

February 2015



## **News update from the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs and the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs**

The WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (WHO GCM/NCD) Secretariat is pleased to share the first edition of the "WHO Newsletter Briefing on Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs and the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs", an e-update for participants of the GCM, the Task Force and international partners. From February 2015, this communication will be issued on a regular basis, providing updates on products, events and activities in our areas of work. Its purpose is to keep partners and other interested parties updated on what we are doing to support global efforts to prevent and control NCDs. We hope you find the newsletter interesting and informative. Please feed any comments back to [gcmncd@who.int](mailto:gcmncd@who.int) and/or [unncdtaskforce@who.int](mailto:unncdtaskforce@who.int).

### **Why were the WHO GCM/NCD and the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs established?**

In early January 2015, Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General at WHO, launched the second [WHO Global Status Report on NCDs 2014](#) noting that "the global community has the chance to change the course of the NCD epidemic". [Her speech](#) reminded us that "The most successful [NCD] interventions engage actors outside the health sector and are endorsed and supported at the highest level of government".

The UNIATF and WHO GCM/NCD were established to facilitate and coordinate aspects of the global effort needed to address the NCD challenge. The United Nations Secretary-General established the [United Nations Interagency Task Force on NCDs](#) in June 2013 in response to high demand from developing countries for technical assistance on NCD prevention and control. Placed under the leadership of WHO, the Task Force is coordinating the activities of UN organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to support the realization of the roadmap of commitments made by Heads of State and Government in the 2011 Political Declaration on NCDs.

In September 2014, WHO established the [WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs](#) to facilitate and enhance coordination of activities, multi-stakeholder engagement and action across sectors to contribute to the implementation of the [WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020](#). Guided by its 2014-2015 work plan, the GCM plans to hold dialogues, webinars and establish working groups to set out options for strengthening and facilitating multisectoral action for the prevention and control of NCDs through effective informal collaborative arrangements.

### **Who are the participants of the WHO GCM/NCD and the UN Task Force?**

The WHO GCM/NCD is led by Member States and will involve a range of other non-State actors. The Secretariat initiated an open-ended call for interest for participation of non-State actors in the work of the WHO GCM/NCD in September 2014.

Eligible non-State actors include:

- United Nations funds, programmes and organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations
- The following non-State actors:
  - Relevant NGOs in official relations with WHO
  - Selected Private sector entities and international business associations
  - Relevant WHO Collaborating Centres and academic institutions
  - Selected Philanthropic foundations

An expression of interest to participate in the work of the WHO GCM/NCD includes the completion of a pre-registration form in the WHO GCM/NCD website <http://who.int/nmh/registration-form>.

To date, the Secretariat of the WHO GCM/NCD has received over 100 applications, which are currently being appraised. The names of all approved participants of the WHO GCM/NCD will be published on the WHO web site.

Participants will be sent regular newsletters and will be invited to participate in dialogues, webinars and other activities. The Participants will meet face-to-face in 2017 at a general meeting of the WHO NCD/GCM, in order to facilitate and enhance coordination of activities, multistakeholder engagement and action across sectors at all levels, and to assess progress made so far by the WHO GCM/NCD.

Fifty-seven UN and international organisations are potential members of the UN Task Force on NCDs. Current members are listed [here](#).

## Recent events

### **The Launch of the second WHO Global Status Report on NCDs**

WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan [launched](#) the second WHO Global Status Report on Noncommunicable Diseases 2014 on 19 January 2015. Nearly five years into the global effort to reduce premature deaths from NCD by 25% by 2025, the report provides a fresh perspective on key lessons learned. The report demonstrates how premature NCD deaths can be significantly reduced through government policies that reduce tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity, and delivering universal health care.

However, the report also called for more action to be taken to curb the NCD epidemic, particularly in developing countries where deaths due to NCDs are overtaking those from infectious diseases. The report identifies “best buy” or cost-effective, high-impact interventions recommended by WHO; many countries have already had success in implementing these interventions. The report is available [here](#).

### **The 136th session of the WHO Executive Board**

The proposed work plan for the WHO GCM/NCD covering the period 2016-2017 was discussed during the recent 136<sup>th</sup> Executive Board. Member States were positive and encouraging about the current and future work of the WHO NCD/GCM. The proposed work plan is accessible [here](#).

## **United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force completes three country visits**

During 2014, three joint programming missions of the UN Task Force took place:

- Belarus, 14 to 18 July 2014
- Kenya, 29 September to 3 October 2014
- India, 8 to 12 December 2014

Details including video footage and press releases are on the [UN Task Force website](#) under 'joint programming missions'.

## **Upcoming meetings and events**

- 11-13 February 2015, Rome – Fourth meeting of the [UN Task Force](#) to be hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- 18-19 February 2015, Geneva – First meeting of the WHO GCM/NCD [Working Group](#) on how to realize governments' commitments to engage with the private sector for the prevention and control of NCDs
- 23-24 February 2015, Geneva – First meeting of the WHO GCM/NCD [Working Group](#) on how to realize governments' commitment to provide financing for NCDs
- 20-21 April 2015 - [Dialogue](#) on how to encourage the continued inclusion of NCDs in development cooperation agendas
- November 2015 - [Dialogue](#) on how to strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on NCDs

## **Working Groups of the WHO GCM/NCD to meet this month**

The first two WHO GCM/NCD Working Groups are tasked with providing recommendations to the WHO Director-General on making further progress on:

- Commitments of world leaders to call on the private sector to strengthen its contribution to the prevention and control of NCDs
- Commitments of world leaders to explore the provision of financial resources for NCD prevention and control.

On each of their topics, the Working Groups will assess the current situation, consider the challenges to greater progress, and recommend ways and means of encouraging Member States and non-State actors to realize this commitment. The 12 members of each Working Group were drawn from a roster of experts nominated by the Member States. As part of the process, discussion papers and accompanying policy briefs for the Working Groups were published for comments on the WHO GCM/NCD website, with a great response. All feedback received will be published on the website and will inform the initial meetings of the two Working Groups. Information on the Working Groups and access to the discussion papers and policy briefs are [here](#).

## **First dialogue of the WHO GCM/NCD scheduled for 20-21 April 2015**

World leaders noted with grave concern in 2011 that NCDs constitute one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century, undermine social and economic development

throughout the world, threaten the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and may lead to increasing inequalities within and between countries and populations.

The WHO GCM/NCD will facilitate a dialogue on how to encourage the continued inclusion of NCDs in development cooperation agendas and initiatives, internationally agreed development goals, economic development policies, sustainable development frameworks and poverty reduction strategies. Parts of the dialogue will be streamed via webex. Currently there is an open [call for discussion papers](#) to inform the preparation for and content of the dialogue; all contributions welcome.

### **Future missions of UNIATF**

Missions in the first quarter of 2015 include Barbados and Tonga, the latter in collaboration with the UN Pacific Interagency Task Force on NCDs.

## **Publications and Resources**

[Working Group papers](#) for the WHO GCM/NCD Working Group on how to realize governments' commitments to engage with the private sector for the prevention and control of NCDs.

[Working Group papers](#) for the Working Group on how to realize governments' commitment to provide financing for NCDs.

## **Important Links**

- WHO GCM/NCD <http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-coordination-mechanism/>
- NCD Homepage: <http://www.who.int/nmh/>
- NCD Tools: <http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-tools/>
- UNIATF: <http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-task-force/>

The WHO GCM/NCD can be contacted at [gcmncd@who.int](mailto:gcmncd@who.int)  
The UNIATF can be contacted at [unncdtaskforce@who.int](mailto:unncdtaskforce@who.int)

## **Vacancies**

1. [HQ/15/NMH/TA11](#) (closes 11 Feb 2015) Technical Officer (Advocacy, Knowledge Management), P.4 Temporary appointment
2. [HQ/15/NMA/TA19](#) (closes 21 Feb 2015) Adviser, P.5 Temporary appointment