Non-communicable diseases or NCDs (heart disease, stroke, cancers, chronic lung disease and diabetes): the world’s biggest killers

SDG 3.4: REDUCE NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES BY ONE THIRD
MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION

Together we can support people to:
• Avoid tobacco use
• Eat healthily
• Be physically active
•Reduce harmful use of alcohol

NCDs block educational objectives:
• Children dropping out of school to care for relatives with NCDs
• Children dropping out of school to earn money for the family
• Families forced to spend on treating NCDs rather than schooling
• Physical inactivity, unhealthy diet, and use of tobacco and alcohol affect children’s learning and development

Ministries of Education can help:
• Ensure children at school have a healthy diet and enough physical activity
• Ban tobacco and alcohol use on school grounds
• Ban marketing and sponsorship of health-harming products on school grounds
• Teach children about healthy living
• Support teachers to be healthy role models
• Reward schools that adopt health promoting programmes

The right to health is a fundamental responsibility of government.
Working across government sectors can prevent and control NCDs.
The time for collective action is now.