

Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia

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Policy makers

How can you contribute to change?

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As a policy-maker, you can play a key role in improving the lives of people with dementia, their carers and families by:

- Protecting the rights, freedoms and wishes of people with dementia and their carers.
- Actively involving people with dementia, their carers and families in developing policies, legislation, strategies and plans.
- Engaging all relevant stakeholders including public and private sector, and civil society to implement a coordinated policy response to dementia.
- Creating equitable access to person-centered, gender-sensitive, culturally-appropriate and human rights-oriented care and support for people with dementia and their carers.
- Ensuring the social and financial protection of people with dementia and their carers.

More specifically, you can:

Influence government planning and policy development by:

- Developing national/sub-national dementia policies, legislation, strategies and plans that safeguard the human rights of people with dementia.
- Implementing mechanisms for multisectoral collaboration, including strategic planning, resource planning, and service evaluation, monitoring and reporting on dementia.
- Establishing a focal point or functional unit for dementia within the government.
- Developing effective financing mechanisms for national dementia plans to ensure their implementation and sustainability.
- Creating participatory consultation mechanisms to engage people with dementia, their carers and families in the development of dementia policies, legislation, strategies, plans and care planning.
- Strengthening national surveillance and monitoring systems to collect data on dementia epidemiology, costs and resources, health and social care for future planning.

Create dementia-inclusive societies by:

- Developing national and local public awareness campaigns in collaboration with people with dementia, their carers and families to enhance public understanding and acceptance of dementia.
- Improving social and physical environments to make them age- and dementia-friendly and enable participation, safety and inclusion.
- Establishing programmes to encourage dementia-friendly attitudes in the community, public and private sectors, informed by the experiences of people with dementia and their carers.

Reduce the risk of dementia by:

- Creating linkages between dementia and noncommunicable diseases, risk reduction and health promotion programmes, policies and campaigns.
- Developing evidence-based programmes and establishing training for health and social care providers on modifiable dementia risk factors.

Improve health and social care and support for people with dementia by:

- Implementing high-quality prevention, treatment, and care across the continuum, including timely diagnosis, post-diagnostic support and rehabilitation services, advance care planning and end-of-life care.
- Developing programmes to build the knowledge and skills of health and social care providers.
- Shifting care from hospitals towards multidisciplinary, community-based services that integrate social and health systems.

Support dementia carers by:

- Providing accessible and evidence-based information, training programmes and respite services.
- Training health and social care providers to identify and reduce carer stress and burn-out.
- Establishing carer protection, including social and disability benefits, and legislation against discrimination.

Catalyze dementia research and innovation by:

- Promoting a national research agenda on dementia prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.
- Investing in dementia research and innovation.
- Creating opportunities for people with dementia and their carers to participate in research, in line with national ethical research requirements.

Who can you partner with?

- National, sub-national and local **government counterparts**, across sectors, to develop and implement dementia policies and plans, and improve access to health and social care.
- Multilateral and development **aid agencies** for technical and financial support.
- The **World Health Organization** and other **United Nations agencies** for technical support and access to evidence-based information.
- International, regional, national, sub-national, and local **nongovernmental organizations**, such as Alzheimer's Disease International, Dementia Alliance International and other relevant mental health and ageing organizations, to raise awareness and increase understanding and acceptance of dementia.
- **People with dementia, their carers and families** and **community-based organizations** representing them to provide locally-based dementia support and information that best responds to their needs and wishes.
- Health and social **care providers** to deliver high-quality health and social care for people with dementia, as well as carer support.
- **Private sector** including **health insurers** to deliver health and social care services and enable cost sharing.