OVERVIEW

Over the last three decades, women's health challenges in developing and developed countries alike.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

CVDs are the leading cause of death among women globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the leading cause of death and disability among women in developing and developed countries alike.

NCDS (also known as NCDs or CVDs) are diseases that affect women in low- and high-income countries alike.

Women and NCDs

Women and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are closely intertwined. Women are often at greater risk of acquiring NCDs as they grow older. Similarly, under or over nutrition in a mother during pregnancy can significantly increase the risk of her child developing an NCD as they grow older. Reproductive and maternal health conditions, communicable diseases, and NCDs are often linked. Women's health and well-being is closely connected to their socioeconomic conditions, such as poverty, limited health infrastructure and human resource capacity, as well as exposure to sexual health issues and behavioural risk factors for NCDs. Often, women do not have access to information and education on the critical importance of early and timely diagnosis and treatment of NCDs, even when there are no signs and symptoms of disease present. Women have a right to responsive and appropriate care throughout their lifetimes.

NCDS and growing inequity

Women are more vulnerable to the burden of NCDs and growing inequity – puts both women and their babies at increased risk of ultimately developing type-2 diabetes. Women exposed to high level of indoor smoke are 2.3 times more likely to suffer from COPD than women who use cleaner fuels. Over the last three decades, women's health challenges in developing and developed countries alike. Women have a right to responsive and appropriate care throughout their lifetimes.

Call to Action

Without specific attention to the needs of women and girls, the impact of NCDs threatens to unravel the fragile health gains made over the past two decades and underscore efforts to ensure gender equality and healthy lives for all.

Safeguarding Women's Health: Tackling NCDs

NCDS are the largest threat to health around the world. Women, often in their most productive years. Exposure to common risk factors – puts both women and their babies at increased risk of ultimately developing type-2 diabetes. Women have a right to responsive and appropriate care throughout their lifetimes.

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