

## **WHF Statement on Agenda Item 15: Regional Framework for Integrating Essential Non-Communicable Disease Services in Primary Health Care**

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

The World Heart Federation welcomes the Committee's Report, and its bold targets and practical recommendations to integrate NCD services into primary health care.

We commend in particular its recommendation to implement interventions in the WHO PEN Package, and further draw Member States' attention to the WHO Global HEARTS initiative,<sup>1</sup> a technical package for the management of cardiovascular disease (or CVD) in primary health care, currently being piloted in 8 countries.

As the report outlines, NCDs represent an increasing proportion of deaths in the region. This is especially true of CVD, with the prevalence of adult hypertension the highest in the world at 30%. Furthermore, NCDs such as rheumatic heart disease – or RHD – disproportionately affect vulnerable populations living in conditions of poverty and overcrowding.

These chronic conditions place a huge burden on health systems: the 2011 PURE Study showed that nearly 70% of CVD patients in LMICs do not receive medicines to manage their chronic conditions, a figure rising to over 80% for patients in low-income countries.<sup>2</sup>

We acknowledge the report's assertion that advocacy for the prioritization of NCDs has been insufficient, and as civil society representatives we pledge to do more to demonstrate the urgent need to tackle NCDs in order to achieve Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Integrating NCDs into robust primary health care systems remains a huge challenge due to limited resources and competing priorities. Nevertheless, practical and affordable interventions are available, with many opportunities for integration across primary health care to address all chronic conditions, including HIV/AIDS.

To support Member States' implementation of the Regional Framework, we suggest the following actions:

1. **Establish and sustain pooled procurement mechanisms for essential NCD medicines.** This approach has proved effective in securing affordable and high-quality NCD medicines both within the region<sup>3</sup> and in other WHO regions.<sup>4</sup>
2. **Continue to support the training of a wide range of health care professionals** to diagnose and treat NCDs.
3. **And finally, we urge Member States to attend the WHO Global Conference on NCDs hosted by the President of Uruguay in October.** This meeting represents a unique opportunity to strengthen policy coherence on NCDs between ministries ahead of the UN High-level Meeting next year.

Thank you for your attention.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/252661/1/9789241511377-eng.pdf?ua=1>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21872920>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.acame.net/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=12163%3Aapaho-strategic-fund&catid=8775%3Aabout&Itemid=42005&lang=en](http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12163%3Aapaho-strategic-fund&catid=8775%3Aabout&Itemid=42005&lang=en)