

WHO gets new advice on curbing NCDs

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The Report was launched on 10 December in Muscat, Oman at the WHO Global Meeting to Accelerate Progress on NCDs and Mental Health

World leaders and health experts, have handed 8 recommendations to WHO's Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, that could save millions of lives and promote mental health. The WHO Independent High-level Commission on noncommunicable diseases was convened by Dr Tedros in October 2017 to identify innovative ways to curb the world's leading causes of death: cardiovascular disease, cancers, diabetes, respiratory diseases and mental health conditions.

The report laid out a set of 8 recommendations for WHO:

- Encourage Heads of State and Government to fulfil their commitment to provide strategic leadership by involving all relevant government departments, businesses, civil society groups as well as health professionals and people at risk from or suffering from NCDs and mental health conditions.
- Support countries in efforts to empower individuals to make healthy choices, including by ensuring that the environment is conducive to living a healthy life, and that people receive the information they need to make healthy choices.
- Encourage countries to invest in the prevention and control of NCDs and mental health conditions as a key opportunity to enhance human capital and accelerate economic growth.
- Advise countries to include services to prevent and treat NCDs and mental health as essential components of Universal Health Coverage.
- Ensure that no one falls into poverty because they have to pay for health care out of their own pockets through the provision of adequate social protection for everyone.
- Increase engagement with businesses and provide technical support to Member States so they can mount effective national responses to NCDs and mental health conditions.
- Encourage governments to promote meaningful engagement with civil society.
- Advocate for the establishment of a multi-donor trust fund to support countries in activities to reduce NCDs and promote mental health.

The Report was launched on 10 December in Muscat, Oman at the WHO Global Meeting to Accelerate Progress on NCDs and Mental Health in front of more than 600 people coming from governments, UN agencies, civil society, private sector, philanthropies, and academia.