

From Strategy to Actions:
Prioritizing NCD Prevention and Control
Regional workshop to advance NCD prevention and control in the
WHO South-East Asia Region

Day 1–28 October 2025		
Time (hrs.) IST	Inaugural session	
0830-0900	Registration	
0900-0910	Opening remarks	WHO SEARO
0910-0930	Opening session	
0930-0950	SEAHEARTS 2025: achievements, and lessons learnt	Dr Nalika Gunawardena, WHO SEARO
0950-1000	Global Commitments on NCDs: Turning the Tide Together	Dr Alarcos Cieza, WHO HQ
1000-1020	Introductions of the participants	
1020-1040	<i>Group photo and Healthy break</i>	
	Session	Speakers /Facilitators / Moderators
	Extended and expanded SEAHEARTS milestones 2030: Hypertension and diabetes treatment coverage and control	
1040-1115	Regional SEAHEARTS milestones 2030: Hypertension and diabetes treatment coverage and control	Dr Pradeep Joshi, WHO SEARO
1115-1230	A panel discussion on overcoming common challenges to reach the SEAHEARTS 2030 milestones	
	Avoiding stock-outs of medicines and technologies through realistic forecasting	Mr Bashier Ennos, WHO HQ (<i>virtual</i>) A nominated official, India
	Approaches to promote use of statins in primary health care level	Dr Jeyaraj Durai Pandian, WHO CC for Stroke Care, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, India A nominated official, Sri Lanka
	Improving treatment adherence for hypertension through single-pill combinations	Dr Kouamivi Agboyibor, WHO HQ (<i>virtual</i>) A nominated official, Bhutan
	Enhancing access to HbA1c to monitor glycaemic control at primary health care level	Dr Aqsha Azhary Nur, WHO HQ (<i>virtual</i>) A nominated official, Timor-Leste
	Ensuring availability of validated BP measuring devices in primary care level	Dr Swagata Kumar Sahoo, Resolve to Save Lives A nominated official, Nepal
	Question and answers	
1230-1330	<i>Food for thought – lunch break</i>	
	A special session- Presentation of the protocol of a randomised control trial on a diet related intervention for better glycaemic control among diabetics in Bhutan	
1330-1500	Group work	Country groups

	Framing country targets and designing national roadmap to reach SEAHEARTS milestones 2030: Hypertension and diabetes treatment coverage and control	
	<i>Healthy break</i>	
1500-1700	Country presentations and discussions	Nominated officials
Day 2–29 October 2025		
Time (hrs.) IST	Session	Speakers /Facilitators / Moderators
0900-0905	Recap-day 1	
	Extended and expanded SEAHEARTS milestones 2030: tobacco control	
0905-0920	Regional strategic framework for combating smokeless tobacco, novel nicotine products and areca nut in the WHO South-East Asia Region (2025-2030)	Dr Jagdish Kaur, WHO SEARO
0920-0940	Open discussion	
0940-1000	<i>Healthy break</i>	
1000-1100	Country presentations- identification of priority interventions to reach and monitor the SEAHEARTS 2030 on tobacco control	Nominated officials of all countries
1100-1115	Updated status of WHO MPOWER implementation – gaps and challenges	Dr. Hebe Gouda, WHO HQ (<i>virtual</i>)
1115-1130	Questions and answers	
1145-1200	Tobacco cessation programme in Rajasthan	WCO India
1200-1215	Tobacco products testing – updated evidence	NIMHANS Bangalore
1215-1230	Policies for prevention and control of smokeless tobacco	WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco
1230-1315	<i>Food for thought – lunch break</i>	
	Extended and expanded SEAHEARTS milestones 2030: unhealthy diet	
1315-1325	Current evidence-based recommendations for population salt/sodium reduction.	Dr Angela de Silva, WHO SEARO
1325-1345	Trans fatty acid regulations: Monitoring, surveillance and implementation- good practices and next steps Question and answers	Dr Juliawati Untoro, WHO, HQ
1345-1405	Progress in Practice: Country Case Highlights	Bangladesh (5 mins, 2 slides each), Thailand, Sri Lanka
1405-1425	Navigating commercial determinants- food industry pushback and solutions (policy compatibility with trade laws, distorted evidence, economic impact) Question and answers- 10 mins	Dr Kate Robertson, WHO HQ
1425-1500	Group exercise: Identification of priority interventions and/or actions to reach and monitor the SEAHEARTS 2030 on population salt reduction and trans fatty acid elimination and TFA surveillance and enforcement, challenges, opportunities and support needs	
1500-1515	<i>Healthy break</i>	
1515-1615	Group exercise continued Discuss and identify next steps to implement the identified priority actions	Country groups Facilitators- Dr. Angela de Silva, WHO SEARO Dr. Kate Robertson, WHO, HQ DR. Juliawati Untoro, WHO HQ
1615-1700	Group presentations	

Day 3–30 October 2025		
Time (hrs.) IST	Session	Speakers /Facilitators / Moderators
0900-0905	Recap-day 2	
	Comprehensive cancer prevention and management	
0905-0920	Status of implementation of the WHO South-East Asia Regional Strategy for comprehensive cancer prevention and management.	Dr Bishnu Rath Giri, WHO SEARO
0920-1020	Leveraging the special initiatives on cancer control to accelerate implementation of actions:	
	Cervical cancer elimination initiative	Dr Prebo Barango, WHO HQ (<i>virtual</i>) Smiljka de Lussigny, UNITAID (<i>virtual</i>)
	Global breast cancer initiative	Dr Mary Nyangasi WHO, HQ (<i>virtual</i>)
	Global initiative for childhood cancer	Dr Roberta Ortiz, WHO HQ (<i>virtual</i>) Ms. Y Ravindran/ Dr. Catherine Lam, St Jude Research Hospital (<i>virtual</i>)
	imPACT reviews and Rays of hope initiative	Ms. Kimberley Frolov-Roessler / Mr. Karagu Maina (<i>virtual</i>) International Atomic Energy Agency
	South-East Asia Cancer Grid	Dr Pramesh CS, Tata Memorial Hospital (<i>virtual</i>)
1020-1040	<i>Healthy break</i>	
1040-1130	Group exercise National priority actions to accelerate the implementation of the WHO South-East Asia Regional Strategy for comprehensive cancer prevention and management (2024-2030)	Country groups
1130-1230	Group presentations National priority actions and experience from country	
1230-1330	<i>Food for thought – lunch break</i>	
	Framework for monitoring SEAHEARTS 2030 milestones	
1330-1345	Framework for monitoring SEAHEARTS 2030 milestones	Dr. Nalika Gunawardena, WHO SEARO
1345-1410	Best practice dashboards in health facilities: facilitating tracking the progress to reach national targets for SEAHEARTS	Dr Pradeep Joshi, WHO SEARO A nominated official, Bangladesh
1410-1425	Using routine health information systems to monitor SEAHEARTS 2030 milestones	Dr Amani Siyam, WHO SEARO
1425-1445	Group work: feedback on the framework for monitoring SEAHEARTS 2030 milestones	
	Concluding session	
1445-1515	Next steps and participant reflections	
	<i>Healthy break and conclusion</i>	