

Skin diseases are a global health policy priority



WHY SHOULD GOVERNMENTS PRIORITISE SKIN HEALTH?

Skin diseases affect billions of people – they drive stigma and inequality, and place a major burden on health systems.

Yet they remain under-recognised in national policy and practice.



Skin diseases are among the **top ten** causes of disability around the world.¹



More than two in five countries report inadequate access to dermatologists.²



2X

People with skin diseases frequently experience stigma and are **more than twice as likely** as the general population to be living with clinical depression.³

1,000

Over **1,000 skin diseases** have no approved treatment, and even available treatments are not always affordable or accessible.⁴

THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR

Skin diseases can no longer be overlooked.

In 2025, the World Health Assembly adopted the Resolution: **Skin diseases as a global public health priority.**



HOW CAN GOVERNMENTS IMPROVE CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH SKIN DISEASES?

Strengthen workforce training on skin diseases for primary and community healthcare workers.

Integrate skin health into primary and community care.

Include skin diseases in **national health strategies** and related policies.

Ensure **mental health and stigma** are addressed within skin disease services.

Use digital tools for triage, diagnosis and management.

Invest in research and development for rare and under-represented skin diseases.

Improve data collection to inform planning, investment and accountability.

COUNTRIES HAVE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING SKIN HEALTH BY ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION. NOW THEY MUST IMPLEMENT IT.



To find out how you can support implementation of the resolution, visit the [World Skin Health Coalition website](https://skinhealthcoalition.org/resolution/) and download our resources:

1. Ferrari AJ, et al. 2024. *Lancet* 403(10440): 2133–61 2. Freeman EE, et al. 2026. *medRxiv* 10.64898/2026.02.06.26345759 3. Gisoni P, et al. 2023. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 37(S7): 6–14 4. Drug Target Review. 2025. <https://www.drugtargetreview.com/article/184027/inside-the-search-and-develop-model-tackling-1000-untreated-skin-diseases/> [accessed 10/03/26]