In addition to strengthening partnerships with governments, employers and workers within its tripartite structure, the ILO can advance strategic partnerships with multilateral stakeholders. The ILO and World Health Organization (WHO) have collaborated on producing a methodology for estimating the global burden of work-related disease and injury. This methodology builds on existing work to estimate burdens of disease for 39 pairs of occupational risk factors and health outcomes. The updated methodology will include an estimated additional 13 risk factor-outcome pairs including the following:

- Occupational exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation and skin cancers, cataracts;
- Occupational noise and cardiovascular diseases; and
- Long working hours and ischaemic disease, stroke, depression and alcohol use disorders.

Jointly, the ILO and WHO have created the International Chemical Safety Cards Project that includes over 1700 data sheets in more than 10 languages and using a recognizable, clear and concise format to promote the safe use of chemicals in the workplace.

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) are two ILO partnerships on chemical safety.

The ILO is also providing technical support to WHO in the development of guidelines on mental health in the workplace.

The ILO has worked with governments, employers and workers to harmonize workplace safety and health issues related to NCDs.

The ILO also organizes, along with other partners, the World Congress on Safety and Health, which occurs every three years.

Each year, the ILO leads the World Day for Safety and Health at Work with a different theme. Often these themes address safety and health issues related to NCDs.

The ILO is also providing technical support and partnerships on NCDs, at work and in the broader world of work. Workers in all sectors are at risk of NCDs. NCDs arise from risk factors at work and affect worker productivity. They can be prevented by improving working conditions and through workplace health promotion programmes.

The ILO will continue to address NCDs as an important issue in the world of work through technical support and partnerships on NCD prevention and care.

The Global Occupational Safety and Health Coalition includes the WHO, the ILO and other founding partners. The coalition’s priorities include the prevention and control of NCDs in support of paragraph 44 of the 2018 Political declaration of the 3rd High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable diseases.

Each year, the ILO leads the World Day for Safety and Health at Work with a different theme. Often these themes address safety and health issues related to NCDs.

The ILO and WHO have created the International Chemical Safety Cards Project that includes over 1700 data sheets in more than 10 languages and using a recognizable, clear and concise format to promote the safe use of chemicals in the workplace.
Violence and drug abuse: Alcohol and drugs, encouraging both during working hours or outside of the workplace, can affect workers’ ability to safely complete tasks and can increase risks of diseases and injuries. Workplaces can provide cessation support and education about alcohol and drugs, as well as workplace policies, technical promotion and regulations concerning consumption of alcohol and drugs in the workplace can also protect workers’ health and safety.

Tobacco control: Tobacco use in the workplace can affect workers through primary exposure as well as second-hand smoke from other workers. Smoking breaks can also result in reduced productivity from workers. Smoking in the workplace also has the potential to cause fires or explosions, further posing a risk to safety and health. Providing workers with education, cessation support and regulations concerning smoking on workplace premises can protect workers from the harmful effects of smoking.

Healthy sleep: Schedule long, regular breaks of time at work to work. Workers can work and education about the importance of a regular sleep and its impact on health.

Physical activity: Depending on the tasks at a specific workplace, workers may be either sedentary or engaged in active or moderate physical tasks. The ILO has developed a comprehensive training package that focuses on physical activity and exercise.

Best buys

Promoting good health benefits both workers and employers. By improving the physical and mental health of workers as well as their productivity and safety on the job, workplaces should have training, clear policies and procedures in place to protect workers.

Promoting good health benefits both employees and employers. By promoting physical and mental health and well-being, productivity and performance. A foundation of good health in the world of work reduces pressure on the health, welfare and social security systems while supporting economic growth.

2. The ILO has an important role to play in supporting countries to prevent and control NCDs

Working with governments, employers and workers through its tripartite governance structure, the ILO has developed International Labour Standards on occupational health and safety (OSH) in 2012. This comprehensive training package focuses on both prevention of psychosocial risks and promotion of health and well-being at work through policy design and action. It covers stress, alcohol and drugs, violence, HIV & AIDS, tobacco, nutrition, physical activity, healthy sleep and economic stress in the world of work.

The ILO published SOLVE: Integrating Health Promotion into Workplace Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policies in 2012. This comprehensive training package focuses on both prevention of psychosocial risks and promotion of health and well-being at work through policy design and action. It covers occupational lung diseases, for example, from exposure to silica or asbestos.

The ILO has developed a Code of Practice on promoting and implementing a smoke-free workplace to support countries in workplace settings. Multiple publications and resources on psychosocial risk management are available at https://bit.ly/3e4R3dC.

In addition, the ILO has developed a large number of codes of practice and other publications to support countries in workplace settings. Multiple publications and resources on psychosocial risk management are available at https://bit.ly/3e4R3dC.