

## World Health Assembly 2021

### **On Agenda Point #13.2: Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases**

The Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 recognised rehabilitation as a key health strategy to address NCD risk factors, as well as loss of function due to NCDs.

Rehabilitation comprises interventions needed when a person experiences limitations in everyday physical, mental, and social functioning. Rehabilitation can decrease the effects and consequences of NCDs, reduce hospital length of stay, slow or stop deterioration in health, improve life participation and reduce burden of disease.

Globally, 2.4 billion people have conditions that require rehabilitation. The prevalence of NCDs greatly contributes to this figure: in 2010, 50% of the disability-adjusted life years were attributable to NCDs, in low and middle income countries.

However, rehabilitation is not prioritized, is under-resourced, remains unaffordable and inaccessible for many people. The NCD monitoring framework focuses on mortality and morbidity, while neglecting functioning, which is essential to participation, quality of life, and reduced burden on health systems and formal and informal care networks.

Handicap International Federation, International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, World Federation of Occupational Therapists and World Physiotherapy supported by the Global Rehabilitation Alliance, call on States to:

- Re-orient health decision-making to focus not only on mortality and morbidity, but also on functioning and quality of life. For this purpose, collect data on functional limitations and life consequences among people living with NCDs.
- Integrate rehabilitation at all levels of health systems, from primary health care, to hospitals and specialized care, across the continuum of NCD care. Ensure timely availability of rehabilitation, home/community-based services, locally-owned and skilled approaches, and provision of assistive devices.
- Champion or support a WHA Resolution on Rehabilitation in 2022, which would provide the political framework for stronger commitments and wider coverage, mobilise resources, and enhance the WHO's Rehabilitation 2030 initiative.