

# NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are one of the major health and development challenges of the 21st century, in terms of both the human suffering they cause and the adverse effects they have on universal sustainable development.

As the leading cause of death and disability worldwide, NCDs impose a heavy and growing toll on the physical health and economic security of all countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).



NCDs are the **#1 cause of death and disability** worldwide

Every year **38 million** people die from NCDs. That's more deaths than all other diseases combined.

**40%** of people who die from NCDs are in their most productive years.

Most NCD deaths are caused by: **cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, mental health and neurological disorders.**

Almost **2/3** of NCD deaths are linked to **tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets, and physical inactivity.**



NCDs hit **developing countries** the hardest

**75%**

of NCD deaths occur in developing countries.

In developing countries, NCDs are increasing **faster**, in **younger people**, and with **worse outcomes** than in wealthier countries.

In **2013** alone, NCDs killed **8 million** people before their **60th birthday.**

It is **time to act**. We have **cost-effective strategies** that save lives



Reduce **modifiable risk factors**



Strengthen **health systems**



Expand coverage of **essential medicines and technologies**



Improve **surveillance**

The **cost of inaction** on NCDs far outweighs the **cost of action**

**\$7 trillion**

cost of inaction in developing countries over the next 20 years

**\$11 billion**

cost per year of implementing a set of high-impact interventions.



Yet NCDs still receive less than **2%** of Development Assistance for Health

Investing in NCDs makes sense for **sustainable development**



**Saves lives**



**Promotes social cohesion**



**Improves economies**



**Supports a healthy planet**

# AGENDA 2030: TIME FOR ACTION ON NCDs

In September 2015, 193 world leaders committed to achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet by 2030. Referred to as Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, health is central with Goal 3 focused on improving health and wellbeing for all at all ages. Three out of the nine health targets are focused

on NCDs. In addition, NCDs are directly linked to many of the other non-health SDGs and targets. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UN member states are in consensus that NCDs are a sustainable development priority. It is now imperative that governments act on their commitments on NCDs and health more broadly.

## A new and ambitious 2030 vision for global health and NCDs

Three out of the nine health targets are focused on NCD-related issues:

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**Target 3.4**



Reduce by **1/3 NCD** premature mortality & promote **mental health & wellbeing**.

**Target 3.5**



Strengthen prevention and treatment of **substance abuse**, including **harmful use of alcohol**.

**Target 3.6**




**1/2** number of global deaths and injuries from **road traffic accidents**.

## The means to drive progress in health


Four means of implementation targets are included to support the attainment of the health targets. All are important building blocks of the NCD response:

**Target 3.a**




Strengthen implementation of **WHO FCTC**.

**Target 3.b**




Support **R&D of vaccines and medicines**, and improve access.

**Target 3.c**



Strong, well-trained **health workforce**.

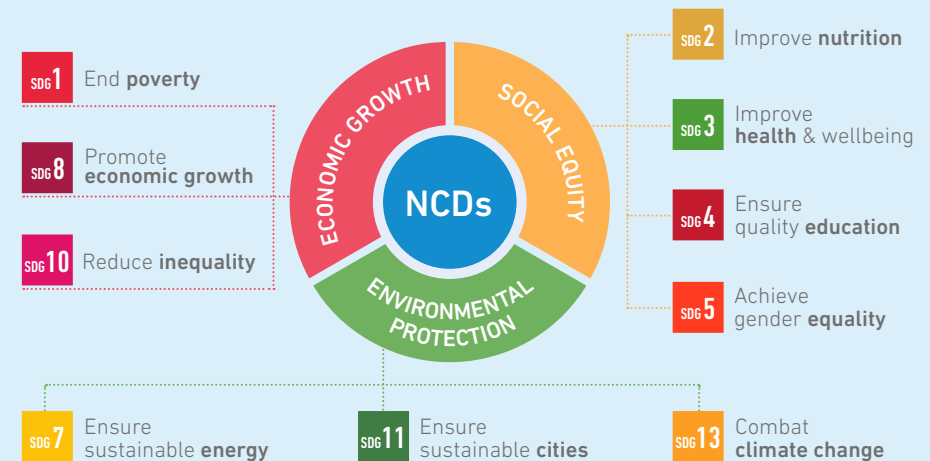
**Target 3.d**



Strengthen **capacity to manage health risks**.

## Working across sectors to improve health and NCDs

NCDs are now a universal priority. All governments must urgently take action if they are to meet these 2030 targets. Investing in efforts to reduce the global NCD burden will not only improve health outcomes, it will also accelerate progress on many other SDGs.



## A global framework for financing development and NCDs

Resources and effective partnerships will be key to the success of the SDGs. The July 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda is a framework adopted by all countries to catalyse domestic, multilateral and private investment for the SDGs. Important policy commitments are included to increase financing for NCDs:

