Regional framework for action on the prevention and control of NCDs (updated 2019)

English | French | Arabic

A broader NCD agenda

Since 2012, countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region have been using the regional framework for action on the prevention and control of NCDs to implement the 2011 Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs. Over the years, the scope of the NCD agenda has broadened. A new Political Declaration on NCDs was endorsed by Member States in 2018 at the Third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, and includes the promotion of mental health and well-being, reduction of indoor and outdoor air pollution, and commitments on NCD economics, encouraging countries to effectively use fiscal measures, innovative financing models and NCD investment cases to calculate the return on investment as a means to advocate for and better finance a more comprehensive national NCD response. Moreover, the 2018 Political Declaration acknowledges the importance of NCD management in emergencies, a significant area of work for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, given the heavy NCD burden and many ongoing and protracted emergencies in the Region.

In line with new commitments made at the Third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, the framework was updated in September 2018. These new commitments are addressed in the regional framework to help countries become more effective in tackling NCDs, including cancers, heart and lung diseases, stroke and diabetes, thereby improving health and well-being. The framework maintains the current four areas of work: governance; prevention and reduction of risk factors; surveillance, monitoring and evaluation; and health care. However, it adds new strategic interventions and progress indicators to reflect the new commitments.

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A look ahead to 2030

The framework provides evidence-based, cost-effective interventions, and is the best way forward for countries to respond to NCDs and their shared risk factors, thereby making a measurable difference to the lives of millions. Implementation of the framework needs to be accelerated, and it should be used together with other documents, tools and technical packages specific to the areas of work captured in the broadened NCD agenda, to protect people from

tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, air pollution and the harmful use of alcohol. This will require working with multiple stakeholders and on multiple fronts. A whole-of-government, whole-of-society, cross-sectoral and health-in-all policies approach is required.

Stepping up implementation of the regional framework for action and continuing to map progress over time on a yearly basis is critical for addressing gaps and accelerating the work being done to combat NCDs. The regional framework also aligns with WHO's vision for the Region, Vision 2023, with its aim of "Health for all by all", and WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13), which sets a clear mission for the Organization to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable, as WHO and countries progress towards achieving the health goal of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda of ensuring health and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

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Related resources

4th High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs

Global action plan on the prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2020 (extended to 2030)

Global resolutions and decisions on NCDs

Regional resolutions on NCDs

UN Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2018

Vision 2023 Eastern Mediterranean Region: Health for all by all

WHO’s Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13)

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