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
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

This document lists examples of NCD-relevant actions being taken by agencies, funds and programmes to support countries in COVID-19 response and recovery. Opportunities to increase, build upon and further apply these actions to NCDs should be pursued, including for “building back better”. Agencies, funds and programmes should ensure that their support for NCDs is aligned with the United Nations comprehensive response to COVID-19, which comprises:

- the strategic preparedness and response plan, with its two main objectives: (i) preparing for and responding to COVID-19; and (ii) maintaining essential health services during response and recovery (1), led by WHO;
- the global humanitarian response plan, which provides the immediate humanitarian response to the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable countries with life-saving assistance (2), led by the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs; and
- the United Nations framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, with five core areas of socio-economic support: (i) health first: protecting health services and systems during the crisis; (ii) protection of people: social protection and basic services; (iii) economic response and recovery: protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises and informal sector workers; (iv) macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration; and (v) social cohesion and community resilience (3), led by UNDP.

Partners in the SDG 3 Global action plan for healthy lives and well-being for all (4) can ensure that action on NCDs does not slow down during the COVID-19 pandemic and that NCD-related activities are extended as part of building back better.

**Agencies, funds and programmes should ensure that their action on NCDs is aligned with the United Nations comprehensive response to COVID-19.**

We cannot go back to the same health system models which have failed the majority of people living with NCDs. We need to build back better.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO
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

Fig. 1: Joint operational strategies against COVID-19 for the United Nations family and partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Rapidly establish international coordination and operations support</td>
<td>200+ governments, international and nongovernmental organizations, research institutes and businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Scale up country preparedness and response operations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Accelerate priority research and innovation</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. HUMANITARIAN: GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN COVID-19</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Contain the spread of the COVID-19 and decrease morbidity and mortality rates</td>
<td>60+ international and nongovernmental organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Decrease the deterioration of human assets and rights, social cohesion and livelihoods</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Protect, assist and advocate for refugees, internally displaced people, migrants and vulnerable communities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. DEVELOPMENT: A UN FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMMEDIATE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Protect health services and systems during the crisis</td>
<td>165+ national institutions in countries and territories with UN entities, development partners, donors, private sector partners and civil society groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Protect people and social and basic services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Protect jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises and the informal sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Facilitate macroeconomic responses and multilateral collaboration</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Support social cohesion and community resilience</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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**

**World Health Organization**

As the United Nations specialized agency for health, WHO leads and coordinates the response of the United Nations system to NCDs. During COVID-19, WHO is supporting countries in strengthening the design and implementation of policies, including for resilient health systems, health services and infrastructure, in treating people living with NCDs and preventing and controlling NCD risk factors, with a focus on the people most vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19 (5, 6).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>Understanding</th>
<th>Communication, advocacy, and dissemination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Improving understanding of the (i) relations between COVID-19 and NCDs, in particular by epidemiological analysis and forecasting, and (ii) the demands from ministries, United Nations organizations and nongovernmental organizations for specific guidance on the prevention, early diagnosis, screening and appropriate treatment of NCDs during the COVID-19 pandemic.</td>
<td>Strengthening communication about the risks of COVID-19 and NCDs, raising the priority of NCDs during the COVID-19 pandemic through better advocacy, managing the infodemic and promoting the dissemination of communication and information products on COVID-19 and NCDs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enhancing coordination among other organizations in the United Nations system (through the Task Force), civil society (through the WHO Civil Society Working Group on NCDs), private sector entities, academic institutions and philanthropic foundations for: • global understanding of the relations between COVID-19 and NCDs and the technical expertise and guidance required by countries to decrease morbidity and mortality rates among people living with or affected by NCDs; • operational support to countries as part of the COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan and the global humanitarian response plan; • scaling up country readiness and response operations as part of the COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan and the global humanitarian response plan; and • accelerating priority research and innovation on COVID-19 and NCDs as part of broader research and innovation on vulnerable populations, people living with other diseases and on health systems and health promotion.</td>
<td>Providing timely, high-quality technical expertise and guidance to countries and the general public on preventing transmission, testing and treatment options for people living with or affected by NCDs and guidance on the continuity of essential NCD services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

### Other agencies, funds and programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK</th>
<th>ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK</th>
<th>EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mainstreaming of nutrition in COVID-19 operations. Enhancing nutrition education and promoting healthy diets.</td>
<td>Strengthens partnerships with WHO, UNICEF and others to address COVID-19, UHC and NCDs. Includes advocacy for health taxes, NCDs and UHC.</td>
<td>Ensures that relevant projects include public health and safety for workers (including NCDs when appropriate) during project preparation and implementation and in response to COVID-19. Includes development of tools and resources for assessing and managing COVID-19 risks among vulnerable workers with underlying diseases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysing comorbid conditions to ensure that people living with NCDs are among the vulnerable groups prioritized for COVID-19 testing.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Guidance and training on health and well-being during and beyond COVID-19 for private sector partners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Websites and weblinks</strong></td>
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1 These briefs provide policy advisors and decision-makers in the United Nations, Member States and development partners with information on how the United Nations system is responding to the challenge of NCDs. The briefs describe: (i) the role of each agency in ensuring an effective contribution to the prevention and control of NCDs; (ii) current and potential actions of the agencies to support the World Health Assembly-endorsed “best buys” and other recommended interventions to address NCDs; (iii) the importance of partnerships in ensuring that agencies mobilize an effective response to NCDs; (iv) the importance of partnerships in the agencies’ responses to NCDs; and (v) how agencies are mobilizing resources to deliver support to Member States.
## 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS</th>
<th>GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA</th>
<th>INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguards livelihoods and food security for the most vulnerable.</td>
<td>Chairs the SDG-3 Global Action Plan Sustainable Financing for Health accelerator, with a working group comprising a broad range of partners to support governments in using health taxes to reduce NCDs and increase public revenues during and beyond COVID-19.</td>
<td>Ensures continued management of cancer patients. Radiotherapy webinars are available in five United Nations languages, providing guidance on when to treat, techniques to minimize exposure to COVID-19 and practical guidance to support centres in continuing services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensures access to safe, diverse, nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets.</td>
<td>Ensures access to safe, diverse, nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets.</td>
<td>Webinars to support nuclear medicine professionals, a technical publication on “the new normal” in nuclear medicine and guidance published in journals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Responding to the challenge of NCDs: The role of the food and agriculture sector</td>
<td>Not yet available</td>
<td>Responding to the challenge of NCDs: IAEA</td>
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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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK</th>
<th>INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER</th>
<th>INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports countries in planning interventions to improve access to services for NCDs and high-quality primary care services during and beyond COVID-19.</td>
<td>Research on interactions between COVID-19 and cancer, including:</td>
<td>Ensures a response to COVID-19 pandemic based on the rule of law, including:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supports countries in providing social protection interventions for vulnerable populations, including those with NCDs.</td>
<td>• monitoring the COVID-19 situation and exploring initiatives and collaborations to assess the impact of the disease on cancer and cancer prevention. See examples of recent papers here.</td>
<td>• strengthening legal and policy frameworks for managing COVID-19 and its aftermath, e.g. public health laws consistent with the International Health Regulations (2005);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scales up digital solutions for health and NCDs during and beyond the pandemic.</td>
<td>• as part of the global COVID-19 and Cancer Taskforce, coordinates the synthesis and rapid dissemination of data on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer outcomes worldwide.</td>
<td>• mitigating the impact of the crisis on justice systems and justice seekers, with a focus on the most vulnerable, particularly women and marginalized groups, and on the resilience of the justice sector and delivery of justice for women; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities are in line with the Bank’s Health and Nutrition Sector Framework, which emphasizes NCDs as well as gender, ethnic and socioeconomic inequalities.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• advocating for maintenance of the rule of law, strengthening of countries’ governance and institutions and supporting and investing in a culture of justice to protect the rights and dignity of people everywhere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief</strong></td>
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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

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION**

**Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19**

Protects the health and safety of workers, including from acute risks (COVID-19), NCDs and psychosocial risks (see Managing work-related psychosocial risks during the COVID-19 pandemic), by strengthening occupational safety and health measures, adapting work arrangements, preventing discrimination and exclusion, providing access to health for all and extending access to paid leave.

Stimulates the economy and employment through fiscal policy and by lending and financial support in specific sectors, including the health sector for NCD care.

Supports enterprises, jobs and incomes by providing various types of relief, implementing employment retention measures and extending NCD care and social support to everyone.

Ensures social dialogue by strengthening the capacity and resilience of employers’ and workers’ organizations, strengthening the capacity of governments and strengthening collective bargaining and labour relations institutions and processes.

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**

Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: ILO

**Websites and weblinks**

COVID-19 and the world of work

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**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**

**Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19**

Mobilizes athletes and sporting champions and IOC networks to encourage healthy behaviour during and beyond COVID-19, including through #Strongertogether, #HealthyAtHome and #beActive campaigns and the SafeHands challenge.

Supports health promotion through a new memorandum of understanding with WHO that provides a platform for: advocating for physical activity; preventing NCDs and promoting healthier lifestyles; strengthening the health legacy of major sporting events such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games; promoting local and community sports programmes to reach and encourage participation by more girls, older people and people living with a disability; and strengthening collaboration between ministries of sports and health. These activities will help deliver the WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity.

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**

Not yet available

**Websites and weblinks**

IOC Medical COVID-19 Hub
### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

**Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19**

Ensures that migrants, returnees and other forcibly displaced persons are not excluded from COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives. NCDs are an important element.

Advocates for UHC and ensures the continuity of essential health services, including for NCDs, through the provision of life-saving primary health services, procurement of essential medicines and psychosocial support, especially in countries that required humanitarian assistance before COVID-19.

Many migration health assessment centres remain operational to provide essential health services to migrants and refugees, including for NCDs.

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**

- **Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: IOM**

**Websites and weblinks**

- IOM: COVID-19 response

### INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

**Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19**

Preparing knowledge tools with the European mHealth Knowledge and Innovation Hub in response to NCDs and COVID-19, including: assessment frameworks in mHealth and assisting countries in creating, adopting and/or improving assessment frameworks for mHealth apps; guidance for national and regional implementation of specific mHealth interventions (e.g. mDiabetes); and guidance for integration of mHealth into national and regional health systems.

Developing policy frameworks and guidance to support innovations in digital health (e.g. health emergencies, data-sharing).

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**

- Not yet available

**Websites and weblinks**

- ITU: COVID-19

### ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19**

Investigates the impact of the pandemic on health systems and policy responses.

Considers how best to advance work on the impact of COVID-19 on NCDs, in line with recent work on COVID-19 and mental health.

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**

- Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: OECD

**Websites and weblinks**

  - Contributing to a global effort
- OECD: Health
**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

### Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19

Advocates for COVID-19 response and recovery (including the response to NCDs):

- grounded in human rights principles, including through the United Nations framework for the immediate socio-economic response; and
- addresses the socio-economic factors that prevent people from enjoying the right to health, with attention to vulnerable and marginalized populations, and addressing the social, legal and other determinants of health.

Encourages United Nations agencies to uphold a common understanding on a human rights-based approach to development cooperation.

### Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

### Websites and weblinks

[OHCHR: COVID-19 and its human rights dimensions](#)

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**JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS**

### Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19

Ensures human rights-focused, people-centred, community-led, community-based delivery of health and support services.

Promotes socially inclusive policies and practices and differentiated approaches, including for adults and children living with HIV and marginalized populations, such as multi-month prescriptions and dispensation of medicines for HIV, NCDs and tuberculosis.

Advocates for and supports policies and practices for addressing comorbid conditions and co-infections, such as HIV–NCDs, HIV–mental health and HIV–HPV and cervical cancer. Has included sections on HIV and COVID-19, HIV and NCDs, HIV and mental health and HIV and cervical cancer.

Advocates and supports countries by mobilizing additional funding from the Global Fund and other donors for the response to COVID-19, to mitigate disruption and for further scaling up of services for HIV and comorbid conditions and co-infections.

* The Joint Programme comprises the Cosponsors and UNAIDS Secretariat

### Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: UNAIDS](#)

### Websites and weblinks

[UNAIDS: COVID-19 and HIV](#)

[UNAIDS 2020 Global AIDS Update report](#)
### UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

**Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19**

- Supports sustainable procurement of health products under WHO leadership.
- Strengthens crisis management and response and addresses critical social, economic and environmental impacts. As the technical lead for the socio-economic response, supports United Nations country teams in assessing the social, environmental and economic impacts of COVID-19 and in advancing urgent recovery measures to minimize long-term impacts, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups. NCDs should be considered in this work.
- Developing a method for integrating COVID-19 into WHO- and UNDP-led national NCD investment cases.
- Supports advancement of health taxes to protect populations from NCDs, strengthen pandemic resilience and raise government revenue.
- Scaling integrated solutions in governance, social protection, the green economy and digital disruption, which are critical for addressing the social, economic, commercial and environmental determinants of NCDs.
- Conducting modelling of NCDs, COVID-19 and health systems capacity.
- Health systems strengthening in partnership with the Global Fund and the Access and Delivery Partnership.
- Effective and inclusive governance for health through the COVID-19 Law Lab, a joint project with UNAIDS, WHO and the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

### UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

**Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19**

- Links recovery work with a transition to clean energy and progress towards sustainable consumption and production. Addresses the environmental determinants of NCDs, such as air pollution, chemicals and intensive farming.
- Much of the work contributes to global and national responses to health and NCDs through its four strategic responses to COVID-19: (i) the medical and humanitarian emergency phase; (ii) a transformational change for nature and people; (iii) investing to build back better; and (iv) modernizing global environmental governance.

### Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

**Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: UNDP**

Not yet available

### Websites and weblinks

**UNDP: COVID-19 pandemic**
- Beyond Recovery. Towards 2030
- UNDP’s Global Fund Partnership
- The Access and Delivery Partnership
- COVID-19 Law Lab

**COVID-19 updates from the United Nations Environment Programme**
- Working With the Environment to Protect People- UNEP’s COVID-19 Response
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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

<table>
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<th>UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND</th>
<th>UN HABITAT</th>
<th>UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Addresses gender-based violence.</td>
<td>Supports governments in strengthening their COVID-19 response and recovery in urban settings (particularly informal and vulnerable ones) in 64 countries to increase protection against COVID-19 and the impact of the pandemic. The work will include NCDs and their determinants. Activities include technical guidance, support for data collection and analysis and projects to increase access to basic services.</td>
<td>Risk communication and community engagement with refugees, and hosts communities on COVID-19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports access to full services for sexual and reproductive health and rights.</td>
<td>Undertakes applied research on the relations between COVID-19 and housing, infrastructure and basic services, including health and NCDs.</td>
<td>Ensures continued access of refugees to health care, including for NCDs, in the context of COVID-19. Provides remote consultation services and prescription refills to avoid unnecessary attendance at health facilities. Uses the community health work force to follow up stable patients and to monitor and provide medication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthens remote mental health and psychosocial support capacity.</td>
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<td>Procures NCD medicines for refugees and neighbouring host communities to ensure continuity of care.</td>
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</table>

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**

UNFPA: Responding to the Challenge of NCDs

**Websites and weblinks**

UNFPA: Responding to the Challenge of NCDs

UNFPA: COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 campaign: take action for cities

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**

UNHCR: Coronavirus outbreak

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**

Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: UNHCR

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**

Under preparation

**Websites and weblinks**

UNFPA: COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 campaign: take action for cities

UNHCR: Coronavirus outbreak
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 CHILDREN’S FUND

Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19

Support for governments’ response strategies, procurement of supplies, including for pneumonia, with 18 000 oxygen concentrators provided to over 50 countries.

Mass media campaigns with messages on healthy behaviour, psychosocial support and prevention of exposure to risk factors, targeting young people and caregivers. See for example: Community-based health care, including outreach and campaigns, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Promotes breastfeeding.

Collaborates with WHO, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Agency for Development Coordination, Global NCD Alliance, UNIATF and UNDP on a series of opinion pieces and virtual sessions to advocate for NCDs in the COVID-19 context.

Works with Novo Nordisk on logistics for time-limited donation of insulin during COVID-19.

Developed a children’s book, My Hero is You, with WHO and the Inter-agency Standing Committee to help them understand the current pandemic and to provide psychosocial support. Also producing a mental health and psychosocial support product for adolescents and young people.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: UNICEF

Websites and weblinks

UNICEF: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) information centre

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19


Promotes the right to health, UHC and healthy environments.

Developing rapid assessment tools for countries to evaluate the impact of the pandemic on essential health and other services in the context of people trafficking.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Websites and weblinks

UNODC COVID-19 policy documents
**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST</th>
<th>Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Procures medicines for NCDs and other conditions during the pandemic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develops and implements standard operating procedures for NCD service delivery during the pandemic, including delivery of medicines to patients.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Websites and weblinks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for UNRWA</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STANDING COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Impact of COVID-19 on food environments, nutrition and food security.</td>
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<td><strong>Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Websites and weblinks</strong></td>
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<td>UNSCN: The COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting people’s food environments: a resource list on Food Systems and Nutrition responses</td>
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<tr>
<th>UN WOMEN</th>
<th>Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19</th>
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<td>Supports gender analysis, data disaggregation by gender and sex, gender-responsive approaches and impact on women’s empowerment.</td>
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<td>Strengthens the response to social determinants of health.</td>
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<td>COVID-19 and gender data hub</td>
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<td>Ending violence against women COVID-19</td>
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<td>Women with disabilities in a pandemic (COVID-19)</td>
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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

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19
Addresses diet-related risk factors (undernutrition, overweight and obesity) to reduce the prevalence of diet-related NCDs and vulnerability to COVID-19 by working with governments to: (i) strengthen and expand social protection programmes to address poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition; (ii) sustain food production, trade, distribution and consumption; (iii) support national health systems by improving supply chains, data collection and targeted nutrition services for the most vulnerable; and (iv) provide alternatives to school meals when educational activities have been suspended because of the pandemic.

Extends logistics and supply chain capacity and expertise to provide services where there is no commercial capacity; ensures that critical health and humanitarian cargo and personnel are moved to where they are most needed, such as movement of personal protective equipment.

Provides guidance, including on: (i) safe re-opening of schools and nutrition guidance for schools; (ii) adaptation of nutrition and food support during the pandemic; (iii) adaptation of WFP HIV operations during the pandemic; and (iv) logistics and supply chains during the pandemic.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief
Responding to the challenge of NCDs: WFP

Websites and weblinks
WFP: COVID-19 pandemic

SECRETARIAT OF THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19
Reminds Parties of the importance of sustaining the gains in tobacco control during the pandemic to ensure healthier environments and prevent NCDs, as both tobacco use and NCDs worsen the outcomes of COVID-19.

Emphasizes to Parties the importance of providing support for tobacco cessation, taking advantage of raised awareness in the population about health and about the harms of tobacco use.

Reminds Parties of the importance of using fiscal policies for tobacco products, as raising tobacco taxes decreases consumption and at the same time increases revenues, which can be used during recovery to build back better.

Monitors implementation of SDG target 3.a.

Supports Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and promotes ratification of the Protocol, which has 61 Parties to date.

Protects public health from interference by the tobacco industry; monitors the corporate social responsibility activities of the tobacco industry during the pandemic, as at times of increased need in countries, the tobacco industry may try to improve its damaged public image; and promotes implementation of the model policy to prevent tobacco industry interference in United Nations agencies.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief
Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: Secretariat of the WHO FCTC

Websites and weblinks
Tobacco control during the COVID-19 pandemic: how we can help
### WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

**Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19**

Provides trade-related information regarding COVID-19.

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**

Not yet available

**Websites and weblinks**

COVID-19 and world trade

### WORLD BANK GROUP

**Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19**

Supports immediate responses (health systems, procurement of medicines and medical supplies, ensuring food security) and sustainable recovery.

Continues to work with countries to ensure that loans and projects include NCDs and broader health system strengthening.

Supports digital solutions.

**Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief**


**Websites and weblinks**

References


