



UN INTERAGENCY
TASK FORCE ON NCDs



@un_ncd

Mobilizing resources and technical support with and for Member States to deliver the NCD and mental health- related SDG targets during and beyond COVID-19

UNGA “Friends of the Task Force” meeting
22 September 2021

Working for healthier people and a more prosperous future



The 2021 ECOSOC resolution on the work of the Task Force

Calls upon the Task Force to support Member States:

- In their national COVID-19 response and recovery efforts
- Implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- strengthen regulatory and legal frameworks to reduce the burden of NCDs and mental health conditions
- In strengthening health systems to address NCDs and mental health, including those in vulnerable situations

Encourages bilateral and multilateral donors and relevant stakeholders to support Member States:

- Through the new UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support countries to catalyze action on NCDs and mental health.



The Multi-Partner Trust Fund to Catalyze Country Action for NCDs and Mental Health...

Called for by ECOSOC, WHA and the WHO Independent High-level Commission on NCDs – and established by WHO, UNDP and UNICEF.

The Fund will catalyze action in LMICs in response to country demand and needs.

A USD 250 million catalytic fund modelled by 2030 to contribute to:

- Saving 8 million lives;
- Averting USD 350 billion in economic losses.

In the first instance the Fund will support countries to address NCDs and mental health as part of COVID-19 response and recovery

The Task Force is calling on all Member States and development partners to contribute to fully resourcing this crucial new initiative



RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES



Responding to the Challenge of Non-communicable Diseases

International Atomic Energy Agency

1. Nuclear techniques assist in the prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment of NCDs¹

Nuclear techniques play an integral role in the management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and neurological conditions, and can be used to design and evaluate interventions to address malnutrition in all its forms.

Cancer. Cancer causes 9 million deaths each year.² Medical imaging, including X-rays, and nuclear medicine techniques are critical to cancer care, in terms of: early and accurate diagnosis, including assessment of the location and spread of the disease (staging); follow-up of the patient to detect relapses; prognostic evaluation; and appropriate therapeutic decisions and follow-up of the response to treatment.³ Radiotherapy is a key element of cancer management for every second cancer patient worldwide. Modern radiotherapy allows automated delivery of a precise dose to the tumour and avoids the surrounding critical structures, giving the patient a chance to recover with minimal side-effects.

United Nations high-level meetings have highlighted the need for UN agencies, including IAEA, to scale up their work on NCDs as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

NCDs contribute to ill health, poverty and inequities and slow the development of countries. Every year 15 million people die before age 70 from NCDs, with 86% of these premature deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

Major progress on NCDs is possible. Premature deaths from NCDs are largely caused by modifiable behavioural risk factors, such as unhealthy diet, tobacco use, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol. Environmental risks (e.g. air pollution) and constrained access to basic services also contribute significantly to NCDs.

Addressing NCDs requires coordinated action from all UN agencies within a broader whole-of-society response.



This UNAIDS brief draws from the IAEA Brief for policymakers, "Prevention, Early Diagnosis and Treatment of Non-Communicable Diseases: The Role of Nuclear Techniques." Available at: <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/18/18/prevention-early-diagnosis-and-treatment-of-non-communicable-diseases.pdf> WHO. Key facts. NCDs. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases>

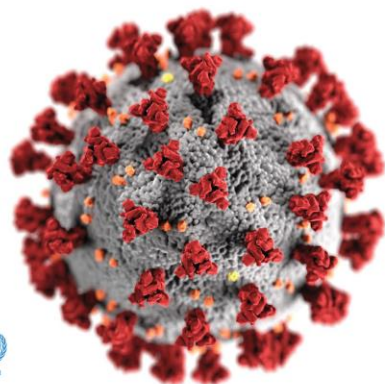
3 For more information, see: <https://www.iaca.org/topics/cancer-diagnosis>

- FAO
- FCTC Secretariat
- IAEA
- ILO
- IOM
- UNAIDS
- OECD
- UNDP
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- World Bank
- WFP

UPDATE 2021

Responding to non-communicable diseases during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

Examples of actions being taken by selected members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases



Update 2021 – Responding to NCDs during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

Examples of actions being taken by selected members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Develops and implements comprehensive response plans that include NCDs, comprising coordination, planning, monitoring, travel arrangements, rules, surveillance, case management and referral, service delivery, instructions for use of personal protective equipment, infection prevention and control, communication and community involvement.

Procures medicines for NCDs and other conditions during the pandemic.

Develops and implements standard operating procedures for NCD service delivery during the pandemic, including delivery of medicines to patients, and improving quality of care.

Ensures that people with NCDs, for example those with diabetes and hypertension are provided with quality care as part of improving family health.

Examples of current/recent activities

In close coordination with hosting authorities NCD patients have been prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination. There has been training of staff and venues have been made available for vaccination.

An existing e-health system has been enhanced to help monitor management and outcomes of care during the pandemic, including NCDs and mental health and psychosocial support.

Social media (including open access sessions) have been used to support those with NCDs during the pandemic, including clarifying issues around COVID-19 vaccination.

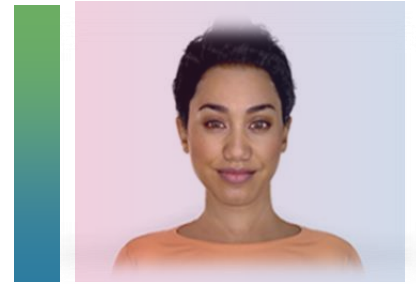
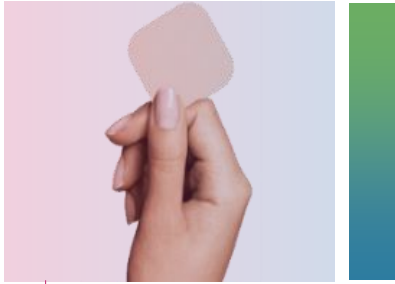
Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Websites and weblinks

[COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for UNRWA](#)
[UNRWA's health programme 2021](#)

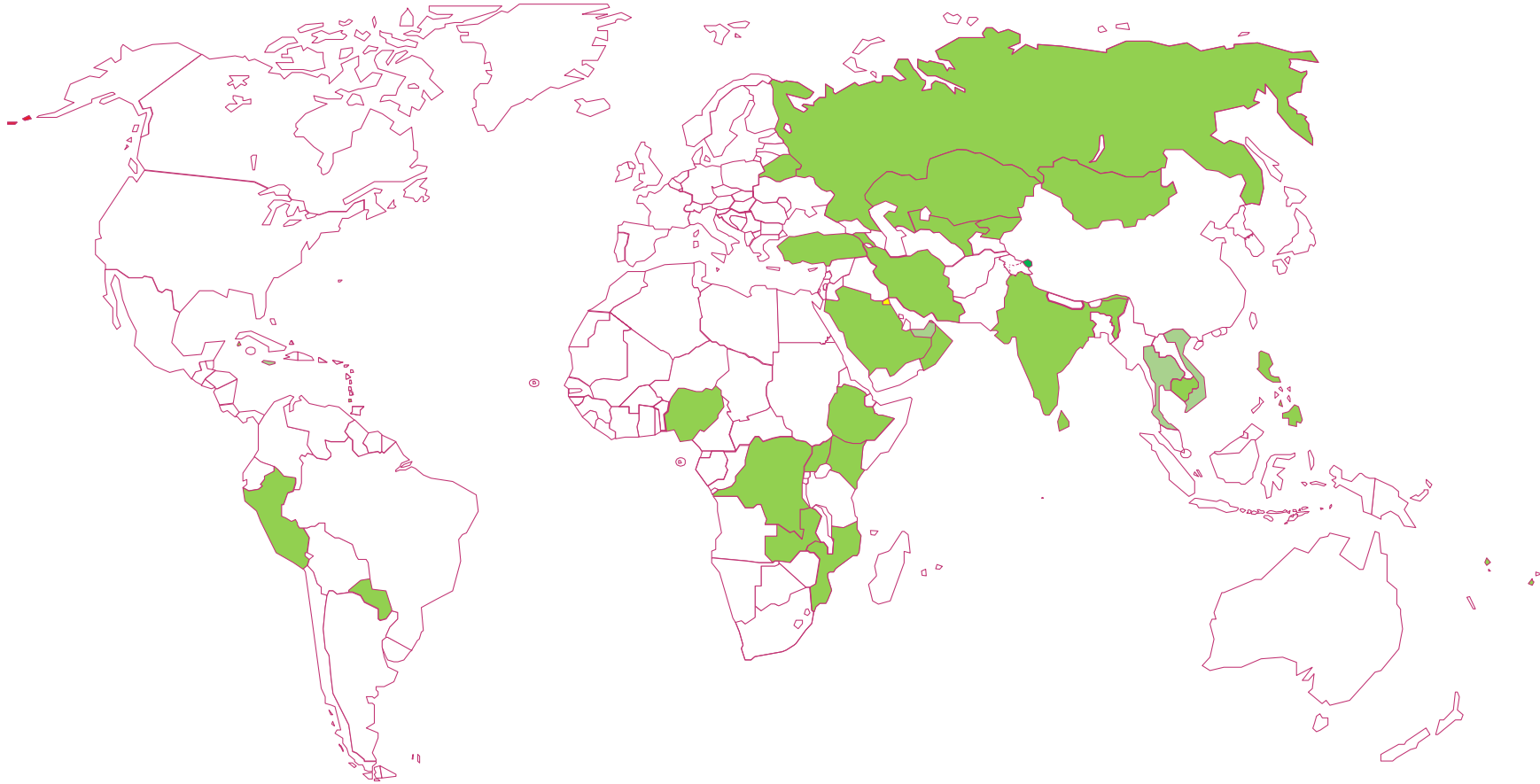
The Access Initiative to Quit Tobacco (AIQT) continues to support countries scale up access to comprehensive tobacco cessation services



what the initiative does ?



Support to countries continues through joint programming missions and follow up activities

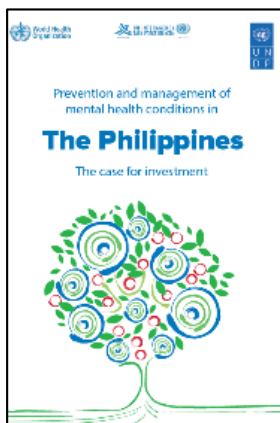


Task Force flagship programme to catalyze multisectoral country action on NCDs and mental health: investment cases



8 Mental health investment cases in progress

26 NCD investment cases conducted



Tools to scale up support countries implement health taxes are now being developed

Action is catalysed in countries following NCD investment cases

What measures were implemented and by how many countries?



Examples of policy changes following investment cases

Armenia

Anti-smoking bill approved in 2019. Enacted into law in 2020.

Kyrgyzstan

Set a minimum price for vodka and **banned alcohol advertisement** on the internet

Mongolia

Campaign to **reduce salt consumption**

Philippines

Law adopted to **increase excise tax** on alcohol, e-cigarettes, vapour products, and foods with high salt content

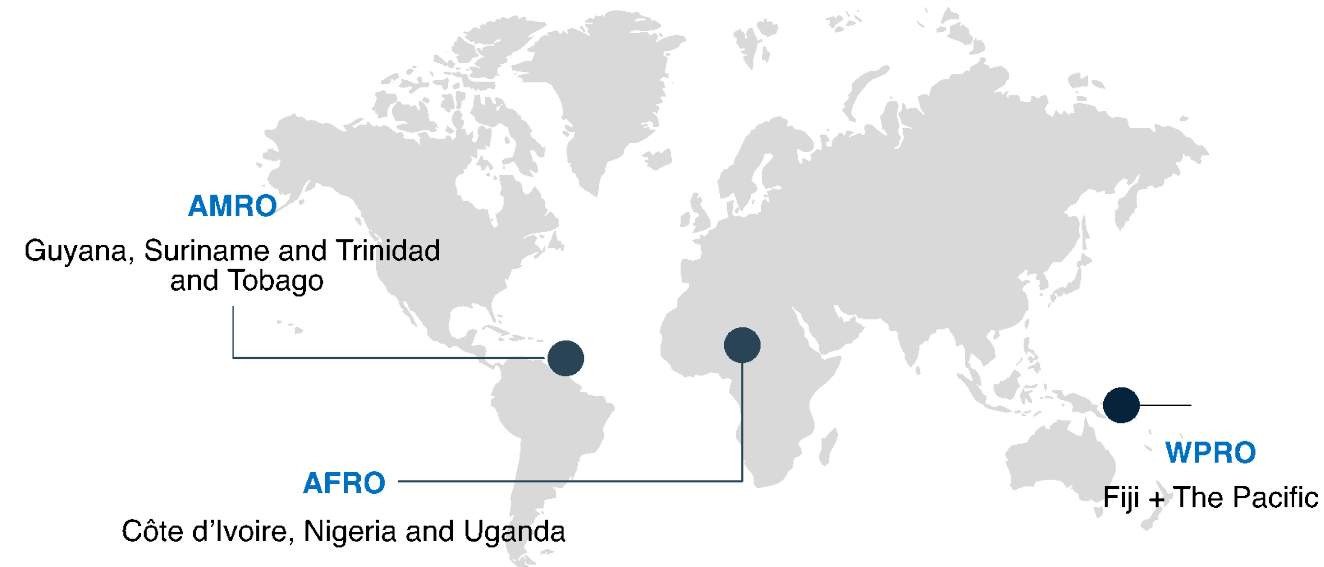
Barbados

National Workplace Wellness Policy 2019 was adopted to promote healthy lifestyles. The Policy's rationale cites the findings of the 2015 NCD Investment Case mission.

Saudi Arabia

Following the 2018 NCD IC, launch of a **strategic plan for healthy food** by the Saudi FDA

Scaling up long term country action...



Focus is on:

- Coherent, whole-of-government approaches
- Legal and investment frameworks
- Leadership of parliamentarians and other elected officials
- Strengthening partnerships in country

Lessons learnt:

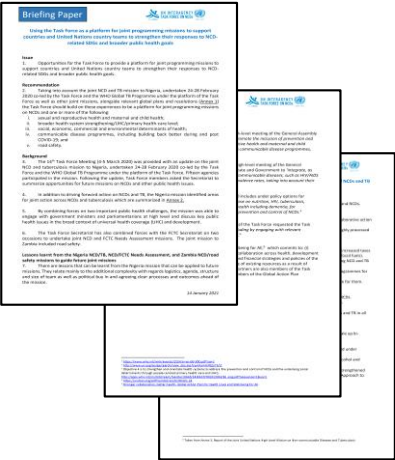
- More is achieved in partnership
- COVID-19 is both a challenge and a rationale.
- Proof of concept for the MPTF

Supported under the WHO UNDP joint programme through the EU-WHO Health System Strengthening for UHC Partnership

Briefing papers are important for advocacy

How Governments can encourage United Nations Country Teams to scale up support for NCDs and how Governments and United Nations Country Teams can work together to agree joint action.

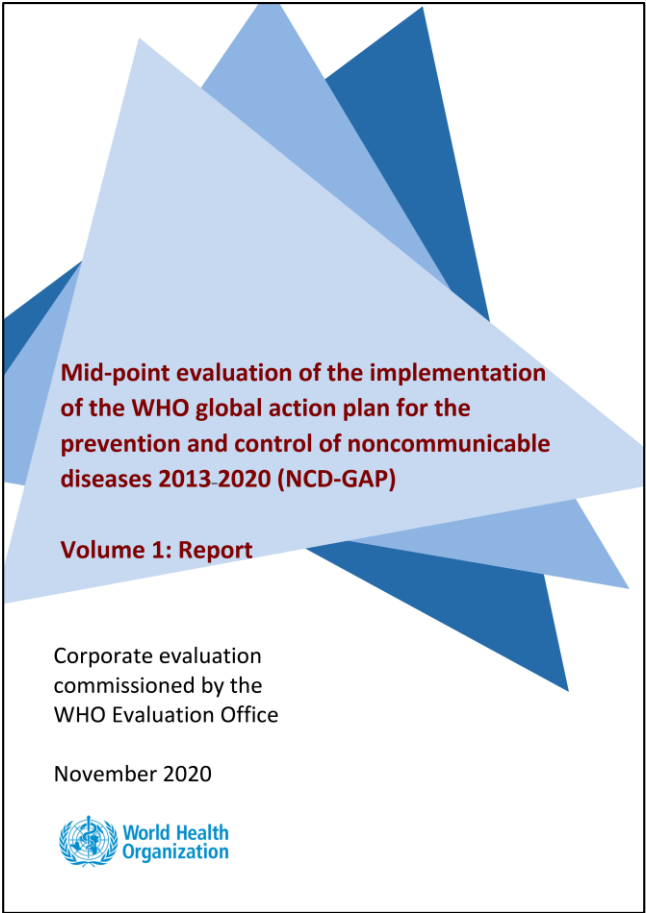
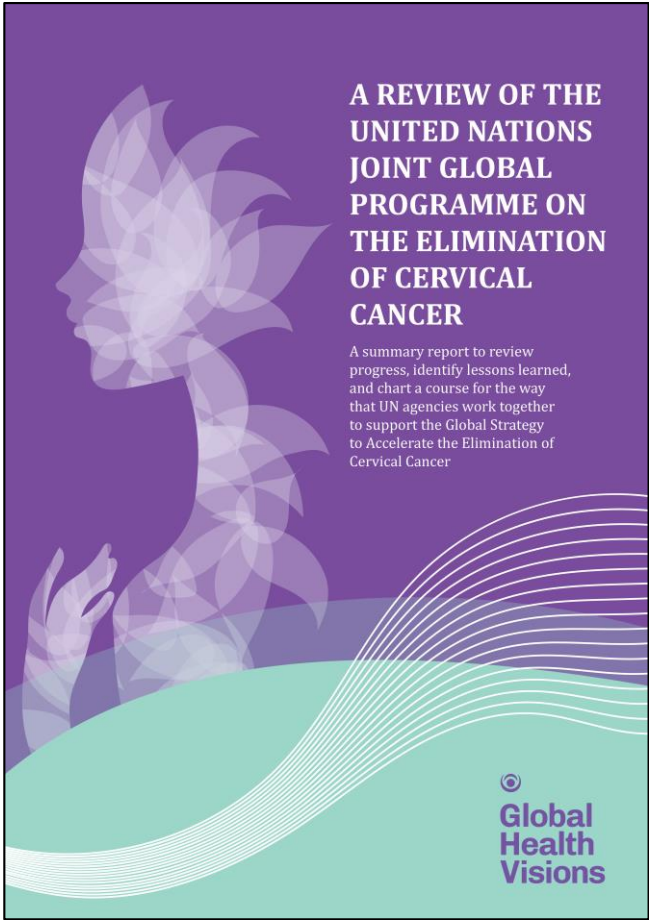
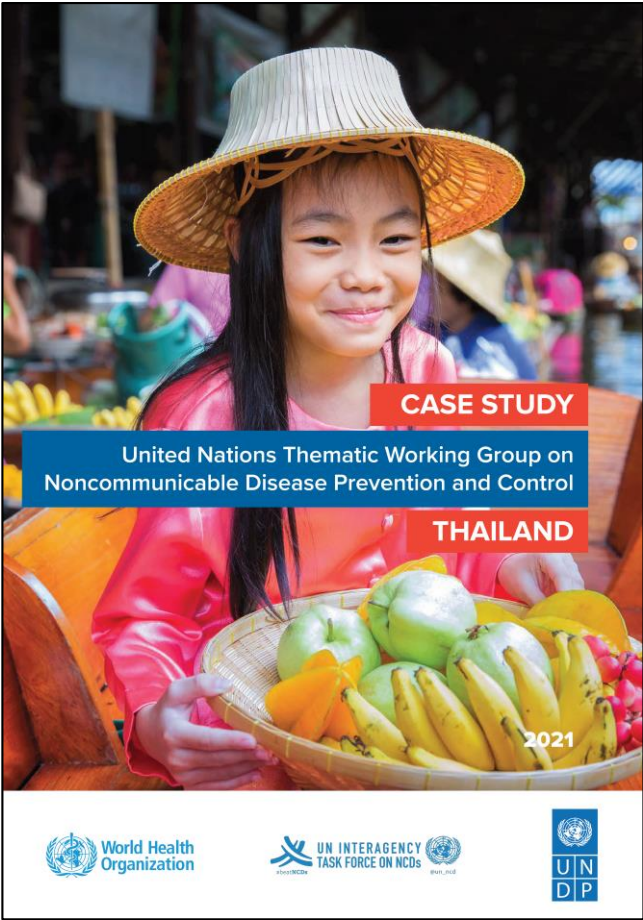
[Click here to access the paper](#)



How to use the Task Force as a platform for joint programming missions to support countries and United Nations country teams to strengthen their responses to NCD-related SDGs and broader public health goals.

[Click here to access the paper](#)

Evaluation is critical for learning lessons and improving our response...



United Nations Inter-Agency Task
Force on the Prevention and Control
of Non-communicable Diseases

2019–2021 Strategy

The 4 strategic priorities...

- Supporting countries to deliver multisectoral action on the NCD-related SDG targets
- Mobilising resources to support the development of national responses to reach the NCD-related SDG targets.
- Harmonising action and forging partnerships
- Being an exemplar for UN reform

Now in the process of developing the next strategy



THANK YOU



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@un_ncd

Working for healthier people and a more prosperous future

