Democratic Republic of Congo
NCD Joint programming mission,
13-17 July 2015

Key mission findings

1. There is commitment at the highest level in the Ministry of Public Health to address NCDs.

2. Government ministries such as the ministries of Planning, Finance and Social Affairs have shown their willingness to support NCD prevention and control.

3. NCDs are included in the National Health Development Plan 2011-2015, but there is very limited funding for NCDs.

4. The draft NCD Action Plan 2015-2020 has a strong focus on NCD management but less on preventing NCDs. National targets have not yet been included in the Action Plan.

5. A draft tobacco control bill has been under development within the proposition of the Fundamental Public Health Law since 2006. The draft of this law has been under examination in Parliament since February 2014.

6. Where policies and guidelines exist, inadequate financial and human resources are preventing their implementation.

“Je peux vous assurer de mon implication personnelle pour le suivi à faire sur toutes ces questions cruciales liées aux MNT et à leurs facteurs de risque.”

Aubin Minaku
President of the National Assembly

Key adult NCD mortality and risk factors: NCDs are a growing concern in DRC, causing nearly 1 in 4 deaths

- Probability of premature mortality from NCDs: 20% (2015)
- 26% of adults are insufficiently physically active (2010)
- 4% of adults have raised fasting blood glucose (2014)
- 23% of men and 21% of women have raised blood pressure (2015)
- 16% of men smoke tobacco (2011)
- 2% of adult men and 8% of adult women are obese (2014)
- Pure alcohol per capita consumption: 3.4 litres per year (population 15+, 2015)
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- 88% of adults consume insufficient amounts of fruit and vegetables (STEPS, 2005)
Key recommendations

1. Finalize the multi-sectoral action plan, including national targets and expand the National AIDS Multi-sectorial Programme or the National Nutrition Council to include coordination of NCDs.

2. Provide UN support to help the government set out the economic and business/investment case for investing in NCDs.

3. The Tobacco Control Bill should be adopted as soon as possible, as well as the agreement that some of the revenue from tobacco taxation is to be used to finance action to combat NCDs.

4. Strengthen surveillance and monitoring of NCDs and their risk factors as well as improving data quality and coverage nationwide.

5. The UN Country Team to identify a clear mechanism to drive forward coherent support for the government on NCDs, including funding for a National Professional Officer to coordinate a coherent UN response in the area of NCDs.

Next steps

1. Finalization of the National Multi-Sectoral Action Plan as a top priority.

2. Adoption of the Tobacco Control Bill.

3. Integration of WHO recommended tools to standardize NCD data collection in the National Health Information System.

“...The mission pushed ahead activities, encouraged people from many different sectors to come together and discuss NCDs, identified priorities for support and helped raise funds for a consultant to assist in finalising the National Multi-Sectoral Action Plan.”

Adolphe Nkongolo
WHO NCD Focal Point, Kinshasa

Adding value: actions taken following the mission

1. Numerous sectors have been encouraged to come together to discuss NCDs.

2. A consultant from Kinshasa School of Public Health has been recruited to support finalization of the National Multi-Sectoral Action Plan.

3. The Public Health Fundamental Law, including a Tobacco Control Bill is now under consideration in Parliament: progress was spurred on by discussions during the mission and subsequent support.

4. The UNCare programme hosted an NCD awareness day, with many of the 700 attendees being screened for NCDs and their risk factors.

5. A full time WHO National Professional Officer for NCDs has been appointed.

6. A survey on access to medicines has been undertaken using funds from the Government of Japan.