

## **NCD Alliance Statement at the 72<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly**

### **Agenda Item 12.4: Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants**

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, supported by the NCD Alliance, Vital Strategies and Royal Health Awareness Society of Jordan. We urge action in three key areas:

- Give full attention to the importance of controlling tuberculosis in migrant and refugee populations: Migrant and refugee populations are especially vulnerable to rapid transmission of tuberculosis and careful planning is needed across the continuum of care to ensure outbreaks and the emergence of antimicrobial resistance are prevented.
- We commend the inclusion of NCDs and mental health priorities, and both prevention and management: NCDs and mental health priorities are too often omitted from packages to promote the health of refugees and migrants, although many crises are protracted over years or decades. Despite their chronic nature, NCDs pose an acute threat to health in emergency settings. National health systems of host countries specially in LMICs need to be strengthened to provide NCDs prevention, management services and uninterrupted treatment, along with strong monitoring and coordination mechanisms
- Agreement on the global action plan will be critical for UHC HLM negotiations: With four months until the UN High-Level Meeting on UHC, we urge Member States to remember that *universal* health coverage by definition must extend to migrant and refugee populations. Matters relating to migrants and refugees are emerging as a point of particular contention for negotiations on the Political Declaration for the UN HLM on UHC. Consensus on the global action plan is crucial to pave the way for a strong UHC outcome document

We urge member states to take note of the Global Action Plan and to report back on the action taken, with specific reference to these priorities. Thank you for your attention.