

WHO Discussion Paper – *Draft Updated Appendix 3 of the WHO Global NCD action plan 2013 -2030*

WHF Comments to draft dated 1 August 2022

General comments

The World Heart Federation wishes to reiterate its positive feedback on the document and is pleased to see that some of its previous comments have been integrated in the latest version. Further general comments are listed below:

- The details added in the “*Process followed by the Secretariat to update Appendix 3*” section, including criteria for inclusion of interventions in the WHO-CHOICE analysis help further clarifying the rationale behind the specific updates of Appendix 3.
- Figure 1 added under paragraph “*How to use this information*” is a useful addition, which helps clarifying the methodology used, as well as giving a quick visual representation of the WHO-CHOICE analysis’ result.
- The WHF supports the initiative of the WHO Secretariat of developing a web-based interactive tool displaying cost-effectiveness of specific interventions on NCDs. The WHF agrees that such tool will be useful in guiding countries making decisions on specific NCD interventions.
- The WHF wishes to reiterate that it might be useful to clarify the target audience in the document, as certain sections require clinical knowledge to be fully understood.

Section specific comments

Objective 1- Overarching/enabling actions (p. 9)

- The overarching/enabling action “*Strengthen international cooperation for resource mobilization, capacity-building, health workforce training and exchange of information on lessons learnt and best practices*” could be rephrased as “*Join/Support international efforts for resource mobilization [...]*”
- The overarching/enabling action “*Implement other policy options in objective 1*” could be more specific and indicate which other policy options are available to implement.

Objective 2 – Overarching/enabling actions (p. 9)

- The overarching/enabling action “*Assess national capacity for prevention and control of NCDs*” could include additional details on how to implement this action.

Objective 3 - Tobacco use: Specific interventions with WHO-CHOICE analysis (p. 10)

- WHF reiterates its commitment to supporting the implementation of sustained interventions on tobacco, mainly through its advocacy and convening role.

Objective 3 - Harmful use of alcohol: Specific interventions with WHO-CHOICE analysis (p. 11)

- Intervention A11 should consider broader information dissemination on the harm related to alcohol, beyond consumer information.

Objective 4- Cardiovascular disease: Specific interventions with WHO-CHOICE analysis (pp. 15-16)

- Overarching/enabling actions: specific reference to community health workers who play a central role in providing health care, including NCD prevention, counselling and health promotion could be added.
- CV1 – The WHF reiterates its suggestion of including single pill combination for hypertension in the non-financial considerations, rather than in the “*Other interventions*” table as CV11.
- CV2a – extensive evidence on the use of Aspirin/ Acetylsalicylic Acid for secondary prevention of coronary heart disease is available (for example, [NCD Countdown 2030: efficient pathways and strategic investments to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 in low-income and middle-income countries](#), and its [supplementary appendix](#)). While it seems that a WHO-CHOICE Analysis has not been performed on this recommendation, it would be important to include it under CV2a, rather than in CV12, to highlight its importance.
- CV5a – the intervention could include equity considerations in the non-financial considerations, as a factor strongly linked to Rheumatic Heart Disease. It might also include issues of RHD and maternal health and unique challenges of RHD during pregnancy.

Objective 4 – Chronic respiratory diseases: Specific interventions with WHO-CHOICE analysis (p. 18)

- CR6 – This intervention could be the opportunity to address at least education around the health impacts of outdoor air pollution, which kills millions of people every year.