Interim Report of the WHO Working Group of Financing for NCDs

Financing national NCD responses in the post-2015 era

Mr Colin Mclff
Co-Chair
WHO Working Group on Financing for NCDs
WHO Working Group on Financing for NCDs

What are NCDs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noncommunicable diseases</th>
<th>Tobacco use</th>
<th>Unhealthy diets</th>
<th>Physical inactivity</th>
<th>Harmful use of alcohol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease and stroke</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronic lung disease</td>
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</tbody>
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WHO Working Group on Financing for NCDs

Who we are?

- **Mandate:** Action 5.1 of the work plan of the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (endorsed by the World Health Assembly) requested WHO to establish a Working Group in 2014 to recommend ways and means of encouraging Member States and non-State actors to realize the commitment included in paragraph 45(d) of 2011 UN Political Declaration on NCDS

- **Assignment:** Submit a final report to the WHO Director-General with recommendations by the end of 2015

- **Co-Chairs:**
  - Dr Indrani Gupta, Head, Policy Research Unit, Institute of Economic Growth, India
  - Mr Colin McIff, Health Attaché, Permanent Mission of the USA to the UN (Geneva)

- **Members:** 12
Main findings

The Global Economic Burden of Non-communicable Diseases

Cost of action in developing countries: US$ 170 billion (2011-2025)

Cost of inaction in developing countries: US$ 7 trillion (2011-2025)
Main recommendations

1. Significant additional investment are required to attain the NCD-related targets included in the SDGs by 2030
2. These additional investments to implement national NCD responses will need to rely primarily on domestic public resources
3. Equally important, these additional investments for NCDs require scale up and more effective ODA to complement efforts of countries to mobilize resources domestically
4. Promoting investment from private business and finance in areas critical to addressing NCDs is also important, including contributions from philanthropists
5. There are also opportunities to resolve the coherence and consistency of financial, investment, trade, development and public health policy
Main recommendations

Recommendation 1:
Significant additional investment are required to attain the NCD-related targets included in the SDGs by 2030

Menu of possible actions:

• Raise awareness
• Draw up a document on the cost of national action vs. inaction
• Include NCDs in the formulation and implementation of all relevant public policies
• Set national spending targets for annual investments in national NCD responses
Main recommendations

Recommendation 2:
These additional investments to implement national NCD responses will need to rely primarily on domestic public resources

Menu of possible actions:

• Acknowledge that public finance must underpin NCD action
• Ensure that Ministries of Health make a credible business case
• Raise taxes on tobacco and alcoholic beverages
• Ensure that prevention remains the cornerstone
• Prioritize budgetary allocations for NCDs
• Integrate NCDs into HIV, reproductive health and UHC
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Main recommendations

Recommendation 3: Equally important, these additional investments for NCDs require scale up and more effective ODA to complement efforts of countries to mobilize resources domestically

Menu of possible actions:

• Harness the role of ODA to develop institutional capacity
• Scale up the catalytic role of ODA
• Mobilize Multilateral Development Banks
• Push to achieve the target of devoting 0.7% of GNI to ODA
• Deliver development cooperation more efficiently
• Elaborate new pathways for collaboration
Main recommendations

Recommendation 4: Promoting investment from private business and finance in areas critical to addressing NCDs is also important, including contributions from philanthropists

Menu of possible actions:

- Encourage philanthropic giving for NCDs
- Promote investments aligned with public NCD goals
- Establish PPPs focused on the achievement of NCD targets
- Mandate approaches to encourage the private sector to take action in specific areas (marketing to children, product reformulation, labelling, salt, work places, alcohol, medicines)
- Protect NCD public policies from undue influence
Main recommendations

Recommendation 5. There are also opportunities to resolve the coherence and consistency of financial, investment, trade, development and public health policy.

Menu of possible actions:

- Strengthen safeguards in investment treaties to protect health
- Strengthen policy coherence
- Align existing partnerships (Global Fund, GAVI) to improve their contribution to health system strengthening and UHC
Take away

• The current level of investments in NCDs will:
  – be insufficient to attain the NCD-related targets in the SDGs by 2030
  – derail the overarching efforts of the post-2015 development agenda to end poverty and hunger

• Significant additional investments are needed through domestic, bilateral and multilateral channels

• Investing in NCDs provides a high return-on-investment across the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic growth, environment, social inclusion) – it is **not** a cost
Thank you

For more information:
www.who.int/global-coordination-mechanism