FACING THE FACTS

THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC DISEASE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Chronic diseases are the major cause of death and disability worldwide

Facts:
- In the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, chronic diseases accounted for 61% of all deaths in 2002 (see chart, right).
  - Total deaths in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, 2002 = 205,000.
  - Total deaths due to chronic disease in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, 2002 = 125,000.

Note:
The data presented in this information sheet were estimated by WHO using standard methods to maximize cross-country comparability. They are not necessarily the official statistics of WHO Member States.

Deaths by cause, all ages, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, 2002

- Cardiovascular disease 31%
- Communicable, maternal and perinatal, nutritional deficiencies 32%
- Diabetes 3%
- Chronic respiratory disease 7%
- Cancer 10%
- Other chronic diseases 10%
- Injuries 7%
Projected prevalence of overweight, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, males and females aged 30 years or more, 2005 and 2015

Facts:
- Raised body mass index (overweight and obesity) is an important cause of chronic disease.
- Prevalence of overweight in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is expected to increase in both men and women over the next 10 years (see charts, left).

Solutions:
- At least 80% of premature heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes, and 40% of cancer could be prevented through healthy diet, regular physical activity and avoidance of tobacco products.
- Cost-effective interventions exist, and have worked in many countries: the most successful strategies have employed a range of population-wide approaches combined with interventions for individuals.