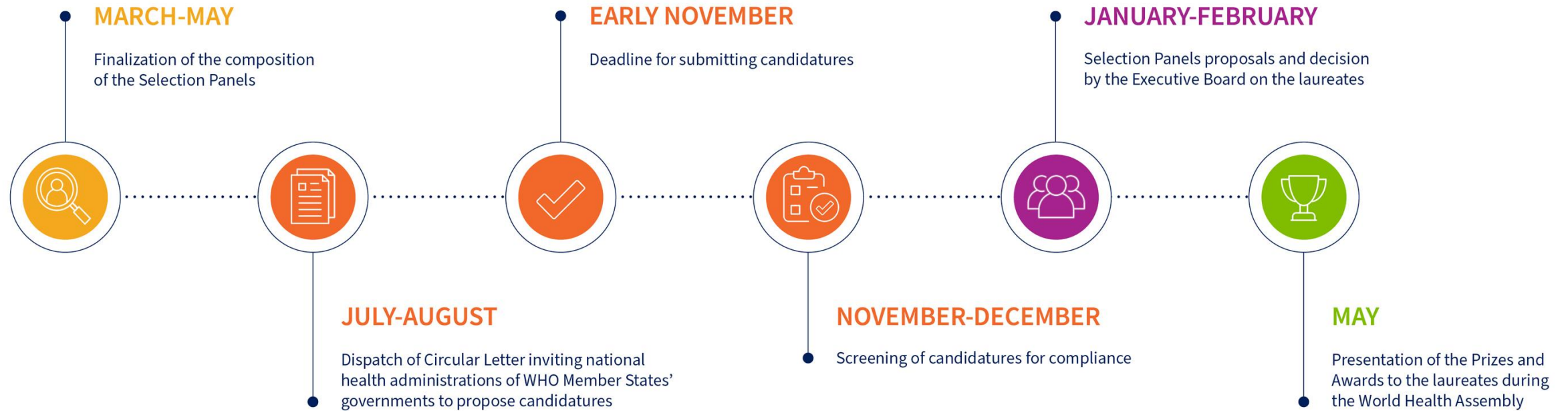
The awards ceremony

The laureates' public health achievements are recognized at an awards ceremony held as part of the Plenary meeting of the World Health Assembly every year in May. Laureates receive the following recognitions:



* To be determined by the relevant Selection Panel.

Timeline for Prizes and Awards administered by the WHO Director-General



Procedure for submitting candidates for the prizes and award in 2025



01



WHO Member States submit nominations for candidates by email to **foundationprizes@who.int** by the timeline.

02



The candidature must include:
a transmittal letter or Note Verbale; the candidature form(s) in English, French or Spanish; both documents must be signed and stamped by the submitting national health authority; and adequate justification and documentation should be enclosed.

03



Each national health administration can nominate only one candidate per award.

04



Candidates not selected in past years can be nominated again.

05



Current or former WHO staff member and current members of the Executive Board are ineligible to receive such prizes and award.

06



Former laureates of a Prize may put forward the name of a candidate for that same Prize.



Background information about the prizes and award

<https://apps.who.int/gb/awards/>

Queries: foundationprizes@who.int