

ISSUE 13: May 2021

NCD Alliance **Partners' report**

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The NCD Alliance Partners' report provides an essential overview of key updates and most recent developments in the NCD space. It has been designed to allow a quick and easy access to topline information you need to be aware of regarding noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

1

Need to Know Global Updates on NCDs

74th session of the World Health Assembly (WHA74)



24 - 31 May



Geneva, Switzerland

The 74th Session of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s World Health Assembly (WHA74) was held from 24 - 31 May as a hybrid meeting, with participants from the WHO Secretariat joining from WHO headquarters in Geneva, and others participating virtually. With the theme: *“Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world”*, [the provisional agenda](#) includes several NCD-relevant items, including:

- Item 13.2 Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including proposed resolutions on diabetes, and oral health, and decisions on mental health, and the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (GCM/NCD).
- Item 13.3 Expanding access to effective treatments for cancer and rare and orphan diseases
- Item 13.9 Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness.
- Item 17.1 COVID-19 response.
- Item 17.3 WHO's work in health emergencies.
- Item 18. Mental health [and neurology] preparedness for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Item 22.1: Social determinants of health.

In his opening address to the Assembly, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus paid special tribute to health and care workers for their sacrifice and urged every Member State to “protect and invest in its health and care workforce as a matter of urgency”. He also welcomed the proposal by the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#) to vaccinate 40% of the world's population by the end of 2021 and 60% by mid-2022. To ensure this becomes a reality, he urged Member States to fully fund the ACT Accelerator, share vaccine doses and scale up vaccine manufacturing.

WHA74 came to a close with Member States adopting over 30 Resolutions and Decisions in different areas of public health.

NCDs at WHA74: Outcomes

WHA74 approved Resolutions on diabetes, disability, social determinants of health and oral health and Decisions to endorse the global targets for effective coverage of refractive errors and effective coverage of cataract surgery to be achieved by 2030 and develop an implementation roadmap 2023–2030 for the Global Action Plan for the prevention and control of NCDs (NCD-GAP) 2013–2030. For the roadmap, WHO will consult with multiple stakeholders, including people living with NCDs, and it will be submitted for consideration to the WHA in May 2022.

The Resolution on diabetes urges Member States to prioritize the prevention, diagnosis, and control of diabetes as well as prevention and management of risk factors, especially obesity. It also urges each Member State to alert its citizens on the national burden of diabetes, its impact on public health as well as the relationship between obesity and risk for developing type 2 diabetes.

The recommended actions for WHO in this Resolution include the development of pathways for achieving targets for the prevention and control of diabetes, including access to insulin, and strengthened support for Member States on diabetes monitoring and surveillance. WHO was also requested to review and harmonize the regulatory requirements for diabetes medicines, including insulin, biosimilars, and other related health products.

The Resolution on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities links the increasing prevalence of chronic health conditions and disabilities. It urges Member States to ensure disability inclusion in health services, health emergencies preparedness and response, cross-sectoral public health interventions and health information.

The Resolution on oral health acknowledges the key risk factors of oral diseases shared with other NCDs such as high intake of free sugars, tobacco use and harmful use of alcohol, and urges Member States to enhance the capacities of oral health professionals.

It also calls on Member States to replace the traditional curative approach to oral care with prevention and promotion and to provide oral health services delivery as part of the essential health services package that delivers universal health coverage.

WHA74 also approved the Decision to adopt the global targets for effective coverage of refractive errors and cataract surgery to be achieved by 2030 as a strategy to address the growing demand for these interventions, especially within underserved populations.

The Resolution on the social determinants of health seeks to mobilize multistakeholder action at the national and global levels to reduce both social and health inequities, and improve living conditions. It also includes an action for the WHO Secretariat, including in continuing efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and in future recovery efforts.

Important Resources:

- NCDA WHA74 event page: <https://ncdalliance.org/news-events/event/2021-world-health-assembly-wha74>
- WHA74 Provisional Agenda: https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA74/A74_1-en.pdf
- [A74/10.Rev.1](#): Consolidated report on progress, NCD-relevant resolutions, action plans and strategies including:
 - Annex 11: Major obstacles to the achievement of diabetes global targets
 - Annex 12: Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013–2030 (Resolution WHA66.8 (2013) and Decision WHA72.11 with updated implementation options and indicators, to support recovery from COVID-19, including strengthening preparedness, response capacity and resilience for future public health emergencies.
- [Draft decision](#) on the GCM/NCD presented by the Russian Federation [here](#).
- [A74/10 Add.1](#): Mid-point evaluation of the implementation of the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020
- [A74/10 Add.3](#): Options paper for WHO’s Global Coordination Mechanism for NCDs (GCM/NCD)
- WHO DG’s opening address: <https://worldhealthorganization.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/d/4D75B0F008F6B83F2540EF23F30FEDED/DE8F6BA5560C607D16B21F2806CB3AE>

NCDA’s Strategy: 2021 - 2026



20 May



Geneva, Switzerland





[Read the NCDA Strategy 2021-2021](#)

The NCD Alliance is pleased to announce the launch of our 2021-2026 Strategy which provides a bold agenda and ambitious goals, cascaded to *four strategic pathways for action: advocacy and accountability, capacity development, knowledge and partnerships.*

The Strategy sets out the ambitious long-term outcome and short-term impact goals to drive change in NCDs worldwide and to fulfil the promise of the SDGs. In the long term, we set out to contribute to the delivery of WHO and UN NCD premature mortality targets. In the short term and for the duration of this strategy, **four impact goals** will drive our work and track our progress – **prevention, care, financing and community engagement.**

NCDA elects new Board for the term 2021-2023

 19 May

 Geneva, Switzerland

 [Read the NCDA network release](#)

NCDA's General Assembly was held virtually on Wednesday 19 May 2021, and voting members elected NCDA's Board, President-Elect and President for the term 2021-2023. The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of NCDA and provides members with a unique opportunity to shape NCDA's leadership and strategic direction for the coming years. 94 members from around the world registered to participate in the General Assembly meeting process, demonstrating a strong commitment to our governance. At the General Assembly in May 2021, members also received updates on NCDA's work.

Ahead of the assembly, NCD Alliance published a [Candidate Profile Booklet](#) which included the biography of all candidates, their statement of motivation and the relevance of their candidacy to help inform NCDA members' decisions in the election process.

The results of the election for NCD Alliance President, President-Elect and the eight Board Members are provided below:

The 2021-2023 Board is made up of an outstanding group of individuals from a range of backgrounds, areas of NCD expertise, and geographies to lead NCDA through the next two years. The members are:

- Trevor Hassell**, President, Healthy Caribbean Coalition (Barbados)
- Leslie Rae Ferat**, Executive Director, Framework Convention Alliance (Canada)
- Todd Harper**, CEO, Cancer Council Victoria (Australia)
- Marie Hauerslev**, Chair, NCD Child (Denmark)
- Eva Njenga**, Chair, NCD Alliance Kenya (Kenya)
- Kaushik Ramaiya**, Honorary General Secretary, Tanzania NCD Alliance (Tanzania)
- Bo Norrving**, Past President, World Stroke Organization (Sweden)
- Saunthari Somasundaram**, Chairperson, NCD Malaysia and President, National Cancer Society of Malaysia (Malaysia)
- Guy Marks**, President, The International Union Against TB and Lung Disease (Australia)
- Cary Adams**, CEO, Union for International Cancer Control (Switzerland)
- Liesl Zuhlke**, Board Member, World Heart Federation (South Africa)
- Stephen Colagiuri**, Vice President, International Diabetes Federation (Australia) (temporary - IDF representative for 2021-2023 to be confirmed shortly)

WHO's Innovation in Health Approach and Scaling Framework



17 May



Geneva, Switzerland



[Read more](#)

WHO has unveiled a new Scaling Framework for its “innovation in health approach”. The approach focuses on two strategic goals:

- Scale and sustain innovations for impact
- Harness a culture of innovation in WHO and countries

The new innovation Scaling Framework emphasizes the “multi-partner collaborative approach” WHO is taking to reach more people, including people living with NCDs. It links three dimensions of innovation scaling: 1) the health demands and priorities of countries, 2) the supply of ready-to-scale innovations, and 3) assessment throughout, from incubating to implementing and sustaining innovations.

Interested stakeholders can take the WHO Innovation for Health survey [here](#).

Turning the Tide video wins prize at WHO's Film Festival



10 May



Geneva, Switzerland



[Watch now](#)

‘The Beat of Change’ a mini-film from the World Heart Federation, produced by NCD Alliance and BBC StoryWorks, has won a special prize for health equity at the Health for All Film Festival. It shares the story of rheumatic heart disease (RHD), a noncommunicable disease that dangerously affects the heart. In Mozambique, thousands of people are living with RHD. The World Heart Federation is widening access to essential information and treatment, to improve the quality of life of those affected by the condition.

WHOPEN Application: A one-stop shop for all elements of an NCD primary care package



12 May



Download the app on
Google Play



Download the app on
Apple App Store



Read more

Public consultation on implementation guidance: How to integrate non- communicable diseases with national HIV/ AIDS, TB, sexual and reproductive health programmes, and into the health system



9 May



Geneva, Switzerland



Learn more

WHO's new WHOPEN Application is designed to facilitate the implementation of essential noncommunicable diseases (NCD) interventions for primary health care. It is adapted for use by a health provider and contains materials from the WHO Package of essential noncommunicable (PEN) disease interventions for primary health care.

Health providers will be able to access guidelines and protocols that are adaptable to local settings, as well as a CVD risk calculator that facilitates predicting the 10-year risk of a fatal or non-fatal major cardiovascular event (myocardial infarction or stroke). WHOPEN is available for download on Google Play and the Apple App Store.

The WHO Secretariat is hosting a *web-based consultation* from 10 May to 10 June 2021 on the draft implementation guidance “How to integrate non-communicable diseases with national HIV/AIDS, TB, sexual and reproductive health programmes, and into the health system”. This important undertaking comes shortly after WHO published its [updated recommendations on service delivery for the treatment and care of people living with HIV](#) which makes various recommendations on the integration of diabetes and hypertension care for the first time.

Interested stakeholders, including the targeted end-users and the public, are invited to take an open survey and submit their comments, guided by the survey questions. If you would like to take the survey, please contact by email Dr Temo Waqanivalu, Unit Head, Integrated Service Delivery, Department of NCDs, (waqanivalut@who.int) and Dr Hongyi Xu, Technical Officer, Integrated Service Delivery, Department of NCDs, (xuh@who.int).

NCD Alliance supports World Immunization Week from 24-30 April 2021



24-30 April



Global



[Watch the webinar](#)

Password:
COVIDUpdate3

NCD Alliance joined the World Health Organization and other stakeholders to celebrate [World Immunization Week 2021](#) from 24 - 30 April. With the theme ‘Vaccines bring us closer’, stakeholders amplified the roles that vaccines play in the prevention of morbidity and mortality, highlighting the relevance of COVID-19 vaccination.

Within this week, the NCD Alliance hosted a webinar to shed more light on the opportunities for addressing broader health systems weaknesses, including those specific to NCD prevention and control, while tackling both COVID-19 vaccine inequity and hesitancy.

WHO launches its Global Diabetes Compact to commemorate the centenary of insulin discovery



14 April



Geneva, Switzerland



[Watch the recording](#)



[Explore the WHO presentation](#)




[Read the new brief](#)

WHO has launched its Global Diabetes Compact initiative on 14 April 2021 during the Global Diabetes Summit organized to mark the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin. The Summit was co-hosted by the World Health Organization and the Government of Canada, with the support of the University of Toronto, and the participation of Heads of Government and Ministers of Health of Bangladesh, Canada, Fiji, France, India, Kenya, Norway, Oman, the Russian Federation, Senegal, and Singapore.

The Compact has the vision of reducing the risk of diabetes and ensuring that all people who are diagnosed with diabetes have access to equitable, comprehensive, affordable and quality treatment and care. It seeks to decrease inequity in access to diagnosis and treatment, ensuring that everyone can access care in primary health settings. It will also support the prevention of type 2 diabetes from obesity, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity.

To support governments in this process, the NCD Alliance, International Diabetes Federation and the World Heart Federation have published a [new policy brief](#) titled “Pressure Points: Call for simultaneous action on diabetes, hypertension for more resilient health systems.”

WHO hosts Informal Consultation with People Living with Diabetes

 9-11 March

 [Recordings:](#)


[Day One](#)


[Day Two](#)

[Day Three](#)

The WHO Informal Consultation with People Living with Diabetes (PLWD) was held virtually from 9-11 March 2021, with more than 130 attendees from 58 countries. Advocates shared their lived experience with diabetes and other health matters and emphasized the role of the involvement of PLWD in driving the agenda, conversations, and outcomes of the WHO Global Diabetes Compact. The session built on the WHO informal consultation on people living with NCDs in December 2020, and was a jointly hosted event between the WHO's GCM/NCD and NCD Department.

NCD Alliance and IPPPR host town hall "Exchange" on COVID-19 and NCDs

 25 March

 Geneva, Switzerland

 [Watch the recording](#)

 [Watch the IPPPR-NCDA Town Hall recording](#)

 [Read NCDA's recommendations to the Independent Panel](#)

 [Read IPPPR's final report](#)

 [Read IPPPR report summary](#)

NCDA and the [Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response](#) (Independent Panel/IPPPR) hosted a virtual town hall event on Thursday 25 March 2021 titled 'Noncommunicable diseases: Affecting and affected by COVID-19'. This meeting was part of a series organized by the Independent Panel to hear from people working on the frontlines of the pandemic. The Independent Panel reviewed the evidence of both the direct health impacts of COVID-19 on those with underlying NCD conditions and the challenges faced by people managing NCDs throughout the pandemic. The outcomes of this town hall event and similar discussions contributed to the Independent Panel's findings and its final report which was published ahead of WHA74.

In this report, the Independent Panel identified "weak links at every point in the chain of preparedness and response" and urged all stakeholders concerned to prioritize the implementation of its recommendations, describing them as "urgent and vital".

The Independent Panel's recommendations are:

- Elevate pandemic preparedness and response to the highest level of political leadership
- Strengthen the independence, authority and financing of WHO
- Invest in preparedness now to prevent the next crisis
- Invest in a new agile and rapid surveillance information and alert system
- Establish a pre-negotiated platform for tools and supplies
- Raise new international financing for pandemic preparedness and response
- Ensure national pandemic coordinators have a direct line to the Head of State or Government

2

On the Ground Country Updates

Barbados to launch new policies for NCDs



Barbados



[Read more](#)

A new strategic plan for NCDs will be coming shortly to the Barbados Parliament. In his remarks, the Minister of Health and Wellness, Lt. Col Jeffrey Bostic described NCDs as a major threat to healthcare, stressing that their impact on the population can no longer be ignored. Barbados is keen to adopt a new integrated approach to tackling NCDs, and the new plan will guide this process.

NCD Alliance Malaysia launches 'The Malaysia Advocacy Agenda of People Living with NCDs'



Malaysia



[Read more](#)

The Malaysia Advocacy Agenda of People Living with NCDs was launched in February 2021 by NCD Malaysia (a national NCD alliance), following a consultative process involving over 100 people living with a range of NCD conditions. This work was supported via NCD Alliance's Our Views, Our Voices initiative, which aims to promote meaningful involvement of people living with NCDs in the NCD response, and through NCD Alliance's partnership with Access Accelerated. The Malaysia Advocacy Agenda calls on a range of NCD stakeholders to address the needs and challenges of people living with NCDs in Malaysia in four areas of priority action including human rights and social justice; treatment, care and support; prevention; and meaningful involvement.

New advocacy agenda of people living with NCDs in Vietnam



Vietnam



[Read more](#)

The Vietnam Advocacy Agenda for people living with NCDs for NCDs policies" was launched in March 2021 by the Vietnam NCDs prevention and control Alliance following a consultative process involving over 170 people living with a wide range of NCDs. The work drew on NCD Alliance's Our Views, Our Voices initiative and was supported through NCD Alliance's partnership with Access Accelerated. The Vietnam Advocacy Agenda highlights the shared needs, challenges and priorities of people living with a range of NCDs in Vietnam and calls for their meaningful involvement in Vietnam's NCD response.

Healthy India Alliance micro-documentary of people living with NCDs



India



Watch the documentary

The Healthy India Alliance has released a micro-documentary featuring people living with NCDs in India on the theme of “*Leaving no one behind by putting people first*”. It leverages the India Advocacy Agenda of People Living with NCDs to further call for people-centred approaches in NCDs and UHC responses.

General Law for Tobacco Control approved in Mexico



Mexico



Read more

The Mexican Chamber of Deputies has approved a reform of the General Law on Tobacco Control to protect Mexicans from tobacco emissions in all closed public spaces. The country will also eliminate any form of advertising, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products. The reform comes after 13 years of interference from the tobacco industry and ends the spell of legislators who stopped more than 100 initiatives that would have worked in favour of health.

Alliances in Rwanda, Mexico and Tanzania reveal challenges for NCDs and UHC in national stakeholders meetings



Read more

With support from the NCD Alliance’s [Advocacy Institute NCDs and UHC Accelerator Programme](#), the national alliances in Mexico, Rwanda and Tanzania developed situational analyses on NCDs and UHC policies, which were presented at national stakeholder meetings at the end of February, end of March and mid-April respectively, with the participation of government representatives, WHO, civil society and people living with NCDs. National stakeholders came together to discuss the main challenges and policy gaps identified for addressing NCDs and UHC in the three countries, as well as the key areas for action. Finally, concrete policy recommendations were presented, providing a roadmap on how to advance towards fulfilling UHC for NCDs.

NCDAs’ Advocacy Institute NCDs and UHC Accelerator Programme are supported by NCDAs’ partnership with The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

3

Have Your Say Engage with Us

NCD Alliance to develop a Global Charter on Meaningful Involvement of People Living with NCDs

Quick links



Read the
NCD Alliance release



Learn more

The NCD Alliance will launch in September 2021 the Global Charter on Meaningful Involvement of People Living with NCDs, calling on stakeholders to embed meaningful involvement in organisational practices. The Global Charter will be based on consultations with the NCD Alliance network, which includes people living with NCDs, government and multilateral representatives, civil society, academia and relevant private sector. As part of these consultations, a multistakeholder dialogue and civil society meeting for the African region were hosted on 10 and 11 May respectively, and a similar series of regional events are planned for other WHO regions.

The NCD Alliance will also support national and regional NCD alliances in reaching out to their local communities to gather additional insights, with grant opportunities being made available for this purpose.

NCD Alliance Partners are invited to join the virtual dialogues, and contribute to the Charter through an upcoming survey.

Register for multistakeholder dialogues here:

- LATAM and Caribbean
- SEARO / WPRO
- EMRO

4

Partners Corner Supporters News

American Heart Association (AHA)



[Read more](#)

AHA's new public policy guide seeks to advance racial equity in public policy

The American Heart Association has published '2021 Racial Equity in Public Policy Message Guide', a new Voices for Healthy Kids resource. It includes key messages and tips for advocates to use with decision-makers when advancing both policies and conversations on racial equity. This is an update of Voices for Healthy Kids' 2018 Health Equity Message Guide, which grew from a request from advocates for ways to inspire decision-makers to embed equity in policy language. The 2021 messages are strengthened to focus on racial equity.



[Read more](#)

Non-profit advocacy at the American Heart Association

A policy statement has been published that documents the evolution of the American Heart Association's public policy advocacy over 40 years and emphasizes the continuing importance of advocacy to achieve AHA's life-changing mission.

AstraZeneca (AZ)

Learning module links:



[Air pollution](#)
[Alcohol and tobacco](#)

Data dashboard links:



[Regional profiles](#)
[Country profiles](#)

UNICEF releases NCD prevention learning modules and data dashboards

Two learning modules have been released on UNICEF's Voices of Youth platform, made possible through support from the Young Health Programme. These are open-source, designed by and for young people, and can be shared and used globally by youth organisations, parents, and teachers as well as youth themselves.



**More information and
guidance video**

AstraZeneca's Step Up! Global Grants Programme opens 9 June

AstraZeneca's Step Up! Global Grants Programme provides grants of up to US \$10,000 to help small, innovative, youth-focused non-profits develop and deliver effective health promotion programmes – with an emphasis on under-resourced and marginalised communities in low- and middle-income countries. This year, we are accepting applications for fresh, creative approaches which tackle both environmental sustainability and NCD risk factors, primarily targeting young people in resource-low settings. Applications for the 2021 Step Up! Grant Programme will open from 9 June through 21 July 2021.

World Obesity Federation (WOF)



Access the podcasts



Subscribe on Spotify



Subscribe on Apple



Read more

Youth Voices for Healthy Choices

Hosted by patient and student activist Faith Newsome, World Obesity launched a new three-episode podcast that will take you on a journey around the world to hear stories from experts and young changemakers working to address childhood obesity.

World Obesity launches stigma working group

World Obesity has launched a new Weight Stigma & Bias Working Group to (i) identify the common understanding of bias and gaps in knowledge regarding its role in obesity in different populations and geographies, (ii) propose processes for reviewing the role bias and stigma may play in publications, programmes and messaging, (iii) and make recommendations for tailoring responses for different audiences and geographies through a position paper to help address the stigma faced by people living with obesity. Please contact Margot Neveux (mneveux@worldobesity.org) if you would be interested in receiving further information about the group.



Read more

Physical activity policy dossier launched

Exercise incontestably confers significant physical and mental health benefits for everyone, including for people living with overweight and obesity. World Obesity just released a new policy dossier on obesity and physical activity, which compiles resources from around the world on obesity and physical activity.

The George Institute for Global Health (TGI)

 [Read more](#)

 [Read more](#)

Failing to see the wood for the trees may be preventing better cardiovascular outcomes

A new study from The George Institute has found that managing single risk factors like blood pressure rather than looking at overall risk may be wasting scarce resources in countries where cardiovascular disease (CVD) is on the rise. Researchers looked at country-specific levels of cardiovascular risk and whether WHO guidelines on the use of blood pressure medication were being followed across 45 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). They found the overuse of medicines in people at lower levels of CVD risk and underuse of medicines in people at higher risk across all countries.

World Diabetes Foundation (WDF)

 [Read more](#)

New WDF strategy 2021-2025 responds to changing diabetes landscape

WDF is responding to the changing NCD landscape with a new strategy that increases its focus on core interventions and alignment with the principles guiding global NCD responses. WDF's 2021-25 strategy responds to the urgent need to strengthen health systems and enhance the quality of diabetes care, focusing on the primary level. Three principles underpinning global and national approaches to NCDs will guide WDF's work: integrated care, life-course approach and universal health coverage. The strategy includes a gradual prioritisation that will lead to WDF supporting fewer but larger-scale projects, while increasing focus on impact, sustainability, and results in measurement.

 [Read more](#)

New partnership aims to reduce the burden of NCDs in humanitarian settings

Lebanon is passing through a protracted humanitarian crisis given the influx of more than 1.5 million Syrian refugees over the past decade, which has put an enormous strain on all parts of society. Despite the growing burden, the NCD area has been under-prioritised in the humanitarian response framework. A new partnership between Novo Nordisk Foundation, Danish Red Cross and World Diabetes Foundation will provide major investment into the health system in Lebanon, aiming to advance the nationwide response to the high burden of NCDs among Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese host communities.

International Diabetes Federation (IDF)

 [Read more](#)

IDF-Direct Relief partnership to bring diabetes products to vulnerable populations

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and Direct Relief have announced an expanded partnership to provide donated diabetes medicines and related supplies to people with diabetes in countries whose healthcare systems have been disrupted by natural disasters or other crises. IDF and Direct Relief invite healthcare companies that manufacture diabetes-related medicines, enabling technologies, and diagnostic products to support this program with consistent donations of their products to help people with diabetes in countries where these goods are unavailable or unaffordable.

 [Read more](#)

IDF Kids and Diabetes in Schools: Advocacy Toolkit

The IDF Kids and Diabetes in Schools (KiDS) programme has produced a toolkit that provides information and tips to help advocates encourage local or national decision-makers to bring diabetes education into schools.

Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

 [Read more](#)

Tobacco control content hub

Ahead of World No Tobacco Day on 31 May, UICC has developed a series of materials to support advocates around the world to communicate about the need for strong tobacco control measures.

5

Coming Up Events for your Diary

2021 Events and Platforms

WHO World Health Assembly Geneva, Switzerland (Hybrid format)	24 May - 1 June
NCD, GHC and GNP+ Side-event (Virtual)	3 June
NCD Regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean South	8-10 June
UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS	8-10 June
Launch of WHO's Guidance on Rights-based Mental Health Services	10 June
Our Rights to Health in Africa: A Type 1 Diabetes Youth Advocacy Workshop	14 June
NCD Regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue in Southeast Asia and Western Pacific	16 - 17 June
NCD Regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue in Eastern Mediterranean	22 - 23 June
Food Systems Summit Virtual Dialogue on Coherent Policy for Healthy Diets (NCD co-hosting)	7 & 10 June
World Health Summit Regional Meeting Kampala, Uganda (Hybrid format)	27 - 30 June
World Psoriasis Conference (WPPAC) Stockholm, Sweden (Virtual)	June 30 - 3 July
UN High-Level Political Forum New York, United States (Virtual)	6-15 July
UN Food Systems Pre-Summit Rome (Hybrid format)	26 - 28 July
UN Food Systems Summit (Date TBC)	Sept
Global Week for Action on NCDs Global campaign	6-12 Sept

76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 76) New York, United States (Virtual)	14-30 Sept
FDI World Dental Congress Sydney, Australia (Virtual)	26-29 Sept
Global Alcohol Policy Alliance event (Virtual)	12-13 Oct
World Health Summit Berlin, Germany (Hybrid format)	24-26 Oct
World Cancer Leaders' Summit Boston, USA (Hybrid format)	25-26 Oct
World Stroke Congress Virtual	28-29 Oct
UN Climate Change Conference Glasgow, UK	1-12 Nov
Global Fund Board Meeting Geneva, Switzerland	9-10 Nov
AHA's Scientific Sessions Boston, USA (Hybrid format)	13-15 Nov
IDF Virtual Congress 2021	6 - 11 Dec
Nutrition for Growth Summit Tokyo, Japan (format TBC)	Q4 2021 (dates TBC)

High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) 2021



6 - 15 July



New York



[Read more](#)

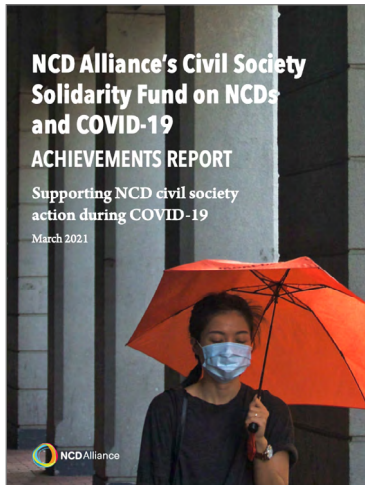
HLPF2021 will be held from Tuesday 6 July to Thursday 15 July 2021, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council with the theme of “*Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”. 44 countries will carry out Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The high-level segment of ECOSOC, the ministerial segment of HLPF on 13 July, the closing of the HLPF on 15 July, and the closing of the high-level segment of ECOSOC on 16 July, are expected to be organized as in-person events. Other aspects of the programme will proceed virtually, and simultaneous interpretation will be available.

6

Latest Publications Useful Readings and Resources

NCDA Resources



Civil Society Solidarity Fund on NCDs and COVID-19 report

This NCDA report on the Civil Society Solidarity Fund on NCDs and COVID-19 is based on the efforts of the 20 NCD alliances that were recipients of the fund in 2020. The NCD Alliance's Civil Society Solidarity Fund on NCDs and COVID-19 has been made possible thanks to the generous financial contributions of NCD Alliance's supporters: Access Accelerated, AstraZeneca, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Takeda and Upjohn Pfizer (now Viatris).



[Read the report](#)



Pressure Points: Call for simultaneous action on diabetes and hypertension for more resilient health systems

This policy brief makes the case for simultaneous action for both conditions as an opportunity for decision-makers to achieve an exponential positive impact on wellbeing, health systems strengthening and sustainable development.



[Read more](#)



Opinion: NCDs and building back fairer from COVID-19 — if not now, when?
By *Katie Dain* // 17 May 2021

Global Health Funding

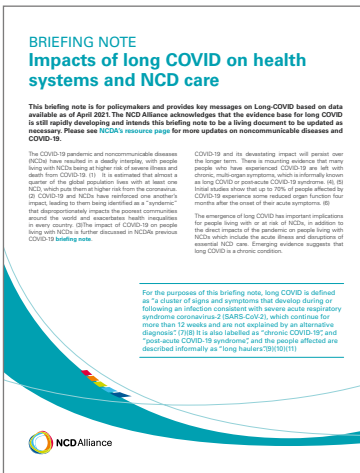
Our COVID-19 coverage is free. Please consider a Devex Pro subscription to support our journalism.



NCDs and building back fairer from COVID-19 — if not now, when? (Op-ed by Katie Dain, CEO of NCD Alliance)

This op-ed by Katie Dain, CEO of NCD Alliance highlights the role of NCD prevention in creating and sustaining healthy populations, and the need to centre health systems and programmes on what matters for people and their quality of life, recognizing that many who are living with a chronic condition are facing more than one.

 [Read more](#)



BRIEFING NOTE
Impacts of long COVID on health systems and NCD care


This briefing note is for policymakers and provides key messages on long COVID based on data available as of April 2021. The NCD Alliance acknowledges that the evidence base for long COVID is still rapidly developing and intends this briefing note to be a living document to be updated as necessary. Please see NCD Alliance resources page for more updates on non-communicable diseases and COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic and communicable diseases (NCDs) have resulted in a steady interplay, with people living with NCDs being at higher risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19. It is estimated that almost a quarter of the global population lives with at least one NCD, which puts them at higher risk from the coronavirus. COVID-19 and NCDs have reinforced one another's impact, leading to them being identified as a "syndemic" — one where the combined impact of the two conditions is greater than the sum of their individual parts.

COVID-19 and its devastating impact will persist over the longer term. There is mounting evidence that many people who have experienced COVID-19 are still with chronic, multi-organ symptoms, which is informally known as long COVID or post-acute COVID-19 syndrome. The initial studies show that up to 70% of people affected by COVID-19 experience some reduced organ function four months after the onset of their acute symptoms.

The emergence of long COVID has important implications for people living with or at risk of NCDs, in addition to the direct impact of the pandemic on people living with NCDs which include the acute illness and symptoms of existing NCD care. Emerging evidence suggests that long COVID is a chronic condition.

For the purposes of this briefing note, long COVID is defined as "a cluster of signs and symptoms that develop during or following an infection considered with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), which continue for more than 12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis" (7)(8). It is also labelled as "chronic COVID-19" and "post-acute COVID-19 syndrome" and the people affected are described informally as "long haulers" (9)(10)(11).



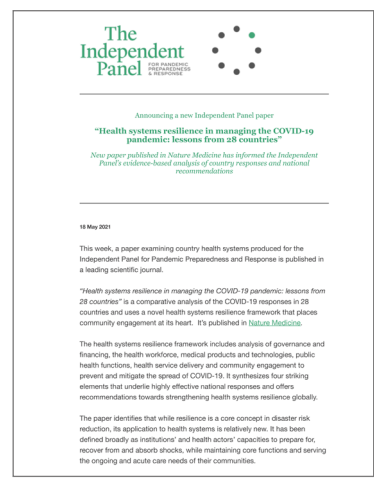
Long COVID briefing note

NCD Alliance's new long COVID briefing note discusses the latest evidence on long COVID, including its potential scale, impact on quality of life and health systems, and implications for health systems planning, budgets, and resource allocations.

It also examines the impact long COVID will have on NCD care, highlighting that the symptoms of long COVID are similar to the manifestations of several NCDs and likely to increase the number of people requiring NCD care.

 [Read more](#)

New Resources



The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response

Announcing a new Independent Panel paper
"Health systems resilience in managing the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons from 28 countries"

New paper published in Nature Medicine has informed the Independent Panel's evidence-based analysis of country responses and national recommendations

14 May 2021

This week, a paper examining country health systems produced for the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response is published in a leading scientific journal.

"Health systems resilience in managing the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons from 28 countries" is a comparative analysis of the COVID-19 responses in 28 countries and uses a novel health systems resilience framework that places community engagement at its heart. It is published in Nature Medicine.

The health systems resilience framework includes analysis of governance and financing, the health workforce, medical products and technologies, public health functions, health service delivery and community engagement to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. It synthesises four striking elements that underlie highly effective national responses and offers recommendations towards strengthening health systems resilience globally.

The paper identifies that while resilience is a core concept in disaster risk reduction, its application to health systems is relatively new. It has been defined broadly as institutions' and health actors' capacities to prepare for, recover from and absorb shocks, while maintaining core functions and serving the ongoing and acute care needs of their communities.

Health systems resilience in managing the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons from 28 countries

This new paper published in Nature Medicine is a comparative analysis of the COVID-19 responses in 28 countries and uses a novel health systems resilience framework that places community engagement at its heart.

 [Read IPPPR's review of the paper](#)

 [Access the paper](#)



Compact and convergence – a new century must bring new hope for people living with diabetes, worldwide (blog by Bent Lautrup-Nielsen, Head of Global Development and Advocacy at the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF))

This blog discusses the growing burden of diabetes, and the need to re-think our strategies for international collaboration for the prevention and control of NCDs.



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Stronger collaboration for an equitable and resilient recovery towards the health-related sustainable development goals: 2021 progress report on the global action plan for healthy lives and well-being for all

The second annual Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (SDG3 GAP) progress report illustrates how the SDG3 GAP provides an important, long-term improvement platform for collaboration among 13 agencies in the multilateral system as they support countries on the path towards an equitable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and further progress towards the health-related SDGs.



Read more



Sign up for WHO newsletters

The WHO Global Coordination Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of NCDs (GCM/NCD) publishes a weekly newsletter, summarising recent reports, webinars and activities on NCD prevention and control. You can read a [previous edition](#), and subscribe to the newsletter by [following this link](#).

The WHO Mental Health and Substance Use Department publishes its newsletter, providing updates on publications, news releases, speeches, activities, guidance and examples of people's lived experiences. You can [subscribe](#) to this newsletter and find a [recent issue](#) here.

The WHO Rehabilitation Department newsletter shares recent projects, guidance and training opportunities as they emerge. You can [subscribe](#) here.



MAKING NCD PREVENTION AND CONTROL A PRIORITY, EVERYWHERE

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