

“Time to deliver: Implementing NCD commitments and packages”

WHO GLOBAL MEETING TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON SDG 3.4 ON NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND MENTAL HEALTH

(9-12 December 2019, Muscat, Oman)

CONCEPT NOTE

1. The World Health Organization will convene the four-day Global Meeting to accelerate progress on SDG target 3.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (*to reduce premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) by one third through prevention and treatment and the promotion of mental health and well-being*). The Meeting will be hosted by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman from 9 to 12 December 2019 in Muscat, Oman.

2. The goal of the Global Meeting is to scale up the implementation of national responses to address NCDs, their risk factors (including air pollution), and mental health conditions with a view to reduce premature mortality and put countries on a sustainable path in order to reach SDG target 3.4 by 2030. Opportunities for synergies to end all forms of malnutrition (SDG target 2.2), reduce the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents (SDG targets 3.6 and 11.2), and end all forms of violence against children (SDG target 16.2) will also be explored.

3. The Global Meeting will be composed of the following segments:

- Technical meeting for National NCD Directors and Programme Managers (9-10 December);
- High-level Segment for Member States and United Nations Organizations, as well as non-State actors, at level of Ministers and heads of organizations (afternoon of 10 December);
- Global Multistakeholder Partners' Forum (11 December);
- Regional Meetings, side events and site visits (12 December).

CONTEXT

4. The human toll of NCDs is unacceptable. These diseases including – cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and mental health disorders – are the leading causes of death worldwide, and carry a huge cost that extends beyond health to undermine workforce productivity and economic prosperity. NCDs and mental health have also become an issue of equity. They disproportionately affect low- and lower-middle-income countries, and in all countries the poorest and most vulnerable are the most at risk and the least likely to have access to treatment.

5. In 2015, the world set an ambitious target: “by 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and wellbeing” (SDG target 3.4)¹. In 2018, at the United Nations General Assembly Third High-level Meeting on NCD Prevention and Control, Heads of State and Government committed to put their countries on a sustainable path to attain this target².

6. WHO has a bold new strategic plan³ to ensure that 1 billion more people benefit from universal health coverage (UHC); that 1 billion more people are better protected from health emergencies; and that 1 billion more people enjoy better health and well-being (“triple billion targets”). The triple billion targets provide an overarching framework for WHO Member States to address the health-related targets of the 2030 Agenda.

7. The NCD agenda is relevant to all three strategic priorities: (i) progress towards UHC will increase access to essential services to prevent and treat NCDs; (ii) protecting people from the devastating impact of humanitarian emergencies and ensuring the continuity of health services will benefit populations living with NCDs, and (iii) promoting health and preventing disease will require intensified action on the major risk factors and underlying social and commercial determinants of NCDs.

8. Crucially, a 15% reduction in premature mortality could be achieved by implementing 16 WHO Best Buys⁴ interventions in low- and lower-middle income countries alone. This would already prevent 17 million cases of heart attacks and strokes, save 8.2 million lives, and generate US\$350 billion in economic growth⁵.

9. Countries vary widely in their capacity to take action to prevent and control NCDs, and address mental health conditions and environmental risk factors. Progress has been limited, even though many recommendations exist. The WHO Independent High-level Commission on NCDs has prioritized six recommendations⁶ to strengthen national capacities to take action:

- Start from the top;
- Prioritize and scale up;
- Embed and expand NCDs and mental health within health systems and UHC;
- Collaborate with partners and regulate;
- Mobilize international and domestic finance;
- Act for accountability.

¹ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1

² <https://www.who.int/ncds/governance/third-un-meeting/en/>

³ http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA71/A71_4-en.pdf

⁴ <https://www.who.int/ncds/management/best-buys/en/>

⁵ <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272534/WHO-NMH-NVI-18.8-eng.pdf?ua=1>

⁶ <https://www.who.int/ncds/management/time-to-deliver/en/>

10. Providing effective national responses to address NCDs, mental health conditions and environmental pollution (so-called 5X5 agenda) requires strong and well-coordinated multisectoral and multistakeholder collaboration and partnerships. Partnerships are also vital because resources for the prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion of mental health and well-being are limited in most national and institutional budgets. Governments have committed to promote meaningful civil society engagement⁷ and engage with the private sector⁸, while giving due regard to managing conflicts of interest.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

11. The Global Meeting and Multistakeholder Partners' Forum will be anchored in the vision outlined in WHO's Thirteen General Programme of Work 2019-2023 to address three strategic priorities (achieving UHC, addressing health emergencies, and promoting healthier populations) through the triple billion targets.

12. The overarching aim of the Global Meeting and Multistakeholder Partners' Forum is to share success stories and challenges in implementing national responses to NCDs and mental health conditions, as follows:

Achieving UHC:

- How to improve access to quality essential health services to address NCDs and mental health conditions;
- How to reduce the number of people suffering financial hardships from NCDs and mental health conditions;
- How to improve access to essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and devices to address NCDs and mental health in primary health care;
- How to explore synergies between NCDs and CDs at the primary care level for UHC.

Addressing health emergencies:

- How to strengthen the design and implementation of policies, including for resilient health systems, to treat people living with NCDs and mental health conditions in emergencies;
- How to prevent and control NCDs and promote mental health among refugees and migrants;
- How to ensure that essential life-saving health services, including health promotion and disease prevention, mental health and psychosocial support, as well as nutrition services, including support for exclusive breastfeeding, reach the people most in need.

Promoting healthier populations:

- How to reduce risk factors for NCDs and mental health conditions through multisectoral action;
- How to promote healthy settings and health-in-all policies;

⁷ In line with paragraph 42 of resolution 73/2 available at http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/2

⁸ In line with paragraph 43 of resolution 73/2

- How to address the underlying social, economic and environmental determinants of NCDs and the impact of economic, commercial and market factors;
- How to strengthen monitoring, surveillance and accountability systems for NCDs.

13. The Global Meeting will have a particular focus on how to implement the following WHO packages of prioritized interventions:

- MPOWER to reduce tobacco use (as outlined in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control);
- SAFER to reduce harmful use of alcohol;
- SHAKE to reduce salt intake;
- REPLACE to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from the food supply;
- ACTIVE to promote physical activity;
- HEARTS to reduce hypertension;
- mhGAP to address mental health conditions and promote mental health;
- LIVE LIFE to prevent suicide;
- INSPIRE to reduce violence against children;
- SAVE LIVES to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries.

14. The Global Meeting and Multistakeholder Partners' forum will also focus on how to establish effective national multisectoral and multistakeholder coordination and accountability mechanisms, develop and finance multisectoral action plans, and ensure an adequate workforce for key activities such as surveillance and integrated delivery of services.

Global Meeting (first 1.5 days of the meeting)

15. The purpose of the Global Meeting is to support national NCD Directors and Programme Managers from WHO Member States in their national efforts to reduce premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being.

16. The objectives of the Global Meeting are to strengthen the capacity of national NCD Directors and Programme Managers in order to:

- Implement a set of priority interventions that will put their countries on a sustainable path to attain SDG target 3.4 on NCDs and mental health by 2030;
- Fulfil the commitments made by Heads of State and Government in the Political Declarations of the UN General Assembly adopted in 2011, 2014 and 2018;
- Contribute to the "triple billion" targets for WHO's NCD-related actions set out in the 13th Global Programme of Work.

Global Multistakeholder Partners' Forum (1.5 days - afternoon of the second day and the third day of the meeting)

17. The purpose of the Global Multi-stakeholder Partners' Forum is to support national NCD and Mental Health Directors and Programme Managers in their national efforts to bring partners together to scale up action and mobilize all their available resources, as appropriate, for the implementation of national responses for the prevention and control of NCDs, and the promotion of mental health and well-being.

18. The objectives of the Global Multistakeholder Partners' Forum are to strengthen the capacity of national NCD Directors and Programme Managers to:

- Engage with non-State actors, taking into account national health priorities and objectives for a meaningful and effective contribution to the implementation of national responses to NCDs and mental health in order to reduce premature mortality from NCDs and promote mental health, while giving due regard to managing conflicts of interest;
- Strengthen non-State actors' commitment and contribution to the implementation of national responses to prevent and control NCDs and promote mental health to reach SDG 3.4.

Site visits, side events and regional meetings (fourth day of the meeting)

19. The last (*fourth*) day of the Global Meeting will be devoted to site visits organized by the Government of Oman, side events and WHO Regional Meetings.

Expected outcome

20. National NCD Directors and Programme Managers will leave the Global Meeting and Multistakeholder Partners' Forum with new ideas and examples of how to accelerate the implementation of national responses to address NCDs, air pollution and mental health conditions, taking into account national health and development priorities.

GLOBAL MEETING STRUCTURE

21. The format of the Global Meeting and Multistakeholder Partners' Forum will be plenaries (including a high-level segment) and breakout sessions.

22. The Global Meeting will take place with the participation of the government-nominated national NCD Directors and Programme Managers responsible for national NCD and mental health policies and programmes. Governments will be invited to appoint two delegates per Member State (one for NCDs and one for mental health) in response to the Circular Letter available at [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/ncds/event-circular-letters/circular-letter-\(english\).pdf?sfvrsn=c77b1a69_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/ncds/event-circular-letters/circular-letter-(english).pdf?sfvrsn=c77b1a69_2)

23. The Global Partners' Forum will include the participation of non-State actors (upon invitation from WHO) in accordance with WHO's Framework on Engagement with non-State actors (FENSA).

24. Representatives from UN Agencies will be invited by WHO.

25. Interpretation will be provided during the plenary sessions only in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The meeting will be webcast.

26. For more information and communicating interest in participating, please contact WHO by sending an email to ncd2019@who.int

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