

ISSUE 15: November 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

### WHO calls for tackling climate change for sustainable recovery after COVID-19

[+](#) Read more

The WHO has published a special report on climate change and health that outlines the global health community's call for action on climate change based on a growing body of work showing the many invisible links between climate and health. The report was launched at the same time as an open letter, signed by over two-thirds of the global health workforce – 300 organisations representing at least 45 million doctors and health professionals worldwide.

### Release of WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All's Manifesto

[+](#) Read more

The Council will apply a mission-oriented approach to rethinking the economy, adding the vision of health for all - including human and planetary health - and then working backwards to see what this means for the economy. This is based on health and the economy being interdependent; the fact that health is a key economic sector and critical to resilience and stability in economies worldwide; and that public and private investments can be channelled into health to achieve global cooperation towards supranational goals.

### Latest Healthy NDC Scorecard shows low- and middle-income countries leading action

[+](#) Read more

The Global Climate and Health Alliance Healthy Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Scorecard assesses the extent to which governments' national climate commitments recognise and respond to the abundant linkages with health. The scorecard ranked three middle-income countries - Cambodia, Moldova, and Cabo Verde - as joint leaders for their consideration of health across five categories, followed by Costa Rica.

## Promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health

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The UNICEF State of the World's Children 2021 report examines child, adolescent and caregiver mental health. It focuses on risks and protective factors at critical moments in the life course and delves into the social determinants that shape mental health and well-being. The report calls for commitment, communication, and action as part of a comprehensive approach to promote good mental health for every child, protect vulnerable children and care for children facing the greatest challenges.

## 12 win-win solutions for decisionmakers to build back better and more equitably

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The Global NCD Agenda for Resilience and Recovery from COVID-19 offers 12 win-win solutions for leaders, policymakers, and other key decisionmakers to build back better and more equitably after COVID-19. The recommendations fall under three pillars for transformative action: Governance (redefine priorities and power and measure what matters); Prevention (prioritise population health as a path to preparedness); and Health Systems (fairer and fit for the future).

## Launch of the Global Charter on Meaningful Involvement of People Living with NCDs

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 [Learn more](#)

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The 'Global Charter on Meaningful Involvement of People Living with NCDs' was launched on 6 September during the Global Week for Action on NCDs, held around the theme of community engagement. The Global Charter, produced through an extensive consultative process at global, regional and country levels with nearly 500 voices, highlights how and why people living with NCDs should be meaningfully involved in every step of decision making that affects their lives.

The Global Charter calls on organisations and institutions to publicly endorse it – and commit to its fundamental principles and ten core strategies to embed meaningful involvement in organisational practices. Following its launch, nearly 50 organisations have endorsed the Global Charter, which is accepting endorsements on an ongoing basis.

## Launch of NCD Diaries Series Two: Universal Health Coverage with a focus on affordability

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 [Learn more](#)

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As part of the Our Views, Our Voices initiative, the NCD Diaries showcase the stories of people living with NCDs. Our NCD Diarists share their lived experiences and call for action in multimedia formats (visual, written and audio). The digital project based on storytelling with a purpose launched its second series themed on Universal Health Coverage with a focus on affordability in mid-September. The NCD Diaries that are part of Series Two will be fully published to coincide with UHC Day 2021.

# 2

## On the Ground Country Updates

### Spain to ban junk food ads targeting under 16s



Spain



[Read more](#)

Spain announced plans to ban junk food ads that target children under the age of 16 to combat childhood obesity and overweight. Spain's Minister of Consumer Affairs said that the country is preparing a decree that would follow WHO nutritional criteria and prohibit ads for chocolate and sugary confectionery, energy bars, sweet toppings, cakes, cookies and pastries, as well as juices, energy drinks and ice cream. The restriction will affect TV ads, radio, print media, websites, apps, and social media.

### Front-of-package warning labels soon to appear on shelves in Argentina



Argentina



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The "Promotion of Healthy Eating" initiative makes obligatory the inclusion of front-of package warning labels in the shape of black stop signs with the message "Excess in..." to clearly warn about the excessive content of health-harming ingredients such as sugar, fat and sodium. It is based on the nutrient profile system of the Pan American Health Organization, which best corresponds to the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for the Argentine Population (GAPA).

### Rwandans see a healthier future with National NCD Strategy



Rwanda



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Rwanda has taken a huge step in the prevention and control of NCDs with its ambitious National NCD Strategy that guides action through four strategic objectives, each one with its expected outputs and measures to be tracked. The strategy is the result of multisectoral collaboration involving health experts and practitioners, government, and other stakeholders, as well as community members including people living with NCDs. The plan outlines four strategic objectives to guide action for tackling NCDs in the next years. The Rwanda NCD Alliance has been advocating the Ministry of Health for the Strategy's approval, and is listed as a key partner in its implementation. This work is supported by NCD Alliance's NCDs and UHC Accelerator Programme, thanks to its partnership with the Leona M. and Harry B. Charitable Trust.

## Urging member states to put people living with NCDs first



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EM-NCDA delivered a statement during the WHO regional committee meeting urging member states in the Eastern Mediterranean region focusing on empowering and engaging people living with diabetes, including vulnerable groups in the region (youth, refugees, and displaced populations). The statement notes that approximately 55 million adults aged 20-79 years are living with diabetes in the region, representing 13% of the adult population, and with no effective action this will continue to rise.

## Kenya shines light on mental health crisis sweeping Africa



Kenya



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A new commitment by Kenyan leaders has put mental illness on the health agenda, addressing the mental health needs of the population and the broader obstacles to extending psychological care throughout the African continent. Globally, according to WHO, mental illness on average attracts just 2% of government spending on health, and with no sufficient funding, even African countries that do have clear mental health policies are under pressure.

## Ghana NCD Alliance urges governments to implement the Global Charter



Ghana



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The Ghana NCD Alliance used the momentum of the Global week for Action on NCDs to call on the government and international organisations to commit to implementing the Global Charter on Meaningful Involvement of People Living with NCDs. The alliance urged the government to take the NCD campaign to the communities to ensure everyone is involved in making a positive difference in their lives.

## CLAS promotes stronger focus on health systems resilience



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The Healthy Latin America Coalition (CLAS), World Heart Federation and the NCD Alliance delivered statements at PAHO Directing Council on the digital transformation of the health sector, and a strategy for building resilient health systems in the post COVID-19 recovery. The statement on digital transformation welcomed the Global Strategy on Digital Health and the roadmap as timely and necessary. It also pledged to work with PAHO and Member States to build and engage with evidence based on digital health, share best practices to manage circulatory health and NCDs using digital health tools, and identify country champions.

This work is supported by the NCD Alliance, thanks to its partnership with the Leona M. and Harry B. Charitable Trust.

## ANN joins Afro RCM to demand accelerated progress



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The Africa NCDs Network (ANN) discussed opportunities to position NCDs and Universal Health Coverage at the Regional Committee for Africa. The debate also helped ANN develop a civil society statement to urge Member States to accelerate the fight against cervical cancer and other NCDs, particularly through the implementation of the Global Strategy in the African region, which is expected to lead to a reduction of women dying from this condition.

This work is supported by NCD Alliance, thanks to its partnership with the Leona M. and Harry B. Charitable Trust.

## Mexico's Senate approved legislative proposal to eliminate iTFA's



Mexico



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\(in Spanish\)](#)



[Watch video](#)

On 14 October 2021, Mexican Senators approved a proposal to limit and eventually eliminate industrially produced trans fatty acids (iTFA's) from the country's food supply system, which is a step forward towards becoming a good practice country adopting the REPLACE technical package. This proposal will then be discussed and potentially voted on by the lower chamber in the coming months. The proposal was developed and introduced by Senator Lilia Margarita Valdes, a champion and ally of the Mexico Salud-Hable Coalition. Civil society, as well as PAHO, had been supporting the Senator along the way, providing evidence, research and raising awareness with key decision makers, including from the Ministry of Health, around the need to eliminate iTFA's in Mexico.

Advocacy and research efforts of the Mexico Salud-Hable Coalition on iTFA's are being supported by the NCD Alliance, through its partnership with Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies.

Watch also a new video about Mexico's junk food bans, supported by Resolve to Save Lives.

# 3

## Have Your Say Engage with Us

### Facing Forward: 25 films and 10 articles depicting the global burden of NCDs



[Read more](#)

After an outstanding performance of the Turning the Tide video 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, both produced by BBC StoryWorks. Facing Forward is a series of 25 short films and 10 articles from around the world. The series seeks 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. Explore the series and join the conversation on social media using the hashtags #FacingForward and #ActOnNCDs.

### Advocacy Institute expands to support work on coalition building and NCD prevention



[Read more](#)

After the success of the Advocacy Institute's first phase supporting 14 NCD alliances ([read more here](#)), a second phase started last year. From 2021, the Advocacy Institute is being expanded to include a set of additional geographies in its Seed Programme as well as in its thematic NCDs and UHC Accelerator programme. In addition, a new thematic NCD Prevention Accelerator Programme is being launched. A new [Seed](#) Programme focused on supporting three NCD alliances in their coalition-building and advocacy activities, and a new thematic NCDs and UHC [Accelerator](#) focused on supporting 10 national NCD alliances to drive effective in-country advocacy on NCDs and UHC.

### Working Together to Support People Living with HIV and NCDs



[Watch the event](#)

At an online event, co-hosted by the NCD Alliance, Viatrix, and the American College of Cardiology, speakers shared experiences and explored ways to make integrated NCD services a reality as we build back fairer from COVID-19, in particular given the mandate set out by the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. During the session, the speakers also shared best practice integration examples, highlighted the need for a coordinated multisectoral response, and explored the roles of different stakeholders in ensuring roll-out of integrated NCD services.

# 4

## Partners Corner Supporters News

### American Heart Association



[Read more](#)

### 2021 interim guidance for basic and advanced cardiac life support in adults

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues into 2021 and beyond, there is now a more accurate understanding of the transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2, a stabilizing of personal protective equipment (PPE) availability, widespread vaccination by health care providers, and some communities prompting an update of the initial interim guidance for basic and advanced life support.



[Read more](#)

### Maternal Health and Saving Mothers: A policy statement from the American Heart Association

In alignment with American Heart Association's mission "to be a relentless force for longer, healthier lives," this policy statement outlines the inequities that influence disparities in maternal outcomes and current policy approaches to improving maternal health, and suggests additional potentially impactful actions to improve maternal outcomes and ultimately save mothers' lives.

### FDI World Dental Federation



[Read more](#)



[Read more](#)



[Learn more](#)



[Learn more](#)

### FDI, NCD Alliance and 64 other organisations joined forces to respond to WHO's draft oral health strategy

In response to the public consultation for WHO's draft global strategy on tackling oral diseases, FDI joined forces with 65 organisations, including NCD Alliance, to submit a joint response. While commending the initial draft which strongly aligns with FDI's Vision 2030, co-signatories urged WHO to develop a global strategy that better encompasses all the implications that the links between oral health, NCDs and general health have for health systems. Our comments also suggested a specific strategic objective on the oral health workforce and a guiding principle on sustainability. A revised draft will be submitted for approval by WHO's Executive Board in 2022.



## FDI World Dental Federation



Read more



Read more

### Joint FDI & NCDa briefing note with 5 key messages on oral health integration

In the context of WHO's recent Resolution on oral health (WHA74.5) and the upcoming 2022 global strategy on tackling oral diseases, FDI and NCDa joined forces to develop a briefing note for policymakers on WHY and HOW to integrate oral health into the NCD and UHC responses. The document makes the case for oral health to be considered an essential element of general health and well-being, providing five key evidence-based messages on the associations between oral health and NCDs and the potential for oral health integration into health systems. Check it out!

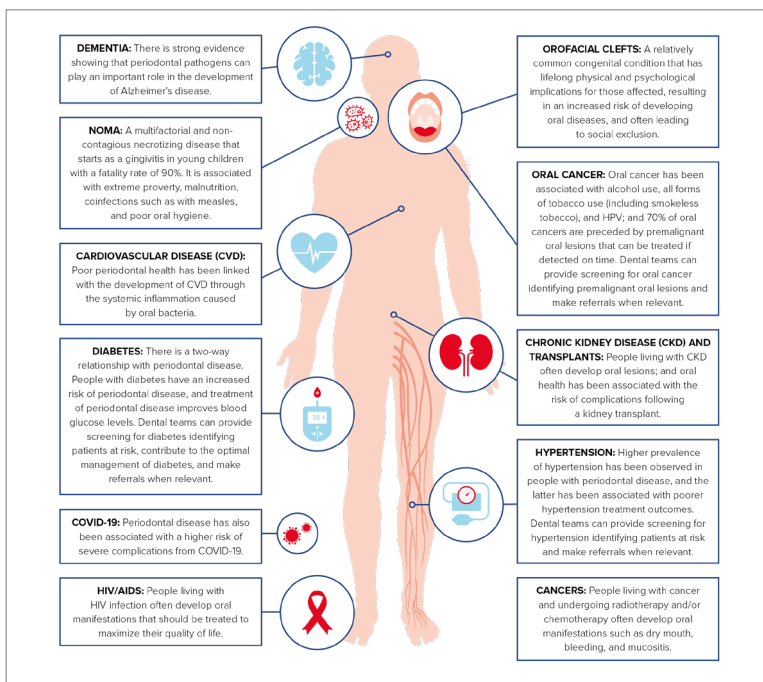


Photo source: FDI World Dental Federation, NCD Alliance. 2021

## International Diabetes Federation



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## IDF Virtual Congress 2021

Join us 6-11 December, featuring the latest research on diabetes complications and the impact of COVID-19 on people with diabetes.

The IDF Virtual Congress 2021 will feature the latest research on diabetes complications in three separate streams (Cardiovascular and Hypertension, Eye and Kidney, Foot and Neuropathy) and a stream dedicated to COVID-19 and diabetes. The opening day will feature sessions on the centenary of insulin and the IDF Diabetes Atlas 10th Edition 2021.

Attractive individual and group rates are available to facilitate attendance from across the world and registration is free for health professionals from and living in low-income countries.

Do not worry if you cannot attend the Congress live. All sessions will be available for view-on-demand for one month.

**IDF CONGRESS 2021 VIRTUAL** **DIABETES COMPLICATIONS & COVID-19**

6-11 December 2021  
idf2021.org | #IDFVirtual2021

## The Fred Hollows Foundation



[Read more](#)

## Diverse voices drives better eye health

Health systems will be stronger and outcomes more equitable when the women who deliver them have an equal say in the design of national health plans, policies and systems. By applying an intersectionality lens – the way factors such as race, class, and gender combine to affect lived experiences differently – we can ensure we illuminate, track and monitor inequities in eye health.

25 November at 09:00 GMT



## NCD Child



[Read more](#)

## Type 1 diabetes is on the rise globally

However, the burden of mortality remains disproportionate in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICS). As 2021 marks 100 years since the discovery of insulin, this new Lancet review led by NCD Child revisits the progress, global burden of type 1 diabetes trends, and the understanding of the pathogenesis and management practices related to the disease. Despite much progress, inequities in access and availability of insulin formulations persist and are reflected in disparities in survival and morbidity patterns related to the disease.

## The George Institute for Global Health



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[Learn more](#)



[Watch webinar](#)

## Landmark study shows simple salt swap could prevent millions of deaths each year

Replacing table salt with a reduced-sodium, added-potassium 'salt substitute' significantly reduces rates of stroke, heart attack and death, according to the results of one of the largest dietary intervention studies ever conducted. Salt substitutes are known to lower blood pressure but their effects on heart disease, stroke, and death were unclear, until now. Lead investigator, Professor Bruce Neal of The George Institute for Global Health, said that the scale of the benefit seen in the study could prevent millions of early deaths if salt substitutes were widely adopted.

## Vital Strategies

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## Selling Death on Social Media: How Bidis Are Reaching Consumers Online

A new report from Vital Strategies, released the week of COP 9, reveals that India's bidi industry is exploiting the rapid growth of social media to market and sell their products to consumers. This report summarizes data from TERM, a digital media surveillance tool, that tracks online tobacco marketing across social media, forums, and news articles. Find out how and through which social media platforms bidis are most commonly marketed to consumers in India. TERM will be extended to Indonesia and Mexico in 2022.

## World Diabetes Foundation

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[Read more](#)

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## WDF and UNHCR launch partnership to improve health services for refugees living with NCDs

WDF and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, launched an ambitious partnership which aims at ensuring forcibly displaced people living with NCDs to have access to improved health services. The three-year project will scale up UNHCR's response to NCDs through a series of activities at country level in Tanzania, Burundi and Sudan, and also at UNHCR headquarter level. The partnership will help build capacity of health care facilities, train primary health care professionals and community health workers, and provide essential equipment and supplies, seeking to reach up to one million refugees over the coming years while also supporting host communities.

## World Heart Federation

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[Read more](#)

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## Invest in circulatory health to prevent the next pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken an overwhelming toll on the physical, mental, and fiscal health of our societies, and those living with circulatory conditions like hypertension and stroke are most at risk from poor health outcomes. The world simply cannot wait for the next pandemic to address NCDs. In its new position paper, the Global Coalition for Circulatory Health calls for increased investment in circulatory health in order to prepare for, or even prevent, the next pandemic.

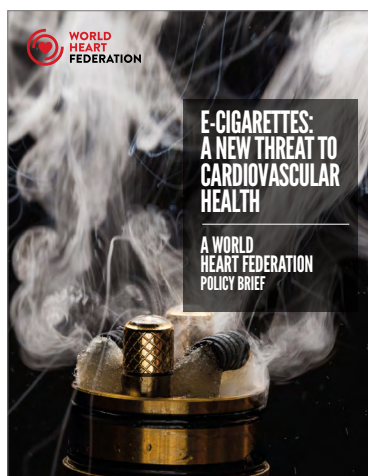
## World Heart Federation

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Read more

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## E-cigarettes: A new threat to cardiovascular health

E-cigarettes have become an increasingly popular alternative to conventional cigarettes. But how much do we really know about their long-term health impact? This new policy brief highlights the need for stricter regulation and greater oversight of e-cigarette sales and marketing. Governments must take urgent action to protect new generations and stop this epidemic in its tracks.

## World Obesity Federation

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Read more

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## Global Obesity Forum 2021

On Monday 20 September, World Obesity, WHO and UNICEF convened the 2021 Global Obesity Forum on the side lines of the UN General Assembly and UN FSS. 137 people from 36 countries came together to discuss priorities for obesity action moving forward, with a particular emphasis on shaping the obesity narrative, food environments and regulations, primary health care and innovations. The discussions and priority actions identified will be used to shape the next steps of the Global Obesity Coalition, and translate global priorities into national action.



Watch series

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## Youth Voices for Planetary Health at COP26

World Obesity has recently received a small grant from the Wellcome Trust as part of World Obesity's role in the Health and Climate Network (HCN). The NCD Alliance is a founding member of the HCN. In the lead up to COP26, World Obesity has worked with youth leaders from across the health and climate space to produce advocacy videos related to food, health and obesity. These videos have been used for social media, are based on the HCN core messages, and are linked to the young person's passion and expertise. The videos were showcased in a COP26 health pavilion event.

# 5

## Coming Up Events for your Diary

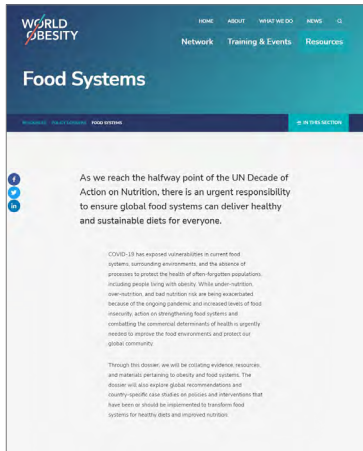
**2021 - 2022**

### Events and Platforms

Special Session of the World Health Assembly <sup>74</sup> focused on a potential Global Treaty on Pandemic Preparedness and Response	29 Nov - 1 Dec
IDF Virtual Congress 2021	6 - 11 Dec
World AIDS Day	1 Dec
Nutrition for Growth Summit	7-8 Dec
Universal Health Coverage Day	12 Dec
WHO Executive Board meeting	24-29 Jan

# 6

## Latest Publications Useful Readings and Resources

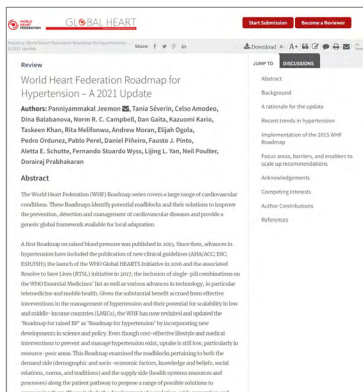


### New policy dossier on food systems and obesity

As a follow-up to the UNFSS and to mark World Food Day, World Obesity added to its policy dossier collection with the launch of a new dossier focused on food systems. This dossier collates evidence, resources, and materials on food systems and obesity and includes global recommendations and country-specific case studies on policies, and interventions that have been or should be implemented to transform food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition. The dossier also includes a briefing and recording of a webinar on this topic.



Read more



### New World Heart Federation Roadmap for Hypertension

High blood pressure is the number one risk factor for cardiovascular disease. In September, World Heart Federation launched a new Roadmap for Hypertension, which builds on the previous 2015 edition and is an essential guiding document for anyone involved in the planning, organization, patient management and implementation of approaches to reduce the burden of hypertension.



Read more

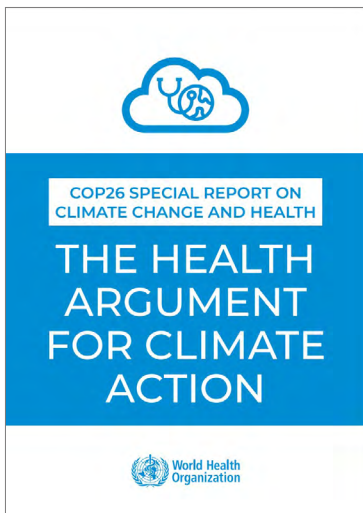


### **World Heart Federation Air Pollution Policy Brief**

This policy brief lays out the health impacts of air pollution, examines its position on the global policy agenda, demonstrates its relevance to the cardiovascular community, and proposes actionable policy measures that can be adapted to local contexts. It includes a set of recommendations for key stakeholders, with a focus on cross-sectoral collaboration.



[Read more](#)



### **COP26 Special Report on Climate Change and Health**

The 10 recommendations in the COP26 Special Report on Climate Change and Health propose a set of priority actions from the global health community to governments and policy makers, calling on them to act with urgency on the current climate and health crises.



[Read more](#)



**THE LANCET**  
**Global Health**  
Volume 9, Issue 11, November 2021, Pages e1479–e1480

Articles  
**Implementation of non-communicable disease policies from 2015 to 2020: a geopolitical analysis of 194 countries**

Luke N Allen MSc<sup>1,2</sup>, Prof Simon Wiegley PhD<sup>3</sup>, Hampus Holmér PhD<sup>4,5,6,7,8</sup>

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**Refer to** **Nahata Per, Andre Pascal Kengne**  
Predictors in the past: multinational corporate versus population health  
The Lancet Global Health, Volume 9, Issue 11, November 2021, Pages e1479–e1480  
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**Referred to by** **Correction to Lancet Glob Health 2021; 9: e1528–38**  
The Lancet Global Health, available online 10 November 2021, Page  
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**Nahata Per, Andre Pascal Kengne**  
Predictors in the past: multinational corporate versus population health  
The Lancet Global Health, Volume 9, Issue 11, November 2021, Pages e1479–e1480  
[Download PDF](#)

**Summary**

**Background**  
Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of morbidity and mortality globally. We aimed to analyse trends in implementation of WHO recommended population-level policies and associations with national geopolitical characteristics.

## Implementation of non-communicable disease policies from 2015 to 2020: a geopolitical analysis of 194 countries

This publication analyses trends in implementation of WHO-recommended population-level policies and associations with national geopolitical characteristics. The NCD Alliance and several national alliances were interviewed as part of this research.



Read more

**The WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All Manifesto**

The WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All

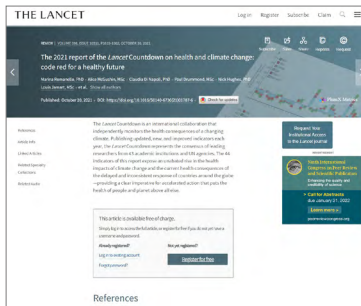
World Health Organization

## The WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All Manifesto

The Council on the Economics of Health for All brings together different areas of policy which can no longer be considered separately from health: social, economic, financial and innovation policies.



Read more

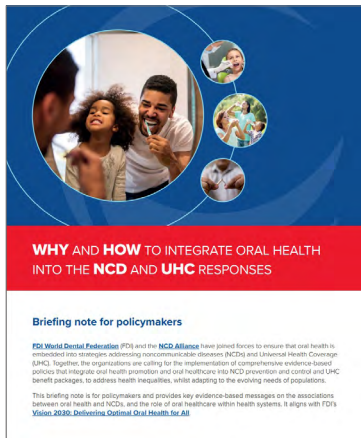


## The 2021 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: code red for a healthy future

Publishing updated, new, and improved indicators each year, the Lancet Countdown represents the consensus of leading researchers from 43 academic institutions and UN agencies. The 44 indicators of this report expose an unabated rise on the health impacts of climate change and the current health consequences of the delayed and inconsistent response of countries around the globe.



Read more



## Why and how to integrate oral health into the NCD and UHC responses

FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) and the NCD Alliance are calling for the implementation of comprehensive evidence-based policies that integrate oral health promotion and oral healthcare into NCD prevention and control and UHC benefit packages, to address health inequalities, whilst adapting to the evolving needs of populations.



Read more

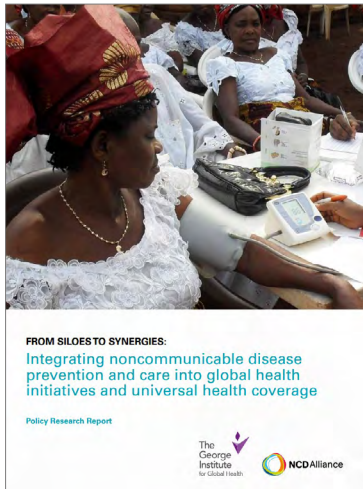


## A Global NCD Agenda for Resilience and Recovery from COVID-19

The Global NCD Agenda for Resilience and Recovery from COVID-19 aims to reach policymakers seeking to build back fairer. The 12 recommendations are intended to support leaders and decision-makers to step up equitable, cost-effective policy action and investment to strengthen population health and build more resilient health systems.



Read more



## From Siloes to Synergies: Integrating noncommunicable disease prevention and care into global health initiatives and universal health coverage

This policy research report was commissioned to The George Institute for Global Health by the NCD Alliance, with support from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. We would like to thank Kent Buse, David Peiris, and Emma Feeny from The George Institute and Estefania Palomino and James Reid from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust for their support and guidance.

Through analyses of data from an online survey, interviews, and a targeted literature review, this report brokers knowledge by showcasing examples of where global health financing mechanisms have supported the provision of cost-effective NCD prevention and care services, and in so doing, supported progress towards UHC. It demonstrates that there are ways to effectively support NCD service provision through global health programming and that these will differ in different contexts.



[Read more](#)



## Guide on Nutrition Commitments for NCDs

The 2021 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, hosted by the Government of Japan on 7-8 December, is an opportunity for governments, donors and organisations make new commitments to investments and actions to secure people's right to healthy food. The N4G Summit is the culmination of a 'Nutrition Year of Action' during the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition..



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