



**International Association
for Suicide Prevention**

Organisational Strategy

2024 – 2028



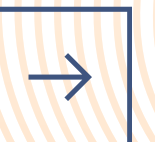
Introduction

The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) was founded in Austria in 1960 and today is the largest global organisation dedicated to suicide prevention. Working in official relations with the World Health Organisation (WHO), IASP embraces national organisations, institutes and individual members in over 80 countries worldwide.

Over the last 15 years IASP has prepared and advanced a vibrant strategy that reflected and targeted current needs of addressing suicidal behaviour and its prevention across the globe. By incorporating an external evaluation and carefully listening to the membership and partners, the Board embarked on a strategic process to formulate organisational direction for 2024 - 2028 that reflects the growing need to reduce suicides.

The following strategy is a continuum of the previous strategies and extends to meet higher demands in low and middle income countries where suicides are more predominant and resources more limited. Focus is on key organisational concepts of inclusivity, diversity and sustainability as a priority, as well as a commitment to collaborative partnerships that spearhead joint action and positive results.

We aim to utilise collectively our expertise and knowledge in order to empower effective suicide prevention throughout the world.



“IASP is a leader in suicide prevention worldwide, especially with regards to knowledge sharing, the diversity of its stakeholders, and its transparency. IASP excels in fostering collaboration and cross-cultural knowledge sharing through its diverse global network. Inclusive of individuals with lived experience, the association facilitates globally informed and cohesive response efforts”.

IASP High-Level Impact Evaluation Report by Philanthropy Advisors (2023)

Our vision is of a compassionate world, free of suicide.

Suicide is a major public health problem with far-reaching social, emotional and economic consequences. It is estimated that there are currently more than 700,000 suicides per year worldwide and that almost 77% of all global suicides occur in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). For every suicide there are many more who attempt suicide and we know that each suicide profoundly affects many more people. The reduction of suicide mortality is of global importance and a vital public health consideration.

Our Values

Six key values are fundamental to the core of IASP's mission and are reflected through our global membership which are central to the productivity of the Association:

- Compassion
- Diversity and Inclusivity
- Recognition
- Collaboration
- Prevention and support
- Transparency

Our Mission

To prevent suicide and suicidal behaviour, to alleviate its effects, and to provide a forum for academicians, mental health professionals, crisis workers, volunteers, and lived experience.



Lived and Living Experience

The perspectives of individuals with a lived and living experience of suicide is central to truly effective and empathetic approaches in addressing the challenges of suicide prevention. As reflected in our values, IASP is committed to ensuring these perspectives are interwoven into the architecture and narrative of the association and empower this strategy and the work we do.

Our 2024–2028 IASP strategy is built on four strategic priorities:

01 Leading Global Collaboration



Advance and strengthen IASP's global mission by fostering inclusivity and collaboration in suicide prevention worldwide.

02 Expanding Reach and Diversity



Enhance reach, diversity and representation throughout our membership and network to further suicide prevention across all cultures, sectors and regions across the globe.

03 Strengthening Advocacy and Knowledge Exchange



Build a stronger international presence for advocacy and suicide prevention promotion, ensuring effective use of IASP's platform for communicating cross cultural knowledge exchange and evidence-based research.

04 Driving Innovation and Impact



Lead suicide prevention efforts through IASP's forum of expertise, exploring changing trends, innovative research and effective implementation and practice; with measures to evaluate outcomes and organisational impact.

01 Leading Global Collaboration

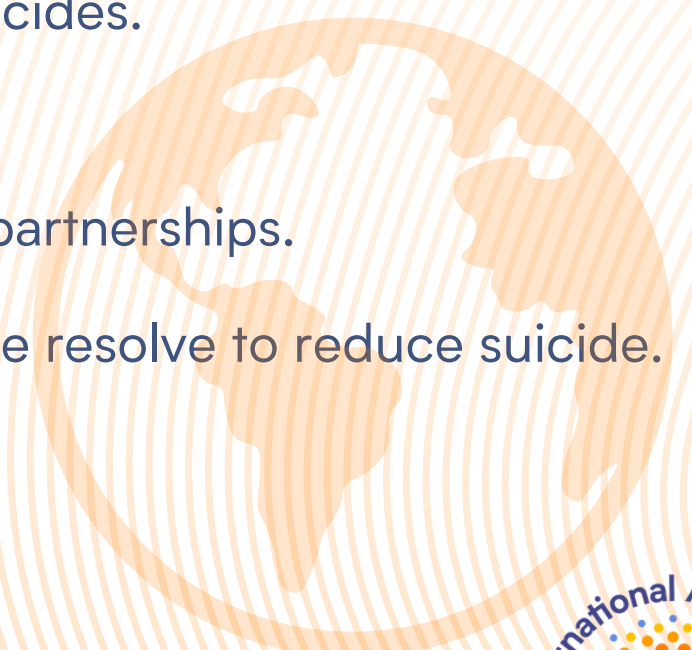
Advance and strengthen IASP's global mission by fostering inclusivity and collaboration in suicide prevention worldwide.



Globally, there are numerous international, national and local organisations plus a multitude of concerned people focused on preventing suicide. In bringing together both the expertise (individuals, governments and NGOs) and informed and evidence-based research, a consortium of experts will have the experience to expedite the global aim of preventing premature deaths by suicides.

Impact:

- ▶ Cross sectoral collaborative partnerships strategically working together to prevent suicides through agreed partnerships.
- ▶ Cohesive results by empowering people to connect within their communities (global, regional, national) in the resolve to reduce suicide.
- ▶ Increased combined resources, from across all sectors, leading to reduction in suicide.
- ▶ Increase reach in suicide prevention in the low and middle-income countries.
- ▶ Addressing unexpected public health emergencies with speed and efficacy.



Enhance reach, diversity and representation throughout our membership and network to further suicide prevention across all cultures, sectors and regions across the globe.



Within the low and middle income countries (LMIC) the rate of suicide is significantly higher, resources and data are limited and available care is less accessible. Promoting inclusivity and diversity within countries that need it most, as well as ensuring breadth of voices are reflected in IASP's membership and wider network, can allow for the focus to be on prevention and engagement as a priority.

Impact:

- ▶ Greater engagement in combatting suicidal behaviour across all six global regions.
- ▶ Increased global reach, representative of where needs are greatest and increased membership across all regions (by 15%).
- ▶ Change in the mental health “map” of LMICs and the low uptake from mental health professionals, academics and NGO in gaining membership from these regions.
- ▶ National suicide prevention strategies implemented, monitored and evaluated, globally.



03 Strengthening Advocacy and Knowledge Exchange

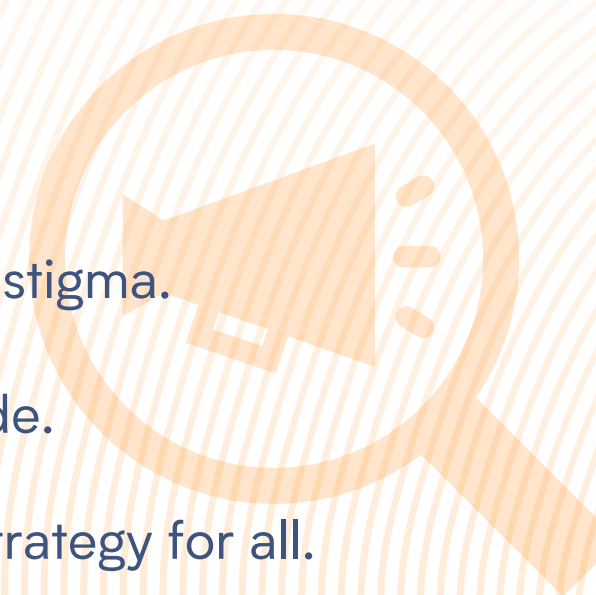
Build a stronger international presence for advocacy and suicide prevention promotion, ensuring effective use of IASPs platform for communicating cross cultural knowledge exchange and evidence-based research.



Contextually relevant and culturally sensitive suicide prevention promotion and interventions are needed. By promoting evidence-based research, IASP can identify best practices, evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and advocate for evidence-informed policies. By facilitating cross-cultural knowledge exchange, IASP can learn from different cultural perspectives and employ and disseminate best practices accordingly.

Impact:

- ▶ Freedom to talk openly about suicidal behaviour reducing stigma.
- ▶ Concerted global effort and commitment in reducing suicide.
- ▶ Suicide prevention becomes an acceptable global health strategy for all.
- ▶ No criminalisation of suicide in the world.
- ▶ Suicide rates decrease.



04 Driving Innovation and Impact

Lead suicide prevention efforts through IASP's forum of expertise, exploring changing trends, innovative research and effective implementation and practice; with measures to evaluate outcomes and organisational impact.



In 60 years of IASP's existence as an international NGO, the field of suicide research and prevention has grown in knowledge and global reach due to the commitment of both the international and national forum of experts within governments, institutes, corporate sector and overarching inter organisational constituents. By acting as a catalyst towards innovation, and remaining reactive to global trends IASP will continue to drive the field forward.

Impact:

- ▶ Cohesive overview of suicide prevention requirements across the globe.
- ▶ Marked changes in attitude towards suicidal behaviour resulting in acceptable access to health and sociological policies.
- ▶ National strategies to prevent suicide evaluated/shared/promoted across all borders.
- ▶ Gained knowledge on effective measures in preventing suicide in health and sociological settings.





“As the world grapples with intricate public health quandaries, ranging from global pandemics to escalating mental health crises, the significance and influence of the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) has expanded exponentially.”

What lessons did IASP learn from responding to COVID-19 to prepare for future mental health emergencies? A view from organisational and program space 9 October 2023. V3. BLYSS GmbH

Conclusion

To continue meeting the complex challenges involved in reducing suicides globally, a strategy that is nuanced, responsive and rooted in collective action is required. This new 5 year strategy for IASP builds upon the organisations’ strengths and recent growth. With a focus on strategic foresight, collaborative engagement and member responsiveness, IASP stands as an equipped and thriving community that is well positioned and ready to lead in suicide prevention on a global scale in the next 5 years. Together, drawing on our strengths and fostering innovation, we will continue to work towards a world where every life is valued and suicide is preventable.



International Association for Suicide Prevention

