Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health: e-Update June 2007
http://www.who.int/nmh/en

UPDATE: WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
Currently 147 parties to the treaty.
Latest: United Republic of Tanzania, 30 April 2007
Full list of signatories and parties

News:
Community mental health services will lessen social exclusion, says WHO
WHO signaled the urgent need for countries to provide a network of community mental health services at its Global Forum for Community Mental Health (Geneva, 30-31 May 2007). For the first time, WHO invited people living with mental disorders to attend the Forum, sending a message to countries that it is important to give a voice to this excluded group to claim their rights and secure their participation in society.
> Read the note for the media > WHO Department of Mental Health

WHO call to make indoor public places 100% smoke-free
There is urgent need for countries to make all indoor public places and workplaces 100% smoke-free, WHO said in its new policy recommendations published ahead of World No Tobacco Day (31 May). The Day this year focused on protection from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke.
> Read the news release > World No Tobacco Day 2007 > 10 facts about tobacco and second-hand smoke > WHO’s Tobacco Free Initiative

World Health Assembly closes
The World Health Assembly, the supreme decision-making body of the World Health Organization, wrapped-up its sixtieth session on 23 May 2007. The Assembly approved the largest-ever budget for the Organization and adopted a record number of resolutions on public health issues and on the technical and administrative work of WHO, including:
  o A resolution urges Member States to strengthen national efforts in noncommunicable disease prevention and control and also calls for an action plan.
  o The Assembly passed a resolution urging Member States and the Secretariat to increase investment in, and strengthen efforts towards health promotion as the cornerstone of primary health care and a core function of public health.
  o The economic burden of oral disease is predicted to grow rapidly worldwide, particularly in disadvantaged and poor populations, unless oral preventive programmes are implemented. The Assembly resolution urges WHO to provide
advice and technical support for strengthening oral health programmes at
country, regional and global levels, in collaboration with other UN organizations,
WHO collaborating centres and NGOs.

- The Assembly adopted a resolution on emergency trauma care systems, which
draws the attention of governments to the need to strengthen pre-hospital and
emergency trauma care systems (including mass casualty management efforts)
and describes a number of steps governments could take. It also invites WHO to
scale up its efforts to support countries.

- The Assembly passed a resolution urging Member States to redouble their efforts
to reach those people not yet protected from iodine deficiency disorders and to
sustain successful programmes on a continuous basis.

- The Assembly held lengthy discussions on public-health problems caused by the
harmful use of alcohol. Delegates agreed that the issue will be discussed again at
the WHO Executive Board in January, 2008.

> Read WHO's press release on agreements reached > Resolution adopted on
noncommunicable diseases > Resolution adopted on health promotion > Resolution
adopted on the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders > Resolution adopted on
oral health

> Resolution adopted on emergency trauma care systems

First United Nations Global Road Safety Week
To mark the start of the First United Nations Global Road Safety week (23-29 April
2007) young road safety advocates from more than 100 countries convened in
Geneva at a Youth Assembly for Road Safety to discuss how youth could be more
involved in road safety around the world and adopt a Youth Declaration on Road
Safety. WHO's Director-General, Dr Chan, delivered the keynote address and
messages of support came from UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, President Lula da Silva
of Brazil and the musician Moby Hall. In addition, the Assembly served as an
occasion to launch a new WHO report entitled Youth and road safety. Also released
was a publication entitled "Faces behind the figures: voices of road traffic victims and
their families". Through out the week governments, nongovernmental organizations,
and their road safety partners seek to raise awareness about the impact of road
traffic deaths, injuries and disabilities and promote action around the factors with the
greatest impact: helmets, seat-belts, drink-driving, speeding, visibility and road
design and infrastructure.

Read more about the events organized in nearly 80 countries > First UN Global Road
Safety Week > WHO Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention

World Youth Assembly for Road Safety
From 23-24 April, the first ever World Youth Assembly for Road Safety was held at
the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The Assembly served as the meeting
place for nearly 400 young people from 100 countries. The young delegates, many of
whom are engaged as advocates for road safety in their countries, came together to
share experiences and ideas and identify ways to strengthen their road safety efforts
at home. The enormous enthusiasm and dedication these young delegates brought
to Geneva was palpable throughout the event. Included on the programme were
presentations of road safety initiatives involving young people, a statement by
Formula 1 driver Alexander Wurz, and the release of 1049 balloons to pay tribute to
the young lives lost on the world’s road every day. Working groups highlighted the
work being done by youth on road safety at national and local levels and ways in
which delegates can facilitate implementation of their Declaration, the crowning
achievement of the Assembly, and the tool around which the delegates are planning
follow up activities. In the closing ceremony the Declaration was officially adopted, and Sheika Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the UN General Assembly, commented on its importance.

> Read more about the World Youth Assembly  > First UN Global Road Safety Week
> WHO Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention

**Upcoming Events:**

**AMRO/PAHO regional meeting on the World Report on Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention**

*29-30 May 2007*

The AMRO/PAHO regional meeting on the World Report on Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention will be hosted in Panama City.

**AFRO/EMRO regional meeting on the World Report on Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention**

*12-13 June 2007*

The AFRO/EMRO regional meeting on the World Report on Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention will be hosted in Cairo.

**Second meeting of the Editorial Committee for the World Report on Disability and Rehabilitation**

*18-19 June 2007*

The Second Meeting of the Editorial Committee for the World Report on Disability and Rehabilitation will be held in Geneva.

**SEARO/WPRO regional meeting on the World Report on Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention**

*21-22 June 2007*

The SEARO/WPRO regional meeting on the World Report on Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention will be hosted in Manila.

**WHO China Road Safety meeting**

*25-27 June 2007*

A WHO China Road Safety Meeting will be held in Shanghai.

**Second session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**

*30 June - 6 July 2007*

The second session of the COP to the WHO FCTC will be hosted by Thailand.

> More information

**3rd Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention**

*17-19 July 2007*

A meeting on 3rd Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, will be held at Tulliallan Castle, in Kincardine, Fife, Scotland.

> More information

**WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation**
**25-27 July 2007**
WHO will convene the fourth meeting of the WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation.
> [More information](#)

**Recent Events:**

**Commission on Narcotic Drugs discussed the world drug problem**
**12-16 March 2007**
At its jubilee 50th session in Vienna (12-16 March 2007) the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which is the central policy-making body in the UN system for dealing with drug-related matters, discussed, among other issues, the world situation with drug use and progress achieved in demand reduction worldwide since 1998. The resolutions adopted by the Commission call, inter alia, for improvement of drug abuse data collection by Member States, also using the WHO Guide to Drug Abuse Epidemiology, and invite relevant intergovernmental, international and other organizations to make available supplementary information for assessment of progress made since the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem in 1998. Upon the initiative of the Brazilian delegation and WHO, a meeting of members of delegations from Ministries of Health was held to discuss the role of the health sector in reduction of the world drug problem and disease burden attributable to illicit drug use.
> [Read more](#)

**Launch of the Pacific Islands Mental Health Network**
**14 March 2007**
The Pacific Islands Mental Health Network (PIMHnet), a joint initiative of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific and WHO Headquarters in Geneva, was launched during the Meeting of Health Ministers for the Pacific Island Countries on 14 March 2007 in Vanuatu. Speakers included the WHO Western Pacific Regional Director, Dr Shigeru Omi, Minister of Health, Papua New Guinea, Hon Sir Peter Barter, Sarah Hamilton representing Dr Peter Adams, Executive Director, NZAID, Dorah Marcel, a person living with mental illness from Vanuatu. The Master of Ceremony was Ms Vanessa Quai, a well know singer from Vanuatu.

**Implementation workshop for Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in the African Region**
**20-23 March 2007**
A workshop for the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) was held in Brazzaville, Congo, from 20-23 March 2007. Parties to the WHO FCTC from the African Region were invited to attend the workshop. During the meeting, the delegates were briefed on the status of the WHO FCTC, the outcomes of the first session of the Conference of the Parties as well as the ongoing work of the interim secretariat. A full day of the meeting was devoted to the Parties' obligation to report to the Conference of the Parties. In working groups and individual country consultations, discussions focused on scaling up of a core package of cost-effective measures to reduce tobacco use in the African countries. Many parliamentarians participated in the meeting. The idea of a network of Parliamentarians on tobacco control across the African region was discussed and supported.
FAO/WHO Technical Consultation to Review Regional Food-based Dietary Guidelines
2-4 April 2007
From 2-4th April, experts in the development of Food-based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG) assembled for a Technical Consultation to Review Regional Food-based Dietary Guidelines jointly organized by WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and FAO Regional Office for the Near East. The Consultation reviewed regional epidemiological data on nutrition related diseases, as well as food consumption and physical activity pattern in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and formulated dietary guidelines addressing the Region’s need to address the double burden of increasing chronic diseases and obesity on the one hand and undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies on the other. Learning from the experiences of Iran, Pakistan and South Africa, 14 draft FBDG statements were prepared. In the coming months, the Guidelines will be validated and piloted in several countries in the Region before finalization later in the year.

First consultation meeting on the Prevention and Care of Burns
3-4 April 2007
From 3-4 April, the First Consultation Meeting on the Prevention and Care of Burns was held at WHO headquarters in Geneva. This was a collaborative undertaking of WHO and the International Society for Burn Injuries (ISBI). The meeting was opened by Dr. Catherine Le Galès-Camus, WHO Assistant Director-General. Participants included representatives of the ISBI, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, SafeKids Worldwide, WHO Collaborating Centres, NGOs, multiple national and local institutions, and several WHO departments. Experts from 14 countries attended this meeting. These included burn care specialists, public health practitioners with expertise in burn prevention and surveillance, burn victims, advocates, and government officials. Participants included people who have developed innovative responses in both burn prevention and treatment in their own countries. The major part of the two-day meeting was devoted to the development of "A 5-Year WHO Strategy for Burn Prevention and Care". This strategy will be finalized over the coming weeks and will address ways to lower the huge burden of burns globally. It is planned that this 5-year strategy will augment the activities of many stakeholders worldwide and will catalyze burn prevention and care improvements, especially in low- and middle-income countries.
Read more

GET2020 XI meeting
3-5 April 2007
EMRO hosted the XI Meeting of the WHO Alliance for the Global Elimination of Trachoma by 2020 (GET2020) from 3 to 5 April. Over 90 participants included official Representatives of more than 45 countries and leaders and staff of more than 10 INGOs. RD EMRO opened the meeting with HE MOH Sudan, MWF Egypt, MOH Morocco (delegate), HRH Abdulaziz bin Ahmed bin Ahmad al Saud (delegate). Conclusions and recommendations reinforced the central role and technical leadership of WHO, both HQ/GET2020 secretariat and EMR, as well as the pivotal role of MOH and the private-public partnership created with NGO's and the private sector, in particular PfizerInc. The Alliance proposed Delhi, SEAR Office for the 2008 GET2020 meeting.
Launch of GARD for francophone countries
11 April 2007
On 11 April 2007, during the 2e Congrès Francophone d’Allergologie in Paris, France, the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD) launched GARD Francophone. This new coordination mechanism aims at grouping organizations, institutions and agencies to fight chronic respiratory diseases in France and francophone Africa.

WHO/Global Fund Meeting on including nutrition in the Fund’s Round 7 proposals
17-30 April 2007
WHO participated in the WHO/Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, to ensure that nutritional interventions are included in Round 7 of the Global Fund’s proposals. It presented a "Framework for integrating food and nutrition interventions into HIV policies, programmes and proposals" as a planning guide to countries for inclusion of nutrition in their proposals for Round 7. One of the aims of the meeting was to provide necessary orientation to articulate specific or cross cutting issues such as Nutrition in HIV proposals where appropriate. Participants included country and inter-country teams for HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, nutrition, child and adolescent health, Making Pregnancy Safer and Health Systems from 15 countries: Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

1st International Conference on Prevention and Rehabilitation of Hearing Impairment
26-28 April 2007
Dr Catherine Le Galès-Camus, WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental health, opened the 1st International Conference on Prevention and Rehabilitation of Hearing Impairment in Beijing, China. The conference was co-sponsored by WHO and the China Disabled Persons Federation, through its subsidiary, the China Rehabilitation Research Center for Deaf Children. 700 Chinese and almost 100 international delegates, mainly from developing countries, attended. The conference focused on setting up national prevention programmes, including at primary health care and community level. The participants at the conference adopted the Beijing Declaration, which called upon Governments, organizations and people around the world to do more to realise the goal of "healthy hearing for all". The conference also designated the 3rd of March as International Ear Care Day in an effort to promote global action on prevention and rehabilitation of hearing impairment.

WHO Expert Meeting on Primary Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence
2-3 May 2007
The first ever WHO Expert Meeting on Primary Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence was held at WHO headquarters in Geneva. Experts with experience in primary prevention programmes focusing on individuals, communities or societies participated in the meeting. They provided clear suggestions on content and structure for WHO advocacy and technical guidance documents for the prevention of intimate partner and sexual violence. They also discussed the longer-term objectives of developing a global prevention strategy, including WHO's role within such a strategy. The documents will be developed over the coming months with the aim of increasing demand for and commitment to primary prevention, and of building capacity to implement primary prevention approaches across the lifecourse and at all levels of the ecological model.

The power of partnership in the fight against river blindness
2-4 May 2007

WHO hosted the 37th Meeting of the Mectizan Expert Committee/Albendazole Coordination which marked 20 years of a successful partnership and outstanding achievements for both WHO and the Mectizan Donation Program. The three day meeting was opened by Dr Catherine Le Galès-Camus, WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health. Established 20 years ago, the programme distributes Mectizan to eliminate onchocerciasis as a public health problem, in close partnership he World Bank, NGDOs and the Ministries of Health of the participating countries,. Today, Mectizan mass distribution is taking place in all endemic countries, and more than 530 million treatments have been provided since the inception of the programme.

WHO/UNICEF Africa Regional Meeting on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS
2-4 May 2007

A joint WHO/UNICEF regional consultation was held in Nairobi, Kenya, 2-4 May 2007, to review progress on the implementation of the 2005 Durban consultation on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS. The 2005 Durban consultation was organized in response to the urgent situation in Eastern and Southern Africa in the context of HIV/AIDS and Nutrition. Based on its outcomes, the 59th World Health Assembly requested the Director-General to provide technical assistance for strengthening the nutritional care and support for people infected and affected by HIV. The regional consultation in Nairobi, Kenya was organized to review progress since Durban 2005 and determine best practices, identify lessons learnt and gaps, and the way forward towards scaling-up nutrition interventions in the context of HIV. It was attended by around 100 participants from 11 Eastern and Southern African countries including government representatives from both nutrition and HIV/AIDS, and partners from FAO, UNAIDS, UNHCR, WFP, as well as CDC, Clinton Foundation, European Commission for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), FANTA/AED, USAID and others. All countries reported progress in relation to their situation in 2005. Working groups agreed on specific follow-up activities upon returning to their countries. Updates shared with all participant countries included scientific evidence and new tools. All participants agreed on a follow-up meeting in three years (Durban +5).

Cancer Control in Africa: an interagency forum
10-11 May 2007
Dr Catherine Le Galès-Camus, WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental health, attended the forum on "Cancer Control in Africa" in London on 10-11 May 2007. The conference aimed to raise awareness of the need for cancer control programmes in Africa, identify imperatives of health policy makers and the relative position of cancer in the hierarchy of priority health concerns, and present an economic case for urgent investment in cancer. The forum, co-sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency's Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), the University of Oxford, the International Union Against Cancer (UICC), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR), WHO and other sponsors in the United Kingdom, was attended by more than 20 Ministers of Health from the African region, policy makers, the media, donors and others working in the global health community.

Read more about this meeting

WHO Cancer Technical Briefing
21 May 2007
WHO hosted a technical briefing at the 60th World Health Assembly on the WHO Global Action Plan Against Cancer. The action plan, currently under development, will incorporate the broad spectrum of WHO strategies on cancer risk factors, prevention and control under the theme Prevent, Cure, Care, and Manage for Success. Speakers discussed their roles in the global fight against cancer; reviewed the global burden of cancer and highlighted the numerous cancer control activities currently being undertaken by WHO and other international organizations, national governments, healthcare providers and NGOs. Speakers on the panel and in the audience also discussed many of the challenges and needs still to be addressed by WHO and cancer fighters around the world.
WHO's fight against cancer: strategies that prevent, cure and care. Download the WHO Cancer Brochure and related technical presentation.

World No Tobacco Day
31 May 2007
Leading up to World No Tobacco Day, the first All Russian National Forum on Health took place in Moscow, on 28 May 2007. The WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health will represent WHO at this important event, conducted by the Russian State Duma (Parliament), to advance tobacco control in the Russian Federation. WHO Representatives were involved in the official opening session and contributed in a technical presentation, and the Forum included discussions on the topic of accession to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control by the Russian Federation. While in Moscow, WHO representatives met with key partners involved in the Bloomberg Global Initiative to reduce Tobacco Use. These activities were very complementary to events taking place in St. Petersburg on 31 May to celebrate World No Tobacco Day, during which WHO also launched the new European Report on Tobacco Control. The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2007 was smoke-free environments.
Read more about 2007 WNTD activities

Publications and courses:

Preventing injuries and violence: a guide for ministries of health
Preventing injuries and violence: a guide for ministries of health was released at the 60th World Health Assembly. The document clearly sets out the role of ministries of health in the prevention and management of injuries and violence and the development of effective injury and violence prevention programmes. The document is available in print form in English, and translations are under way in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. Print copies in English will be forwarded to Regional Offices for distribution, and will be sent to all WHO Country Offices, Collaborating Centers, Permanent Missions in Geneva and donors. Translations in the other UN languages have started.

Read the full report

World Youth Assembly for Road Safety
WHO has released a report of the World Youth Assembly for Road Safety. This colorful report reviews the highlights of this unique and historic event. The World Youth Assembly for Road Safety, held in Geneva on 23-24 April, was the key global event marking the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week. Nearly 400 youth delegates from 100 countries participated.

Read the full report | More about the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week

WHO releases results of the multi-country study on alcohol and injury in emergency rooms
WHO has released results of a multi-country study on alcohol and injury in emergency rooms.

Read the results

WHO Cancer Technical Briefing
WHO has launched the 2007 Cancer Brochure.

Read the full brochure

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. It is a tool to explore the views of interested parties on the subject matters.

© World Health Organization, 2007. All rights reserved. The following copyright notice applies: www.who.int/about/copyright