

# WHF POSITION STATEMENT ON NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES (SUMMARY)

4th UN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON NCDS AND MENTAL HEALTH,  
25 SEPTEMBER 2025



*Progress towards Sustainable Development Goal, Target 3.4 is in jeopardy as we aim “to reduce by one third the premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.” NCDs encompass cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases, causing over 43 million deaths worldwide every year, 18 million prematurely (before 70 years of age) and driving most morbidity and disability.*



## REDEFINING AND ENHANCING THE TARGET

- ♥ **Commitment to current targets must continue beyond 2030 since many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)** will most likely experience rising burdens of non-communicable diseases for some decades beyond the SDG dateline and to ensure commitment from the global community.
- ♥ **With timely diagnosis and management of NCDs, people of all ages can lead socially productive and fulfilling lives hence the targets must address those under below 30 years of age and over 70 years of age.** They need to be supported with prevention from major risks that include hypertension, tobacco, alcohol, physical inactivity, unhealthy food and air-pollution and to have access to efficient health and social systems.
- ♥ **It is important to include in the targets the health and well-being of children and adolescents,** nurturing their mental health, life

skills and resilience while protecting them from health-harming exposures. It is both a moral and developmental imperative to ensure a healthier and productive future for them.

- ♥ **A well-being economy approach should be applied to prioritise health as an investment rather than a cost, recognising that economic policies directly influence the burden of NCDs.** This includes affordable, cost-effective, and feasible interventions, policies and regulations targeting risk factors such as tobacco use, harmful alcohol consumption, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and air pollution, and robust primary health care. The Global Monitoring Framework for NCDs needs to be revised to include updated mortality targets as well as measures for major morbidities associated with NCD and mental health.



## LIFE EXPECTANCY, COLLATERAL BENEFITS AND MOMENTUM BEYOND 2030

♥ **NCDs must be the main focus for achieving healthy life expectancy in all countries.** Global efforts should prioritize the health conditions that most affect low-income countries. Progress will rest on national efforts to at least double domestic financial allocations to health while focusing investment on a limited package of services which are largely delivered through primary health care and community platforms.

♥ **Tackling NCDs is a chance to generate benefits across established and emerging health challenges in health and sustainable development which increasingly intersect.** Addressing factors such as childhood malnutrition, maternal health, and environmental determinants including air pollution and biodiversity loss are an opportunity to enhance progress across the entire health spectrum. Increased physical activity requires supportive changes in urban design and transport systems, which will also help countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Interventions for NCD management must also be a natural part of health preparedness in humanitarian response.

♥ **Up to and well beyond 2030, community engagement, partnerships between government, civil society and industry, and application of learnings from implementation research stand to benefit all populations.** For example, new partnerships can advance coordinated clinical trial networks and increase funding for developing multi-use platforms, such as mRNA therapeutics and health products and technological innovations, anchored by ethical use of artificial intelligence can further global health gains.



# CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE (CVD) AMONG NCDS

AS THE LEADING CAUSE OF NCDS, CVD AND STROKE GENERATE A GLOBAL BURDEN OF ADULT MORTALITY AND PREMATURE DEATHS IN THE MOST POPULOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD, REPRESENTED BY LMICS. THE WORLD HEART FEDERATION CALLS UPON ALL NATIONS TO EFFECTIVELY:



**TREAT 500 MILLION MORE PEOPLE WITH HYPERTENSION BY 2030**



**ACHIEVE 50% GLOBAL HYPERTENSION CONTROL BY 2050**



**ADOPT AT LEAST 50% EXCISE TAXES ON TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND SUGARY DRINKS**



**IMPLEMENT WHO AIR QUALITY STANDARDS TO REDUCE CVD FROM AIR POLLUTION**



**COMMIT TO A 50% REDUCTION IN NCD-RELATED DEATHS AND DISABILITY BY 2050 ACROSS ALL AGES**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO READ THE FULL STATEMENT, VISIT:**

<https://world-heart-federation.org/how-we-do-it/policy-advocacy/>

<https://world-heart-federation.org/un-high-level-meeting-on-ncds-and-mental-health/>

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