

World Health Organization

Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health

Newsletter



December 2009

Contents

- **ECOSOC High-level Segment and announcement of the Global Noncommunicable Disease Network (NCDnet)** 5
- **Progress Implementing the 2008-2013 NCD Action Plan** 7
 - Ambassador for cancer control, Ambassador Nancy Brinker
 - Development of a set of recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children
 - Strengthening partnerships for integrated prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: SEANET-NCD Meeting
 - Training Course “Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases: Addressing the Causes of the Causes”
- **Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion** 9
 - Action Plan for the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment
 - Informal Consultation Meeting on Newborn/Infant Hearing Screening
 - WW Hearing General Assembly
 - Launch of the French version of the WHO Primary Ear and Hearing Training Resource and Workshop on the Implementation of the Training Resource
 - Development of the Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health
 - Interventions on Diet and Physical Activity: What Works
 - Fourth General Meeting of GARD
 - International Conference on Diabetes and Associated Diseases
 - WHO Meeting on A Prioritised NCD Research Agenda
 - 7th Global Conference on Health Promotion
- **Tobacco Free Initiative** 13
 - WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2009
 - WHO launches new tobacco control effort in Africa
 - World No Tobacco Day 2009
 - World No Tobacco Day Awards
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse** 14
 - 1st Meeting of the Advisory Group for the Revision of ICD-10 Diseases of the Nervous System
 - WPA/WHO Workshop on mental health and psychosocial support in areas affected by disasters and conflicts
 - Meeting of the International Advisory Group for the Revision of the ICD-10 Mental and Behavioural Disorders
 - Second Meeting of the Guidance Development Group for the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) guidelines for mental, neurological and substance use disorders
 - Epilepsy Demonstration Project in Cameroon
 - Draft Global Strategy to Reduce Harmful Use of Alcohol
 - First Global Meeting on Alcohol, Health and Social Development
 - WHO Collaborative Research Project on Alcohol, Health and Development

- Voluntary-based or compulsory drug dependence treatment? From mandated treatment to therapeutic alliance
- Meetings on indicators and monitoring systems for alcohol, drugs and other psychoactive substance use consumption, attributable harm and societal responses
- **Nutrition for Health and Development** **17**
 - Landscape Analysis on Countries' Readiness to Accelerate Action in Nutrition, SCN News, No 37
 - WHO Child Growth Standards: Methods and Development: Growth Velocity Based on Weight, Length and Head Circumference
- **Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability** **18**
 - Global Status Report on Road Safety
 - First Ministerial Conference on Road Safety
 - First Global Forum on Trauma Care
 - 4th Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting
- **WHO Centre for Health Development** **21**
 - Intersectoral Action: Uniting for Health
 - Centre for Health Development signs up nearly 100 cities for World Health Day 2010
- **Upcoming NMH Events** **23**
- **Acknowledgements** **24**

Links: <http://www.who.int/nmh/en/>



NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND MENTAL HEALTH

Chronic Diseases & Health Promotion	Tobacco Free Initiative	Nutrition for Health Development	Mental Health & Substance Abuse	Violence & Injury Prevention & Disability	WHO Kobe Centre
-------------------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------	---	-----------------

THE MISSION OF THE NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND MENTAL HEALTH CLUSTER IS TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND THE EVIDENCE-BASE FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON SURVEILLANCE, PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS, MALNUTRITION, VIOLENCE, INJURIES AND DISABILITIES.

Dear Colleague,

This end-of-year newsletter for 2009 contains highlights from our work in the areas of noncommunicable diseases, mental health, nutrition, violence and injury prevention over the past nine months. Particularly noteworthy was the prominence given to noncommunicable diseases and injury prevention during the recent High-level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Geneva in early July 2009 and the launch of the new Noncommunicable Disease Network (NCDnet). We welcome your feedback and comments, and there are contact details for the relevant colleagues, should you require further information. I look forward to continuing our dialogue and working with you to achieve our shared goals.

*Dr Ala Alwan
Assistant Director-General
Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health*

ECOSOC High-level Segment and announcement of the Global Noncommunicable Disease Network (NCDnet)

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the principal organ to coordinate economic, social and related work of the 14 UN specialized agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. The Council also receives reports from the 11 UN funds and programmes. The high-level segment of the 2009 session of ECOSOC was held between 6-9 July 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva and focused on the topic of implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health.

At the invitation of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), WHO co-sponsored the preparatory ECOSOC/UNESCWA/WHO Western Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting, which was hosted by the government of Qatar and which took place between 10-11 May 2009 in Doha. The report on the outcomes of the meeting included the 'Doha Declaration on NCDs and Injuries' adopted by the participants attending the meeting, which was presented to the ECOSOC High-level Segment for further consideration. As a result, NCDs and injuries emerged as strong themes at the ECOSOC High-level Segment, with a well attended Ministerial Roundtable Breakfast Session attracting a number of Ministers and other Member State health and development leaders, as well as senior representatives from UN Agencies, NGOs and the private sector.

In an address to the annual session, the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, pointed out that "The discussions in Qatar showed the increasing burden of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancers, asthma and road traffic accidents on the poor in low- and middle-income countries in Western Asia could seriously derail many international efforts in health and in poverty reduction. Why are high-income countries not responding to the requests from low- and middle-income countries to help build national capabilities to address noncommunicable diseases and injuries? Because these problems are beyond those targeted by the MDGs".

In her keynote address, H.R.H. Princess Muna Al Hussein, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, was unequivocal about the relationship between NCD and injury prevention and development. "Noncommunicable diseases and injuries must also be addressed if we want to put an end to poverty in 2015. Households could be lifted from extreme poverty and hunger by enacting tobacco control policies, encouraging healthy diets and physical activity, reducing the harmful effects of alcohol, and enforcing road safety legislation to make roads safe for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists".

The evidence supporting action to prevent and control NCDs was emphasized by guest speaker Cherie Blair, from the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women. "There is overwhelming evidence, for example, that action to cut tobacco use, improve diets and increase physical activity would have a powerful impact on big killers such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and cancer."

Lead speaker WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, highlighted the risk of a rise in noncommunicable diseases due to the financial and economic crisis: "We must make the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and improvement of maternal health top priorities of the development agenda. Both are part of the agenda for strengthening health systems and revitalizing health care. Both are fully ready and mature areas for efficient interventions with a huge return. Both are begging for more attention."

The report back on the ECOSOC/UNESCWA/WHO Western Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting was made by Qatar's Minister of Public Health, who emphasized that "The health issues currently included under the Millennium Development Goals address two-thirds of premature deaths among the poorest people in developing countries. The one-third of poor people who die prematurely from noncommunicable diseases and injuries are not covered by the MDGs".

NCDnet Launched

The establishment of a new Global Noncommunicable Disease Network (NCDnet) is supporting the efforts to include the prevention of noncommunicable diseases on the global development agenda. NCDnet was announced at the ECOSOC High-level Segment and is a voluntary collaborative arrangement comprised of Member States, UN Agencies, other international institutions, academia, research centres, NGOs and the business community, as identified in the NCD Action Plan.

NCDnet aims to unite currently fragmented efforts by bringing the cancer, cardiovascular, diabetes and respiratory communities together with those working in the areas of tobacco control, healthy diets and physical activity. "The goals of the new network are to increase focus on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, to increase resource availability and to catalyse effective multi-stakeholder action at global, regional and country levels", said Dr Ala Alwan.

NCDnet held its first planning meeting in Geneva on 15 October 2009 to inform a small group of international partners and Member States about WHO progress in implementing the NCD Action Plan and to encourage their active involvement in setting the agenda for NCDnet and supporting the implementation of its first activities in line with objective 5 of the NCD Action Plan and the Conceptual Framework of NCDnet. Approximately 40 participants representing NGOs, Member States, International Financial Institutions, philanthropy, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Collaborating Centres, the private sector and the WHO Secretariat attended this First Planning Meeting in October. All invitees represented sectors specifically identified in the NCD Action Plan.

A first set of Working Groups were launched to address the following questions: (1) How can we raise the priority accorded to noncommunicable diseases in development work at global and national levels through collective advocacy? (2) Which innovative resourcing mechanisms would be most applicable to the NCD Action Plan and how should they be implemented at global, regional and national levels? and (3) Which stakeholders, targets and indicators can be applied to monitoring the implementation of the NCD Action Plan as a whole and NCDnet in specific with a focus on measuring progress in low- and middle-income countries?

A High-level Meeting and first Global Forum of NCDnet is scheduled for 24 February 2010 in Geneva and will serve to focus more global attention on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases. The NCDnet Global Forum will mobilize a broad base of stakeholders in support of the NCD Action Plan and enable these stakeholders to share knowledge and experience, and to commit to supporting initiatives. The three working groups on Advocacy and Communications, Innovative Resourcing Mechanisms, and Monitoring and Evaluation, will deliver reports, including concrete recommendations and tools, at the February 2010 meeting.

Link: www.who.int/ncdnet

Contact voutej@who.int; vanhiltenm@who.int

Progress Implementing the 2008-2013 NCD Action Plan

WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Cancer Control, Ambassador Nancy Brinker

In May 2009, WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, appointed Ambassador Nancy Brinker, founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, a breast cancer foundation, as WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Cancer Control. Ambassador Brinker is working with WHO to raise awareness about cancer as a global public health problem and to advocate for strengthening global action for cancer prevention and control. She is emphasizing the need for low- and middle-income countries to strengthen comprehensive national cancer control programmes, including cancer registration as a key component. Ambassador Brinker's work is raising the profile of cancer at global, national and regional levels and outreach to new stakeholders and partners.

The Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) and Ambassador Brinker organized a major advocacy event. Ambassador Brinker gave the keynote speech on the link between tobacco use and cancer. A 'Call to Action' was adopted by EMRO Member States to address this issue.

Contact ulricha@who.int

Development of a set of recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children

Regional consultations

Regional consultations with Member States on the development of a set of recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children were held between June and August 2009. This is part of the process to report back to the Sixty-third World Health Assembly on resolution WHA60.23 adopted in 2007 which requested the WHO Director-General to develop a set of recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children. The aim of the regional consultations was to provide the Secretariat with the views of Member States on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children with a special focus on policy objectives, policy options and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms presented in the Working Paper. By the end of the consultation process, 66 Member States had responded.

The set of recommendations will be presented to the Executive Board as its 126th session in January 2010 under provisional agenda item 4.9 'Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases: Implementation of the Global Strategy'.

Participation at Meeting of the European Network

WHO participated in the 4th Meeting of the European Network on reducing marketing pressure on children, held in London between 8 – 9 June 2009. WHO updated the network on the process being undertaken to develop the set of recommendations, including the regional consultations. The European Network participated in the written consultation for the European region led by WHO's Office for Europe (EURO).

NGO and Industry Dialogue Meetings

Two stakeholder meetings were held with representatives of international NGOs, the global food and non-alcoholic beverage industries, and the advertising sector in November 2008. The objectives of these meetings were to identify policy initiatives and processes and tools for monitoring and evaluation in the area of marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to

children. Two follow-up stakeholder meetings were held in August/September 2009, during which the same stakeholder groups provided their input to the working paper drafted by the Secretariat.

Contact Armstrongt@who.int

Strengthening Partnerships for Integrated Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases: SEANET-NCD Meeting

The SEANET-NCD Meeting met this year in Chandigarh, India, between 15 – 19 June 2009 to review progress in implementing the Resolution of the 60th Session of the Regional Committee of the WHO South-East Asia Region on scaling up prevention and control of NCDs and the role of the regional NCD network (SEANET-NCD) in this process. The meeting also explored opportunities for strengthening partnerships for prevention and control of NCDs in the South-East Asian Region and discussed a draft instrument for monitoring and evaluating national NCD prevention and control policies and plans. Time was taken to collate comments on the working paper for the development of a set of recommendations on the marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children (please refer to the news item above). Participants included representatives from nine Member States. WHO Collaborating Centres and other agencies, in addition to representatives of WHO.

At the end of the meeting, a set of recommendations for Member States, the WHO Secretariat and international partners was agreed upon by the participants. These recommendations aim at intensifying the Region's efforts to implement the WHO resolution on scaling up prevention and control of NCDs as well as to promote and support the development and implementation of an NCD research agenda, NCD surveillance and the building of partnerships for the prevention and control of major NCDs.

Contact leowski@searo.who.int

Training Course “Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases: Addressing the Causes of the Causes”

The first objective of the NCD Action Plan aims to put the NCD epidemic higher on the global development agenda and to take forward the findings of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. This reflects the urgent need to focus on the “upstream” causes of NCDs recognizing that a bio-medical model and the management of individual diseases will be limited in impact, unless combined with population approaches that create supportive public policy and reduce inequity. Tackling the social and economic determinants also means reorienting efforts within the health sector, working with other sectors to promote health in all policies, and engaging civil society.

To support furthering this work at country level, a 6-day course was held in Venice from 7–12 June 2009. The Course was organized by the University of Padua Medical School in co-sponsorship with WHO's Department of Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion and the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development, and in collaboration with the Local Health Unit and the Veneto Region of Italy. The twenty-five participants selected for the course were professionals working at top managerial levels in health- and health-related sectors and included WHO Country and Regional Office Staff, academics, social scientists, economists and policy-makers with an interest in promoting equity in countries with a high burden of NCD.

Partner institutions were: University College London (Great Britain); the University of East Anglia (Great Britain); the Medical University of Graz (Austria); Peking University (China); the Public Health Foundation of India (India); and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (France). Consideration is being given to running course again.

Contact galeag@who.int

Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion

Action Plan for the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment

The Action Plan for the Prevention of Blindness and Visual Impairment was endorsed by the Sixty-second World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2009. The Action Plan was drawn up at the request of Member States to complement the 2008 – 2013 NCD Action Plan. The new Action Plan was very well received by the WHA, with 29 Member States making statements in support. The Action Plan aims to expand efforts by Member States, the Secretariat and international partners in preventing blindness and visual impairment through developing comprehensive eye-health programmes at national- and sub-national levels.

Contact kocuri@who.int

Informal Consultation Meeting on Newborn/Infant Hearing Screening

An informal consultation meeting on newborn/infant hearing screening was held in Geneva from 9 - 10 November 2009. The objective of the informal consultation meeting was to formulate guiding principles of early detection and early intervention of hearing impairment, which will enable countries and professionals to develop and conduct appropriate newborn/infant hearing screening. Total 15 individual experts from 6 WHO regions and the Newborn and Child Health and Development and the Disability and Rehabilitation Units of WHO participated in the informal consultation meeting, and discussed case definition, timing for the newborn/infant hearing screening, screening types and methods, integration to other existing screening or child health programmes, quality control, referral and follow-up system, cost-effectiveness and ethical issues, and reached consensus on guiding principles of newborn/infant hearing screening. A meeting report will be published in the due course.

Contact kocuri@who.int

WW Hearing General Assembly

7th WHO/WW Hearing Workshop on Hearing Aids and Services for Developing Countries and WW Hearing General Assembly was held in Geneva between 12 - 13 November 2009. The main themes were reporting on pilot projects on provision of affordable hearing aids and services, briefing on progress on trial for price reduction of hearing aids, future strategies of WW Hearing projects and funds raising plan for the future activities.

Contact kocuri@who.int

Launch of the French version of the WHO Primary Ear and Hearing Training Resource and Workshop on the Implementation of the Training Resource

The launch of the French version of the WHO Primary Ear and Hearing Training Resource was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso between 18 - 20 November 2009, together with a Workshop on the Implementation of the Training Resource. The launch and workshop was organized jointly by WHO Headquarters, WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO), and WHO's Country Office in Burkina Faso. Around 25 participants from 7 French speaking African countries participated in the workshop, were trained how to use the training resource according to the local demands and needs, and discussed how to adapt the WHO training resource in their regular education curriculum, how to implement the training resource within the primary health care system, and how to develop a national plan to prevent hearing impairment in the countries of participants.

Contact kocuri@who.int

Development of the Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health

WHO is developing the *Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health* in order to provide guidance to Member States on the dose-response between physical activity level for health enhancement and prevention of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

Primary prevention of NCDs through physical activity, at the population level, is the focus of these upcoming recommendations. The recommendations will not provide guidance for clinical control and management of disease through physical activity.

Policy makers at the national level are the main target audience of these recommendations. By revising the current evidence and compiling it in the format of recommendations on the frequency, duration, intensity and the type of physical activity to be achieved at the population level, this document aims to assist policy makers in the development of public health policies. A guideline group has been established for the development of the WHO recommendations on physical activity for health. On 23 October 2009, with the support of the UK government, this guideline group met in the UK with the overall objective of reviewing, discussing and finalizing the recommendations drafted by the WHO Secretariat.

The publication of the "Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health" is planned for July 2010.

Contact Armstrongt@who.int

Interventions on Diet and Physical Activity: What Works

Interventions on diet and physical activity: what works provides policy-makers and other stakeholders with a summary of tried and tested diet and physical activity interventions that aim to reduce the risk of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

What Works, published in October 2009, is presented as three complementary documents (one summary report and two background documents):

- The *Summary Report* - provides relevant stakeholders with a summary of the systematic review of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of diet and physical activity interventions to prevent chronic NCDs.
- The background paper titled *Methodology*, provides researchers and other interested parties with detailed information on the five stages of the methodology used for the review.
- The background paper titled *Evidence tables*, provides researchers and other interested parties the detailed results of the review of the evidence evaluating the effectiveness of intervention studies included in the systematic review.

All documents are available through the link:

<http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/whatworks/en/index.html>

Contact armstrongt@who.int

Fourth General Meeting of GARD

The Fourth Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD) General Assembly meeting took place between 12 - 13 June 2009 in Rome. It was preceded by the launch of GARD/Italy on 11 June 2009, at which 51 Italian organizations signed a common action plan. Coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Health, this is the first time that major Italian organizations have agreed to participate in a countrywide endeavour to combat chronic respiratory diseases.

A major goal of the meeting was to align the GARD Action Plan with the WHO 2008 - 2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD Action Plan). Successful national approaches were shared among 129 registered participants, including case studies from China and Italy.

Elections for the GARD Executive Committee and Planning Group members were conducted using electronic voting. The next GARD General Assembly meeting will take place in Toronto (3 - 4 June, 2010) and will focus on Primary Health Care.

Contact mantzouranise@who.int

International Conference on Diabetes and Associated Diseases

The International Conference on Diabetes and Associated Diseases was organized by the Government of Mauritius, WHO and the International Diabetes Federation and ran 12-14 November 2009 in Mauritius. The Conference was attended by more than 300 delegates from over 50 countries and more than 30 world-known experts. The participants reviewed the current data on the burden of diabetes and its potential future consequences in the region and the available strategies to control the epidemic of diabetes and noncommunicable diseases that share similar risk factors. The participants adopted the Mauritius Call for Action which aims at identifying key strategies and commitments urgently required for developing and implementing national diabetes and noncommunicable diseases prevention and control programmes.

Contact roglicg@who.int

WHO Meeting on a prioritized NCD research agenda

Objective 4 of the Action Plan of the Global Strategy for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) is to promote research for NCD prevention and control, with a special focus on low- and middle-income countries.

To address this objective, WHO convened a major consultation in August 2008, of experts, leading researchers, representatives of WHO collaborating centers and NGOs in official relations. The objective of the consultation was to prioritize research and development needs in relation to major NCDs. The draft Prioritized NCD Research Agenda developed based on the background papers and deliberations of this meeting was further refined at a second WHO consultation on 12 - 13 October 2009. Research and development needs related to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic respiratory disease, their risk factors and determinants and health systems were further discussed at this meeting. The Prioritized NCD Research Agenda will be finalized in 2010 with the participation of all stakeholders who play a role in determining priorities for research and development.

Contact : mendiss@who.int

The 7th Global Conference on Health Promotion

The Seventh Global Conference on Health Promotion was concerned with the gap between the evidence for health promotion and its low implementation in many countries. Attended by over 550 participants from 102 countries, the conference was entitled "Promoting Health and Development: Closing the Implementation Gap". It was held between 26 - 30 October 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya. A similar number of observers took a more virtual part in the proceedings through the newly launched social networking site or watched highlights of the discussions on a YouTube channel.

Being the first Global Conference on Health Promotion to be held in Africa, it highlighted particular challenges common to low- and middle-income countries. The conference discussed solutions to such issues under five tracks: (a) empowerment of individuals through the promotion of health literacy and healthy behaviours; (b) empowerment of communities; (c) strengthening health systems; (d) partnership and intersectoral action; and (e) building the capacity for health promotion as a fundamental building block to addressing inequity and revitalising primary care. The conference also showcased African solutions in a series of field visits to Kenyan health promotion projects and an Africa Day held on 29 October 2009.

The conference edition of the Nairobi Call to Action is available for download at <http://gchp7.info/nc2ace.pdf>. Social networking site: <http://connect2change.org> and YouTube link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/GCHP7>

Contact galeag@who.int

Tobacco Free Initiative

WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2009

WHO launched the WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2009 on Wednesday, 9 December, in Istanbul, Turkey. The report is the second in a series about the extent of the global tobacco epidemic and measures to stop it. It includes the latest global and country figures on the prevalence of tobacco use and on the measures' impacts. The report's theme is "smoke-free environments". WHO chose the theme because of the serious harmful effects of second-hand smoke, which include about 600,000 premature deaths per year, numerous crippling illnesses and economic losses in the tens of billions of dollars. Participants in the launch ceremony included Turkish Minister of Health Dr Recep Akdağ, WHO Assistant-Director General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health Dr Ala Alwan and WHO Tobacco Free Initiative Director Dr Douglas Bettcher.

Link: <http://www.who.int/tobacco/announcement/en/index.html>

Contact olearyt@who.int

WHO launches new tobacco control effort in Africa

WHO is increasing its attention to tobacco control in Africa with the overall goal of preventing tobacco use from becoming as prevalent there as it is in other parts of the world. The focus of the programme will be on strengthening countries' ability to implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), the international health treaty that guides national efforts to counter the tobacco epidemic, and the establishment of a regional centre of excellence to support the development of countries' capacity to resist the spread of tobacco use. Tobacco use is a risk factor for the major noncommunicable diseases – heart attacks, strokes, cancers, diabetes and asthma and other chronic diseases – which together account for 60% of all deaths. In the 46 countries of WHO's Africa region (AFRO), noncommunicable diseases are expected to account for 46% of deaths by 2030, up from 25% in 2004. The work will be financed in part by a grant of US\$ 10 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant is the largest that WHO has received for tobacco control in Africa and is an important means to address the noncommunicable diseases gap in the international development agenda.

Link: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2009/tobacco_20091204/en/index.html

Contact olearyt@who.int

World No Tobacco Day 2009

The theme for World No Tobacco Day, 31 May 2009, was '**Tobacco Health Warnings**'. The focus of this year's campaign was on pictorial health warnings, which have been shown to be particularly effective at making people aware of the health risks of tobacco use and convincing them to quit. By requiring that packages of tobacco show the dangers of the product's use, as called for in guidelines to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, countries can make progress against the epidemic of tobacco, which kills more than 5 million people per year, most of them in low- and middle-income countries. Currently, only 10% of the world population lives in countries that require pictorial warnings on tobacco packages.

Link: www.who.int/tobacco/wntd

Contact olearyt@who.int

World No Tobacco Day Awards

This year, as every year, WHO recognized individuals or organizations in each of the six WHO regions for their accomplishments in the area of tobacco control. This recognition took the form of Special Director-General Awards and World No Tobacco Day Awards. Tobacco control programmes and ministries of health that have been successfully implementing tobacco control programmes in the regions received the awards.

Link: www.who.int/tobacco/wntd/2009/awards

Contact olearyt@who.int

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

1st Meeting of the Advisory Group for the Revision of ICD-10 Diseases of the Nervous System

Between 22 and 23 June 2009, the first meeting of the International Advisory Group for the Revision of ICD-10 Diseases of the Nervous System was held at WHO Headquarters. The members of the Advisory Group appointed by the WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health discussed and identified the broad direction of the revision process for ICD-10 Diseases of the Nervous System and definitive steps to be undertaken, taking into consideration the workplan and timelines for the overall ICD-10 revision process. The Advisory Group discussed and identified; the broad architectural changes required in the diseases of the nervous system, objectives and uses of Chapter VI, including the need for a simple version for primary care to meet the public health goal, issues related to consistency of specialty classifications with the overall ICD, and the need to conduct field trials in various regions of the world, particularly focusing on the utility of the classification in a variety of settings. This process will lead to the 'Alpha draft' of this chapter by May 2010.

Contact duat@who.int

WPA-WHO Workshop on mental health and psychosocial support in areas affected by disasters and conflicts

The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse organized a workshop on mental health and psychosocial support in areas affected by disasters and conflicts according to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines. The workshop took place at WHO Headquarters in Geneva between 27 - 31 July 2009. Twenty psychiatrists from areas at high risk for disasters or conflicts were selected for the workshop. This activity strengthened the ability of the psychiatrists - together with their counterparts from other disciplines - to provide 'state of the art' support to people living in conflict or disaster zones.

Contact vanonmmernm@who.int

Meeting of the International Advisory Group for the Revision of ICD-10 Mental and Behavioural Disorders

The Mental Health Advisory Group for the ICD revision was reappointed by the WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health for 2009 - 2010, with some changes in membership to reflect the tasks of the current stage of the revision. The reconstituted group met between 28 - 29 September in Geneva. The Advisory Group focused in detail on the ICD Content Model, which specifies the information to be provided for each diagnostic entity, and the specific nature of this core task for working groups during the current stage of the revision. The Advisory Group approved the formation of working groups on classification of: 1) mental and behavioural disorders among children and adolescents; 2) personality disorders; 3) intellectual and learning disabilities; and 4) substance-related disorders. The Advisory Group also authorized a consultation group to focus on diagnosis and classification of mental disorders in primary care. Finally, a Formative Field Studies Coordination Group will assist WHO with the overall direction and implementation of field studies to inform the development of the classification.

Contact reedg@who.int

Second meeting of the Guideline Development Group for the mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) guidelines for mental, neurological and substance use disorders

The second meeting of the Guideline Development Group (GDG) took place in Geneva between 22 -25 September 2009, where the experts from the area of mental, neurological and substance use disorders reviewed and finalised the evidence profiles and recommendations for selected interventions for these disorders. The guidelines have been developed following the WHO Guideline Review Committee recommendations. These guidelines are being applied for the development of an "essential package for mental, neurological and substance use disorders" to facilitate scaling up care of these disorders in low- and middle-income countries. A meeting took place at Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Centre in Italy at the end of November 2009 to review the draft mhGAP intervention package.

Contact saxenas@who.int

Epilepsy Demonstration Project in Cameroon

A meeting to discuss the feasibility of initiating an *Epilepsy Demonstration Project in Cameroon* was held in Yaoundé between 13 -14 July 2009 under the auspices of the Minister of Public Health of Cameroon, and the aegis of the Global Campaign Against Epilepsy. The meeting was attended by various stakeholders such as Minister of Women's Empowerment and Promotion of the Family, several Inspectors and Directors in the Ministry of Public Health and experts from the university. The objectives of the epilepsy demonstration project are to reduce the treatment gap and improve epilepsy care in the demonstration areas, and to develop a sustainable model of epilepsy treatment at the primary health care level that can be applied nation-wide and possibly at the regional level.

Contact duat@who.int

Draft global strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol

The Secretariat has finalized a draft global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. The draft strategy, which was requested in resolution WHA61.4, is submitted for consideration in the upcoming 126th session of the Executive Board. The draft is based on existing best practices and available evidence of effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of strategies and interventions to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. The draft was developed in a collaborative process with Member States, which included six regional consultations, a written feed-back process on a working document and an informal consultation in Geneva on 8 October 2009. The outcomes of a broad consultative process with other stakeholders were also taken into consideration in the drafting of the strategy. Please see the following for more information: http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/activities/globalstrategy/en/index.html

http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb126.html

Contact poznyakv@who.int

The first Global Expert Meeting on Alcohol, Health and Social Development

A Global Expert Meeting on Alcohol, Health and Social Development was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 23 September. The meeting was organized by the Swedish Presidency, in cooperation with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services, and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization. The purpose of the meeting was to highlight the need for more knowledge about the connection between harmful use, poverty, social exclusion, the spread of communicable diseases and socio-economic development. Presenters included Ms Maria Larsson, Minister for Elderly Care and Public Health of Sweden, Dr Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General, WHO, Mr Anders Nordström, Director General, SIDA, Sweden, Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Director ECDC, Professor Sir Michael Marmot and Sir Richard Peto. Dr Benedetto Saraceno, Director of WHO's Department for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, chaired a round table discussion on harmful use of alcohol from a development perspective.

Links:

http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/9/21/expert_conference_on_alcohol_and_health

Contact rekved@who.int

WHO Collaborative Research Project on Alcohol, Health and Development initiated

Following the Global Expert Meeting on Alcohol, Health and Social Development, a WHO technical meeting on alcohol and development was organized in Stockholm, Sweden, between 14-15 September 2009. The meeting was attended by 14 researchers from all six WHO regions, as well as WHO staff from WHO Headquarters and several WHO Regional Offices. There is an increasing awareness of a significant impact of harmful use of alcohol on issues like poverty, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and maternal health. Research data, though, from low- and middle-income countries is scattered and the meeting participants agreed on developing a multi-component and multi-site study addressing the most pressing needs for scientific evidence of impact of harmful use of alcohol on health and social development in low- and middle-income countries. Focus areas include alcohol and infectious diseases, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, harm to others from drinking and effective interventions to influence the role of alcohol in development.

Contact rekved@who.int

Voluntary-based or compulsory drug dependence treatment? From mandated treatment to therapeutic alliance

A meeting on compulsory treatment of people with drug dependence and treatment as an alternative to criminal sanctions was held with UNODC in Vienna between 28 - 30 October 2009. The meeting was attended by academic experts and representatives of governments from all the continents, including some countries with high rates of compulsory treatment. Although practices varied enormously between countries, there was consensus on the importance of developing effective pathways of treatment as an alternative to criminal sanctions, and to reduce the number of people treated compulsorily. There is a universal trend towards expanding treatment as an alternative to criminal sanctions as a method of responding to drug related crime, which is specifically endorsed in the UN drug conventions, and in some countries this system accounts for one-third of all drug treatment. The use of positive incentives to treatment (i.e. rewarding people for entering treatment and doing well in treatment) is an effective and a well-researched strategy, although not so widely used in practice. The offer of treatment as an alternative to criminal sanctions for someone facing criminal sanctions for drug related crime can be seen as a logical extension of this principle.

Contact clarkn@who.int

Meetings on indicators and monitoring systems for alcohol, drugs and other psychoactive substance use consumption, attributable harm and societal responses

WHO's Management of Substance Abuse Team convened two technical meetings on monitoring of substance use between 19-23 October 2009 in Valencia, Spain, with the support of the Generalitat Valencia, Spain. The first meeting was to develop a set of key indicators for monitoring psychoactive substance use with a focus on alcohol, related health problems and societal responses. The meeting was attended by prominent experts in the field and resulted in an agreement on a list of key indicators, which can be recommended for assessing and monitoring the health burden attributable to alcohol and other psychoactive substance use and public health responses. The second meeting, which was attended by representatives of UNODC, EMCDDA, CICAD, NIDA, NIAAA and ESPAD, reviewed current practices of global, regional and national systems of monitoring psychoactive substance use and related harms and societal responses, with the aim of building capacity, particularly in low- and middle-income countries on such monitoring systems.

Contact poznyakv@who.int; fuhrd@who.int

Nutrition for Health and Development

Landscape Analysis on Countries' Readiness to Accelerate Action in Nutrition, Standing Committee on Nutrition News, No 37

The Landscape Analysis was released in May 2009 and aims to serve as a 'readiness analysis' to assess countries' readiness to accelerate action in nutrition, particularly in the 36 high-burden countries where 90% of the world's stunted children live. "Readiness analysis" is frequently used in the private sector for assessing where investing resources is likely to give the greatest

return and for determining how best to invest to yield the maximum benefits. It also explores attitudes and perceptions of stakeholders, old versus new skill sets required, and existing levels of risk and insecurity, as well as opportunities and institutional cohesion.

The Landscape Analysis was published in "SCN News" and features papers that describe the country assessment methodology development, country assessments, and products of an interagency initiative on the Landscape Analysis of Countries' Readiness to Accelerate Action in Nutrition, including summary reports of the country assessments in 5 countries (i.e. Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guatemala, Madagascar and Peru). These can be accessed at:

Links http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/micronutrients/vitamin_a_deficiency/nvas_report/en/index.html

Contact brancaf@who.int

WHO Child Growth Standards: Methods and development: Growth velocity based on weight, length and head circumference

The WHO Multicentre Growth Reference Study (MGRS) was implemented between 1997 and 2003 to generate new curves for assessing the growth and development of children the world over. The MGRS collected primary growth data and related information from 8440 healthy breastfed infants and young children from diverse ethnic backgrounds and cultural settings (Brazil, Ghana, India, Norway, Oman and USA). A key component of the MGRS design was a longitudinal cohort of children who were examined in a sequence of 21 visits starting at birth and ending at 24 months of age.

A principal rationale for the longitudinal component was to allow for the development of growth velocity standards. The velocity standards presented in the report provide a set of tools for monitoring the rapid and changing rate of growth in early childhood and can be used to assess children everywhere, regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic status and type of feeding. This report can be accessed at http://www.who.int/childgrowth/publications/technical_report_velocity/en/index.html.

Contact deonism@who.int

Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability

Global Status Report on Road Safety

On 15 June 2009, WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, and philanthropist Mr Michael Bloomberg launched the *Global status report on road safety*, the first broad assessment of the road safety situation in 178 countries. The launch took place at a press conference at Peterson Hall in New York City. There were approximately 80 attendees, including journalists and national and international road safety experts. Following a short film, Director of WHO's Department for Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability, Dr Etienne Krug, presented the main findings from the report: road traffic injuries remain an important public health problem, particularly for low- and middle-income countries, pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists make up almost half of those killed on the roads, there is a need for these road users to be given more attention in road safety programmes, and in many countries road safety laws need to be made more comprehensive while enforcement should be strengthened. Dr Chan then officially launched the report, thanking Mr Bloomberg for the financial support that made the development of the report possible. Dr Chan's speech stressed the moral responsibility that the

international community now faces in acting on the recommendations and implementing the interventions which have been shown to make roads safer. Mr Bloomberg expressed his appreciation to Dr Chan for WHO's leadership in global health issues generally, and in road safety specifically. The launch of the *Global status report on road safety* was covered through hundreds of articles and radio and television programmes in many key global and national media.

Visit http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2009/en/index.html.

Contact pedenm@who.int

First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety

On 20 November 2009, more than 70 Ministers of Transport, Health and Interior and other senior government officials from 150 countries adopted the "Moscow Declaration" at the close of the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, a milestone road safety event hosted by the government of the Russian Federation. This historic document invites the UN General Assembly to declare a Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. It also encourages further implementation of the recommendations of the *World report on road traffic injury prevention*; calls for particular efforts to address the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists; recommends strengthening road safety legislation and enforcement; supports enhancing emergency trauma care; and requests additional funding from the international development community. Russian Federation's President Dmitry Medvedev addressed the meeting attended by about 1500 government ministers, representatives of UN agencies, officials from civil society organizations, leaders of private companies and other road safety experts. Participants drew attention to the need for action to address the large and growing global impact of road traffic crashes, reviewed progress on implementation of the *World report on road traffic injury prevention* and shared information and good practices on road safety. Several meetings were hosted in the margins of the Ministerial Conference. These included meetings of YOURS (Youth for Road Safety), the Private Sector Road Safety Collaboration, the network of NGOs advocating for road safety and road victims and the Commission for Global Road Safety. At the latter meeting, WHO, as well as the Governments of the Russian Federation and Oman, and the World Bank, were handed a Prince Michael International Road Safety Award by H.E. Prince Michael of Kent. On the eve of the event, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced a contribution of US\$ 125 million - the largest single donation to global road safety to date - to support projects in ten countries and monitor progress at global level.

Visit http://www.who.int/roadsafety/ministerial_conference/en/index.html.

Contact pedenm@who.int

First Global Forum on Trauma Care

Between 28-29 October 2009, WHO hosted the first Global Forum on Trauma Care in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the support of the Ministry of Health of Brazil, the State Government of Rio de Janeiro, and the Bone and Joint Decade. Around 120 of the world's leading trauma care experts attended, including representatives of 15 professional societies which deal with trauma, ministry of health planners whose portfolios include trauma, and other interested stakeholders. The goal was to achieve greater attention to affordable and sustainable improvements in trauma care services globally by promoting greater uptake of the recommendations of WHA Resolution 60.22. This Forum marked the start of a broader collaborative process to create an expanded network for trauma care advocacy. On 30 October 2009, a smaller group of 20 participants in the main meeting took part in the Trauma Care Checklist Consultation Meeting to discuss a proposed checklist, who would be best to administer it, and at what time point(s) in care of the injured it should be administered.

Visit

http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/media/news/2009/29_10_2009/en/index.html

Contact mockc@who.int

4th Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting

The 4th Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting was held between 17-18 September 2009 in the Executive Boardroom at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 200 participants from 50 countries attended. The overall theme was "boosting global violence prevention", and the goal was to enhance the coverage, intensity and effectiveness of international support for country-level violence prevention activities. Four key outcomes were achieved. First, the launch of *Violence prevention: the evidence* (a series of eight briefing documents), and presentations on violence prevention programmes from Brazil, Lithuania, Mexico, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America helped to demonstrate the importance and effectiveness of applying a science-based approach. Second, the seeds of a violence prevention donor network were planted during a funders' workshop which discussed how financial resources for violence prevention could be made more effective and lead to more sustainable programmes. The third outcome was agreement on potential strategies for strengthening global violence prevention coordination. In light of the multi-sectoral nature of violence prevention, participants discussed how the lack of a UN General Assembly resolution calling for an integrated approach to preventing violence hindered progress. The fourth outcome was a strengthened Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA), with the Norwegian Ministry of Health, UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC and the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime announcing their formal participation in the Alliance. In addition, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the World Bank's newly established Conflict, Crime and Violence Team, indicated their intention to join the VPA. Visit http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/4th_milestones_meeting/en/index.html.

Contact butcharta@who.int

WHO Centre for Health Development

Intersectoral action - Uniting for health

Many health issues clearly demand collaboration with non-health sectors in urban settings, including road accidents, physical activity, second-hand smoke exposure, food and nutrition, injuries, violence, and alcohol-related harm. However, sectors are often not accustomed to working with other sectors. Lack of systematic knowledge of social determinants and health inequities is another issue. Collaboration among various sectors requires energy, time and commitment and projects may too easily lapse if they have not developed proper support mechanisms.

Between 22-24 June 2009, WHO Centre for Health Development (WKC) held an Expert Consultation on Intersectoral Action (ISA) in the Prevention of Noncommunicable Conditions in Kobe, Japan, outlining mechanisms of multi-sector action, and recommendations for policy-makers on how to initiate such actions. The experts highlighted the need for evaluative research that demonstrates health gains arising directly from ISA. Another important topic now being pursued by WKC is how the practice of Health Impact Assessment can be better harnessed to encourage cross-sector collaboration for health.

Contact sloatel@who.int

Centre for Health Development Signs Up Nearly 100 Cities for World Health Day 2010

Next year, the World Health Day theme is urbanization and health with a campaign uniting cities and citizens around the world. The goal is to engage 1000 cities in World Health Day activities and to collect the stories of 1000 lives – people who have had a positive impact on the health of citizens in cities.

So far cities such as Amman, Bogota, Cleveland, Istanbul, Sana'a, and Yaoundé have signed up, marking a wide geographical range in cities already planning to participate.

In his speech to the International Congress of the Olympics in October where Rio de Janeiro was announced to host the 2016 games, East Timor President and Nobel laureate, Mr José Ramos-Horta called on national governments to take notice of urbanization and health issues. "The WHO recently launched an initiative entitled 1000 cities, 1000 lives that will begin in April 2010. Not only will it bring awareness to the need for people to get up and get active, but it is an important step forward in putting the issue high on the national agenda of countries the world over."

The theme of "urbanization and health" was chosen for World Health Day in recognition of the impact urbanization has on our collective health globally and for us all individually. In the World Health Report last year, urbanization and health was cited as one of the biggest health challenges in the 21st century.

The campaign 1000 cities, 1000 lives is a platform for action to demonstrate in a tangible way what it means to engage multiple sectors of government (e.g transport, health, environment, education) and the public through the inclusion of civil society, by addressing the underlying factors of health determinants.

Activities include open streets events, town hall meetings, clean-up campaigns, work-place and school-based initiatives. Some cities are opening streets to people and closing them to motorized traffic to promote health activities. In another context, ten Iranian cities are planning community and mayor forums, for example.

Link www.who.int/whd2010

Contact sloatel@who.int

Events in the Next Three Months

15 - 17 December 2009	WHO Forum and Technical Meeting on Population-based Prevention Strategies for Childhood Obesity	Geneva
18-23 January 2010	WHO Executive Board	Geneva
4 February 2010	World Cancer Day	
16-17 February	Launch of mhGAP Intervention Package for Country Implementation	
18 -19 February	Meeting of the Advisory Group for revision of ICD-10 Neurological Disorders	
24 February	High-level Meeting of NCDnet	Geneva
4 March	UN General Assembly discussion on road safety	New York
4-5 March	35 th Session of the NGDO Coordination Meeting for Onchocerciasis Control	Burkina Faso
8-13 March	32 nd Session of the Technical Consultative Committee of APOC	Burkina Faso
March	Meeting on Development of a Guide on Psychological First Aid	
March	Global Meeting with FSA	
March	Joint WEF/WHO project on research and measurement	

Acknowledgements

This newsletter is compiled with the input, support and assistance from staff across WHO's cluster for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (NMH). This document does not represent an official position of the World Health Organization. It is a tool to explore the views of interested parties on the subject matter.

The World Health Organization does not warrant that the information contained in this newsletter is complete and correct and shall not be liable for any damages incurred as a result of its use.

The designations employed and the presentation of the information do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

We invite you to subscribe to future monthly newsletters by sending an email to courtneyc@who.int with the words SUBSCRIBE NMH_NEWS_LETTER in the main body.

World Health Organization, 2009. All rights reserved. The following copyright notice applies: www.who.int/about/copyright

For more information on the NCD Action Plan, please visit: www.who.int/nmh/Actionplan-PC-NCD-2008.pdf

For more information on WHO's Department of Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion, please visit: www.who.int/chp/en/index.html

For more information on WHO's Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, please visit: www.who.int/mental_health/en/index.html

For more information on WHO's Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, please visit: www.who.int/nutrition/en/index.html

For more information on WHO's Department of the Tobacco Free Initiative, please visit: www.who.int/tobacco/en/index.html

For more information on WHO's Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability, please visit: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/en/index.html

For more information on WHO's Centre for Health Development, please visit: www.who.or.jp/

For an organigram of WHO's Cluster for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, please visit: www.who.int/nmh/publications/nmh_organigram_en.pdf