

The NCD Alliance

Putting non-communicable diseases
on the global agenda

Briefing on 2013-2020 Global Action Plan for NCD Prevention and Control

Background

The current 2008-2013 WHO Action Plan on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) was developed to take forward the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of NCDs (2000) and has provided the political framework for action on NCDs. Significant progress has been made across the Plan's six objectives during this period, due to the combined effort of WHO, Member States, international partners and civil society organisations, including the NCD Alliance.

Since 2008 NCDs have made a steady ascent onto the global health and development agendas, culminating with the UN Summit on NCDs and the adoption of the UN Political Declaration on NCD Prevention and Control in 2011.

The Summit was a watershed event, catalysing political leadership and action on NCDs. Now as the expiry date of the current Action Plan fast approaches, Member States have an important opportunity to shape a new global NCD plan that will drive progress in this new era for NCDs.

To have maximum impact over the period 2013-2020, the NCD Alliance urges Member States to support a Global Action Plan on NCDs that meets the following four criteria:

- Builds on the progress and momentum achieved by the previous WHO Action Plan on NCDs, and through other vehicles during the same period such as WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Global Strategy on Diet and Physical Activity, Global Strategy on Alcohol, UN Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, etc;
- Reflects the changed global political landscape, including the adoption of the UN NCD Political Declaration;
- Responds to the emerging challenges and opportunities in this coming period (2013-2020), including the end date of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- Sets the world on track to reach the recently adopted global target of a 25% reduction in premature NCD mortality by 2025.

We have an opportunity to shape a Global NCD Action Plan that will save millions of people from avoidable suffering, illness, disability and death.

The NCD Alliance encourages Member States to fully engage in this process and has produced this briefing to inform and guide discussion. The briefing responds directly to the recently published WHO Discussion Paper on the Global Plan.

Process

A [WHO Discussion Paper on the Plan](#) was published on 26 July, and this will form the basis of the first round of consultations which includes the WHO consultation with Member States and UN Agencies on 16-17 August in Geneva, WHO Regional Committee Meetings in September-October and a WHO online consultation. Member States, UN agencies, relevant NGOs and selected private sector entities are invited to submit comments to the online WHO consultation via email to ncdactionplan@who.int by 7 September.

The NCD Alliance was founded by:



An “annotated zero draft” of the Global NCD Action Plan is then expected to be published in the last week of September, followed by a second informal Member State consultation on 1 November. Member States’ comments will be rapidly assimilated into the draft and sent to the WHO Executive Board for discussion at their meeting on 21-29 January. An updated draft will then be worked up by WHO. It is likely that this version will be the subject of a further series of consultations – of Member States, NGOs and private sector – that will take place in February or March before a final draft is submitted to the 66th World Health Assembly in May 2013 for adoption.

NCD Alliance recommendations on key elements of the Global Action Plan Discussion Paper

The NCD Alliance commends the WHO Discussion Paper, which outlines major elements for inclusion in the new global plan and a proposed structure. The NCD Alliance below recommends key points in the WHO Discussion Paper for Member States to support and identifies key areas that need to be strengthened during the consultation process.

1. Purpose, scope and roles

Support:

- The purpose of the plan is to define a “roadmap for implementation of the commitments in the UN Political Declaration on NCDs”.
- The overarching goal is to achieve the global target to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by 25% by 2025; and the plan must identify specific actions and interventions to achieve that goal.
- The scope must be relevant to all regions and countries, reflect existing political commitments and strategies on NCDs, and be integrated into global development processes, including sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development framework.

Strengthen:

- The lead UN agency for the plan is WHO, but the plan should be endorsed and implemented by all relevant UN agencies and international partners to harness the resources and expertise of the entire UN system.
- The plan should propose mechanisms to engage and mobilise stakeholders, including UN, Member States, civil society and the private sector to deliver and drive progress on the plan.

2. Principles, objectives and approaches

Support:

- The principles of equity and sustainability to guide the objectives of the plan are articulated.
- The focus on a multisectoral approach to strengthening health systems; to integrating NCDs in all relevant programs and services, especially at primary health care level; to increasing human resources for health; and to adopting a life-course perspective in order to achieve universal access to healthcare.
- The need to increase efficiencies in health systems to tackle NCDs.

Strengthen:

- The plan should embrace the principles of patient empowerment, the alleviation of inequality and an end to discrimination for all people with NCDs.
- The objectives should be concise, and more cross-cutting issues identified to support implementation, including leadership, resources, partnerships, integration, evaluation and accountability.
- The commitment to health literacy – not only for individuals but also for society at large.

3. Implementation

Support:

- The leadership of Heads of Government/State in delivering whole-of-government commitment to the plan.

- The plan to be costed and adequately resourced, identifying actions to secure sustainable financing for the prevention and control of NCDs at the global, regional and national levels.
- The national capacity of Member States to be strengthened, including through external technical and financial support.
- The importance of collaborative partnerships and public-private partnerships to be promoted, with the appropriate safeguards in place.
- The prioritised research agenda, with a focus on operational research and support for innovation.

Strengthen:

- The resolve to develop a plan that can be adapted for use at national level to increase shared responsibility with Member States.
- The commitment to incorporate the global monitoring framework, targets and indicators currently being developed; and a biennial reporting cycle to the General Assembly (in addition to WHA) starting with a UN High-Level Meeting in 2014 called for in the Political Declaration.

Structure of the Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020

The WHO Discussion Paper includes ten possible objectives for the Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020. The NCD Alliance supports these objectives as a starting point for discussion, but has identified areas of overlap and repetition. Below is the NCD Alliance recommendation for the structure of the Global NCD Plan 2013-2020, including a concise set of objectives and a set of cross-cutting issues to support implementation.

GOAL				
25% reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2025				
OBJECTIVES				
1	Reinforce political commitment to NCDs as a health and development priority and increase public awareness			
2	Improve international cooperation to mobilise resources and strengthen national capacity			
3	Promote and accelerate whole-of-government, multisectoral NCD plans, policies and programs			
4	Reduce NCD risk factors and create sustainable and health-promoting environments			
5	Improve care for people with NCDs through strengthened health systems and universal health coverage			
6	Implement the prioritized NCD research agenda and improve NCD surveillance and reporting systems			
CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES TO DELIVER RESULTS				
Leadership	Resources	Partnerships	Integration	Accountability