Cardiovascular disease is the world's biggest killer, claiming 17.7 million lives per year, with 1/3 occurring prematurely under 70 years. This number is steadily increasing.

80% of all CVD deaths are from heart attacks and strokes, which occur in 75% of developing countries. Premature deaths from heart attacks and strokes threaten global health and development.

RISK FACTORS

Major risk factors contributing to CVDs are:
- Tobacco use
- Consumption of foods high in salt
- High blood pressure

THE GLOBAL HEARTS INITIATIVE: Responding to the global cardiovascular disease crisis

An initiative to scale up national responses for prevention and management of cardiovascular diseases.

- Technical package to defeat the global tobacco epidemic
- Technical package for salt reduction in primary health care
- Technical package for cardiovascular disease management

In the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, governments have committed to step up action to reduce premature deaths from cardiovascular disease and other NCDs to improve health and promote development.

www.who.int/global_hearts