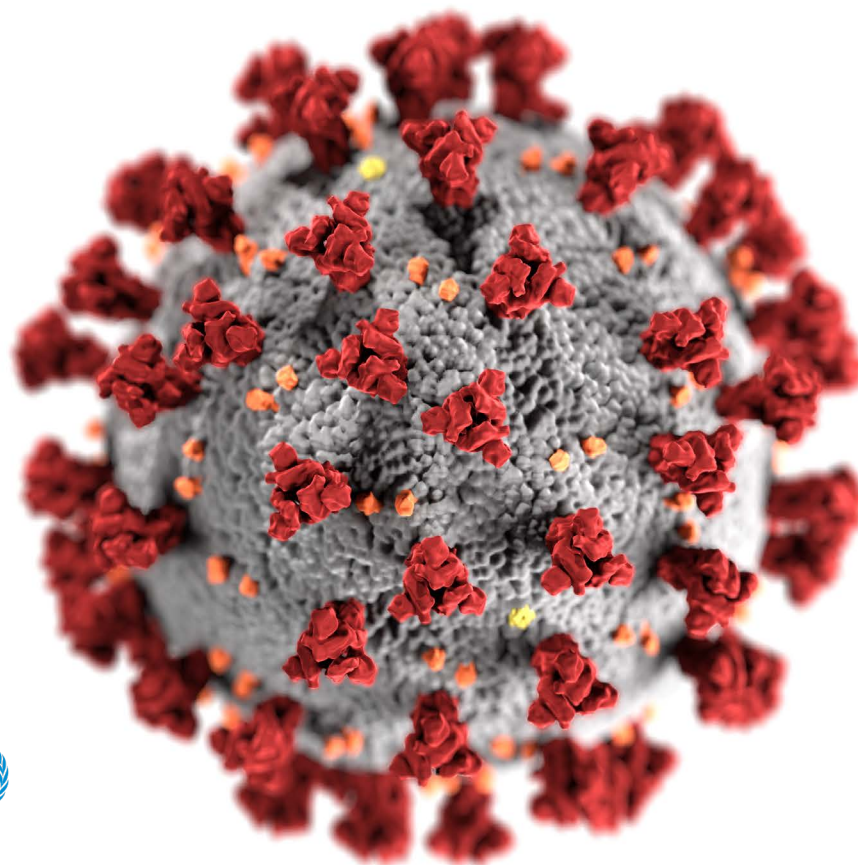
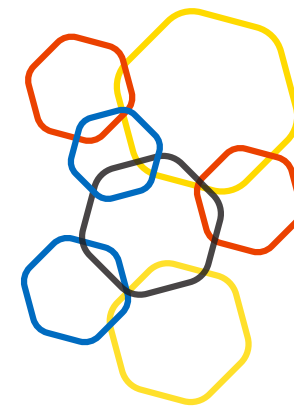


UPDATE 2021

Responding to non-communicable diseases during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

Examples of actions being taken by selected members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases



WHO/2019-nCoV/Non-communicable_diseases/Actions/2021.1

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Front and back cover image: © CDC

This document describes strategic approaches common to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and COVID-19, along with examples of ongoing activities for members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (Task Force). It updates the [2020 publication](#).

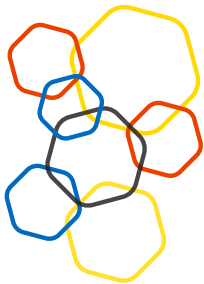
The publication complements the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the Task Force ([E/2021/48/Rev.1](#), 7 May 2021), which outlined some of the ongoing activities of Task Force members to support Member States to respond to NCDs as part of the COVID-19 response and recovery.

In addition, the 2021 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution on the work of the Task Force ([E/2021/L.35](#)):

- *Noted* with great concern the threat to human health caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to spread globally, and recognizing that people living with non-communicable diseases are more susceptible to the risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms and are among the hardest hit by the pandemic;
- *Acknowledged* that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic risks reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals, including target 3.4 on reducing by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases;
- *Stressed* the need for Member States to further strengthen efforts to address non-communicable diseases for achieving universal health coverage, as well as to address mental health in their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and Partners in the SDG 3 Global action plan for healthy lives and well-being for all (4) can ensure that action on NCDs does not slow down during the COVID-19 pandemic and that NCD-related activities are extended as part of building back better.
- *Acknowledged* the role of the Task Force in facilitating its members' efforts to address non-communicable diseases as an integral part of the COVID-19 response and recovery at the global, regional, national and subnational levels and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety.

In addition, the ECOSOC resolution:

- *Commended* the Task Force for its activities aimed at supporting Member States in the achievement of the non-communicable disease-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- *Called upon* the members of the Task Force to continue to work together to identify additional technical resources to enhance their support to Member States in line with the Task Force strategy for 2019–2021, paying particular attention to the needs of Member States during their COVID-19 response and recovery.



Members of the Task Force should continue to identify opportunities to strengthen action at the interface of COVID-19 and NCDs, in line with the United Nations comprehensive response to COVID-19. Addressing NCDs must continue to be an integral part of the COVID-19 response and recovery at global, regional, national and subnational levels and building back better to achieve Agenda 2030. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Agenda and the pledge to leave no one behind must continue to be the overarching approach for integrated action.

World Health Organization

As the United Nations specialized agency for health, WHO leads and coordinates the response of the United Nations system to NCDs. During COVID-19, WHO is supporting countries in strengthening the design and implementation of policies, including for resilient health systems, health services and infrastructure, in treating people living with NCDs and preventing and controlling NCD risk factors, with a focus on people living with and affected by NCDs (who are more susceptible to the risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms and are among the most affected by the pandemic).

ACTIONS	
Understanding	Communication, advocacy, and dissemination
<p>1 Producing and improving understanding of the (i) latest data on the COVID-19 global outbreak and NCDs, situation reports, national pulse surveys on continuity of essential health services, estimates on comorbidity and excess mortality and (ii) the demands from ministries, United Nations organizations and nongovernmental organizations for specific guidance on the prevention, early diagnosis, screening and appropriate treatment of NCDs during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>3 Strengthening communication about the risks of COVID-19 and NCDs, raising the priority of NCDs during the COVID-19 pandemic through better advocacy, managing the infodemic and promoting the dissemination of communication and information products on COVID-19 and NCDs.</p>
Coordination	Technical expertise and guidance
<p>2 Enhancing coordination among other organizations in the United Nations system, civil society, private sector entities, academic institutions and philanthropic foundations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • global understanding of the relations between COVID-19 and NCDs and the technical expertise and guidance required by countries to decrease morbidity and mortality rates among people living with or affected by NCDs; • operational support to countries, as part of the COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan and the global humanitarian response plan, to work towards achieving strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage, as an essential foundation for effective preparedness and response to public health emergencies; • scaling up country readiness and response operations as part of the COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan and the global humanitarian response plan; and • accelerating priority research and innovation on COVID-19 and NCDs as part of broader research and innovation on vulnerable populations, people living with other diseases and on health systems and health promotion. 	<p>4 Providing timely, high-quality technical expertise and guidance to countries and the general public on preventing transmission, testing and treatment options for people living with or affected by NCDs and guidance on the continuity of essential NCD services.</p>
	Governance
	<p>5 Support a Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies to consider the findings and recommendations of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, the IHR Review Committee and the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, taking into account relevant work of WHO, including that stemming from resolution WHA73.1 (2020) and decision EB148(12) (2020), as well as the work of other relevant bodies, organizations, non-State actors and any other relevant information, and to submit a report with proposed actions to the Special Session of the World Health Assembly referred to in decision WHA74(16).</p>
<p>Latest updates: NCDs and COVID-19</p>	

Other agencies, funds and programmes

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Supports COVID-19 responses by procurement of medical supplies, capacity-building and epidemiological surveillance, including NCDs. Supports health system strengthening that will also enable treatment of comorbidities such as NCDs (cardiovascular disease, diabetes, etc.). Contributes to access to food to vulnerable households to improve their nutrition.

Mainstreaming of nutrition in COVID-19 operations. Enhancing nutrition education and promoting healthy diets.

Examples of current/recent activities

The Bank is currently supporting the NCD agenda through the East Africa's Centres of Excellence for Skills and Tertiary Education in Biomedical Sciences (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi) project. This project is notable in its fight against NCDs as it contributes to development of relevant and highly skilled workforce in biomedical sciences as well as securing health infrastructure to support treatment related to NCDs. The project's Phase 1 is supporting creation of a network of Centers of Excellence in biomedical sciences and engineering - Nephrology and Urology in Kenya, Oncology in Uganda, Cardiovascular in Tanzania and Biomedical Engineering and eHealth in Rwanda. In Central African Republic the Bank is supporting Chronic kidney disease treatment through the establishment of an hemodialysis center.

The Bank is currently funding projects in Morocco and Tunisia to support the health insurance schemes that will enable better access to healthcare including NCDs which are a burden in these middle income countries. Through the nutrition agenda, Ethiopia and Burundi are supported to enhance nutrition security against chronic malnutrition, build health infrastructure, train skilled medical professionals, in line with the universal health coverage agenda.

The Bank is also mainstreaming nutrition in different projects (Senegal, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sahel region, etc.) ensuring nutrition diversity to tackle all forms of malnutrition. This is also in line of supporting NCD agenda.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Websites and weblinks

[AfDB : COVID-19](#)

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Integrates health and well-being into investments for new projects, and guidance, in line with the [2019 EBRD Environmental and Social Policy](#).

Ensures that relevant projects include public health and safety for workers (and that NCDs, mental health and well-being are included when appropriate) during project preparation and implementation and in response to COVID-19. Includes development of tools and resources for assessing and managing COVID-19 risks among vulnerable workers with underlying diseases.

Guidance and training on health and well-being during and beyond COVID-19 for private sector partners.

Assesses the impacts of COVID-19 on transport, including on health.

Examples of current/recent activities

Support provided to clients to manage workplace health and safety risks during the pandemic in line with government requirements and WHO guidance. This includes development of a dedicated [COVID-19 workplace checklist](#).

Videos developed to promote health and well-being (e.g. [mental health](#)).

Survey conducted on how EBRD investment projects reflect mental health and use EBRD tools and resources, with new tools being developed in 2021.

Assignment undertaken in the Western Balkans that includes considerations around the increased use of walking and cycling as a result of the pandemic.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Additional websites and weblinks

[Sustainability and coronavirus](#)

Update 2021– Responding to NCDs during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

Examples of actions being taken by selected members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Safeguards livelihoods and food security for the most vulnerable.

Ensures access to safe, diverse, nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets.

Contributes to maintaining healthy school meals during the pandemic and school closures and in the process of reopening of schools and supports the [School Meals Coalition](#), which was established as part of the UN Food Systems Summit.

Examples of current/recent activities

Comprehensive [response and recovery programme](#) launched to assist countries with addressing the immediate effects of the pandemic and laying the groundwork for recovery and building back better.

Leading the [Food Coalition](#), which was proposed by the Government of Italy in 2020. This is a voluntary alliance open to all stakeholders who are interested in supporting global, coordinated action to safeguard food security and nutrition and promote sustainable agri-food systems transformation in the wake of COVID-19.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the challenge of NCDs: The role of the food and agriculture sector](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[FAO : Novel Coronavirus](#)

[Interim guidance note: Mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on food and nutrition of schoolchildren](#)

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Health taxes on harmful products such as tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, sugar-sweetened beverages and fossil fuels raise revenue, improve health and health equity, and avoid health and economic costs, all of which are necessary during and beyond COVID-19.

To drive forward the above, the Global Fund Chairs the SDG-3 Global Action Plan Sustainable Financing for Health accelerator, which includes the interagency working group on pro-health taxes (IAWG) under joint Global Fund/WHO leadership. The IAWG comprises a broad range of partners to support governments to use health taxes to improve health (including prevention and control of NCDs), and to invest in health services, by increasing public revenues during and beyond COVID-19.

Encouraging countries to avail themselves of the [Global Fund policy that enables support to be provided for co-infections and co-morbidities](#).

Examples of current/recent activities

IAWG partners have received funding to develop a new initiative under a World Bank-hosted tax and development trust fund (spanning tax, health and macro fiscal issues), and a new initiative with the [Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research](#) on the political economy of health taxes.

Discussions continue in Pakistan to revitalize their health levy (health taxes dedicated to strengthen health services). Similar discussions underway with other countries in collaboration with other members of the Task Force.

Guidance and support to countries to ensure that Global Fund investments protect primary health care services and community systems during the pandemic.

Advocacy material being developed with other Task Force members in order to raise awareness on the co-infections and co-morbidities policy in Global Fund-supported countries.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Additional websites and weblinks

[The Global Fund: COVID-19](#)

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Ensures continued management of cancer patients. Radiotherapy webinars are available in five United Nations languages, providing guidance on when to treat, techniques to minimize exposure to COVID-19 and practical guidance to support centres in continuing services.

Webinars to support nuclear medicine professionals, a technical publication on “the new normal” in nuclear medicine and guidance published in journals.

Assesses factors that affect the supply of radiopharmaceuticals and provides a technical brief for its member states.

Examples of current/recent activities

Surveys undertaken to assess the [impact of COVID-19 on the provision of nuclear medicine services](#) which have shown that globally, diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine procedures have decreased by 73.3% in June 2020 and 56.9% in October 2020, compared to pre- COVID-19 levels.

Surveys undertaken to evaluate the [impact of COVID-19 on the diagnosis of heart disease](#). These demonstrated a decrease in procedures by nearly two-thirds across the world during the early months of the pandemic, with greatest reduction in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

Series of webinars undertaken for health care providers in nuclear medicine, radiology, and radiation oncology facilities, to enhance standard operating procedures.

COVID-19 Pandemic: [Technical Guidance for Nuclear Medicine Departments](#) published.

Additional publications published in high impact peer review journals on the impact of the pandemic aimed at nuclear medicine, cardiology and radiology communities.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the challenge of NCDs: IAEA](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[IAEA: COVID-19](#)

INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Research on interactions between COVID-19 and cancer, including:

- monitoring the COVID-19 situation and exploring initiatives and collaborations to assess the impact of the disease on cancer and cancer prevention. See examples of recent papers [here](#).
- as part of the [global COVID-19 and Cancer Taskforce](#), coordinates the synthesis and rapid dissemination of data on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer outcomes worldwide.

Examples of current/recent activities

Collaborated with partners to publish a range of scientific publications that assess the impact of the COVID-19 on cancer and cancer prevention. Examples include: [Considerations for diagnostic COVID-19 tests](#); [Healthcare leadership opportunities and challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic](#); [Anti-cancer drugs and COVID-19 therapies](#), as well as others on the [impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the practice of otolaryngology and head and neck surgery](#).

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Additional websites and weblinks

[IARC operations during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[IARC journal articles related to COVID-19](#)

[IARC research at the intersection of cancer and COVID-19](#)

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Examples of actions being taken by selected members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Ensures a response to COVID-19 pandemic based on the rule of law, including:

- strengthening legal and policy frameworks for managing COVID-19 and its aftermath, e.g. public health laws consistent with the International Health Regulations (2005);
- mitigating the impact of the crisis on justice systems and justice seekers, with a focus on the most vulnerable, particularly women and marginalized groups, and on the resilience of the justice sector and delivery of justice for women; and
- advocating for maintenance of the rule of law, strengthening of countries' governance and institutions and supporting and investing in a culture of justice to protect the rights and dignity of people everywhere.

Examples of current/recent activities

Support provided to strengthen legal and policy frameworks to promote healthy diets and increase physical activity for the prevention of NCDs during and beyond COVID-19 through the Global Regulatory & Fiscal Capacity Building Programme - Promoting Healthy Diets and Physical Activity ([Global RECAP](#)).

Support to strengthen legal and policy frameworks to prevent, detect and promptly respond to public health emergencies and other public health risks, including COVID-19 through the [Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project](#).

Support to [strengthen legal environments to enhance food security and nutrition](#) for vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls in response to and recovery from COVID-19.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Additional websites and weblinks

[IDLO: What we do: COVID-19](#)
[A rule of law-based response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
[Policy Brief: Rule of Law and COVID-19](#)
[The Vital role of law in the COVID-19 response](#)
[Roadmap for a Rule of Law-Based Recovery](#)
[Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project](#)

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Protects the health and safety of workers, including from acute risks (COVID-19), NCDs and psychosocial risks (see [Managing work-related psychosocial risks during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)), by strengthening occupational safety and health measures, adapting work arrangements, preventing discrimination and exclusion, providing access to health for all and extending access to paid leave.

Stimulates the economy and employment through fiscal policy and by lending and financial support in specific sectors, including the health sector for NCD care.

Supports enterprises, jobs and incomes by providing various types of relief, implementing employment retention measures and extending NCD care and social support to everyone.

Ensures social dialogue by strengthening the capacity and resilience of employers' and workers' organizations, strengthening the capacity of governments and strengthening collective bargaining and labour relations institutions and processes.

Examples of current/recent activities

Technical support provided for strengthening occupational safety and health systems, ensuring they are prepared to respond to COVID-19 in addition to ongoing health and safety risks, including NCDs, for example [Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises – Invest now in resilient occupational safety and health systems](#).

The ratification and implementation of key occupational safety and health related International Labour Standards has been encouraged, which include provisions relevant for protecting workers from COVID-19 as well as NCDs, for example [ILO Standards and COVID-19](#).

Guidance and resources provided on safe and healthy teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, including mental and physical health, for example [Practical Guide on Teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond](#).

Guidance provided on the risk of COVID-19 across a range of sectors, as well as new risks which have emerged during the pandemic, many affecting the risk of NCDs, for example [Sectoral impact, responses and recommendations](#).

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: ILO](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[COVID-19 and the world of work](#)

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INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Mobilizes athletes and sporting champions and IOC networks to encourage healthy behaviour during and beyond COVID-19, including through [#Strongertogether](#), [#HealthyAtHome](#) and [#beActive](#) campaigns and the [SafeHands](#) challenge.

Supports health promotion through a new memorandum of understanding with WHO that provides a platform for: advocating for physical activity; preventing NCDs and promoting healthier lifestyles; strengthening the health legacy of major sporting events such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games; promoting local and community sports programmes to reach and encourage participation by more girls, older people and people living with a disability; and strengthening collaboration between ministries of sports and health. These activities will help deliver the WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity.

Examples of current/recent activities

The International Olympic Committee continued to mobilise athletes, sporting champions and the Olympic Movement through several campaigns and initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles and public safety measures, such as the global [#StrongerTogether campaign launched on Olympic Day 2021](#). IOC also continued to bring its support to [#HEALTHYTogether](#), a partnership between IOC, the United Nations and WHO.

On World Health Day (7 April 2021), the President of the IOC, Thomas Bach, [reiterated his call](#) for governments to include sport and physical activity in their COVID-19 recovery programmes.

Ahead of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, IOC donated vaccines on top of existing quotas and committed to the WHO's worldwide [Vaccine Equity campaign](#). Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games provided an opportunity to deploy several innovative health initiatives which will have a long-term impact on mass gatherings management and broader health issues (e.g. a comprehensive set of COVID-19 countermeasures, or [new benchmarks in prevention and management of heatstroke to ensure the safety of athletes competing in the heat](#)).

Mentally Fit Helpline offering free and confidential mental health support during the Games and until three months afterwards was put in place to support the athletes' mental health well-being. The Mentally Fit Helpline is the latest in a series of developments led by the IOC Mental Health Working Group, including the [IOC Mental Health in Elite Athletes Toolkit](#), the [Mental Health in Elite Sport Diploma and Certification programmes](#), the [IOC Sport Mental Health Assessment Tool 1 \(SMHAT-1\)](#) and [Sport Mental Health Recognition Tool 1 \(SMHRT-1\)](#).

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Additional websites and weblinks

[IOC Medical COVID-19 Hub](#)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Ensures that migrants, returnees and other forcibly displaced persons are not excluded from COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives. NCDs are an important element.

Advocates for UHC and ensures the continuity of essential health services, including for NCDs, through the provision of life-saving primary health services, procurement of essential medicines and psychosocial support, especially in countries that required humanitarian assistance before COVID-19.

Many migration health assessment centres remain operational to provide essential health services to migrants and refugees, including for NCDs.

Examples of current/recent activities

Risk communication and community engagement activities have been scaled up as part of the COVID-19 response, with messages that include prevention and control of NCDs, with a reach of 37 million persons and 38,000 community health workers and social mobilizers in 2020.

Adaptation of programming to support migrants with NCDs and mental health conditions during the pandemic.

Guidance developed includes [guidance and toolkit in three languages on MHPSS in the COVID-19 response](#) as well as [internal guidelines on remote MHPSS working modalities](#).

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: IOM](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[IOM: COVID-19 response](#)

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Preparing knowledge tools with the European mHealth Knowledge and Innovation Hub in response to NCDs and COVID-19, including: assessment frameworks in mHealth and assisting countries in creating, adopting and/or improving assessment frameworks for mHealth apps; guidance for national and regional implementation of specific mHealth interventions (e.g. mDiabetes); and guidance for integration of mHealth into national and regional health systems.

Developing policy frameworks and guidance to support innovations in digital health (e.g. health emergencies, data-sharing).

Examples of current/recent activities

Assistance to countries has been provided to establish public-private collaborative frameworks (e.g. between Ministries of Health and national telecommunication companies) to support implementation of preventive mHealth interventions to address COVID-19, NCDs, mental health and their interlinkages.

The role of digital technology has been investigated to support countries improve their health system preparedness to respond to the pandemic and maintain health service continuity. This includes NCDs.

The feasibility of telemedicine solutions to improve accessibility of NCD services has been developed as part of the pandemic response.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Websites and weblinks

[ITU: COVID-19](#)

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Investigates the impact of the pandemic on health systems and policy responses.

Considers how best to advance work on the impact of COVID-19 on NCDs, in line with recent work on COVID-19 and mental health.

Examples of current/recent activities

Publications and guidance have been issued, on for example [the effect of COVID-19 on alcohol consumption, and policy responses to prevent harmful alcohol consumption](#) and [Tackling the mental health impact of the COVID-19 crisis: An integrated, whole-of-society response](#).

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: OECD](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[OECD: Tackling coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Contributing to a global effort](#)

[OECD: Health](#)

[Key policy responses from the OECD](#)

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Examples of actions being taken by selected members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Ensures that COVID-19 response and recovery (including the response to NCDs) are grounded in human rights principles, including through the United Nations framework for the immediate socio-economic response.

Advocates for universal health coverage and strengthening of health systems for the realization of the right to health.

Addresses the socio-economic factors that prevent people from enjoying the right to health, with attention to vulnerable and marginalized populations, and addressing the social, legal and other determinants of health.

Examples of current/recent activities

Reports issued on the impact of COVID-19 on the right to health and other human rights ([A/HRC/46/19](#), [A/HRC/46/43](#), [A/HRC/47/23](#) and [E/2020/63](#)). These specifically draw attention to the impact of the pandemic on NCDs, the grave repercussions for the future health of millions of people, and highlight action to respond to these issues.

Supported UN country teams in integrating the right to health and other human rights in UN socio-economic response plans, Common Country Analysis and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Additional websites and weblinks

[OHCHR: COVID-19 and its human rights dimensions](#)

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS*

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Ensures human rights-focused, people-centred, community-led, community-based delivery of health and support services.

Promotes socially inclusive policies and practices and differentiated approaches, including for adults and children living with HIV and marginalized populations, such as multi-month prescriptions and dispensation of medicines for HIV, NCDs and tuberculosis.

Advocates for and supports policies and practices for addressing comorbid conditions and co-infections, such as HIV–NCDs, HIV–mental health and HIV–HPV and cervical cancer. Has included sections on HIV and COVID-19, HIV and NCDs, HIV and mental health and HIV and cervical cancer.

Advocates and supports countries by mobilizing additional funding from the Global Fund and other donors for the response to COVID-19, to mitigate disruption and for further scaling up of services for HIV and comorbid conditions and co-infections.

** The Joint Programme comprises the Cosponsors and UNAIDS Secretariat*

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: UNAIDS](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[UNAIDS: COVID-19 and HIV](#)
[UNAIDS 2020 Global AIDS Update report](#)

Update 2021– Responding to NCDs during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Strengthens crisis management and response and addresses critical social, economic and environmental impacts. As the technical lead for the socio-economic response, supports United Nations country teams in assessing the social, environmental and economic impacts of COVID-19 and in advancing urgent recovery measures to minimize long-term impacts, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups. NCDs are considered in this work.

Integrates COVID-19 into WHO- and UNDP-led national NCD investment cases where appropriate.

Scales integrated solutions in governance, social protection, the green economy and digital disruption, which are critical for addressing the social, economic, commercial and environmental determinants of NCDs in line with [Beyond recovery: towards 2030](#).

Supports advancement of health taxes to protect populations from NCDs, strengthen pandemic resilience and raise government revenue.

As the UN's lead development agency, UNDP is working with government, UN, civil society and private sector partners to support national deployment and vaccination plans under the leadership of WHO and UNICEF. [UNDP's support to vaccine equity](#) is focused on three areas: (1) digital solutions for vaccine delivery and systems strengthening; (2) data for vaccine equity; and (3) greening COVID-19 vaccination.

Supporting countries on sustainable procurement of health products under WHO leadership.

Effective and inclusive governance for health through the [COVID-19 law lab](#), a joint project with UNAIDS, WHO, IDLO, the IPU and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

Examples of current/recent activities

As a part of its COVID-19 response, and as the technical lead of the UN's socio-economic response to the COVID-19 crisis, UNDP is assisting 144 countries in responding to the crisis. Analysis of COVID-19 response and recovery plans reveals attention to and opportunities for increased action on NCDs and their risk factors.

[Terms of Reference](#) were agreed for a new NCD and Mental Health Multi-Partner Catalytic Trust Fund, with an [MoU](#) agreed between UNDP, WHO and UNICEF.

Joint work between WHO and UNDP in three African countries and the Pacific has been initiated to provide support to countries in addressing NCDs and mental health during and beyond the pandemic.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CONTINUED)

Examples of current/recent activities

UNDP has continued to support the [SAFER](#) (harmful use of alcohol) initiative during the pandemic, including developing the methodology for alcohol investment cases and preparing SAFER joint programming missions.

UNDP has continued to support broader investment case work on NCDs, including leading on investment cases in 6 Gulf Health countries, driving forward tobacco investment cases under the [FCTC 2030 project](#) with the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC, and advancing investment cases on air pollution in several countries. These workstreams draw attention to the linkages between NCDs, their risk factors and COVID-19.

UNDP has been working with Task Force Secretariat to develop advocacy material for countries to use the [Global Fund co-infections and co-morbidities](#) policy to support action on NCDs and their risk factors in line with the [2021 Task Force report to ECOSOC](#).

Support has been provided for a set of WHO-led products around health taxes to provide guidance during the pandemic and as part of building forward better.

UNDP provides policy and legal capacity building support to member states and partners on strategies to increase access to medicines and other health technologies, including in the use of competition law and policy to increase access to NCD and COVID-19 health technologies.

UNDP has continued analysis of NCD-related laws, policies and fiscal measures implemented in response to COVID-19. UNDP also considers NCDs in its work on the human rights aspects of legal responses to infectious disease outbreaks including COVID-19.

UNDP, WHO and Oxford University launched the [Global Dashboard for Vaccine Equity](#), which combines the latest data on the global roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines with the most recent socio-economic information to illustrate why accelerating vaccine equity is not only critical to saving lives but also to driving a faster and fairer recovery from the pandemic with benefits for all. The Dashboard is anchored in the SDG 3 Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All.

UNDP, WHO, and Oxford University are advancing hyperlocal COVID-19 vaccine analytics to support countries to design and roll out effective, equitable strategies for vaccine distribution.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: UNDP](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[UNDP: COVID-19 pandemic](#)

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

UNEP links recovery work with transition to clean energy and progress towards sustainable consumption and production. It addresses the environmental determinants of NCDs, such as air pollution, chemicals and other environmental factors linked with the three planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

As part of its “Working with the Environment to Protect People” publication UNEP is active in four [strategic responses to COVID-19](#): (i) the medical and humanitarian emergency phase; (ii) a transformational change for nature and people; (iii) investing to build back better; and (iv) modernizing global environmental governance.

Under block (i) UNEP works with partners on managing adverse impacts of the pandemic (e.g. hazardous waste), with a focus on disseminating knowledge and providing technical support. Under strategic response (ii) UNEP focuses on promoting a healthy planet which is critical to our ability to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent future zoonotic diseases. Under strategic response (iii) UNEP focuses on greening the recovery efforts which can increase resilience to future crises by ensuring a healthy environment that backs healthy people.

Examples of current/recent activities

Building on its COVID-19 response, UNEP developed factsheets highlighting linkages between the environment and COVID-19 and to suggest solutions, and a number of factsheets linking COVID-19 to waste management and other related pollution issues including one on air quality.

UNEP organized a series of webinars entitled: “Rapid Support on [COVID-19 Related Waste Management](#): Technical Assistance Training Series”.

UNEP will start a new medium-term strategy in 2022 addressing the three planetary crises: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution in a coherent and effective manner. COVID-19 responses related to waste management will be considered under chemicals and pollution priority pillar.

UNEP in partnership with others is carrying out an assessment of “Mental Health and Nature: A cost benefit analysis on cost of action vs cost of inaction”. UNEP has recently developed a global [Air Quality Actions Report](#), launched on 7 September 2021 on the occasion of the second celebration of the [International Day of Clean Air](#) for blue skies.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Additional websites and weblinks

[COVID-19 updates from the United Nations Environment Programme](#)
[Working With the Environment to Protect People - UNEP's COVID-19 Response](#)
[Beat Pollution campaign](#)
[Air pollution](#)

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Ensure the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services, including protection of the health workforce.
Addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices.
Ensuring the supply of contraceptives and reproductive health commodities.
Risk communication and community engagement with a special focus on engaging young people in the response.
Strengthening remote mental health and psychosocial support capacity.

Examples of current/recent activities

UNFPA provided normative guidance through 35 technical briefs to steer staff and partners in continuing to provide programmes and services during the COVID-19 pandemic through adapted protocols and alternative programme-delivery methodologies.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, UNFPA has been part of the collective efforts on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and, together with UNICEF, is leading a sub-working group on young people and RCCE.

UNFPA launched the [COVID-19 Population Vulnerability Dashboard](#) interactive tool to provide United Nations agencies, governments and policymakers, public health and front-line workers, and the general public with access to data on populations vulnerable to COVID-19.

UNFPA developed COVID-risk models that allow countries to consider the trade-offs associated with the halting of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services and the corresponding COVID-19-transmission risk. These models introduced alternative measures to reduce COVID-19 risk while delivering services and providing service coverage.

UNFPA identified and responded to the increased demand for mental health and psychosocial support services: support related to gender-based violence as well as to the specific, emergent needs of young people and older persons brought on by isolation. UNFPA leveraged partnerships with youth networks, religious and traditional leaders, and women's rights and women-led organizations to support risk communication, community engagement in primary prevention and stigma reduction.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[UNFPA: Responding to the Challenge of NCDs](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[UNFPA: COVID-19 pandemic](#)
[UNFPA's response to COVID-19](#)

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UN HABITAT

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Supports governments in strengthening their COVID-19 response and recovery in urban settings (particularly informal and vulnerable ones) in 64 countries to increase protection against COVID-19 and the impact of the pandemic. The work includes NCDs and their determinants. Activities include technical guidance, support for data collection and analysis and projects to increase access to basic services.

Undertakes applied research on the relations between COVID-19 and housing, infrastructure and basic services, including health and NCDs.

Examples of current/recent activities

A [COVID-19 Policy and Programme Framework](#) has been developed that provides guidance for global, regional and country-level action, including NCDs.

[The publication, Cities and Pandemics: Towards a more just, green and healthy future](#) describes how cities can reduce the impact of future pandemics and become more prosperous, fair and environmentally friendly.

A [COVID-19 tracking platform](#) has been developed, which collects data on the preparedness and response of cities and urban areas, and has a new daily trending feature identifying COVID-19 cases globally and city-based hotspots. Work is underway to assess the NCD risk factors in COVID-19 affected populations.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Under preparation

Additional websites and weblinks

[COVID-19 campaign: take action for cities](#)
[Urban areas and COVID-19 Key facts and data](#)

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UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Risk communication and community engagement with refugees, and hosts communities on COVID-19.

Ensures continued access of refugees to health care, including for NCDs, in the context of COVID-19. Provides remote consultation services and prescription refills to avoid unnecessary attendance at health facilities. Uses the community health work force to follow up stable patients and to monitor and provide medication.

Procures NCD medicines for refugees and neighbouring host communities to ensure continuity of care.

Ensures mental health and psychosocial support for refugees and surrounding host communities.

Examples of current/recent activities

Efforts have been made to advocate for inclusion of refugees, especially those with NCDs, into national COVID-19 vaccination roll outs. To date, while refugees are being included in the majority of countries vaccine roll outs, progress in most refugee hosting countries remains hampered by limited vaccine availability.

Capacity has been built across UNHCR and a number of development partners through online courses and webinars to improve care for those with NCDs during the pandemic.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: UNHCR](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[UNHCR: Coronavirus outbreak](#)

[UNHCR - Public Health during COVID-19](#)

[UNHCR - Supporting the continuity of health and nutrition services in refugee settings during COVID-19](#)

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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Support for governments' response strategies, procurement of supplies, including for pneumonia, with 22,000 oxygen concentrators plus accessories and consumables were shipped to over 90 countries since April 2020. UNICEF is expanding its portfolio to procure additional oxygen equipment including PSA plants and a range of services to support governments in scaling sustainable oxygen systems with impact beyond the COVID response.

Mass media campaigns with messages on healthy behaviour, psychosocial support and prevention of exposure to risk factors, targeting young people and caregivers. See for example: [Community-based health care, including outreach and campaigns, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Promotes breastfeeding.

Collaborates with WHO, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Agency for Development Coordination, Global NCD Alliance, UNIATF and UNDP on a series of opinion pieces and virtual sessions to advocate for NCDs in the COVID-19 context.

Eli Lilly – UNICEF partnership on HSS for NCDs.

Works with Novo Nordisk on logistics for time-limited donation of insulin during COVID-19.

Developed a children's book, [My Hero is You](#), with WHO and the Inter-agency Standing Committee to help them understand the current pandemic and to provide psychosocial support. Also producing a mental health and psychosocial support product for adolescents and young people.

Examples of current/recent activities

In 2021, [Terms of Reference](#) were agreed for a new NCD and Mental Health Multi-Partner Catalytic Trust Fund, with an [MoU](#) agreed between WHO, UNDP and UNICEF. The Fund will also support countries address NCDs and mental health conditions as part of their COVID-19 response and recovery.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: UNICEF](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[UNICEF: Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) information centre](#)

[Guidance for safe and health journeys to school during the Covid-19 pandemic and Beyond – UNICEF](#)

[The role of community health workers in COVID-19 vaccination implementation support guide](#)

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Supports governments in the treatment, care and rehabilitation of people with drug use disorders in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Promotes the right to health, UHC and healthy environments.

Developing rapid assessment tools for countries to evaluate the impact of the pandemic on essential health and other services in the context of people trafficking.

Examples of current/recent activities

Ongoing contribution to the WHO-UNICEF led [Helping Adolescent Thrive](#) initiative to promote and prevent mental health in adolescents, an area of growing importance during and post COVID-19.

The [Stop Overdose Safely \(SOS\)](#) project between UNODC and WHO has demonstrated the feasibility of take-home naloxone schemes and training people likely to witness an overdose during and beyond COVID-19. Over the last 8 months, more than 14,000 people were trained on overdose recognition and many lives have been saved.

Expansion of the [Listen First](#) initiative during the pandemic to provide support for the prevention of drug use in children and youth, their families and their communities. This includes a set of videos developed in 2020 called The Science of Care to support families struggling with challenges and stress during the global pandemic, focusing on issues such as the science of physical activity.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Additional websites and weblinks

[UNODC COVID-19 policy documents](#)

[Stop Overdose Safely](#)

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Develops and implements comprehensive response plans that include NCDs, comprising coordination, planning, monitoring, travel arrangements, rules, surveillance, case management and referral, service delivery, instructions for use of personal protective equipment, infection prevention and control, communication and community involvement.

Procures medicines for NCDs and other conditions during the pandemic.

Develops and implements standard operating procedures for NCD service delivery during the pandemic, including delivery of medicines to patients, and improving quality of care.

Ensures that people with NCDs, for example those with diabetes and hypertension are provided with quality care as part of improving family health.

Examples of current/recent activities

In close coordination with hosting authorities NCD patients have been prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination. There has been training of staff and venues have been made available for vaccination.

An existing e-health system has been enhanced to help monitor management and outcomes of care during the pandemic, including NCDs and mental health and psychosocial support.

Social media (including open access sessions) have been used to support those with NCDs during the pandemic, including clarifying issues around COVID-19 vaccination.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Websites and weblinks

[COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for UNRWA](#)
[UNRWA's health programme 2021](#)

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UN NUTRITION

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

The UN Nutrition multi-year strategy is under development to underpin objectives and actions across the four Core Functions as defined in the [Terms of Reference](#) dated February 2020 (1. Aligned advocacy and policy coherence for nutrition; 2. Identify and coordinate strategic issues around nutrition; 3. Emerging issues, knowledge-management and innovation; 4. Translate global level guidance into country-level actions, guidelines and impact). NCDs and COVID-19 will be included as appropriate.

Contribute to the Year of Action for nutrition through active engagement in the UN Food Systems Summit (July and September 2021), the Nutrition for Growth Summit (December 2021), the UN Decade of Action for Nutrition (2016–2025) and the uptake of the Committee on World Food Security ‘Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition’ and speaking with one voice for nutrition. The impact of COVID-19 on food environments, on all forms of malnutrition and food security will be highlighted.

Enhance support to UN Nutrition at country level including through commitment to its Network role in the SUN Movement as the SUN strategy 3.0 is rolled out; enhancing support to countries that have not signed up to SUN; mainstreaming REACH into the work of UN Nutrition. Support regarding NCDs and COVID-19 will be on a context-specific basis.

Examples of current/recent activities

Supporting ongoing research and advocacy on the impact of COVID-19 on nutrition as part of the [Standing Together for Nutrition consortium](#).

Revising and updating existing UNDAF guidance to support UN country teams to embed a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) in countries contending with undernutrition as well as overweight and obesity. Support inclusion of double duty actions including [projects that have emergency and development components, particularly important within the context of COVID-19 recovery and NCDs](#).

Aligning messaging on the impact of COVID-19 on nutrition (in all its forms) and relation with NCDs, across the groups that UN Nutrition convenes (e.g. IATF Nutrition and NCDs, School Nutrition CoP, UN Nutrition Food Systems Summit WG, Nutrition for Growth Outreach group, UN Network for SUN movement) for advocacy and knowledge at global and country levels. The COVID-19 pandemic brought to the fore the fragility of food systems and their ability to meet the food and nutrition needs of all people.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Additional websites and weblinks

[UNSCN: The COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting people’s food environments: a resource list on Food Systems and Nutrition responses](#)
[About UN Nutrition](#)

UN WOMEN

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Supports gender analysis, data disaggregation by gender and sex, gender-responsive approaches and impact on women’s empowerment for health during and beyond the pandemic.

Advocates and acts to reduce gender inequalities and strengthen responses to social determinants of health, critical issues for mounting an effective response to NCDs.

Examples of current/recent activities

UN Women are working with partners to enhance access to cervical cancer screening and treatment for rural women living with HIV. For example, in Tanzania, community volunteers are increasing awareness of cervical cancer screening.

A [Rapid gender assessment survey dash board](#) has been developed to provide harmonized, pooled estimates from the results of 45 rapid gender assessments (RGAs) on the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, including those around access to health services.

The report, [Unlocking the lockdowns: the gendered effects of COVID-19 on achieving the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific](#) included an analysis of sex disaggregated data for physical and mental health.

The report, [From insights to action: gender equality in the wake of COVID-19](#) also describes the pandemic’s impact on women and girls, including the effects on health and the strain on health systems, as well as widening inequalities in determinants of health. Disease-related health vulnerabilities faced by women from poor, marginalized and excluded communities are also highlighted.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

Not yet available

Additional websites and weblinks

[COVID-19 and gender data hub](#)

[Ending violence against women COVID-19](#)

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Addresses diet-related risk factors (undernutrition, overweight and obesity) to reduce the prevalence of diet-related NCDs and vulnerability to COVID-19 by working with governments to: (i) strengthen and expand social protection programmes to address poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition; (ii) sustain food production, trade, distribution and consumption; (iii) support national health systems by improving supply chains, data collection and targeted nutrition services for the most vulnerable to prevent undernutrition in women and children; iv) support nutrition and healthy diet outcomes in schools including alternatives when educational activities are suspended because of the pandemic; and v) support demand for healthy diets in all contexts. Extends logistics and supply chain capacity and expertise to provide services where there is no commercial capacity; ensures that critical health and humanitarian cargo and personnel are moved to where they are most needed, including movement of personal protective equipment.

Provides guidance, including on: (i) safe re-opening of schools and nutrition guidance for schools; (ii) adaptation of nutrition and food support during the pandemic; (iii) adaptation of WFP HIV operations during the pandemic; and (iv) logistics and supply chains during the pandemic.

Examples of current/recent activities

Comprehensive COVID-19 response ([WFP COVID 19 Response](#)) to counter the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and assist countries with addressing the immediate effects of the pandemic and laying the groundwork for recovery and building back better including data and analytics, programme and policy advice, and operational support. Organizational strategy and support to 34 countries on social protection to strengthen and expand social protection programmes to address poverty, mitigate shocks and reduce all forms of malnutrition among vulnerable households.

With FAO, UNICEF and WHO, WFP launched the 'Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020: Maternal and Child Diets at the Heart of Improving Nutrition' which highlighted the impact of COVID 19. SBC campaign in Colombia to strengthen the school meals as an opportunity to prevent discrimination while promoting healthy diets to prevent double burden.

Logistics support for COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Africa and broader logistic support providing the platform to transport much-needed medical and humanitarian supplies, experts and vaccines, including the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service. Leadership and engagement to promote healthy diets as a key outcome of sustainable food systems as part of the Food Systems Summit, including the school feeding coalition.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the challenge of NCDs: WFP](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[WFP: COVID-19 pandemic](#)
[Overweight and Obesity - in the context of COVID-19 | World Food Programme \(wfp.org\)](#)
[WFP and COVID-19](#)

SECRETARIAT OF THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Reminds Parties of the importance of sustaining the gains in tobacco control during the pandemic to ensure healthier environments and prevent NCDs, as both tobacco use and NCDs worsen the outcomes of COVID-19.

Emphasizes to Parties the importance of providing support for tobacco cessation, taking advantage of raised awareness in the population about health and about the harms of tobacco use.

Reminds Parties of the importance of using fiscal policies for tobacco products, as raising tobacco taxes decreases consumption and at the same time increases revenues, which can be used during recovery to build back better.

Monitors implementation of SDG target 3.a.

Supports Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and promotes ratification of the Protocol, which has 63 Parties to date.

Protects public health from interference by the tobacco industry; monitors the corporate social responsibility activities of the tobacco industry during the pandemic, as at times of increased need in countries, the tobacco industry may try to improve its damaged public image; and promotes implementation of the model policy to prevent tobacco industry interference in United Nations agencies.

Examples of current/recent activities

A high-level side event during the ECOSOC 2021 High Level Political Forum was held on [Target 3.A of the SDG on the WHO FCTC: key to recovery from COVID-19 and building back better](#).

A guide on how to include [SDG Target 3.a in Parties' Voluntary National Reviews](#) has been developed which includes action during and beyond COVID-19.

The [FCTC 2030](#) project has continued during the pandemic in collaboration with WHO and UNDP to provide development assistance for the implementation of the WHO FCTC. The FCTC Secretariat continues to alert Parties and members of the Task Force on events that they are involved in and being sponsored by tobacco industry, in order to encourage withdrawal of high-profile key speakers and to end such sponsorship.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: Secretariat of the WHO FCTC](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[Tobacco control during the COVID-19 pandemic: how we can help](#)

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19
Provides trade-related information regarding COVID-19.
Examples of current/recent activities
A number of joint statements, calls for action, reports, and capacity building activities have been developed. Examples include how WTO can contribute to COVID-19 and vaccine equity (including for those with NCDs), challenges to vaccine supply chain and regulatory transparency , and how to expand vaccine manufacture to promote equitable access .
Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief
Not yet available
Additional websites and weblinks
COVID-19 and world trade

WORLD BANK GROUP

Strategic approaches common to NCDs and COVID-19

Immediate response: supporting countries in their immediate response (health systems, procurement of medicines and medical supplies, ensuring food security) to COVID-19 and sustainable recovery.

Maintaining support to countries to pursue universal health coverage, critical for addressing NCDs and for an effective COVID-19 response.

Project investment in health systems and health services: the World Bank continues to work with countries to ensure that loans and projects include NCDs and broader health system strengthening. Projects include: (i) strengthening early detection and screening for NCDs; (ii) promoting NCD risk reduction; and (iii) revamping health systems and facilitating transformational reforms to shift attention from costly secondary care to primary health care. Digital solutions play a very important role.

Analytical work: studies, for example on comorbidities, have helped to identify that people living with NCDs are among the vulnerable groups and need to be prioritized for COVID-19 testing and vaccination.

Examples of current/recent activities

Most new projects under preparation include a component on pandemic prevention and preparedness. Countries are also demonstrating increasing interest to step up action on the prevention and control of NCDs.

Examples of country and regional action:

- Colombia. Study on NCD comorbidities has been useful to plan the country COVID-19 response.
- Ghana. New project under preparation that will support PHC for NCD management and has an additional component for pandemic preparedness and response.
- East Asia Pacific region. Strengthened support for sugar-sweetened beverages taxation, reducing salt consumption, and encouraging trans-fat elimination.

Addressing risk factors that adversely impact both NCDs and COVID-19, e.g.: (i) promoting environmental health; (ii) enhancing awareness and knowledge; and (iii) promoting fiscal and regulatory reforms.

Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

[Responding to the Challenge of NCDs: The World Bank](#)

Additional websites and weblinks

[World Bank Group and COVID-19 \(coronavirus\)](#)

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