NCD voices from around the world: Second documentary series Facing Forward launches today

Language English

© New documentary series 'Facing Forward' produced by BBC StoryWorks

After the outstanding performance of the Turning the Tide [1] series, reaching 128.5 million impressions across BBC.com audiences from February 2020 to February 2021, the NCD Alliance and partners have launched a second series, Facing Forward [2] produced by BBC StoryWorks.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) account for over 70% of all deaths worldwide and causing half of all global disability. The deaths from NCDs are projected to escalate to 52 million - 75% of all deaths- in 2030. Almost a quarter of all people currently live with at least one NCD, and the number of those living with more than one NCD has steadily increased over the past 20 years.

It is estimated that 1.7 billion people, comprising 22% of the global population, live with at least one NCD, also called 'underlying condition', that puts them at increased risk of severe COVID-19 if infected.* Although the burden is universal, low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are hit the hardest, with over three-quarters of all NCD deaths occurring in these countries. NCDs cripple health systems, reduce human capital, undermine economic development and threaten global security.

> COVID-19 is fundamentally redefining the world we live in. People living with NCDs have been at the epicentre of the virus since its beginning, experiencing disproportionately severe outcomes such as hospitalisation, complications and death, and this is coupled with severe disruptions to NCD services around the world. The Facing Forward series highlight the power of community action, resilience and agency, by shining a spotlight on the change agents who are making a difference in the fight against NCDs," said **Katie Dain**, CEO of the NCD Alliance.

Facing Forward: Real people. Real Stories. Discover NCDs. **[2]**

This second series will continue to raise awareness of NCDs and highlight the stories of people who are living with them across the globe, as well as those of the communities, institutions and private sector who are leading the way to

prevent and control NCDs.

Facing Forward is a series of 25 short films and 10 articles from Lebanon, Ghana, Guinea, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Kenya, Thailand and the Pacific Islands, amongst other countries. Today the first set of short films have been launched. A second set of mini-films will be published on 17 November 2021.

A collaboration across public, private and non-profit health and development sectors, this ambitious project represents a great diversity of voices from around the world. The NCD Alliance and BBC StoryWorks encourage you to share the series and join the conversation using the social media hashtags **#FacingForward** and **#ActOnNCDs**.

You can discover Facing Forward over on BBC StoryWorks website **[3]. As BBC StoryWorks is part of BBC's international service, the website is not accessible from the UK. UK audiences can** discover Facing Forward here. **[2]**

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*The Lancet: https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(20)30264-3/fulltext#articleInformation [4]. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30264-3 [5]

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