

ISSUE 11: November 2020

# NCD Alliance Partners Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

### Resumed World Health Assembly (WHA73): NCDs and related agenda items



9-13 November



Geneva, Switzerland



Watch the proceedings online in 6 languages



Access all documents

The resumed 73rd World Health Assembly (**WHA73**) was held virtually from 9-13 November, as a hybrid meeting, with a handful of participants joining from the World Health Organization (WHO) HQ in Geneva, Switzerland while the vast majority participated virtually. In his [address to the Assembly](#), the WHO Director-General (WHO DG) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, called on world leaders to “choose health” in recognition of the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.

As expected, a review of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic was a prominent aspect of the agenda, and reports were submitted by the [Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme](#) and the Co-Chairs of the [Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response](#).

NCDA’s advocacy briefing for the meeting was focused on Agenda item 11.1 on [Primary health care](#), 11.2 on Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues ([HLM on UHC](#) and [HLM on NCDs](#)), 11.6 on [Epilepsy and Neurology](#): Proposed resolution on Global Action on Epilepsy and Its Synergies with Other Neurological Disorders Agenda item and on 15.2 on [Maternal, infant and young child nutrition](#).

NCDA also covered and submitted a statement on Agenda item 13.2: WHO’s work in health emergencies, calling attention to [Resolution EB146.R10](#): Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005).

This became important because the link between the prevalence of NCDs and risk factors to the vulnerability of the population and health systems to health emergencies, as highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate, manifold impacts on people living with NCDs, is not acknowledged in the proposed resolution. The document neither acknowledges the increased risk of people living with NCDs in health emergencies, particularly COVID-19, nor recognises continuation of essential services for NCDs as a strategy to reduce both COVID-19 and related excess mortality, major departure from exemplary trends set by the [WHA73 COVID-19 response](#) and the [UNGA Omnibus resolutions](#).

It is also noteworthy that WHA73 also adopted a landmark [resolution on meningitis prevention and control](#) and a [resolution on epilepsy treatment](#), and a [road map for neglected tropical diseases](#). Member States at the resumed 73rd World Health Assembly, also unanimously designated [2021 as the International Year of Health and Care Workers](#) (YHCW) recognising the dedication and sacrifice of the millions of health and care workers at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## United Nations General Assembly and High-Level Meeting 2020 NCDs, disrupted healthcare, COVID-19 and more



15 - 30 September



Virtual



[Link to the NCDa UNGA analysis](#)



[Link to the Resolution](#)

## The 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA75) opened on Tuesday, 15 September 2020 and the General Assembly was tasked with managing its first-ever virtual meeting due to COVID-19.

The United Nations marked its seventy-fifth anniversary with a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on Monday, 21 September 2020 on the theme, *'The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism'*.

This year, after several rounds of negotiation, Member States also adopted the Omnibus COVID-19 Resolution which acknowledged and emphasised the critical role of the WHO and the UN system in catalysing and coordinating the global response to COVID-19.

The resolution was inspired and expanded on the World Health Assembly resolution on COVID-19 response adopted earlier this year. On NCDs, it includes language on universal health coverage (UHC), health systems strengthening, provision of services for NCDs and mental health, and the involvement of people living with disabilities. The resolution highlights the role of UHC in the global health agenda, including for health security and calls on Member States to address NCDs as a part of UHC.

## Building forward better: A new approach to mobilize investment for noncommunicable diseases



30 September



Geneva, Switzerland



[Watch the recording](#)

During the first-ever virtual UNGA75, the NCD Alliance co-hosted a roundtable with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations and the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on NCDs on the topic of mobilising investment for NCDs.

Experts discussed new approaches to mobilise domestic and international investment for NCDs, particularly taking into account the hurdles presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its economic aftermath.

## Friends of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force call for action on NCDs in COVID-19 response



24 September



Virtual



[Watch the recording](#)

The ‘Friends of the Task Force’ side event which was held on the margins of the UNGA75 brought together Heads of State and Government, ministers and civil society to review the contribution of the Task Force to global efforts to scale up prevention and control NCDs, with a special focus on NCDs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Speaking at the event, Katie Dain (CEO, NCD Alliance) called for the meaningful involvement of people living with NCDs and increased community engagement to be integral parts of the COVID-19 response.

The WHO Director-General also announced the fifteen winners of the 2020 UNIATF Awards. NCDA members, the [Ghana NCD Alliance](#), [Resolve to Save Lives \(Vital Strategies\)](#) and the [McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer](#), each received an inaugural Task Force Awards in the non-state actor category in recognition of their work on NCDs.

## The 2020 WHO Regional Committee Meetings (RCMs)



August - October 2020



Virtual



Read more  
on [AFRO RCM](#)



Read more  
on [SEARO RCM](#)



Read more  
on [PAHO Directing Council](#)



Read more  
on [EMRO RCM](#)

The WHO RCMs were held as virtual meetings between August and October 2020. The NCD Alliance supported the participation of national & regional NCD alliances in these meetings where COVID-19, national preparedness and response plans were a major agenda item regardless of the geography.

The virtual session of the 70th Regional Committee for Africa was held on 25 August 2020, and NCD Alliance and the [Africa NCDs Network](#) submitted a [joint statement](#) calling Member States in the region to elevate the voices of PLWNCDs, young people and marginalised groups and to include them in COVID-19.

The 73rd session of the South East Asia Regional Committee was held virtually from 9-10 September 2020. As part of the post-WHA regional advocacy efforts, the [South East Asia Regional NCD Alliance](#) supported a statement led by the [World Heart Federation](#) on “Expanding the scope of the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund,” focused on COVID-19 and NCDs.

The Pan American Health Organization’s (PAHO) Directing Council was held virtually from 28-29 September 2020 with more than 400 participants connected. On behalf of the NCD Alliance network, InterAmerican Heart Foundation, Framework Convention Alliance and Healthy Latin American Coalition (CLAS) submitted a [statement](#) on a Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Tobacco Control in the Region of the Americas. Among other things, the statement highlighted the need to take up the priority actions outlined in the midterm review as well as to continue to protect public health from tobacco industry interference, in line with article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

The 67th session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean was held from 12-13 October 2020, and the Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance (and its members) supported by NCD Alliance, submitted a statement which presented ‘The COVID-19 Pandemic in the Eastern Mediterranean Region’.

## WHO establishes the Council on the Economics of Health for All



13 November



Geneva, Switzerland



[Read more](#)

**The WHO has unveiled a new Council on the Economics of Health for All, comprising top economists and health experts, to put “Health for All” at the centre of how we think about value creation and economic growth.**

The Council, under the chairmanship of Mariana Mazzucato, Professor of the Economics of Innovation and Public Value and Founding Director in the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at University College London, will focus on investments in health, and achieving sustainable, inclusive and innovation-led economic growth. It will produce thought leadership for implementing change, and help to inform the piloting of initiatives at country level.

## World Diabetes Day 2020: Introducing the Global Diabetes Compact



14 November



Geneva, Switzerland



[Read WHO announcement](#)



[Read IDF updates](#)

**WHO has unveiled the Global Diabetes Compact, a comprehensive and inclusive approach to support countries in implementing effective programmes for the prevention and management of diabetes.**

The Compact will bring together in one package all WHO materials available for the prevention and management of diabetes, both existing and new. On the prevention side, particular focus will be given to reducing obesity, especially among young people. On the treatment side, emphasis will be on improving access to diabetes medicines and technologies, in particular in low- and middle-income countries.

## Call for entries: 2nd WHO Health for All Film Festival



24 October



Geneva, Switzerland



[Read more](#)

**The WHO Health for All Film Festival invites independent film-makers, production companies, public institutions, NGOs, communities, students, and film schools from around the world to submit their original short films on health for the 2nd WHO Health for All Film Festival.**

The main competition categories will be aligned with WHO's global goals for public health and entries must be aligned with one category of competition among the three described below, which relate to WHO's global health targets set out in the Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13):

- UHC: Films about mental health, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and other UHC stories linked to communicable diseases not part of emergencies;
- Health emergencies: Films about health emergencies, for instance, COVID-19, Ebola, disaster relief and health in war-zones;
- Better health and well-being: Films about environmental and social determinants of health, such as nutrition, sanitation, pollution, gender, and/or about health promotion or health education.

**Submissions will be open from 24 October 2020 to 30 January 2021.**

## New NCD Countdown 2030 report shows slow progress towards UN SDG target 3.4



4 September



[Read the report](#)



[Read the NCDA press release](#)

**The latest [NCD Countdown 2030 report](#) shows that many countries have fallen behind on their commitments to reduce premature mortality from NCDs (Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4). The 2nd edition of the report published by NCDA, World Health Organization (WHO), The Lancet and Imperial College London, shows that all countries still have options to hit the target, by deploying tailored packages of policy measures.**

NCD Countdown 2030 is an independent collaboration to inform policies, track progress, and enhance accountability towards reducing the burden of NCDs. The [first paper from NCD Countdown 2030](#), published in 2018, showed that low-income and middle-income countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and, for men, in central Asia and eastern Europe, had the highest risks of dying from NCDs.

Around the world, the risk of dying prematurely from preventable and largely treatable chronic diseases such as stroke, heart disease, and stomach cancer has declined steadily over the past decade, but death rates from other chronic diseases such as diabetes, lung cancer, colon cancer, and liver cancer are declining too slowly or worsening in many countries.

## The Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission report: Bridging a gap in universal health coverage for the poorest billion



14 September



[Read the report](#)



[Read the commentary](#)



[Read the commentary](#)



[Link to the Policy Brief on Findings and Recommendations](#)

The Lancet Commission on NCDs and injuries (NCDI) among the poorest billion in its report stresses that the current global NCD agenda fails to tackle the needs, perspectives, and rights of the world's poor. The [report](#) launched in September 2020 finds that “for the poorest of our world, NCDs and injuries (NCDIs) account for more than a third of their burden of disease”.

The Commissioners, including Katie Dain (CEO of NCDA), reported that NCDIs among the poorest are acquired at younger ages and are more lethal because they occur among people living in extreme poverty with low access to quality health services. The Commission also identified a set of cost-effective and equitable interventions to address NCDI related poverty.

Following the publication of the [report](#) in September, the Commission will launch the NCDI Poverty Network on Monday, 7 December, from 9-10:30 AM EST / 14:00-15:30 GMT to build and expand a community of stakeholders focused on preventing the death and suffering of people doubly afflicted by NCDs and extreme poverty.

Register for the event [here](#)

## Latest global disease estimates reveal a perfect storm of rising chronic diseases and public health failures fuelling the COVID-19 pandemic



17 October



[Read more](#)

The latest findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study published in The Lancet, provide new insights on how well countries were prepared in terms of underlying health for the COVID-19 pandemic and set out the true scale of the challenge to protect against further pandemic threats.

The study also reveals that the rise in exposure to key risk factors (including high blood pressure, high blood sugar, high body-mass index and elevated cholesterol), combined with rising deaths from cardiovascular disease in some countries (e.g., the USA and the Caribbean), suggests that the world might be approaching a turning point in life expectancy gains.



## Improving the quality of life for communities living with HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria



10 November



Geneva, Switzerland



[Read the NCDA news on the document](#)



[Read the briefing note](#)

Timed to coincide with the ongoing consultation on the 2023-2028 strategy of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and the [44th Meeting of its Board](#) on 11-12 November 2020, NCDA has published a [briefing note](#) calling on national leaders and the Global Fund Board to recognize the growing impact of NCDs on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people living with and at risk of HIV, TB and malaria.

NCDA, in this document, argues that people living with HIV across all age groups have an increased risk of NCD co-morbidities and asks that the new strategy provides countries with clearer opportunities and more flexibility in funding to integrate NCD screening, diagnosis and care into programmes and services to address the linkages with HIV, TB and malaria.

## The Lancet Commission on Diabetes: Using data to transform diabetes care and patient lives



13 November



Geneva, Switzerland



[Read the report](#)



[Comment by Katie Dain](#)

The Lancet Commission on Diabetes has called for the establishment of a global taskforce for diabetes and NCDs, led by policymakers and consisting of stakeholders across different sectors, including, but not limited to, healthcare institutions, academia, school, industry, professional bodies or experts, and non-governmental organisations.

In its report, which embodies 4 years of extensive work on data curation, synthesis, and modeling, commissioners summarised the global burden of diabetes and emphasised the achievements made in diagnosis and treatment. They also discussed the emerging trends and unmet needs in subpopulations including multiple morbidities and frailty, depression, and cognitive decline associated with ageing and long disease duration, the high rates of cardiorenal events and death in patients with young-onset diabetes.

## Signalling Virtue, Promoting Harm - Unhealthy Commodity Industries' response to COVID-19



9 September



Geneva, Switzerland



[Read report](#)

**The Signalling Virtue, Promoting Harm: Unhealthy commodity industries and COVID-19** report authored by the NCD Alliance and the SPECTRUM Consortium, is a preliminary exposé and analysis of tactics and strategies adopted by the unhealthy commodity industries during the COVID-19 pandemic to date. It details hundreds of examples crowdsourced from the NCD community of how unhealthy commodity industries, led by Big Alcohol, Big Food, and Big Soda, have leveraged the COVID-19 pandemic for commercial gain.

This report presents four main strategies adopted by the unhealthy commodity industries - *pandemic-tailored marketing campaigns and stunts, corporate social responsibility programmes, shaping policy environments, and fostering partnerships with governments, international agencies and NGOs*, illustrated with dozens of examples shared from around the world.

It raises concerns of corporate capture during the pandemic by the very industries that are fuelling the burden of NCDs worldwide and putting people at greater risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes.

## Landmark agreement between Sida and NCDA will help combat NCDs in LMICs



3 November



[Read the network release/More information](#)

**The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has announced a multi-year partnership with the NCD Alliance (NCDA) to support the response to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).**

The three-year partnership is based on a grant of 15,000,000 SEK (USD \$1.6 million) will run from 2020 - 2023 and support NCDA deliver its strategic plan, particularly supporting advocacy and accountability work, and scaling up capacity development programmes to support national and regional NCD alliances in LMICs.

This landmark partnership forms part of Sweden's [strategy for global development cooperation](#) in sustainable social development, which has at its centre the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health and wellbeing.

## Towards an inclusive NCD agenda: A collection of lived experiences from around the world



4 November



[Link to the document](#)



[Link to the news release](#)

This NCDA publication, under the ambit of the **Our Views, Our Voices initiative** is dedicated to promoting the meaningful involvement of people living with NCDs in the NCD response. It seeks to illustrate the lived experiences and realities of people living with a wide range of NCD conditions – within the four major NCDs (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases) and beyond, to include rarer conditions – and living with multiple NCD.

It features 21 testimonials shared by people living with NCDs, including care partners from around the world, and draws on lived experiences to raise awareness and inform advocacy work on an inclusive NCD agenda, outlining the limitations in existing policy and health system approaches to address the growing burden of a wide range of conditions.

## Discussion paper: The Need for a Person-Centred, Inclusive NCD Agenda



4 November



[Read the network release](#)



[Link to the document](#)

This newly published discussion paper “**The Need for a Person-Centred, Inclusive NCD Agenda**”, represents a starting point from which the NCD Alliance will explore how to support advocacy calling for a Person-Centred, Inclusive NCD Agenda. It discusses the close associations between the five major NCDs, their risk factors and a broader set of conditions, and stresses that many co-exist and share similar approaches and solutions. It also makes a case for the recognition of both NCD-induced morbidity and mortality to capture the full economic and social burden of NCDs.

A new Our Views, Our Voices publication titled “**Towards an inclusive NCD agenda: A collection of lived experiences from around the world**” complements this discussion paper by illustrating the lived experiences of people living with a wide range of NCD conditions, noting commonalities in needs and challenges across different conditions.

## Trans Fat Free by 2023 - A building block of the COVID-19 response

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9 November

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Geneva, Switzerland

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[Link to the document](#)

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[Link to the news release](#)

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**This policy brief discusses how COVID-19 has illustrated the importance of public health and disease prevention measures for NCD prevention and care and highlights the urgent need for policy measures to protect cardiovascular health through the elimination of industrially-produced trans fatty acids (iTFA). It stresses that their removal from the global food supply could prevent up to 17 million deaths by 2040 and would be the first time an NCD risk factor has ever been eliminated.**

The publication is an output under the Resolve to Save Lives grant on trans fatty acids (TFA) elimination and situates TFA elimination in the COVID-19 response.

# 2

## On the Ground Country Updates

### Germany's new Global Health Strategy: "Responsibility – Innovation – Partnership: Shaping Global Health Together"



Germany



[Read the strategy](#)



[Read blog on strategy](#)

The German Federal Government has adopted on 7 October 2020, a new Global Health Strategy, with the title: **Responsibility – Innovation – Partnership: Shaping Global Health Together.** The objective of the strategy is 'to ensure that Germany's engagement in the field of global health is effective and sustainable to make an important contribution to the health of all people worldwide by 2030'.

The new strategy positions the German government to harness Germany's political engagement and expertise, especially in the following areas:

- Promoting health and preventing diseases
- Addressing the environment, climate change and health holistically
- Strengthening health systems
- Protecting health – addressing cross-border health hazards
- Forging ahead with research and innovation for global health

Compared to its predecessor from 2013, "**Shaping Global Health – Taking Joint Action – Embracing Responsibility**", the strategy seems to be an improvement on the latter as it includes new topics and approaches. For example, the intersection of climate and health are linked through the One Health approach. For the first time, occupational health and safety are considered health issues; and coordination mechanisms between the ministries responsible for global health have been expanded. The strategy also referenced NCDs in the context of climate action for health and will support the activities of the WHO FCTC.

Nevertheless, critics have stated that it neglects some pressing issues such as the global mental health crises, with increasing incidences of depression and trauma; a worldwide shortage of health workers with serious consequences for standard care; and conflicts in the global health economy, where patent protections for medicines and the diversification of supply chains are under discussion.

## Norway scales up efforts against NCDs In Low-income Countries (LICs)



Oslo, Norway



[Read Norwegian government's press release](#)

Following the launch last year of a first-of-its-kind strategy for tackling the growing NCD burden in LMICs, Norway has announced this November that it will contribute an additional 133 million USD (1.2 billion NOK) to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in low-income countries from 2020 to 2024. Norway launched the strategy “Better Health, Better Life”, to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as part of the international development assistance last year. One year on, and in the midst of a global pandemic, the strategy has become even more relevant.

The strategy will support the SDG 3 targets of reducing premature deaths from NCDs by one-third by 2030 (SDG 3.4), and Universal Health Coverage (SDG 3.8) as well as targets for reducing deaths from air pollution, strengthening tobacco control and preventing harmful use of alcohol. of emulation by other donor countries.

## Denmark boosts commitment to WHO



Denmark



[Link to the news release](#)

WHO and Denmark signed a multiyear agreement in which Denmark increased its flexible support to WHO. Denmark's funding to WHO will exceed 140 million Danish kroner (over US\$ 20 million) of flexible and thematic contributions for the 2020-2023 period.

## A call to decision makers in Scotland to tackle the NCD burden



Scotland



[Learn more](#)

Obesity Action Scotland joined forces with nine other charities dedicated to addressing NCDs and the risk factors to set out a series of priorities to improve the health of everyone in Scotland and reduce the burden of noncommunicable disease. The resulting NCD Manifesto is a joint call to the elected officials from all political parties to commit to taking bold action to tackle NCDs risk factors.

## Processed foods kicked-out of school



India



[Link to the news story](#)

India has just introduced a ban on the sale and promotion of all foods high in saturated fat or trans-fat or added sugar or sodium in and around schools. The ban, which will be in place by the end of 2020, will also be accompanied by guidelines to support schools in providing healthy meals to their pupils.

## Healthy India Alliance calls for robust action on COVID-19



India



[Read the statement](#)

The Healthy India Alliance released a statement calling India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the WHO and UNDP to prioritise people living with NCDs in national COVID-19 preparedness plans and adopt a people-centred approach to build back better. The statement identifies key actions and highlights the need for robust communication on COVID-19.

## Getting closer to a victory for public health in Argentina



Argentina



[Link to the news story](#)

During the session of Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Argentinian Senate approved, with 64 votes in favor and 3 against, a bill that establishes a front-of-pack labeling for food and beverages in Argentina. This regulation is based on the best standards and includes black octagon warnings with the text "Excess in ...", and is based on the nutrients profile system of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The next step is the discussion of the project in the Chamber of Deputies, for which there is still no stipulated date.

## Mexico Salud Hable receives Ministry of Health award for alcohol report



Mexico



[Read news about report here](#)



[Full report](#)



[Executive Summary in English here](#)

Mexico Salud Hable received an award from the Mexican Ministry of Health in recognition of the outstanding shadow report entitled “Civil Society Report on the harmful use of alcohol”. Published earlier this year, the report includes recommendations on alcohol policy progress in Mexico and reflections on progress against the SAFER framework.

## Ghana NCD Alliance receives award from the UN Inter-Agency Task Force



Ghana



[Link to the news story](#)

The UNIATF has recognised the Ghana NCD Alliance (GhNCDA) for its outstanding advocacy and multisectoral work on NCDs in Ghana. GhNCDA was awarded alongside NCDA’s members Resolve to Save Lives and the McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer.

## Education activities for the prevention of NCDs and COVID-19 in Rwanda



Rwanda



[Link to the news story](#)

The Rwanda NCD Alliance in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Health, the City of Kigali, and local televisions has started to air the Fitness Show to support physical activity awareness-raising efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## The Egyptian NCD Alliance is bridging the accountability gap for progress on NCDs



Egypt



[Link to the news story](#)

During the third Global Week for Action, the Egyptian NCD Alliance (EgNCDA) organised a webinar to bridge the accountability gap for progress on NCDs and officially launched the Beta NCD Programme, an education programme for primary care physicians

## A call on WHO SEARO to fund research and focus responses on COVID-19 and NCDs



SEARO



[Link to the news story](#)

The South-East Asia Regional Alliance supported the statement led by the World Heart Federation calling on WHO SEARO to fund research and focused responses to the relationship between COVID-19 and noncommunicable diseases especially circulatory conditions, in public, private, and civil society contexts.

## WHO AFRO requested to address the needs of people living with NCDs



AFRO



[Link to the news story](#)

The African NCDs Network asked Member States in the AFRO region to elevate the voices of PLWNCDS, young people and marginalised populations, by assessing the pandemic's impact on their needs, challenges and priorities; and to include them in COVID-19 decision-making processes and response.

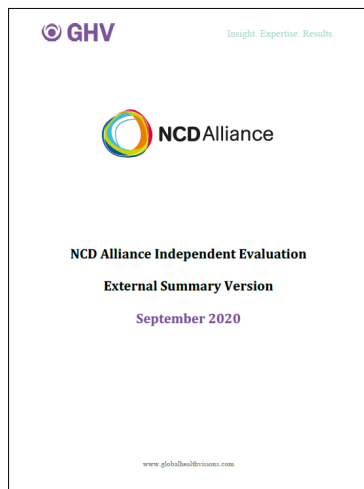
# 3

## Your Say Engage with Us

### NCDA's consultation process for the strategic plan



June 2020 - May 2021



As discussed during the last Supporters Group call on 20 November, Global Health Visions (GHV) was commissioned by NCDA to carry out an independent external review of NCDA's efforts to achieve its aims and objectives as set out in its **strategic plan 2016-2020**, and to provide strategic and organisational recommendations to inform NCDA's **strategic planning process for 2021+**.

The GHV independent review report has been shared with the Supporters Group for reference and we welcome your feedback, in particular:

- reflections on GHV findings of NCDA performance during 2016-2020;
- thoughts on how would success look like for NCDA in its next strategic phase; and
- what are the priority issues or functions that NCDA will need to focus on during this next strategic phase.

**If you have not received the GHV independent review report, or wish to share further thoughts, please do not hesitate to contact us at [partnerships@ncdalliance.org](mailto:partnerships@ncdalliance.org).**

The consultation process will continue as follow:

- **October-March 2021:** Board strategy review process;
- **February 2021:** Consultation with NCDA Supporters on 1-page strategy;
- **March 2021:** New strategy finalised;
- **May 2021:** New strategy noted by NCDA members at NCDA General Assembly meeting.

**Information about the consultation with the Supporters Group on the 1-page strategy will be shared early in 2021.**

# 4

## Partners Corner Supporters News

### Viatrix (formerly Pfizer-Upjohn)



[Read the full launch press release](#)

### Viatrix Inc. launches as a new kind of healthcare company, positioned to meet the world's evolving healthcare needs

The NCD Alliance's long-term partner Upjohn, a former division of Pfizer, recently **announced** the successful combination of Upjohn and Mylan N.V. to launch the new company called Viatrix. By combining these two complementary legacy companies, Viatrix has the scientific, manufacturing and distribution expertise with proven regulatory, medical and global commercial capabilities to deliver high-quality medicines to patients in more than 165 countries and territories.

Viatrix has now launched as a new kind of healthcare company, positioned to meet the world's evolving healthcare needs, focused on access and improved patient health. The company's portfolio comprises more than 1,400 approved molecules across a wide range of therapeutic areas, spanning both non-communicable and infectious diseases.

## Ecobank

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 [Read ECOBANK announcement](#)

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 [Read NCDA announcement](#)

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## Ecobank's focus on NCDs for annual Ecobank Day enters its second phase

The leading pan-African banking group, the Ecobank Group, has announced a contribution of 100,000 USD to [NCDA Civil Society Solidarity Fund](#). The announcement came as part of this year's celebration of the annual Ecobank Day, which is the Group's flagship annual event, showing commitment and giving back to its local communities across 33 African countries.

This year's theme '*Take Action Against Diabetes*' leveraged the momentum around the annual World Diabetes Day, and it marks the second stage of a three-year campaign to raise awareness and help prevent NCDs.

The fund will help the work of national and regional NCD alliances in Africa to take action on NCDs & address the critical needs of people living with NCDs during COVID19.

## The George Institute for Global Health


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 [More information](#)

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 [Registration link](#)

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 [Read Building Back Better after COVID-19: The research agenda](#)

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## Supporting the mental wellbeing of Community Health Workers on the COVID-19 frontline

The George Institute together with the thematic Working Group on Community Health Workers (CHWs) at Health Systems Global will hold a **webinar on 1 December 2020** to highlight the urgent need for CHW-led, context-appropriate solutions to support the mental wellbeing of CHWs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The webinar follows the conduct of a survey and research workshop to assess the impact of the pandemic on the wellbeing of CHWs globally. The webinar is part of the institute's '*Building Back Better after COVID-19: The research agenda*' initiative, which highlights the intersection of the pandemic with NCDs, and key evidence gaps emerging.

## Novo Nordisk

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 [Read more](#)

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### City #30 joins the Cities Changing Diabetes Network (CCD)

Early in November, Berlin and Belgrade joined the CCD network, bringing the total number of cities working to address urban diabetes, obesity and prevention to 30. In Berlin, the first joint prevention project is an exercise campaign built around an app that records the participants' minutes of movement. To encourage residents to sign up, many motivating and entertaining posters have been put up around the district. In Belgrade, the focus is on breaking the vicious circle caused by urban diabetes and to open the city to the needs of the inhabitants who are affected by urban living.

### Novo Nordisk joins EAT@Home

Novo Nordisk was part of the first episode on the EAT's newscast to talk about the important role of cities in the fight against increasing trends of diet-related disease. Novo Nordisk is working with Gehl on 'foodscape' projects in Bogota and Copenhagen focused on the convergence between public space, public life and food places and how this influences food choices, and design interventions that promote healthier eating options.

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 [Read more](#)

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## American College of Cardiology

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 [Learn more](#)

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## NCD Academy: Course on COVID-19 and NCDs, now available in Spanish and Chinese

COVID-19 has impacted no community more seriously than people living with NCDs and older people, who are heavily represented among serious cases of the virus and have witnessed major disruptions to health services that they rely on for NCD care. To tackle these issues, a new mini-course on COVID-19 and NCDs is available via NCD Academy with two sets of resources for primary care teams - clinical eLearning lessons and regional expert discussions. These resources are being made available in English and now Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.

## Union for International Cancer Control

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 [Read more](#)

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## Virtual dialogues: Cancer beyond COVID-19

COVID-19 has brought extraordinary upheavals to societies, health systems, economies, and governments across the world. While the crisis highlighted the structural weaknesses of many health systems and magnified existing inequalities in health outcomes, it has also accelerated key trends that may shape healthcare and public health in the years ahead.

Through this three-part series, UICC invites the NCD community to reflect on the changes set in motion by COVID-19, discuss the implications for cancer prevention and control, and what actions may help transform this crisis into an opportunity to shape stronger, more equitable and resilient health systems.

## The Fred Hollows Foundation & International Diabetes Federation

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 [Read more](#)

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## Addressing the burden of diabetic retinopathy and health workforce shortages: A look at task shifting

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is an NCD and the leading cause of irreversible blindness among the working-age population worldwide, having a severe impact on households and economies. However, DR is preventable and manageable if mechanisms for regular screening, early detection, and treatment are in place, and through optimised blood glucose and blood pressure management. Globally, it is estimated that 463 million people live with diabetes and are at a higher risk of severe complications and death from infectious disease, as we have seen with COVID-19. DR is one of the most common complications of diabetes, together with other eye health conditions such as cataract and glaucoma. Over one-third of people with diabetes develop DR and, if no further action is taken, it's estimated that about 180 million people worldwide will have DR by 2030.

Read this joint blog piece by the International Diabetes Federation, The Fred Hollows Foundation and NCD Alliance ahead of World Diabetes Day about the role and implications of task shifting to tackle DR.

## Vital Strategies

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 [Read more](#)

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## A guide to introducing effective front-of-package nutrient labels

A new guidebook, “What’s in Our Food? A guide to introducing effective front-of-package nutrient labels” was produced by Vital Strategies and the University of North Carolina’s Global Food Research Program to assist countries and policymakers in taking up this cost-effective, high-impact strategy to combat obesity.

## Medtronic Foundation

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 [Link to the series articles](#)

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## The vital role of community health workers in the COVID-19 response

Medtronic Foundation published a [six-article series](#) in the Winter issue of the Stanford Social Innovation Review on the theme “From Philanthropy to the Front Lines” that discusses how to reach and partner with underserved communities to provide the care they need.

## International Diabetes Federation

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6-9 December 2021

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[Read more](#)

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## IDF Congress 2021 Bangkok

During these difficult times dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic remember: we are facing an ever-increasing global epidemic of diabetes. With this in mind, the IDF Congress 2021 in Bangkok provides the ideal forum for the global diabetes community to make the case for diabetes on all levels. The congress will convene at the end of the centenary of the discovery of insulin. Let's come together to celebrate a historic therapeutic advancement and to advocate for the millions of people with diabetes still having difficulties to access medication, technologies and care.

## World Obesity Federation

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[Read more](#)

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[ECOICO 2020](#)

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## Global Obesity Forum, webinar series and ECO/ICO

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, World Obesity Federation and colleagues launched a series of webinars on COVID-19 & Obesity on topics spanning policy, inequity, telemedicine and food systems, with clinician, patient and youth perspectives. With hundreds of attendees for each of the 10 webinars and averaging participants from >60 different countries, the series has been a great success.

The European and International Congress on Obesity (ECO/ICO) by the European Association for the Study of Obesity and the World Obesity Federation also had to be adapted and successfully took place virtually in September 2020 with over 3600 delegates.

Finally, the Global Obesity Forum in October 2020, convened global stakeholders in obesity prevention and management and focused on themes around childhood obesity and economics.



5

## Coming Up Events for your Diary

### World AIDS Day



1 December



Global



[Read more](#)

On 1 December, the WHO joins partners in paying tribute to all those working to provide HIV services, and in calling on global leaders and citizens to rally for “global solidarity” to maintain essential HIV services during COVID 19 and beyond. It is a call to focus on vulnerable groups who are already at risk and expand coverage to children and adolescents.

### United Nations Special High-Level Session on COVID-19



3-4 December



New York, USA



[Read more](#)

The UN General Assembly has decided that its HQ will host a special session at the level of Heads of State and Government on 3 and 4 December in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to a general debate, the special session will include a presentation by the heads of the WHO and other relevant UN entities, who will also lead an interactive dialogue on inter-agency efforts to address the global pandemic and its impacts.

### Universal Health Coverage Day



12 December



Global



[Read more](#)

Universal health coverage (UHC) ensures all people, everywhere, can get the quality health services they need without financial hardship. Every 12 December, advocates worldwide mobilize on UHC Day to call for strong, equitable health systems that leave no one behind: Health for All.



# Latest Publications Useful Readings and Resources

## Essential reading



### NCD Countdown 2030: Pathways to achieving Sustainable Development Goal Target 3.4



[Link to resource](#)



### The NCD Alliance Advocacy Institute 2017 - 2019 Impact Report: Catalysing NCD Civil Society Alliances to Drive Change



[Link to resource](#)



### Global burden of 369 diseases and injuries in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019

**Summary**

**Objective** The global burden of disease, mental disorders included, has increased over time. We estimated the global burden of 369 diseases and injuries, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, and compared data on incidence, prevalence, and mortality for a markedly exclusive and comprehensive set of diseases and injuries.

**Design** Global Burden of Disease (GBD) estimates incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 369 diseases and injuries, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence. We used a multi-stage process to estimate incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 369 diseases and injuries, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence. We used a multi-stage process to estimate incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 369 diseases and injuries, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence.

**Results** Global Burden of Disease (GBD) estimates incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 369 diseases and injuries, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence. We used a multi-stage process to estimate incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 369 diseases and injuries, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence.

**Conclusions** Global Burden of Disease (GBD) estimates incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 369 diseases and injuries, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence. We used a multi-stage process to estimate incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 369 diseases and injuries, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence.

**Keywords** Global Burden of Disease (GBD), incidence, prevalence, mortality, disability, 1990–2019, systematic analysis, published evidence.

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# Global burden of 369 diseases and injuries in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019



**Link to resource**



### Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019

**Summary**

**Objective** The global burden of disease, mental disorders included, has increased over time. We estimated the global burden of 87 risk factors, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, and compared data on incidence, prevalence, and mortality for a markedly exclusive and comprehensive set of risk factors, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence.

**Design** Global Burden of Disease (GBD) estimates incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 87 risk factors, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence. We used a multi-stage process to estimate incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 87 risk factors, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence.

**Results** Global Burden of Disease (GBD) estimates incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 87 risk factors, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence. We used a multi-stage process to estimate incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 87 risk factors, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence.

**Conclusions** Global Burden of Disease (GBD) estimates incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 87 risk factors, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence. We used a multi-stage process to estimate incidence, prevalence, mortality, and disability for 87 risk factors, mental disorders included, from 1990 to 2019, using a systematic analysis of published evidence.

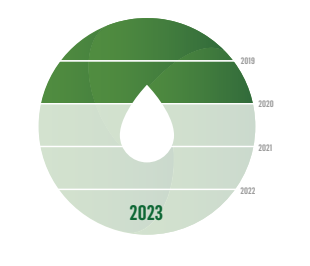
**Keywords** Global Burden of Disease (GBD), incidence, prevalence, mortality, disability, 1990–2019, systematic analysis, published evidence.

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# Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019





**Link to resource**



## COUNTDOWN TO 2023

WHO REPORT ON GLOBAL TRANS FAT ELIMINATION 2020

# Countdown to 2023 WHO report on global trans fat elimination 2020



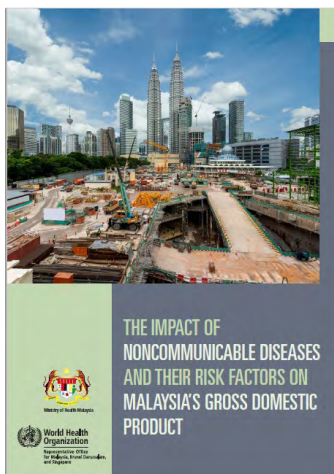
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## 2020 Global Tobacco Index



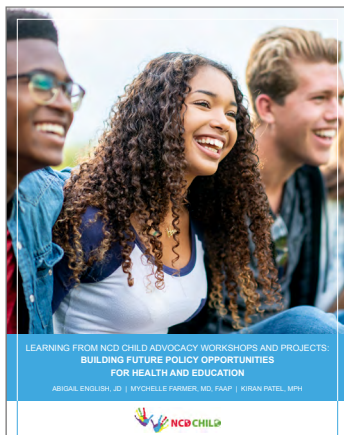
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## Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and cancer cost nearly RM 9 billion productivity losses annually to Malaysian economy



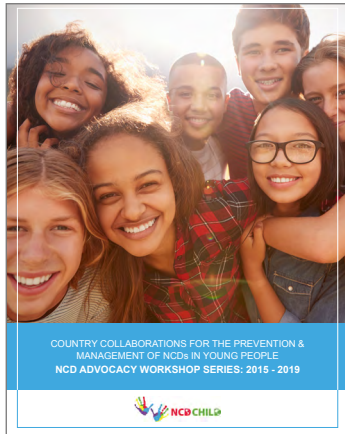
[Link to resource](#)



## Learning from NCD Child advocacy workshops and projects: building future policy opportunities for health and education



[Link to resource](#)



## Country collaborations for the prevention & management of NCDs in young people NCD advocacy workshop series: 2015 - 2019



[Link to resource](#)

## Why mental health integration in HIV and TB programs is a win-win



[Link to resource](#)





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