

ISSUE 8: February 2020

# 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 Executive Board 146<sup>th</sup> Session (EB146)



2-8 February 2020



Geneva, Switzerland



[Link to main EB146 documents](#)



[Link to final decision](#)



[Link to Director-General report](#)

### Major wins for the global NCDs-community at EB 146 shape advocacy priorities ahead of the significantly short 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA73)

The 146<sup>th</sup> session of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Executive Board which took place at the peak of the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak covered a wide range of agenda items that varied from WHO's response to large-scale emergencies and promoting the health of migrants to the involvement of non-state actors in WHO governing bodies. The NCD Alliance identified some key agenda items related to NCDs, and the following are updates on some of them:

#### Agenda item 6: Primary Health Care

The Executive Board took note of the report by the Director-General and emphasised the importance of strengthening health systems for the provision of primary health care, and to ensure the availability of comprehensive, quality, accessible and affordable first-level health services, which are fundamental to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, in particular, target 3.8 on achieving universal health coverage. The board requested the Director-General to support national implementation efforts to strengthen primary health care, drawing on expertise from across the organisation as needed. There was also a request that an operational framework on strengthening primary health care be finalised for consideration by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly in May 2020.

#### Agenda item 7.1 Follow up to UN HLM on UHC

The Executive Board took note of the report of the Director-General, which highlighted WHO's next steps in response to the high-level political declaration on UHC.

1. The use of WHO's new special programme on primary health care to customise support for implementation to meet country-specific needs;
2. Promotion of innovation and equity-, gender- and rights-based programming approaches to scale up access to health care and financial protection and reach those furthest left behind;

3. Facilitation of integration, efficiency and effectiveness through working with partners;
4. Strengthening socio-political accountability to drive progress towards health and sustainable development goals, as agreed in the high-level political declaration;
5. Monitoring and reporting progress on the commitments in the high-level political declaration on universal health coverage.



[Link to Director-General report](#)



[Link to report on alcohol consultation findings](#)



[Link to draft decision on alcohol \(proposed by 11 Member States\):](#)

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### **Agenda item 7.2 Follow up to UN HLM on NCDs – including Mental Health, Air Pollution, Global Alcohol Strategy and Early Detection of NCDs**

The Executive Board took note of the report on the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, particularly Annex 3, on the implementation of the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol,” and the report on the findings of the consultative process on implementation of the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, and decided to request the Director-General:

1. to develop an action plan (2022–2030) to effectively implement the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the WHO Executive Board in 2022;
2. to develop a technical report on the harmful use of alcohol related to cross-border alcohol marketing, advertising and promotional activities, which could contribute to the development of the action plan;
3. to adequately resource the work on the harmful use of alcohol; and
4. to review the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol and report to the 166th session of the Executive Board in 2030 for further action.



[Link to resolution](#)

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### **Agenda Item 9: Cervical cancer prevention and control: accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem**

The Executive Board recommended to the WHA73 the adoption of the following resolution which:

1. Adopts the global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer and its associated goals and targets for the period 2020–2030.
2. Urges Member States to implement the interventions recommended in the global strategy, while ensuring its adaptation to national contexts and priorities.

3. Calls upon relevant international organisations and other relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of the global strategy and work collaboratively to avoid shortages and strengthen the supply of quality, safe, effective and affordable medicines, vaccines and diagnostics and other pharmaceuticals, including by reducing prices and increasing global and local production of same.
4. Requests the Director-General and WHO to support MS to implement the strategy, while ensuring that support for high-burden countries is prioritised. The DG is also requested to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders and finally, to report on progress in implementation of this resolution in 2022 and 2025.



[Link to resolution](#)

### **Agenda item 13: Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness**

The Executive Board took note of the report on integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable blindness and impaired vision, and recommended to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution which:

1. Urges Member States to implement the recommendations in the World report on vision, taking into account national circumstances and priorities;
2. Calls on relevant partners to support Member States in the implementation of the recommendations of the World Report on Vision;
3. Requests the Director-General to:
  - provide technical support to Member States;
  - develop additional guidance on evidence-based cost-effective eye care interventions and approaches to facilitate the integration of eye care into universal health coverage (in accordance with country contexts, budgets and models of health service delivery);
  - to support the creation of a global research agenda for eye health;
  - to prepare, in consultation with Member States, recommendations on feasible global targets for 2030 on integrated people-centred eye care;
  - to report on progress in the implementation of this resolution to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly (2025), and to ensure that eye health is included as part of regular reporting on resolution WHA69.11 (2016).



[Link to decision](#)

### **Agenda item 17. Decade of Healthy Ageing**

The Executive Board considered the report on the proposal for a Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020 – 2030, and recommended to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly, the adoption of the following decision:

1. To endorse the proposal for a Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020 – 2030; and
2. To request the Director-General :
  - to report back on progress in the implementation of the Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020–2030 to the Seventy-sixth, the Seventy-ninth and the Eighty-second World Health Assemblies;
  - to transmit this decision to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the consideration of this proposal.



[Link to report](#)

### **Agenda item 18. Maternal, infant and young child nutrition**

In his report, the Director-General invited the Executive Board to note the Comprehensive biennial report on implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, and:

1. Comment on progress made in relation to the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition; implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and the guidance on ending the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children;
2. Identify areas for Secretariat action in support of Member States;
3. Discuss how the Secretariat may best support the preparation of Member States' financial and policy commitments at the nutrition summit (2020);
4. Consider a decision which proposes that future reporting requirements on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, through biennial reports be streamlined until 2026.



[Link to report](#)

### **Agenda item 22.2 WHO reform: Involvement of non-State actors in WHO governing bodies**

The Director General invited the Executive Board to note the report on the Involvement of non-State actors in WHO's governing bodies, particularly the proposed new approach to non-State actor participation in WHO governing bodies which suggests that:

1. An informal meeting between Member States, non-State actors in official relations could be organised in parallel to the sessions of the Programme Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board, continuing into the weekend preceding the Health Assembly.

2. Non-State actors could choose the agenda items on which a maximum of five joint statements would be delivered early in the debate (subject to the same time limit as that allocated to representatives of Member States and the opportunity to speak would be given at the discretion of the Chair of the meeting).
3. The number of individual statements delivered during a session should be limited to a maximum of three per non-State actor, while the number of published statements would not be limited, and publication must be prior to the debate.
4. Delegations of non-State actors in official relations could be limited to a maximum of 25 delegates.
5. The Secretariat, both at the global and regional levels, will increase its efforts to brief and interact with non-State actors prior to governing body meetings, and, where necessary, refine the modalities of their involvement.

It was also suggested that the new modalities be piloted to help gain experience before permanent changes are affected.

## WHO urgent health challenges for the next decade



13 January 2020



[Link to news piece](#)

In January 2020, the WHO released a list of the top 13 urgent health challenges for the next decade:

1. Elevating health in the climate debate
2. Delivering health in conflict and crisis
3. Making health care fairer
4. Expanding access to medicines
5. Stopping infectious diseases
6. Preparing for epidemics
7. Protecting people from dangerous products (from food to new threats such as e-cigarettes, etc.)
8. Investing in the people who defend our health (supporting health workers)
9. Keeping adolescents safe
10. Earning public trust (around vaccines and other health products)
11. Harnessing news technologies
12. Protecting the medicines that protect us (relating to anti-microbial resistance – AMR)
13. Keeping health care clean (focus on WASH: water, sanitation and hygiene)

All thirteen challenges require an urgent need for action and call for actions from within and beyond the health sector. Many of them are interlinked and contribute significantly to the global burden of NCDs.

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Global NCD Alliance Forum



9-11 February 2020



Sharjah, UAE



[Link to Forum photos & resources](#)



[Link to daily blogs](#)

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

The third Global NCD Alliance Forum brought together nearly 400 delegates from 80 countries to discuss the theme “Bridging the gap”. The forum gathered representatives from civil society organisations, youth communities, United Nation agencies, the World Health Organization, academia, as well as stakeholders from the private sector and media.

The Forum was organised under the theme of “Bridging the Gap” with a view to accelerating global efforts to translate political commitments and rhetoric into action and implementation at national and local levels. In line with this, discussions at the forum were organised under three sub-themes:

1. Saving lives through transformative policies and solutions
2. Building demand for action through transformative social movements and voices of change
3. Enhancing accountability through transformative and inclusive governance.

Over the three days, each sub-theme was made the subject of a plenary session followed by parallel workshops to cover key issues in more depth.

The highlights of the conference was the launch of a landmark new short documentary series “[Turning the Tide](#)” by BBC StoryWorks and the NCD Alliance, created to give a voice to those shouldering the global burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). There was also a keynote presentation from the Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases, World Health Organization’s Dr Ren Minghui, which included the launch of WHO’s NCD Progress Monitor 2020; and the launching of several newly developed resources by the NCD Alliance.

As with previous ones, the third Global NCDA Forum provided delegates an invaluable opportunity to learn about a diverse range of interests, network and strategise for the future of advocacy efforts on NCDs.

## Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) 2020 | UHC 2020



29 January-2 February  
2020



Bangkok, Thailand



[Read more](#)

The Prince Mahidol Award Conference 2020 which also doubled as the UHC Forum 2020 brought together over 1,100 delegates drawn from public and private sectors, civil society, academia and research fields, multilateral and bilateral organisations, UN agencies and professional associations.

The theme for the conference was “Accelerating Progress Towards UHC”, and sessions sought to provide evidence and advance discussions on topics such as progress on UHC goals and challenges; development of PHC-based health systems; development of a diverse and sustainable health workforce; achievement of people-centered and integrated care and the core principles and strategies of health financing for UHC, amongst others.

Main conference which took place from 31 January to 2 February 2020 included 4 keynote addresses, 5 plenary sessions, 15 parallel sessions, 6 special events, 46 e-poster presentations and 696 submissions of World Art Contest.

Experts at the conference called on governments to prioritise general tax funding as the most progressive and sustainable source of financing healthcare, increased health budgets enhancing fiscal space for health and advance their regulatory capacities for managing public-private partnerships.



# 2

## On the Ground Country Updates

### Three NCD alliances lauded with Sharjah Awards



Slovenia



Caribbean



Vietnam



[Link to NCD release](#)



[Link to NCD Atlas with more information about each case study](#)



[Link to HCC's news](#)

Three national and regional NCD alliances have received the 2020 Sharjah Award for Excellence in NCD Civil Society Action at the Global NCDA Forum for their initiatives to advance the NCD agenda. Vietnam NCDA, Slovenia NCDA and the Healthy Caribbean Coalition received the honour during the Forum's Closing Ceremony on Tuesday.

The alliances were judged by an independent advisory committee to have the best case studies focused on one of the Forum's three sub-themes:

- Saving lives through transformative policies and solutions
- Building demand through transformative social movements and voices of change
- Enhancing accountability through transformative and inclusive governance

Vietnam NCD Alliance submitted the case study, 'Advocacy for a law on prevention and control of alcohol-related harms'; Slovenia NCD Alliance submitted 'No Excuse as a Slovenian Youth NCD Alliance' and Healthy Caribbean Coalition's case study was 'Civil Society Accountability Framework for Childhood Obesity Prevention Policies in the Caribbean'.

### India Advocacy Agenda of People Living with NCDs



India



[Link to India Advocacy Agenda](#)

The Healthy India Alliance has launched on 27 December the India Advocacy Agenda of People Living with NCDs, to accelerate action towards making India free from preventable and premature NCDs. The agenda was launched during the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Civil Society Consultation on Noncommunicable Diseases under the theme "Meaningful involvement of People Living With NCDs and Youth".

The consultation focused on strategies and opportunities to strengthen the involvement of both people living with NCDs and youth, in a comprehensive national NCD response. The India Advocacy Agenda was built by people living with NCDs from across the country, and is guided by the vision "Leave No One Behind".

## Kick off meeting in Cameroon to drive the actions needed to fight NCDs



Cameroon

The Cameroon NCD Alliance kicked off the year with a 10-hour session to finalise the framework for the next phase of its advocacy efforts. The session in which the charter was validated, values set, and vision cemented, was attended by seven member organisations including CBC Health Services - CBCHS, Health of Populations in Transition (HoPIT), Cameroon Coalition to Counter Tobacco, Value Health Africa, Biaka University, Reconciliation and Development Association-RADA and Rural Doctors.

The strategy session was made possible by funds received through the 'fuel award' from the NCD Alliance, in recognition of Cameroon NCD Alliance's exemplary advocacy efforts during the Global Week of Action on NCDs (#EnoughNCDs campaign) in 2019. The Cameroon NCD Alliance will soon share this new strategic plan with the NCD community also as a template for other national NCD alliances who wish to implement a longer term vision for their activities and advocacy efforts.

## Ethiopia passes 'Africa's strongest' tobacco law



Ethiopia



[Link to WHO Afro Release](#)



[More information](#)

The Ethiopian Parliament passed on 4 February a landmark legislation to reduce the use of tobacco and tobacco products in the country. With the new law, Ethiopia has introduced a mixed-excite system on cigarettes in line with the WHO's 'best-buys' for tackling NCDs. The new law which was passed unanimously by the parliament will save lives and protect its population of over 105 million people.

The new law makes provision for 100 percent smoke-free workplaces and public spaces, bans the advertisement and promotion of tobacco, restricts the sale of flavoured tobacco products and mandates pictorial warning labels covering 70 per cent of the front and back of all tobacco products. The law also makes the sale of heated tobacco products, e-cigarettes, and shisha, and prohibits tobacco sales to anyone under the age of 21 an illegal act.

## Mexico introduces warning labels on high-calorie products



Mexico



[Link to news](#)

The health and regulatory authorities in Mexico announced on 24 January a new rule that requires the use of warning labels on high-calorie products. This is major breakthrough for the country, and its activists who have been fighting for stronger food labelling for at least a decade. With 75.2% of its population over 20 years identified as either obese or overweight, Mexico is one of the countries with the highest prevalence of obesity in the world. The Mexican NCD alliance, along with other coalitions advocated for this new policy that will allow consumers to easily identify unhealthy food products.

The new rules will require black octagonal stop signs to be printed on the front of products laden with high calories, excessive salt or saturated fat. Special warning strips will be introduced for ingredients like caffeine and trans-fats to show they are not recommended for children.

## Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ) launches mass media campaign tagged “What’s in Our Food? Give us the Facts”



Jamaica



[Link to news](#)

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The Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the National Consumers’ League, launched on World Diabetes Day (14 November) 2019 a mass media campaign to encourage Jamaicans to make healthier choices. The campaign tagged: “What’s in Our Food?” urges Jamaicans to think about the content of ultra-processed foods and demand clear nutritional labels to inform them about foods that are high in sugar, salt and fat.

Currently, more than half (54 %) of Jamaicans are overweight or obese, and obesity rates among 13-15 year-olds have increased rapidly by 68% between 2010 and 2017.

While explaining the rationale for the campaign, Deborah Chen, Executive Director of the Heart Foundation of Jamaica, said “Our campaign message is: What’s in Our Food? Give us the Facts, because Jamaicans have a right to know what’s in their food. That information also needs to be prominent, clear and easy to understand, because shoppers don’t have a lot of time to make purchasing decisions. The Heart Foundation of Jamaica hopes invites consumers to use this campaign to call for a better food labelling system – one that can help them protect their health and the health of their loved ones.

## Egyptian NCD Alliance supports the launch of the national campaign “Living life the right way”



Egypt



[Link to news](#)

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The Egyptian NCD Alliance (EgNCDA) contributed to a national awareness campaign supporting healthy lifestyle habits with a video series focusing on noncommunicable disease (NCD) prevention.

The campaign tagged “Living life the right way” aims to encourage the adoption of healthy lifestyles across Egypt, leveraging multi-channel communications through the CBC Health TV show, social media and public awareness events in universities and social clubs.

The campaign which brought together stakeholders across the public and private sectors has reflects the multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach to the prevention and controls of NCDs in Egypt.

The campaign was positioned to leverage the more than two million followers on the CBC Health TV shows and Facebook page, and reached thousands of people with information of the risk factors of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, such as smoking and physical inactivity, while highlighting the health benefits of sports and healthy nutrition.

## Alcohol sales (for retail/off-license) fall in first year of minimum unit pricing in Scotland, while south of the border, it has risen



United Kingdom



[Link to report](#)

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A recently analysis by NHS Health Scotland of off-trade alcohol sales data for the 12-month period since the implementation of minimum unit pricing (MUP) has revealed that alcohol sales fell in first year of minimum pricing.

The NHS research found the volume of pure alcohol sold per person is down 3.6% in Scotland.

The volume of pure alcohol sold per adult through the off-trade in Scotland fell by 7.3% from 7.7 litres (in May 2011–April 2012) to 7.1 litres (in May 2018–April 2019). In the 12-month period following MUP implementation, per-adult alcohol sales in Scotland fell from 7.4 to 7.1 litres, showing a decline of 3.6% compared with the previous year.

By contrast over the same time period (May 2011–April 2019) per-adult alcohol sales rose by 5.9% in England & Wales, from 6.1 litres to 6.5 litres.

# 3

## Your Say Engage with Us

### Turning the Tide



Link to website

NCDA and BBC StoryWorks announced during the Global NCD Alliance Forum the launch of landmark new short documentary series “Turning the Tide”.

“Turning the Tide” is a series of 26 mini-films in 24 countries that have been produced in collaboration with many of you. It aims to depict the global struggle of affected communities against the NCD epidemic and give voice to those shouldering this global burden, examining the much-needed work of institutions and communities across the globe, which seek to make prevention and control a priority.

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.

Throughout 2020, NCDA will seek to coordinate joint communication strategies, including for the promotion and dissemination of the mini-films, through the series première, the series showcase at the 2020 World Health Assembly, as well as on NCDA’s social media channels, website and e-mail marketing platforms:

- A 12-month social media campaign for the series has started in coincidence with the Forum. We are using #TurningTheTide & #NCDs as main hashtags and drive traffic from [BBC.com](https://www.bbc.com) to the series microsite available here: <https://ncdalliance.org/turning-the-tide/>
- We are in conversations with the WHO to feature the series prominently during the upcoming “[Health For All Film Festival](#)”, to take place in Geneva in May 2020. More information to be shared soon.
- NCDA will feature the series in all events taking place during the year, and a media relations plan will be in place to support promotion.

Should you have any question on this regard, please do not hesitate to contact us at [partnerships@ncdalliance.org](mailto:partnerships@ncdalliance.org).

## NCD Webinar TODAY at 3 pm CET



**Register here**



If you cannot attend this webinar, the recording and slides will be available as always on 'My NCD Hub' with the following **password (post-EB146)**

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## February webinar (post-WHO Executive Board)

NCDAs webinar on 27 February will provide an overview of WHO's Executive Board 146<sup>th</sup> session (including updates on cervical cancer elimination, alcohol control, eye care and involvement of non-state actors in WHO's governing bodies), a recap of the Global NCD Alliance Forum 2020 and information about how to engage on World Obesity Day (4 March).

## 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA73)



The Provisional Agenda for WHA73 is accessible **here**

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## NCD-related activities and events

We are currently putting together a comprehensive calendar of NCD-related events and activities that will take place on the sidelines of the WHA73 with RSVP information.

If you are involved in any event around the WHA73 or you wish to inform us of any event you think might be relevant for the NCD community, please share the details with us at [partnerships@ncdalliance.org](mailto:partnerships@ncdalliance.org) and we will feature it on NCDAs side event calendar.

## Schedule for supporters

Below you will find a list of key events, meetings and activities for NCDAs partners. *Please note that exact times are still to be confirmed.*

### Saturday 16 May

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afternoon

#### NCDAs Civil Society Briefing

For CSOs only. Meet other CSOs, learn about official WHA NCD agenda items and side events, and strategise on priority advocacy messages.

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### Sunday 17 May

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09:00-11:00

#### Walk the Talk

The World Health Organization is organising another Walk the Talk event on the Sunday of the World Health Assembly (more details to be shared soon).

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11:30-13:00	<p><b>NCDA Supporters Meeting</b></p> <p>Open to representatives of the NCDA Supporters Group only to coordinate on activities and priorities for WHA73 and plans after May. The meeting will be followed by a short lunch before the leadership session.</p>
13:00-14:00	<p><b>Supporter's Leadership Session</b></p> <p>NCDA Meet The Leaders leadership sessions aim to provide supporters with unique opportunities to engage with global leaders in order to gain insight and explore relevant approaches to overcome barriers to progress and, where appropriate, collaborate for a common purpose.</p> <p>We are open to suggestions from our partners for our next leadership session, which will take place on Sunday 17 May.</p> <p>Let us know who you would like to hear from at <a href="mailto:partnerships@ncdalliance.org">partnerships@ncdalliance.org</a>!</p>
afternoon	Opening of the 73 <sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly
<b>Monday 18 May</b>	
evening	<p><b>NCDA Main Event</b></p> <p>Exact time and topic TBC soon</p>

## Participate in The Stroke & NCD Dialogue



12-15 May 2020



Vienna, Austria



Learn more about the conference

The World Stroke Organization and NCD Alliance are organising The Stroke & NCD Dialogue at the 2020 ESO-WSO Conference, 12-15 May, in Vienna, Austria.

The tentative programme includes the following sessions:

- Expanding access to prevention services in populations at risk for stroke and NCDs: The need for multisectoral approaches
- Joining forces to act on stroke and NCDs: Building stronger health systems through integrated care
- Getting care right: Putting people living with stroke and NCDs at the centre of UHC
- 21<sup>st</sup> century lifestyles: How can we address NCD risk factors in today cities?

If you are planning to attend this conference or wish to learn more, please contact Liz Arnanz at [larnanz@ncdalliance.org](mailto:larnanz@ncdalliance.org).

## Input into the themes and recommend speakers for the NCD Café at the World Cancer Congress

NCD Alliance will be organising the NCD Café at the World Cancer Congress in collaboration with the Supporters Group. We thank you for sharing with us at [partnerships@ncdalliance.org](mailto:partnerships@ncdalliance.org) any feedback on the themes and topics that we will cover at the NCD Café, and encourage you to suggest speakers from your network who will be attending this congress.



20-22 October 2020



Muscat, Oman



Learn more about the conference

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# 4

## Partners Corner Supporters News

### The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust



[Link to announcement](#)

### **New partnership to improve care for people living with NCDs in LMICs**

The NCD Alliance and The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust have announced a new multi-year partnership that seeks to advance universal health coverage (UHC) and improve care for people living with chronic noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including type 1 diabetes, in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The partnership is driven by the NCD Alliance and Helmsley Charitable Trust's shared missions of improving lives around the world and addressing inequities in access to care for people living with NCDs.

The new grant of over \$3 million from the Helmsley Charitable Trust over three years, from 2020-2022, will support expanding the NCD Alliance's work to strengthen health systems to better treat chronic NCDs and multi-morbidities, as well as putting people and affordability at the centre of the response

At the global level, the NCD Alliance will leverage the global momentum supporting UHC, building on prior successes of increasing political leadership and action to grow people-centred treatment and care for NCDs.

At the national level, through the NCD Alliance Advocacy Institute, the grant will support efforts of national NCD alliances in Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Mexico, as well as the regional Africa NCDs network, to spur local improvements, raise awareness and mobilise communities for stronger health systems for NCDs.

## Direct Relief

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[Link to announcement](#)

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## NCDs in humanitarian settings matter: NCD Alliance partners with Direct Relief

NCD Alliance is pleased to announce a new partnership with Direct Relief, a global NGO that provides direct and targeted assistance to people living with illnesses, especially noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in humanitarian settings.

Drawing upon the field expertise of Direct Relief in the supply and access to life-saving medicines and care in crisis-affected contexts, this partnership will seek to develop over the next two years a better understanding of the programmatic particularities for the management of NCDs in humanitarian settings.

The NCD Alliance and Direct Relief will seek to identify evidence-based solutions to nurture our policy and advocacy efforts for the improvement of access to NCD treatment and care in such settings, but also in the broader context of primary health care (PHC) and universal health coverage (UHC).

## The George Institute for Global Health

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[Stay tuned here](#)

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## Celebrating a year of The George Institute/WHO Community on Women and NCDs

The George Institute and WHO's Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs have celebrated a year of jointly hosting a virtual Community on Women and NCDs by launching a social media campaign highlighting the resources produced, including webinars, infographics and blogs. The Community brings together diverse global experts to identify and analyse evidence-based, scalable best practices in implementing a life-course approach to women's health and NCDs. Its next webinar, on the importance of collecting disaggregated data and conducting gendered analyses in the context of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, will be held on 19 March.

## Union for International Cancer Control



Learn more



Link to report

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## UICC's World Cancer Day 2020: How the world took action

The World Cancer Day on 4 February 2020 (the 20th edition) brought together people from all walks of life for a day to raise awareness, improve education, deliver action and inspire leadership. This year's World Cancer day coincided with the first day of 146th session of WHO's Executive Board, and the chairman of the board Dr Hiroki Nakatani urged member states to reflect on the challenges that Cancers pose to households and economies and prioritise the reduction of the scourge of this group of diseases.

With nearly 900 activities logged in across 100 countries, over 700,000 social media posts shared, half a million website visitors, and more than 1,000 press articles published, World Cancer Day was seen and heard everywhere.

To commemorate this occasion, the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) launched a report which outlines the findings of a global survey on public perceptions around cancer.

## AstraZeneca



Suggested related links and resources



Young Health Programme

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## AstraZeneca Young Health Programme to Partner with UNICEF to prevent NCDs among young people

UNICEF will join AstraZeneca's award-winning Young Health Programme as its Advocacy Partner with a goal to galvanise a global advocacy movement to reach five million young people over the next 6 years. AstraZeneca will support UNICEF with a \$12.5 million philanthropic grant for this work. In addition to reaching 5 million youth, the partnership will train 1,000 young advocates and aim to positively shape 12 policies or laws.



© UNICEF

## American Heart Association

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[Link to news](#)

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[Go to the webpage](#)

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## 2030 Impact Goals: AHA's new 10-year goals focus on helping people everywhere increase their healthy life expectancy

The American Heart Association has announced that it is dedicating its work for the next decade to healthy life expectancy – which means not just living longer but living longer and healthier, without the painful late-life health struggles so many face.

The extremely ambitious goals which were announced in January call for increasing healthy life expectancy from 66 to at least 68 years in the U.S. and from 64 to at least 67 years worldwide.

The goals are AHA's response to recent statistics which indicate that many people are getting sicker younger and dying younger. The top priority will be to address the health inequities that result in poorer disease outcomes, higher mortality rates and shorter healthy life expectancies among marginalised groups. The AHA will work with organisations and communities worldwide to reach these goals.

## American College of Cardiology, Pfizer Upjohn & World Heart Federation

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[Read the blog](#)

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## Harnessing the potential of the health workforce to tip the scales on NCDs

Strengthening the health workforce and building its capacity to deliver high quality, integrated primary care services with a focus on the prevention, management, and treatment of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) will require a collection of evidence-based political, collaborative, and tactical solutions. Pfizer Upjohn, the American College of Cardiology, the World Heart Federation and NCD Alliance are working together to achieve an optimal health workforce for NCDs. This spring, they will launch The NCD Academy, a first-of-its-kind app with courses in disease prevention and screening that may be completed anytime, anywhere from a mobile device. While NCD Academy will premiere with a course in CVD, courses from other leading societies in clinical education will follow.

## American College of Cardiology & World Heart Federation



[Learn more](#)

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[Learn more](#)

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## ACC.20 together with the World Congress of Cardiology

From 1950 to today, the World Heart Federation's World Congress of Cardiology has been a key event on the cardiovascular calendar, offering a global perspective on cardiovascular health and convening thousands of cardiology professionals from every corner of the world, with the goal of reducing the global burden of cardiovascular disease. This year, the World Heart Federation is partnering with the American College of Cardiology to host ACC.20 together with the World Congress of Cardiology on 28-30 March in Chicago. The Congress will combine ACC's leading expertise in cardiovascular science and education with WHF's unique global perspective on cardiovascular health.



## World Heart Federation

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[Learn more](#)



[Image](#)

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## Takes on Air Pollution with New Expert Group

The World Heart Federation is committed to taking bold action on air pollution, which is rapidly becoming recognised as one of the most significant risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Our newly formed Air Pollution Expert Group is advocating for further research on the link between air quality and heart health, calling for the implementation of air pollution reduction policies, and supporting the development of clinical guidelines on air pollution and CVD. WHF is also partnering with the WHO to create capacity-building materials that will help our 200+ Members and medical health professionals around the world educate their patients and policymakers.



## Vital Strategies

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[Link to document](#)



[Link to news](#)

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## Accelerating City Progress on Clean Air: Innovation and Action Guide

Vital Strategies has launched a guide to fast-tracking proven approaches and innovations for rapid air quality improvements. The guide is useful for government officials, their partners and other stakeholders developing clean air programs for cities and other urban areas in low and middle income countries.

Poor air quality is responsible for more than 5 million deaths a year. With 55% of people living in urban areas globally, cities are critical to addressing this growing health crisis.

The guide provides a step-by-step, phased approach for accelerating clean air progress, with a focus on four critical priority areas for action: monitoring air quality; assessing emissions and sources; expanding data access and use; and organizing for action.



# 5

## Coming Up Events for your Diary

### MARCH 2020

4 March	World Obesity Day - <i>The Roots of Obesity Run Deep</i>	
9-11 March Dublin, Ireland	Global Alcohol Policy Conference	
9-20 March New York, USA	Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) / Beijing+25	
12 March	World Kidney Day - <i>Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere</i>	
20 March	World Oral Health Day - <i>Say Ahh</i>	
28-30 March Chicago, USA	ACC.20 / World Congress of Cardiology	

### APRIL 2020

7 April	World Health Day - <i>Support Nurses and Midwives</i>	
13-19 April Washington DC, USA	World Bank/IMF <i>Spring Meeting - civil society registration is now open</i>	

### MAY 2020

12-15 May Vienna, Austria	European and World Stroke Congress	
17-21 May Geneva, Switzerland	Seventy-third World Health Assembly	
17-20 May Dublin, Ireland	European and International Congress on Obesity	

# 6

## Latest Publications Useful Readings and Resources

### NCD Alliance resources

#### Bridging the Gap on NCDs: From global promises to local progress

Drawing from the experience of NCD Alliance’s global network, latest data from the WHO’s NCD Progress Monitor 2020 and peer reviewed literature, this policy brief outlines the gaps in the first decade of the NCD response and describe the major barriers to meaningful progress.



Link



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#### Pushing for Progress - Accountability Toolkit

The toolkit provides background on the concept of accountability to the NCD civil society community, and resources to support civil society monitoring initiatives.



Link to pdf

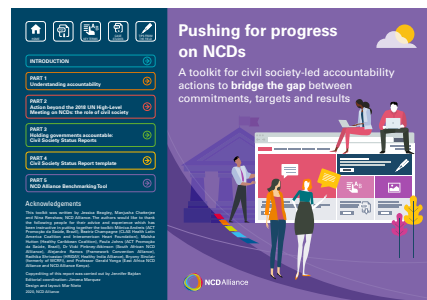


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interactive  
version



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## NCD Civil Society Atlas 2020

This new NCD Atlas provides updated information on NCD alliances and offers a snapshot of their current status and growth. It also assesses alliances' views and perspectives on the enablers and barriers for governments and civil society to achieve global NCD targets, as well as their key priorities and recommendations to bridge the gap on NCDs.

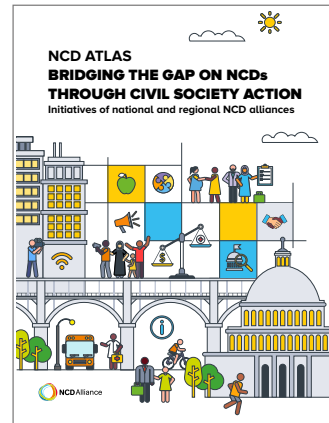


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## NCD Civil Society Compass

This NCD Civil Society Compass presents the outcomes of an analysis of the major gaps in the first decade of the NCD response and potential actions for civil society to bridge these gaps and accelerate progress.

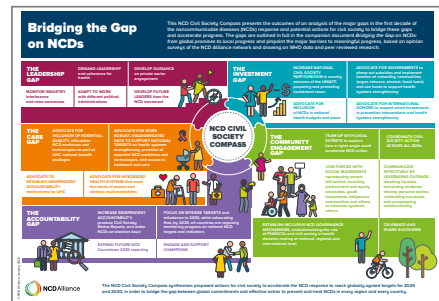


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## Recommended reading

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### 2020 NCD Progress Monitor

World Health Organization

The third in a series, the 2020 Progress Monitor provides data on the 19 indicators that assess the progress achieved in the implementation of NCD targets for all of WHO's 194 Member States.



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### World Cancer Report: Cancer Research for Cancer Prevention

World Health Organization

This publication provides wide-ranging insights into cancer prevention based on the known causes of cancer, factors that determine how cancer develops, and the behaviour of different tumour types, and presents a broad scope of interventions to reduce the cancer burden from a global perspective, including addressing inequalities that affect cancer prevention.



Link



Available in

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## Regulating E-Cigarettes

### Campaign For Tobacco-Free Kids

This policy brief uses a three-step process to assist government officials in determining how to regulate e-cigarettes to fit their country circumstances while balancing competing public health considerations.



Link to pdf



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### Regulating E-Cigarettes

The introduction of electronic cigarettes (or e-cigarettes) in countries around the world poses new challenges to governments seeking to protect youth and reduce tobacco use. Policies governing e-cigarettes must be guided by an assessment of the impact of these products on the pace of progress in reducing the death and disease caused by tobacco use.

The evidence around the health harms from e-cigarettes and their impact on young people is evolving. Any assessment of the evidence has to consider the impact on both individual smokers and the population as a whole. While e-cigarettes may have health benefits to individual smokers if they are proven to help smokers quit who otherwise have no other ways to reduce their tobacco exposure, they are proven to harm young people starting if they encourage them to use and/or try other damaging tobacco products.

The World Health Organization has concluded that e-cigarettes are "undoubtedly harmful" and that countries "that have not banned e-cigarettes should consider regulating them as harmful products."<sup>1</sup> This is consistent with the general obligations of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which require Parties to the Convention to implement measures for preventing and reducing tobacco addiction.<sup>2</sup> In the absence of effective government regulation, e-cigarettes could cause a new generation of nicotine and tobacco users and undermine the progress made in controlling the tobacco epidemic.

**This policy brief uses a three-step process to assist government officials in determining how to regulate e-cigarettes to fit their country circumstances while balancing competing public health considerations:**

- 1. PURSUE PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY GOALS**  
The public health policy goals for any government regulating e-cigarettes should be to:
  - 1.1 Prevent e-cigarette use by non-smokers, particularly youth
  - 1.2 Minimize potential health risks to e-cigarette users and non-users
  - 1.3 Prevent e-cigarettes from undermining progress in reducing tobacco consumption and cigarette addiction
  - 1.4 Protect public health policy from the commercial interests of the tobacco and e-cigarette industries
  - 1.5 Assist smokers to quit and avoid dual use
- 2. ASSESS COUNTRY CIRCUMSTANCES**
  - 2.1 Current status of tobacco control measures
  - 2.2 Trends in smoking rates
  - 2.3 Existing market for e-cigarettes
- 3. SELECT REGULATORY OPTION**
  - 3.1 Complete ban
  - 3.2 Regulate as medical product
  - 3.3 Regulate strictly using tobacco control measures

IF YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT US AT [LEGAL@WHOPIH.ORG](mailto:LEGAL@WHOPIH.ORG)

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**MAKING NCD PREVENTION AND CONTROL A PRIORITY, EVERYWHERE**

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