

COMMITTEE A5, WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
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wfuna



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GLOBAL MODEL WHO 2025

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

EQUITY AND INTEGRATION TO PREVENT AND CONTROL
NCDS (UNI)

Simulation: World Health Assembly

Welcome to Global Model WHO 2025,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the World Health Organisation in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory illness are now the world's leading causes of death. Unlike infectious diseases, NCDs are not spread from person to person. Instead, they are linked to behaviors (like smoking, unhealthy diets, and lack of exercise), air, water, soil/food, and chemical pollution, and genetics, all play significant roles in the global burden of NCDs.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) account for over 70% of global mortality, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) where 77% of NCD deaths occur. People in poorer communities may not have access to healthy food, safe places to exercise, or affordable medicines. This makes equity a central issue: those who can least afford treatment are often the most at risk. To address this issue, it is important to focus on how can we ensure that all people—regardless of where they live or how much money they have—are protected from NCDs.

Despite their prominence, NCDs have historically received less political attention and funding compared to communicable diseases, creating what scholars call a “neglected epidemic.”

In response, some governments have introduced taxes on sugary drinks or tobacco to discourage unhealthy behavior. Others focus on community education, expanding primary care, or creating healthier urban environments. The role of the private sector—particularly food and beverage companies—is controversial because their commercial interests can conflict with public health goals, raising concerns that they may unduly influence policy decisions or weaken the effectiveness of measures designed to prevent NCDs.

The debate on this topic should consider how countries can balance prevention and treatment. Should they encourage stronger regulation of unhealthy products, or focus more on improving access to care? Should international cooperation prioritize funding for low-income countries, or emphasize national responsibility?

Another key issue is integration. NCD services must be built into existing health systems, not treated separately. This means linking prevention and treatment to mental health services, infectious disease programs, and universal health coverage.

Key Points and Main Issues

Here are the key points and main issues students need to understand when negotiating a resolution on “Equity and Integration to Prevent and Control Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)” at a simulation of the World Health Assembly:

1. Understanding Noncommunicable Diseases

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) include heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic lung disease. They are not passed from person to person. NCDs cause about 70% of deaths worldwide, and most of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. The main causes are tobacco use, unhealthy diets, lack of physical activity, and harmful use of alcohol.

2. The Issue of Equity

Access to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of NCDs is not equal. People with low incomes, women, rural communities, and minority groups often receive less care. Equity means making sure all people, no matter where they live or what they earn, can live healthy lives and receive care when they need it. Countries need to discuss ways to close these gaps through fair funding, stronger health systems, and better community services.

3. Integrating NCD Prevention and Care

Integration means connecting NCD prevention and care with other parts of the health system. For example, linking NCD services with primary health care, maternal and child health, or infectious disease programs can make care more effective and affordable. Member States can explore how to train health workers, strengthen local clinics, and make medicines for NCDs available at all levels of care.

4. Addressing Social and Economic Determinants

NCDs are shaped by conditions where people live, work, and learn. Poor housing, limited access to healthy food, pollution, and unsafe jobs increase NCD risks. Governments need to work across sectors—health, education, transport, and environment—to tackle these root causes. This means adopting whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

5. Financing and Resource Gaps

Many countries lack funds to prevent and control NCDs. Students should consider how Member States can mobilize resources through national budgets, international aid, or innovative financing tools such as taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks. They can also explore how partnerships with civil society and the private sector can support national efforts while maintaining public health priorities.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

6. Monitoring and Data

Reliable data helps countries understand where NCDs are rising and which populations are most affected. Many low-income countries still lack this data. Students can discuss how to improve national NCD registries, share information, and align with WHO global targets and indicators.

7. Global Commitments and Cooperation

WHO's Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs and the Sustainable Development Goals (especially Goal 3.4) guide countries to reduce premature deaths from NCDs by one-third by 2030. Students can consider how international cooperation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building can support countries that face the highest burden.

8. Negotiation Dynamics

Countries will approach this issue differently:

- High-income countries may stress health system integration, data sharing, and lifestyle-based prevention.
- Middle-income countries may focus on affordable medicines, access to care, and addressing risk factors such as tobacco and alcohol.
- Low-income countries may call for financial and technical support to build stronger health systems and ensure equity.

9. Suggested call for actions to consider including in the draft resolution

- Commit to reducing health inequities in NCD prevention and care.
 - Strengthen primary health care to include NCD services.
 - Work across different areas of government and society to tackle the reasons why people get sick in the first place. For example, Ministries of Health can partner with education departments to teach children about healthy eating, with agriculture to make healthy foods more available, with urban planning to create safe spaces for walking and exercise, and with the environment sector to reduce pollution.
 - Improve access to essential NCD medicines and technologies.
 - Support data collection and research on NCD trends.
 - Enhance global cooperation and resource sharing to meet WHO and SDG targets.
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HLM4: On the road to 2025 and beyond**2025**

Summary: The WHO's On the Road to 2025 initiative outlines global efforts to combat noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and promote mental health through coordinated international action. In addition to providing an overview of the Fourth High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion of mental health and wellbeing (HLM4), this WHO portal includes the Final Version of the Political Declaration on the prevention and control of NCDs from the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly recently held in September 2025, links to videos of the Opening and Closing plenaries and panel discussions, thematic highlights from the HLM4, links to important documents (UN Secretary-General Report on the progress made in the prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion of mental health and well-being, outcome documents from the last 3 HLMs, previous progress reports of the UN Secretary-General, WHO NCD Progress Monitor Reports (2015-2025), Reports of the WHO Director-General on the progress made in the prevention and control of NCDs, and related events, news and links.

WHA 78 - Agenda Item 12 The role of the global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in WHO's work on multistakeholder engagement for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: report on independent evaluation**2025**

Summary: Agenda Item 12 titled "Role of the Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs – Independent Evaluation" reviews the performance of the GCM/NCD in promoting multisectoral collaboration for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases. It highlights achievements in global engagement while identifying challenges in transparency, inclusivity, and country-level relevance. The evaluation provides strategic recommendations to strengthen the mechanism ahead of the next UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs.

WHA 78 - Agenda Item 13.1 Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem and its associated goals and targets for the period 2020–2030

2025

Summary : Agenda Item 13.1 titled “Follow-up to the Political Declaration on NCDs & Global Strategy for Cervical Cancer Elimination (2020–2030)” outlines WHO’s goals to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health issue by 2030, through the “90-70-90” targets on vaccination, screening, and treatment. It connects global NCD commitments with specific action on cervical cancer. The strategy guides Member States on implementation, monitoring, and accountability.

Noncommunicable diseases - Progress Monitor 2025

2025

Summary - This report presents the latest global assessment of progress toward preventing and controlling noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes. It tracks key indicators such as risk factor prevalence, policy implementation, health system response, and financing, comparing achievements among WHO Member States. The findings reveal both areas of strong progress (e.g. tobacco control, some improvements in NCD surveillance) and ongoing challenges (e.g. insufficient access to essential medicines, gaps in national policy frameworks). Useful for policymakers, public health professionals, and researchers, it underscores where additional action and investment are needed to meet global targets for reducing NCD burden. This is an important resource for all delegates to review their assigned country’s progress toward preventing and controlling NCDs.

WHO Operational Review of Ukraine's response to noncommunicable diseases in war context 2025

Summary : The WHO (2025) report reviews Ukraine's response to noncommunicable diseases during the war, based on a desk review and interviews with health stakeholders. It highlights key actions like mobile health units, cancer patient support, and maintaining anti-tobacco laws amid conflict. The report emphasizes local coordination and integration with health systems, while recommending stronger primary care and health system resilience. This resource offers valuable insights into managing NCDs in crisis settings.

Armenia Invests in Healthcare to Tackle Non-Communicable Diseases 2025

Summary : In 2025, the World Bank reported on Armenia's efforts to tackle non-communicable diseases through the Disease Prevention and Control Project. The initiative modernized six medical facilities, including introducing bone marrow transplants at the Hematology Center in Yerevan, reducing the need for treatment abroad. It also improved staff training and medical equipment, highlighting Armenia's commitment to equitable and quality NCD care.

National Assembly support Ministry of Health's fight to protect Vietnamese youth 2024

Summary : This press release reports that Vietnam's National Assembly has passed a resolution banning e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products, effective 2025, to protect youth from nicotine harms. It highlights roles of Health Minister Dao Hong Lan, WHO Vietnam, and national partners in leading tobacco control initiatives. The article frames the action as part of Vietnam joining some 40 countries in fully banning these products and as a legacy for youth health in the region.

[Training for Primary Health Care Workers on Package of Essential Noncommunicable Diseases Interventions \(PEN\)](#)

2024

Summary : The WHO, with Papua New Guinea's National Department of Health, trained 22 primary healthcare workers in Western Highlands Province in July 2024 on the Package of Essential Noncommunicable Diseases Interventions (PEN). The training focused on improving detection, treatment, and management of major NCDs at the primary care level. Participants included medical officers and nurses who developed plans to apply PEN protocols locally. This effort supports PNG's National Health Plan 2021–2030 and aims to reduce NCD-related deaths.

[New WHO and ITU report highlights benefits of digital solutions in tackling NCDs](#)

2024

Summary : The article emphasizes the transformative potential of digital health solutions in combating NCDs. It highlights that a modest investment of less than \$0.67 per patient annually could prevent over 2 million deaths and save \$199 billion in healthcare costs globally over the next decade. The report advocates for equitable access to digital tools and infrastructure, noting that one-third of the global population remains offline. In Indonesia, this framework supports the integration of digital health interventions, such as the ASIK, SATUSEHAT, and NCD Information System, to enhance monitoring and surveillance of NCDs.

[Our Work in Papua New Guinea](#)

2024

Summary : This web page outlines WHO's collaboration with Papua New Guinea's National Department of Health under the Country Cooperation Strategy (2024-2028), detailing how WHO will support the implementation of PNG's Vision 2050 and National Health Plan 2021-2030. It identifies four strategic priorities—resilient health systems; healthier populations including noncommunicable disease prevention; integrated disease service delivery; and health security—and describes focus areas such as primary care, quality medicines/access, human resources, mental health, immunization, and emergencies. The page is useful for understanding WHO's role, planned interventions, and technical assistance to strengthen health outcomes in PNG.

People-centered model supported by WHO's PEN Package improves access to non-communicable disease healthcare in Bhutan

2024

Summary : This report highlights Bhutan's people-centered model for noncommunicable disease care, supported by the WHO PEN package. Implemented through the Service with Care and Compassion Initiative (SCCI), it focuses on managing hypertension and diabetes across 14 districts. The model offers comprehensive care, including home visits and medication refills, improving access for vulnerable populations. Despite challenges like funding and monitoring, it marks significant progress toward equitable NCD care in Bhutan.

Draft updated menu of policy options and cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases Report by the Director-General

2023

Summary: The report presents the progress and challenges in preventing and controlling noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and promoting mental health worldwide. It notes that no country is on track to meet all nine voluntary global NCD targets by 2025, highlighting gaps especially in low- and middle-income countries. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted services for NCDs, worsened access, and exposed the weak integration of NCD care into primary health systems.

The Director-General proposes an updated "menu" of policy options and cost-effective interventions (an update to "Appendix 3" of the WHO global NCD action plan). The new menu includes 90 interventions and 22 enabling actions, with 58 interventions having cost-effectiveness assessments. Among these, 28 are flagged as most feasible and high-impact in low-resource settings. The updates incorporate newer guidance on mental health, air pollution, and oral health.

The report emphasizes the need for multisectoral collaboration, urging health ministries to work with other sectors on social determinants of health. It also calls on countries to strengthen their health systems—especially through primary care—so they can integrate NCD and mental health services more effectively. Finally, it situates these proposals within WHO's roadmap for 2023–2030, aligning with SDG 3.4 (reducing premature NCD mortality) and the global NCD targets.

A different approach to addressing non-communicable diseases in Argentina

2023

Summary : This article discusses Argentina's PROTEGER project, which utilized results-based financing to enhance non-communicable disease (NCD) services across various levels of government. The initiative improved early detection and management of NCDs, reaching approximately 1.9 million vulnerable individuals. It also led to a decline in risk factors such as tobacco use and excessive sodium consumption. The project exemplifies a scalable model for integrating NCD care into public health systems, particularly in federal contexts.

A different approach to addressing non-communicable diseases in Argentina

2023

Summary : This report outlines Argentina's PROTEGER project, which uses results-based financing and a pro-poor funding model to improve NCD prevention and care. It highlights improved hypertension and diabetes control, reductions in tobacco and sodium consumption, and expanded access to quality care among vulnerable populations. The project also helped lower premature NCD mortality and is being scaled up to include mental health and gender-based services.

DOH, WHO scale up efforts to prevent cardiovascular diseases in Western Visayas

2023

Summary : The WHO and Philippine Department of Health expanded the Healthy Hearts Programme in Western Visayas to improve detection and control of hypertension and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Between 2023 and 2024, 54 new sites will be added in Iloilo and Antique. The program uses a Hypertension e-Registry to track patients and supports primary healthcare accreditation. This effort integrates NCD prevention and treatment into the Universal Health Care system.

[Evolving a people-centred approach to noncommunicable disease \(NCD\) services in Bhutan](#)

2022

Summary : This article showcases Bhutan's "Service with Care and Compassion Initiative" (SCCI), a nationwide approach to strengthening NCD care by integrating routine screening, medicine refills, home visits, and digital monitoring into primary health services. The initiative has improved continuity of care, early detection, and patient satisfaction across all districts. It also addresses workforce challenges, data needs, and sustainability, positioning SCCI as a replicable model for people-centred NCD service delivery in similar settings.

[Non-communicable disease and mental health need direct and dedicated investment and action](#)

2022

Summary - The article calls for increased and targeted investment in mental health and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which account for over 70% of global deaths but receive minimal health funding. It highlights how COVID-19 has intensified mental health challenges and chronic conditions, especially in vulnerable populations. It emphasizes integrating mental health and NCDs into national development strategies and strengthening health systems. It also advocates sustainable financing through mechanisms like the Health4Life Fund to drive long-term impact.

Maldives reveals the findings of the WHO-STEPs Survey and launches the National Multi-sectoral Action Plan to control NCDs, in collaboration with WHO **2022**

Summary : The Maldives government, in collaboration with the WHO and Maldives National University, unveiled the findings of the WHO-STEPs Survey and launched the National Multi-sectoral Action Plan to control non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The STEP S Survey, a comprehensive household tool developed by WHO, assesses risk factors for NCDs, providing valuable data to inform public health strategies. The National Multi-sectoral Action Plan aims to address the rising prevalence of NCDs, which are among the top five leading causes of death in the country, by promoting healthy lifestyles and enhancing early detection and treatment services.

Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and Sudan 2022–2025 **2023**

Summary : The WHO Country Cooperation Strategy for Sudan (2022–2025) identifies noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) as a priority under its goal to "promote health and well-being." It focuses on reducing NCD risk factors, improving early detection and management, and expanding access to essential NCD services. The strategy emphasizes building system capacity, including workforce, diagnostics, and surveillance, to better support NCD care. It aligns NCD goals with Sudan's national health policy and the UN Sustainable Development Framework.

Health literacy development project series: co-designing health literacy initiatives in migrant communities in Portugal

2022

Summary : The article highlights a health literacy initiative in Lisbon, Portugal, aimed at enhancing the understanding and management of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) among migrant and refugee populations. Led by the National School of Public Health, the project involved surveying 1,100 recently arrived migrants to create 16 health literacy profiles, which were then used in workshops with community members, healthcare professionals, and social workers. These workshops generated over 70 innovative ideas to improve health communication and access to care, focusing on overcoming language barriers and cultural sensitivities. The project emphasizes the importance of co-designing health interventions with communities to address the unique challenges they face in managing NCDs.

Kenya launches five-year plan to control non-communicable diseases

2021

Summary : UNESCO reports that Kenya has launched a comprehensive five-year plan to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs), focusing on strengthening national health systems and promoting healthy lifestyles. The strategy emphasizes enhancing surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and research to address the increasing prevalence of NCDs among younger populations and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The plan aligns with Kenya's commitment to achieving universal health coverage and was developed in collaboration with the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation.

SEEDS and NCDs

2019

Summary - The UNDP's SEEDS and NCDs initiative focuses on improving health by addressing the social, economic, and environmental factors—known as SEEDs—that influence well-being. These factors include gender, education, and living conditions, which can affect people's vulnerability to diseases. The program aims to integrate these considerations into development projects to enhance health outcomes and equity.

The initiative also tackles non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory conditions, which account for over 70% of global deaths. In Europe and Central Asia, NCDs cause 89% of deaths, with risk factors such as poor diet, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and lack of physical activity. UNDP collaborates with the World Health Organization to support countries in developing national strategies, conducting cost-benefit analyses (that look at how much money a country will save or have to spend based on how much they invest now) and implementing legislative frameworks like the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Through these efforts, the SEEDS and NCDs program aims to create healthier, more equitable societies by addressing the root causes of health disparities.

What Government Ministries Need to Know about Non-communicable Diseases

2018

Summary: This set of sector-specific briefs produced by UNDP & WHO offers guidance for various government ministries (outside just the health sector) on how non-communicable diseases (NCDs) affect their areas of responsibility, and what steps they can take. It emphasizes that most premature deaths from NCDs are preventable, by acting on risk factors like tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and harmful alcohol use, as well as environmental risks. The goal is to promote multi-sectoral, whole-government action so that ministries can both reduce NCDs and simultaneously advance their own sectoral objectives.

Preventing and Controlling Non-Communicable Diseases 2017

Summary: This issue brief explains why scaling up action against non-communicable diseases (NCDs) — such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory illness — is essential for sustainable development. It outlines how UNDP is working globally and regionally, in partnership with WHO and other organizations, to help countries integrate NCDs into national development plans. Key points include tackling behavioural risk factors (like tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity), addressing environmental risks, and strengthening prevention and treatment services.

KDCA Officially Designated as WHO Collaborating Center for NCD Surveillance and Bigdata Utilization

2025

Summary : The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) was officially designated as the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Surveillance and Big Data Utilization on June 12, 2025. This designation recognizes KDCA's expertise in health surveillance and its commitment to strengthening global health cooperation. The center's operating period is from May 2025 to April 2029, with the possibility of extension. KDCA now operates three WHO Collaborating Centers, including those for Antimicrobial Resistance and Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

Decision on approval of the national plan for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (ncds) and mental disorders for the period of 2022-2025

2025

Summary : The Decision outlines Vietnam's national plan to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mental disorders from 2022 to 2025. It sets clear targets, such as reducing smoking and salt intake, and expanding access to essential NCD services at the primary care level. The plan emphasizes multi-sector coordination, public education, and improved screening and treatment. Funding comes from state budgets, health insurance, and the tobacco control fund.

Strengthening the management of NCD prevention and health promotion in Slovakia

2025

Summary : The program partners include Public Health Authority & eight regional public health authorities. It aims to establish a governance model for coordinated NCD prevention & health promotion, develop a national portal of best practices, enhance staff capacity, and involve self-governments in local implementation. The outputs include pilot networks (Healthy Cities approach), communication platforms, methodological support, and increased public awareness.

Nigeria - Agenda Statement on Pillar Coordination Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)

2025

Summary - Nigeria, Ministry of Health / National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT). "Agenda Statement on Pillar Coordination Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)." Presented at the World Health Assembly, 78th Session. 2pp. (2025). This statement outlines Nigeria's national strategy for coordinating NCD control, with a particular emphasis on cancer prevention and control efforts. The authors present initiatives such as decentralizing cancer prevention services, integrating routine screening into primary health care, and strengthening capacity among frontline health workers. The document also calls for coordinated multisectoral partnerships and sustained financing to support Nigeria's alignment with the global NCD agenda.

Lifestyle Medicine and Universal Health Care Intersection: History and Impact of the Philippines Initiative

2025

Summary : The article examines the integration of lifestyle medicine into the Philippines' Universal Health Care (UHC) framework. It discusses the country's dual burden of infectious and non-communicable diseases and the shift mandated by the UHC Act towards health promotion and disease prevention. The paper highlights the development of competency-based lifestyle medicine education (CBME) programs and the establishment of cross-sectoral collaborations to support sustainable implementation. The authors emphasize that embedding lifestyle interventions within the healthcare system, supported by policy and community engagement, can enhance the realization of UHC goals.

Guideline for Community-Based Screening of Non-Communicable Diseases (Hypertension, Diabetes Mellitus, assessment of Cardiovascular risk and overweight and obesity) Screening

2024

Summary : This 32-page guideline provides standardized protocols for community screening of hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular risk, overweight, and obesity, including planning, screening stations, interventions, and monitoring. It sets Bhutan's ambitious "80-80-80" targets to screen 80% of the population, treat 80% of diagnosed individuals, and achieve control in 80% under treatment. The document emphasizes early detection, equitable access in all districts, and integration into primary health care to reduce the NCD burden in Bhutan.

Developing an integrated model of care for vulnerable populations living with non-communicable diseases in Lebanon: an online theory of change workshop

2023

Summary : This document describes using an online Theory of Change workshop to co-develop the CAJA integrated care model for vulnerable populations with non-communicable diseases in Lebanon, including refugees. The model links primary NCD care, mental health support, and physical rehabilitation through multidisciplinary teams and social workers. Key assumptions and monitoring indicators ensure patient-centered, coordinated, and adaptable care. This approach addresses complex humanitarian health needs in Lebanon's fragile context.

National Programme for prevention and control of NCDs (NP-NCD)

2023

Summary : India's National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NPCDCS) tackles the rising NCD burden by strengthening healthcare infrastructure and promoting awareness. It supports early detection and management through district and community clinics. The program uses a National NCD Portal for screening and data management, training over 1 lakh health workers and enrolling 26 crore people by early 2023. This initiative is key to reducing NCD-related deaths nationwide.

Prime Minister says NCDs can not be ignored

2022

Summary : This strategy is a comprehensive plan to tackle the country's rising NCD burden, including heart disease, diabetes, and cancers. Developed with input from over 300 stakeholders, it focuses on empowering healthier choices, improving coordination, and enhancing monitoring and evaluation. Supported by initiatives like the World Bank's \$30 million HEART Project, the strategy especially targets remote areas for prevention and early detection. In 2025, the strategy was extended for five more years to strengthen implementation and oversight, reflecting Tonga's ongoing commitment to reducing NCDs and improving public health.

National Center for Chronic and Noncommunicable Disease Control and Prevention

2022

Summary : The National Center for Chronic and Noncommunicable Disease Control and Prevention (NCNCD) under China CDC leads national efforts against NCDs. Established in 2002, it provides scientific evidence for policy-making, develops strategies, and manages surveillance systems. NCNCD also conducts national surveys and supports provincial CDCs, playing a key role in China's NCD prevention and control programs.

Survey launched to analyze the situation of non-communicable diseases and risk factors

2023

Summary : The Paraguayan Ministry of Health launched the STEPS 2022 survey to assess the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and key risk factors among adults aged 18–69. Conducted with support from PAHO/WHO, INE, AECID, and Vital Strategies, the survey builds on data from 2011 to monitor trends over time. Its findings will guide evidence-based policy, strengthen the National NCD Plan, and support targeted prevention strategies. A national training workshop was held to prepare field teams for data collection.

Review of National Healthcare Systems in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries for Noncommunicable Diseases Management

2022

Summary : The article provides an overview of the healthcare systems and noncommunicable disease (NCD) policies across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. It identifies NCDs as the leading cause of mortality in the region, placing significant economic and healthcare system burdens. The review emphasizes the need for comprehensive strategies, including multisectoral actions, integration of healthcare services, capacity building of the health workforce, and the development of effective treatment strategies based on local populations. The authors advocate for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to strengthen NCD management and control in the GCC countries.

National Health Plan 2021-2030

2021

Summary : This document provides a comprehensive review of the health sector's performance over the past decade, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. It evaluates key result areas such as leadership, governance, and partnerships, and assesses progress toward achieving Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. The analysis serves as a foundation for setting priorities and strategies in the upcoming National Health Plan. It is a critical resource for policymakers and health professionals aiming to understand the current health landscape and plan for future improvements.

AFRICAN REGION (AFRO)

Health leaders commit to accelerate action against severe chronic diseases in Africa

2025

Summary : This article highlights African health leaders' commitment to scale up the PEN-Plus strategy for managing severe NCDs like type 1 diabetes and sickle cell disease in underserved areas. It outlines goals for expanding coverage by 2030 and emphasizes training mid-level providers at district hospitals. Key challenges noted include limited access to medicines, diagnostics, and persistent health inequities.

WHO South Africa Supports National Campaign to Combat Non-Communicable Diseases

2024

Summary : This article discusses South Africa's launch of a national campaign to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The campaign, supported by WHO, commenced in KwaZulu-Natal and aimed to raise awareness, promote prevention, and improve public health outcomes related to NCDs. Activities included community visits, where officials engaged with families affected by NCDs, highlighting the importance of early detection and community-based care. The campaign also featured an aerobics session aligned with the WHO's "5 x 5 NCD agenda," emphasizing a holistic approach to NCD prevention.

Addressing noncommunicable diseases

2022

Summary : The article highlights Tanzania's efforts to integrate noncommunicable disease (NCD) services into primary healthcare. The government has established diabetes and hypertension services in over 702 facilities across all 26 regions and trained 2,092 healthcare workers. This initiative has led to a more than two-fold increase in the number of people receiving care for hypertension between 2017 and 2022. The integration of WHO's technical packages, such as WHOPEN and HEART, into national guidelines has significantly improved early detection rates and reduced the cost of care for both providers and clients.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION (EMRO)

Noncommunicable diseases

2025

Summary : This page outlines Jordan's national efforts to reduce NCDs through integrated primary care, risk factor reduction, and multisectoral strategies. It highlights priorities like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and mental health, along with risk factors such as smoking and poor diet. Key actions include clinical guidelines, tobacco control, and school-based prevention initiatives.

Noncommunicable diseases in Morocco: a growing challenge

2025

Summary : This article highlights that NCDs cause 85% of deaths in Morocco and outlines key risk factors like obesity and hypertension. It discusses national strategies such as integrating NCD care into primary health services and expanding screening programs. The report also emphasizes growing palliative care efforts and the economic burden of chronic illnesses.

NCDs in Qatar: From burden to action

2025

Summary : The article highlights that noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) account for 72% of deaths in Qatar, driven by lifestyle changes and demographic shifts. The article reviews Qatar's comprehensive response, including sugar taxes, a 30% salt reduction in bread, national dietary guidelines, and the 2023–2026 Qatar Cancer Plan aimed at integrated prevention and control. It also emphasizes progress in tobacco control measures, such as e-cigarette bans and smoke-free campaigns, alongside strengthened surveillance through repeated WHO STEPs surveys and digital data systems. Despite these efforts, challenges remain, including a high prevalence of obesity (over 70% of adults) and undiagnosed hypertension, underscoring the need for enhanced primary care, intersectoral collaboration, and community engagement to further reduce the NCD burden.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION (SEARO) AND WESTERN PACIFIC REGION (WPRO)

Bridging Gaps for Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health - Leveraging Technology for Impact

2025

Summary : This publication explores innovative approaches to integrating non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health services into primary health care systems. It emphasizes the importance of person-centered care, community engagement, and the use of digital health technologies to enhance service delivery. The report also discusses policy frameworks and financing mechanisms necessary to support these integrated services in low- and middle-income countries. It serves as a valuable resource for policymakers and health practitioners aiming to strengthen primary health care systems.

REGION OF THE AMERICAS (AMRO)

Good Practices in the Prevention, Control, and Surveillance of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)

2025

Summary - This webpage-report documents a curated collection of “good practices” across the Americas, selected via a 2025 Call for Proposals assessing innovation, impact, efficiency, sustainability, intersectoral approach, equity, gender and human rights. It classifies initiatives under four strategic categories—Comprehensive NCD Management; Risk Factors & Health Promotion; Surveillance & Monitoring; and Digital Health—and provides examples ranging from mobile clinics for NCDs to AI-assisted screening, school nutrition programmes, and smoke-free environment enforcement. Designed for policy makers, public health practitioners, and researchers, the resource aims to facilitate adaptation and replication of successful programmes across different contexts in the Region.

Strengthening the Health System to Prevent and Manage Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases: Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases

2024

Summary : The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved the Dominican Republic’s project DR-L1167 on September 11, 2024, to enhance the nation's capacity to prevent and manage chronic noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), particularly diabetes and hypertension. With a total investment of USD 50 million, the project aims to reduce risk factors by expanding coverage of interventions promoting healthy habits and to improve the care network for timely diagnosis, treatment, and management of these diseases. The project is currently in the implementation phase.

REGION OF THE AMERICAS (AMRO)

PAHO Colombia culminates cycle of workshops to address Noncommunicable Diseases in the framework of social determinants of health and equity, a pilot in the Americas region 2023

Summary : This report describes a cycle of workshops held in Neiva, Popayán, and Bogotá which aimed to raise awareness of social determinants' effect on NCDs, to gather feedback via the new Social Determinants module in HEARTS, and to identify how equity-oriented practices can be strengthened. The article emphasizes participation by many stakeholders (national, departmental, municipal governments, academia, etc.) and highlights the importance of integrating social determinants into NCD prevention via multisectoral action. It also marks Colombia (and Suriname) as pilot countries for a PAHO cooperation project that links primary health care, social determinants of health, and equity in addressing NCDs.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

Towards an Integrated Health Information System in Korea

2022

Summary : The OECD's 2022 report, Towards an Integrated Health Information System in Korea, evaluates South Korea's health data infrastructure and offers policy recommendations to enhance its integration. It highlights Korea's advanced insurance claims data and drug utilization review systems but identifies challenges such as fragmented data governance and limited patient-reported data. The report suggests establishing a national health information strategy, revising legal frameworks, and promoting inter-agency collaboration to create a learning health system that supports continuous improvement and innovation.

NCD ALLIANCE

Systems that Save Lives

2025

Summary : This report documents Ethiopia's efforts to embed NCD prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care into its decentralized primary healthcare network, underpinned by its National Strategic Plan since 2014. It highlights key achievements (e.g. training 621 primary healthcare workers, screening over 692,000 people) as well as persistent challenges in workforce capacity, diagnostics and medicine availability, financing, and cultural attitudes. The authors draw lessons about the critical roles of strong governance, sustainable financing models, community engagement, and evidence generation for scaling integrated NCD care in low-resource settings.

Jordan puts NCDs at heart of UHC and humanitarian response

2025

Summary : This case study highlights Jordan's integration of NCD care into Universal Health Coverage and humanitarian aid, targeting refugees and vulnerable populations. It emphasizes community outreach and primary care interventions reaching around 180,000 people. The study stresses government leadership, inclusive health services, and civil society involvement as key to sustainable NCD care.

INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

2025

Summary: The report titled Innovative Financing for Noncommunicable Diseases in Asia and the Pacific (2025) by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) explores new financial strategies to combat the rising burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in the region. It identifies three main approaches to innovative financing:

1. **Diversifying Funding Sources:** This includes mobilizing domestic resources, leveraging private sector investments, and exploring international funding mechanisms.
2. **Innovative Financing Mechanisms:** The report discusses the use of financial instruments such as social impact bonds and blended finance to attract and utilize funds effectively.
3. **Optimizing Fund Usage:** It emphasizes the importance of efficient allocation and utilization of funds to maximize the impact on NCD prevention and control.

The report also highlights the need for a comprehensive approach that integrates health financing with broader development goals, ensuring sustainability and equity in addressing NCDs across the Asia-Pacific region.

Ukraine Civil Society Action

2024

Summary : This brief explores how the war in Ukraine has disrupted NCD care through displacement, infrastructure damage, and medicine shortages. It highlights civil society efforts to maintain services using WHO NCD kits, remote screening, and policy advocacy. The study stresses the need to integrate NCDs into humanitarian responses and strengthen local health systems.

Trends and disparities in non-communicable diseases in the Western Pacific region

2024

Summary: This research article published in The Lancet Regional Health – Western Pacific journal provides detailed information about the trends and disparities in NCDs in the Western Pacific region. The study reports that the WHO Western Pacific Region carries a heavy burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which now cause nearly 87% of all deaths—one-quarter of global NCD deaths. Cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, respiratory illness, and mental health disorders are the main causes. Rising NCDs are linked to ageing populations, unhealthy diets, tobacco use, obesity, and urban stress. Mental health problems are also growing, worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and limited access to care. Major inequalities exist between and within countries: Pacific Island nations face high NCD mortality despite high health spending, while countries like Japan and Singapore maintain lower rates through strong health systems. The study calls for integrated, culturally appropriate strategies to reduce risk factors, improve mental health services, and strengthen health systems to address these growing disparities.

New partnership to focus on health systems strengthening and equity in NCDs care

2024

Summary: NCD Alliance announced a new partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim aimed at strengthening health systems with a strong emphasis on equitable access to care for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). The collaboration will spotlight successful case studies ahead of the 2025 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs, target underserved communities, and push for integration of NCD care into universal health coverage (UHC) and primary health care.

RESist-NCD

2024

Summary: The RESist-NCD program is a four-year initiative (2024–2028) aimed at strengthening non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and control in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Cambodia where such diseases account for up to 86% of deaths. By expanding access to affordable, quality care and fostering community-led initiatives, the program aims to develop solutions that can last over time and fit the needs of each local community. This means using approaches that match local culture, resources, and health systems, rather than using the same plan everywhere. The program aims to make sure that all its activities are fair and accessible to everyone. For example, it works to include women in leadership roles, makes health programs accessible for people with disabilities, and ensures that marginalized groups—like those from low-income communities—can participate fully. It also incorporates First Nations knowledge to inform culturally appropriate approaches.

Equity as a core part of the NCD response

2024

Summary: NCD Alliance emphasizes that equity and human rights must be central to global responses to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), not just optional add-ons. The article introduces two new tools: a Conceptual Framework for Health Equity in NCDs and a Practical Guide for advocacy. These are meant to help civil society groups apply equity lenses locally, identify who is being left behind, understand why, and build policy recommendations.

The MENA Region Research into Multistakeholder Approaches

2024

Summary : This case study examines the integration of noncommunicable disease (NCD) care into humanitarian responses in Lebanon, focusing on the Partnering for Change initiative. It highlights the roles of social workers and the importance of self-management support for individuals with NCDs amidst the challenges posed by the Syrian refugee crisis and Lebanon's strained health infrastructure. The research underscores the need for collaborative, evidence-based approaches to address NCDs in complex humanitarian settings.

[Kenya One Country Multiple Approaches](#)

2024

Summary : This brief outlines Kenya's response to rising NCDs amid overlapping crises such as refugee inflows, climate shocks, and disease outbreaks. It highlights efforts like training health workers, piloting NCD care in emergencies, and adapting WHO NCD Kits. The study stresses the need for integrated, multi-sectoral approaches to sustain NCD care in humanitarian settings.

[The Philippines national NCD investment](#)

2023

Summary : The Philippines' National NCD Investment Case highlights the high economic cost of noncommunicable diseases, which cause 68% of deaths and cost \$14 billion annually. The 2012 Sin Tax Reform increased taxes on tobacco and alcohol, generating revenue used to fund Universal Health Coverage and expand healthcare access for the poor. This case shows how investing in NCD prevention and care can improve health and economic outcomes, offering a model for other countries.

[INTERVIEW: The story behind South Africa's new NCD strategy](#)

2022

Summary - NCD Alliance interviews key figures behind South Africa's National Strategic Plan for NCDs (2022–2027), designed to align with SDG targets through integrated, people-centered health services. The piece emphasizes the critical role of civil society, which spent nearly a decade advocating for inclusion in shaping the policy. It draws parallels to the HIV movement in terms of activism, accountability, and community engagement. Despite progress, challenges remain—particularly around underfunding, treatment access, and the need for strong provincial-level implementation.

[From siloes to synergies: Ensuring everyone living with chronic diseases has access to essential healthcare](#)

2021

Summary: This article discusses the findings of a policy research report commissioned by the NCD Alliance and conducted by The George Institute for Global Health. The report emphasizes the importance of integrating noncommunicable disease (NCD) prevention and care into global health initiatives and universal health coverage (UHC) frameworks. It highlights the scale and nature of unmet needs for NCD services, identifying lessons learned from past efforts to expand or integrate healthcare services.