

Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health Monthly Newsletter

Highlight

WHO welcomes new resources to fight tobacco use

WHO welcomed the announcement from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Bloomberg Philanthropies to inject significant new resources into the global fight against tobacco use. This contribution will help countries with limited resources reduce tobacco use, and it offers WHO new opportunities to reverse this growing epidemic, especially in the developing world. The WHO has prepared a video b-roll for the Gates Foundation, which is available on the [Gates Foundation website](#).



[WHO Press Statement](#)

[BBC interview with Gates and Bloomberg](#)

[CNN Interview with Douglas Bettcher](#)

News: Global

IAEA-WHO meeting on National Cancer Control Programmes

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and WHO met in WHO on 2-4 July 2008 to discuss and agree upon a general WHO IAEA arrangement about collaborative work in cancer control; and to discuss and agree upon a framework of collaboration and a joint program on cancer control to strengthen the development of national cancer control programs in low and middle income countries.

The participants to the meeting agreed that the collaboration between WHO (at all levels) and IAEA (PACT and other related departments and programmes) in supporting countries in cancer control is positive and needs to be further developed. Operational guidelines to harmonize assessment and intervention methodologies were discussed. Partners are prepared to continue to contribute to the work of WHO and IAEA in the progressive development of other National Cancer Control Programmes (NCCPs). It was noted that in addition to a WHO IAEA steering committee, an Advisory committee was desirable on which individual experts served, contributing their expertise, and not necessarily representing a specific agency or partner. The need to ensure adequate communication between the members of the coalition was again emphasized, such as an information forum. Adequate staff should be available at all levels of WHO and IAEA to support a complex endeavour such as this.



The meeting was opened by Dr Ala Alwan, WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (link to his opening address below).

For further information, please contact Dr Andreas Ullrich (ullricha@who.int).

[Read more on cancer](#) | [WHO Assistant-Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health Opening Address](#)

Diplomatic briefing on smoke- free United Nations

WHO organized a briefing on smoke-free United Nations in New York on 8 July. Dr María Julia Muñoz, the Minister of Health of Uruguay, chaired the meeting. Key speakers included Dr Ala Alwan on WHO's strategy to address noncommunicable diseases and tobacco control; Dr Judith Mackay (Senior policy adviser to the WHO), on global mapping, as well as the history of smoking bans and the recent advances in this area, particularly in developing countries; Dr Douglas Bettcher (Director, Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO), on the ECOSOC resolution on smoke-free United Nations; Dr Tom Frieden (Commissioner, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, New York City) on New York's 100% smoke-free policy; and Dr María Julia Muñoz (Minister of Health, Uruguay) on her country's experience in implementing a ban on smoking in public places. Around 70 persons, including almost 30 missions, participated. Many of the participants recognized the informative value of the meeting.



For further information, please contact Dr Douglas Bettcher (bettcherd@who.int).

[Read more on tobacco](#)

Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons In All Its Aspects

The Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons In All Its Aspects took place on 14-18 July 2008 at the UN Headquarters in New York to discuss arms management issues, including the development of an international tracing instrument for arms transfers. Other issues of more direct relevance for WHO were discussions to strengthen the UN CASA mechanism (Coordinating Action on Small Arms), of which WHO is a part. One initiative in relation to this may be the redrafting of a strategic plan for CASA that would explicitly state an objective on demand side reduction (which is most effectively done through preventing armed violence). In addition, a number of states expressed the importance of armed violence reduction as an important approach to reducing demand for small arms. The links between high levels of interpersonal armed violence and development were another common theme.



For further information, please contact Dr David Meddings (meddingsd@who.int).

[Read more on disarmament](#) | [Read more on violence and injury prevention and disability](#)

WHO Multicentre Project on the Polypill for Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases

WHO organized a meeting on 1-2 July 2008 to discuss the WHO Multicentre project on the Polypill for Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases. The purpose of this proposed pilot study is to provide data on the feasibility of conducting a large clinical trial on the so called "polypill" (combination of aspirin, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, thiazide diuretic, and statin) for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. Dr Ala Alwan, WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental health (NMH) opened the meeting (link to his opening address below).



For further information, please contact Dr Shanthi Mendis (mendiss@who.int).

[Read more on cardiovascular diseases](#) | [WHO Assistant-Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health Opening Address](#)

Recent Events: Region and Country-focused

Regional consultations on the "*World report on disability and rehabilitation*", Costa Rica, Tanzania, Italy and Philippines

During May and June, regional consultations on the *World report on disability and rehabilitation* were held in Costa Rica, Tanzania, Italy, and the Philippines. More than 100 total participants from all six WHO regions attended the four consultations, including Editorial Committee members, lead chapter authors, academics, practitioners, government officials, representatives of international organizations, and representatives of NGOs including Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs). Participants discussed and commented on the preliminary draft of the report, provided regional and cultural perspectives on its content, and helped identify sources of evidence from their regions to be included in future drafts. Information from the consultations will be collated and discussed during the Editorial Committee meeting to be held 18-20 August. The report is scheduled for release in December 2009.

For further information, please contact Dr Olive Kobusingye (kobusingyeo@afro.who.int) for AFRO, Dr Armando Vasquez (vasqueza@paho.org) for AMRO, Dr Jaffar Hussein (hussains@emro.who.int) for EMRO, Ms Francesca Racioppi (frr@ecr.euro.who.int) for EURO, Dr Chamaiparn Santikarn (santikarnc@searo.who.int) for SEARO, Dr Hisashi Ogawa (ogawah@wpro.who.int) for WPRO or Ms Alana Officer (officera@who.int) for VIP/DAR in HQ.

African Tobacco Control Hubs consultation, Accra, Ghana , 26-27 June 2008

Seeking to augment its strategies in Africa, WHO has facilitated several consultations with stakeholders from African countries. The latest and largest consultation was hosted by the Government of Ghana in Accra, on 26-27 June 2008. The consultation convened representatives from the Ministries of Health as well as one of the NGOs from each of the participating countries. In total, 34 participants from 17 African countries attended the event. African Tobacco Control Hubs, as defined at the meeting, will support "quick win" opportunities in tobacco control policies and programmes by facilitating effective knowledge capture and transfer among stakeholder groups and across countries.

For further information, please contact Dr Douglas Bettcher (bettcherd@who.int).

Nutrition and HIV Monitoring and Evaluation Regional Meeting, Uganda, 14-16 July 2008

This meeting was planned by the Regional Centre for Quality Care (RCQHC) and Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) project in close collaboration with WHO and NHD. It was held in Entebbe, Uganda 14 to 16 July, 2008. About 35 participants joined representing 8 countries (Ethiopia, Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya and Rwanda). This is direct response to resolution EB 117-R2 on nutrition and HIV/AIDS. The main

objectives were to discuss indicators for monitoring nutrition and HIV services at national and programme levels, share materials and tools from different programmes and countries, discuss experiences in the use of data, discuss the process of integrating nutrition indicators into national HIV/AIDS M and E systems and identify indicators and an M and E process (by each country) for use at country level.

For further information, please contact Dr Randa Saadeh (saadehr@who.int).

Capacity assessment mission for tobacco control, Mexico, 14-18 July 2008

A new general Law for Tobacco Control was approved in Mexico which will enter into force on 29 August 2008. The government is now working on drafting the accompanying regulations which must be ready before the end of the year. At this crucial juncture for tobacco control in Mexico, the government invited WHO to perform an analysis of the present infrastructure and capacity of the federal and state governments to fully implement the new law and make recommendations in light of its commitment to the WHO framework Convention for Tobacco Control and the WHO MPOWER package. A mission composed of six international experts and WHO and PAHO staff interviewed over 40 key informants between 14 and 18 of July. Specific recommendations were made regarding the implementation of smoke-free environments, packaging and labeling, as well as regarding a comprehensive ban on advertising, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco. In addition, the need to raise tobacco taxes was highlighted.

For further information, please contact Dr Douglas Bettcher (bettcherd@who.int).

Mission to the WHO South East Asian Region and India to discuss tobacco and noncommunicable diseases, 17-18 July 2008

WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health held meetings with senior staff from the regional office and from the Indian country office working on non communicable diseases and mental health with a focus on scaling up prevention and control of chronic noncommunicable diseases. Dr Ala Alwan stressed the importance of developing one common framework for action for NCD prevention and control for the entire Organization.

Dr Alwan met also with Indian Health secretary, joint health secretary. The meeting focused on support that WHO could provide to the tobacco programme. The main areas for WHO to help are by providing technical expertise (in particular to set up tobacco labs to monitor indoor air quality, nicotine content of tobacco products), media awareness campaigns and advocacy to help influence Government Ministries.

For further information, please contact Dr Douglas Bettcher (bettcherd@who.int).

WHO/FAO Nutrition Care and Support for PLHIV Regional Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa, 21-23 July 2008

The purpose of the workshop was to contribute to the improvement of quality of life of people infected and affected by HIV by strengthening the nutritional care and support of people living with HIV in the Region. The objectives were: (1) To review the experience in countries in relation to the training of community-level workers using the course "Nutrition care and support for PLHIV", monitoring and evaluation activities, country exchange visits; (2) to summarize lessons learned, challenges and draw recommendations; (3) to discuss country plans for the integration of "Nutrition Care and Support for PLHIV " into government agenda including the official launch of the course "Nutrition Care and Support for PLHIV " at country level. Expected outputs include: a comprehensive regional report on experiences, a synthesis of lessons learned and drawn recommendations, and a draft country plans of action on integration of "Nutrition Care and Support for PLHIV" into government programmes. Participants in the workshop included technical officers in HIV and Nutrition as well as senior decision makers from Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Additionally key partners from the region, donor community and implementing groups were invited. UN partners participating in the workshop included FAO, UNAIDS, UICEF, WFP,

WHO. By the end of the workshop decision-makers from countries agreed on a set of recommendations for the participating countries and for UN organizations collaborating in the area of Nutrition Care and Support for people living with HIV.

For further information, please contact Dr Randa Saadeh (saadehr@who.int).

Technical Consultation on Integrating Noncommunicable Diseases into Primary Health Care, Cairo, Egypt, 22-23 July 2008

The objective of the technical consultation was to discuss the need, barriers, opportunities for integrating noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) into primary health care (PHC) and to discuss the `package of essential NCD interventions and services for PHC`. Dr Ala Alwan, WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, presented the magnitude of the global NCD burden, future trends, the Global Strategy for Prevention and control of NCD and the Action Plan for its implementation (link to his presentation below). He stressed the need for concerted and coherent action by Member States and WHO as outlined in the action plan. The NCD burden in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and the objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting were presented by Dr Haifa Mardi, Director, Health Protection and Promotion, EMRO. Dr Shanthi Mendis, Coordinator, presented the recommendations of the WHO consultation in August 2007 for integrating NCD into primary health care and the draft Framework and Contents of a Package of Essential NCD services and interventions for PHC. The PHC facility capacity assessment tool piloted by HQ in 2004 was presented and discussed for expansion to include patients perspective. .

Country specific experiences with respect to integration of NCD into PHC were shared by participants from Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, I.R Iran, Iraq, Sudan, UNRWA, Tunis, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Morocco. Group discussions focused on the Package of Essential NCD interventions including the components and disease conditions covered. The next steps will be to prepare expanded version of the PHC facility capacity assessment tool for piloting in 3 countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and to incorporate input from discussions to revise the Package of essential NCD interventions for PHC for finalization at HQ consultation of experts on `Integration of noncommunicable diseases into PHC in 2009.

For further information, please contact Dr Shanthi Mendis ([mendiss@who.int](mailto:mendis@who.int)).

[WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health's Presentation](#)

Upcoming NMH Key Events for 2008

| From | To | Event | Location |
|--------------|--------------|--|-----------------|
| 11 August | 13 August | Third Expert Consultation Meeting on Preventing Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases: A Framework for Country Action | Geneva |
| 25 August | 26 August | WHO Meeting on A Prioritized Research Agenda for Prevention and Control of NCDs | Geneva |
| 25 August | 28 August | 8 th General Assembly of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness | Buenos Aires |
| 27 August | 31 August | UICC World Cancer Congress | Geneva |
| 15 September | 17 September | Placing Noncommunicable Disease Prevention on the Global Development Agenda | Geneva |
| October | October | Expert Group on Marketing Foods to Children | Geneva |
| 3 October | 3 October | Launch of the report "Integration of mental health into primary health care" | Melbourne |

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|-------------|-------------|--|--------|
| 9 October | 9 October | Launch of the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) | Geneva |
| November | November | Meeting on WHO package of essential NCD services for primary health care | Geneva |
| 2 November | 3 November | First meeting of Expert Advisory Panel on Health Promotion and finalization of Global Health Promotion Framework | London |
| 6 November | 7 November | Consultation with economic operators on ways they could contribute to reducing harmful use of alcohol | Geneva |
| 10 November | 14 November | Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Fats and Oils in Human Nutrition | Geneva |
| 17 November | 17 November | Ministerial Euro-Med Health Summit | Cairo |
| 17 November | 22 November | 3 rd Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC | Durban |
| 8 December | 12 December | WHO Expert Consultation on the waist circumference and waist/hip ratio | Geneva |
| 11 December | 11 December | Launch of the World Report on Child Injury Prevention | Hanoi |

Media, publications and WHO Training courses

BBC documentary on the tobacco epidemic in Africa

On 1 July, a BBC documentary "*Bannatyne Takes on Big Tobacco*" explored the rise in the number of youths smoking and uncovered the activities of the British American Tobacco manufacturing company in Malawi and Nigeria. The broadcast report featured an interview with Dr Douglas Bettcher: http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctwo/listings/programme.shtml?day=tuesday&service_id=4224&filename=20080701/20080701_2100_4224_9697_60

Media interest in tobacco control is on the rise and the WHO Department of Tobacco Free Initiative is exploring the possibility of working with partners (TFK) to broadcast footage and meet the high media demand.

Report of the UN Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control

WHO presented the work of the UN Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), at the UN Headquarters in New York, on 22 July 2008. Member States recalled ECOSOC resolution 2006/42 on smoke-free United Nations premises and recommended that the General Assembly of the UN consider the recommendations stated in the 2006 resolution.

A second decision was also adopted, which asked the Secretary General to report again on the work of the Task Force at ECOSOC's Substantive Session in 2010.

[Report of the UN Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control](#)

Country Initiatives

NMH is engaged in a wide range of country-level initiatives to support countries in implementing WHO guidelines, policies and strategies to reduce or prevent chronic noncommunicable diseases, improve nutrition, enhance mental health conditions and prevent violence, injuries and disability.

In this newsletter we will illustrate what WHO does in improving nutrition in support of public health and sustainable development.

Interagency Landscape Analysis on Countries 'Readiness to Accelerate Action in Reducing Maternal and Child Undernutrition

The Landscape Analysis project is a WHO-led interagency effort to accelerate the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition which should contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

To date, the Landscape Analysis Country Assessment has been undertaken in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guatemala, Madagascar and Peru jointly with partner agencies including FAO, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Helen Keller International (HKI), UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), UNICEF, etc. The country assessment in South Africa and Timor Leste are currently being planned.



[Read more about the Interagency Landscape Analysis](#)

Acknowledgements

This newsletter is compiled with the input, support and assistance of staff from across WHO's cluster for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (NMH). For further information and regular updates, we invite you to visit www.who.int/nmh. Please send an email to nmhinfo@who.int if you would like to be added or removed from this mailing list. This document does not represent an official position of the World Health Organization.

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