



GLOBAL NCD TARGET

IMPROVE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGIES AND MEDICINES TO TREAT NCDs



Background

Heart disease and stroke, cancers, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) cause tens of millions of deaths per year, the majority of which occur during the most productive years of life. NCDs reduce economic output and prevent people around the world from living lives of health and wellbeing. Creating the conditions that favour sustainable development means taking action to prevent and control NCDs **now**.

Nine global NCD targets provide a vision for progress by 2025. The *WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020* and other resources provide a roadmap of policies and interventions to realise this vision. When implemented, they will put countries on track to meet the commitments made on NCDs at the United Nations General Assembly in 2011 and 2014, and in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, including target 3.4 to reduce premature NCD deaths, target 3.8 to achieve universal health coverage (UHC), and target 3.b to support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for communicable and noncommunicable diseases.

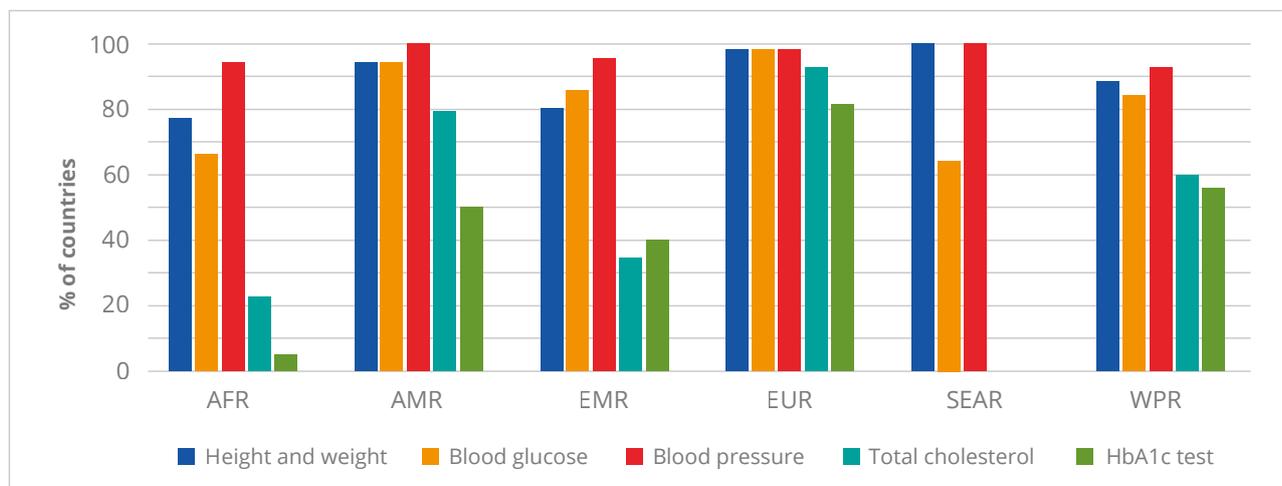
Global Target

An 80% availability of the affordable basic technologies and essential medicines, including generics, required to treat major noncommunicable diseases in both public and private facilities by 2025.

Fast Facts

- Without effective medicines and essential diagnosing and monitoring equipment being available at health facilities to treat NCDs, patients will suffer short and long term adverse effects from their disease.
- Evidence shows a consistent pattern of lower availability of medicines in public sector facilities versus private, and low-income and lower-income countries versus higher income countries.
- Sustainable health-care financing, adequate and reliable procurement systems for basic health technologies and essential NCD medicines, training of healthcare workers, and evidence-based treatment guidelines and protocols are all necessary to achieve this target.

Access to affordable basic technologies and essential medicines to treat NCDs will save millions of lives each year.



Percentage of countries with availability of selected basic technologies for early detection, diagnosis, and monitoring of NCDs in the primary care facilities of the public and private health sector, by WHO region



Priority Actions

Achieving this target is possible through commitment to improving affordability and access to essential NCD medicines and health technologies. Partnerships between government and civil society will be key to supporting policy implementation. Focusing efforts on the following policy measures will help make this target attainable:

- Integrate **very cost-effective NCD interventions** into the basic primary health care package with referral systems to all levels of care to advance the universal health coverage agenda.
- Explore viable **health financing mechanisms** and innovative economic tools supported by evidence.
- Scale up **early detection and coverage**, prioritizing very cost-effective high-impact interventions including cost-effective interventions to **address behavioural risk factors**.
- Train **health workforces** and **strengthen the capacity of health systems**, particularly at the primary care level, to address the prevention and control of NCDs.
- Improve **availability of affordable basic technologies and essential medicines**, including generics, required to treat major noncommunicable diseases, in both public and private facilities.
- Implement **other cost-effective interventions and policy options** in objective 4 of the WHO *Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020*, to strengthen and orient health systems to address noncommunicable diseases and risk factors through people-centred primary health care and universal health coverage.
- Develop and implement a **palliative care policy** using cost-effective treatment modalities, including opioids analgesics for pain relief and health worker training.

Definition of essential medicines and essential technologies for NCDs

The core essential medicines to treat NCDs include at least:

- › Aspirin, a statin, an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, a thiazide diuretic, a long-acting calcium-channel blocker, a beta-blocker, metformin, insulin, a bronchodilator, a steroid inhalant

The basic essential technologies for NCD management include at least:

- › A blood pressure measurement device, a weighing scale, height measuring equipment, blood sugar and blood cholesterol measurement devices with strips, and urine strips for albumin assay.



Tweet!

Access to affordable health care and NCD medicines saves lives and helps **#beatNCDs**.

For more information

WHO site: <http://www.who.int/beat-ncds/en/>

Tell your story at "NCDs&me": <http://www.who.int/ncds-and-me>

@who

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Key Resources

Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020. WHO, 2013 .
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/94384/1/9789241506236_eng.pdf

Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2014. WHO, 2014 .
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/148114/1/9789241564854_eng.pdf

Package of essential noncommunicable (PEN) disease interventions for primary health care in low-resource settings. WHO, 2010. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44260/1/9789241598996_eng.pdf

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