

Jakarta Call for Action on Noncommunicable Diseases

March 2011

We, **the participants** of the Regional Meeting on Health and Development Challenges of Noncommunicable Diseases appreciate the role of WHO in focussing attention on noncommunicable diseases, and ***note with concern that:***

- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are now the leading cause of death in the Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region, accounting for 54 per cent of all deaths.
- Deaths from noncommunicable diseases are projected to increase by 21 per cent over the next ten years.
- In the South-East Asia Region of WHO, the death rates in middle-aged adults are disproportionately higher than in high-income countries.
- Noncommunicable diseases have a substantial economic impact as working-age adults account for a high proportion of the NCD burden. NCDs will reduce the Gross Domestic Product by an estimated 1-5 per cent in low- and middle-income countries.
- The epidemic of noncommunicable diseases exacerbates poverty, is a barrier to societal and economic development, and could reverse hard-won development gains.

We acknowledge that:

- Low-cost and cost-effective interventions for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases at the population and individual level are available.
- Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases will contribute to economic development through cost savings for medical care, improved quality of life and increased productivity.
- To ensure equitable access to comprehensive health care for people at risk of or already suffering from a noncommunicable disease, strengthening of health systems based on primary health care (PHC) is imperative.
- To be effective, programmes for the control of the NCD epidemic require coordinated and collaborative action by all sectors within government, civil society, the private sector and the media.

Department of Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments

We call upon governments and parliaments to:

- Accord a high priority to prevention and control of NCDs in national health policies and programmes and accordingly increase overall budgetary allocations for health and especially budgets for combating NCDs.
- Galvanize a multisectoral response to NCDs through development of integrated national plans of action involving relevant sectors, civil society and communities to control and reverse the rising burden of noncommunicable diseases. This should include the ratification and effective implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and community empowerment and education about diet, physical activity and harmful use of alcohol.
- Scale up a package of proven effective interventions such as health promotion and primary prevention, and also develop and enforce evidence-based legislation, regulations and fiscal measures to reduce consumption of tobacco, alcohol and processed/packaged foods while promoting consumption of healthy foods and physical activity.
- Invest in and strengthen primary health care by introducing a package of preventive, promotive and curative care interventions for NCDs at the primary care level to ensure access to care among the poor and vulnerable.
- Develop sustainable mechanisms including surveillance to monitor and evaluate the impact of interventions in a systematic and ongoing manner.
- Support research for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases.
- Build capacity of the health workforce, including community-based health workers, for prevention and control of NCDs.

We call upon global leaders, donor partners and UN agencies to:

- Include NCD prevention and control in internationally agreed developmental goals, including the MDGs.
- Assist countries in integrating NCD control in their PHC-based health systems strengthening initiatives in a harmonized manner.
- In accordance with national priorities, enhance capacity building, technical and financial support to Member States to supplement national efforts for sustainable NCD prevention and control programmes.
- Support countries in research for control and prevention of noncommunicable diseases.