

Governments and United Nations Country Teams

Working together to deliver the NCD-related Sustainable Development Goals

1. NCDs and mental health conditions are the world's largest source of premature death, disease and disability. They contribute to poverty, inequities and reduced economic growth.
2. Nearly a quarter of the world's population is estimated to have an underlying condition that increases their vulnerability to COVID-19; most of these conditions are NCDs.
3. Reducing the social and economic costs of NCDs is possible through cost-effective measures which address modifiable behavioural risks, environmental risks and inequities in access to health services.
4. Addressing NCDs requires whole-of-government and whole-of-society multisectoral action. UN agencies are scaling up their support on NCDs as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Main NCD-related 2030 SDG targets

- 3.4 Reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- 3.5 Strengthen responses to reduce the harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6 Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage (UHC)
- 3.9 Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination
- 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)
- 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for NCDs that primarily affect developing countries

Governments should encourage United Nations Country Teams to scale up support in line with:

- ✓ The [2011](#) and [2018](#) political declarations of the United Nations General Assembly and [2014](#) Outcome Document, which highlight the leadership role of the World Health Organization in the context of a UN system-wide response;
- ✓ [Resolutions](#) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council;
- ✓ The [WHO Global NCD Action Plan, 2018-2030](#), including the [set of best buys and other recommended interventions](#);
- ✓ [Agency briefs](#) which describe the roles, responsibilities and ongoing work of different UN and multilateral agencies in relation to NCDs;
- ✓ [Sector briefs](#) which highlight the development impact of NCDs and action that needs to be taken by different sectors, legislators and heads of state;
- ✓ The [guidance](#) on integrating NCDs into United Nations sustainable development assistance frameworks.
- ✓ The [guidance](#) for governments, UN agencies and development partners on responding to NCDs during and beyond COVID-19.

Governments and United Nations Country Teams must work together to agree joint action to meet the NCD-related SDG targets, and monitor and evaluate progress.

Joint actions include:

- **Planning:** e.g. ensuring NCDs are included in UN sustainable development cooperation frameworks and national development plans (including COVID-19 response and recovery plans);
- **Programming:** e.g. reducing NCD risk factors (e.g. legislative, fiscal and regulatory measures to tackle tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and air pollution) and improve mental health, and enhancing access to NCD and mental health services;
- **Advocacy:** e.g. raising political awareness with Heads of State and government, parliamentarians and investors, as well as the public;
- **Resource mobilization:** e.g. domestic and international financing and multisectoral technical assistance, including as an essential component of COVID-19 responses.