

The NCD Alliance

Putting non-communicable diseases
on the global agenda

NCD Alliance Advocacy Pack – NCDs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Introduction

The NCD Alliance united to put non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on the global agenda. Since its inception in 2009, one of our main objectives has been the inclusion of NCDs in the successors to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2000 when world leaders signed the Millennium Declaration and committed to achieving a set of eight internationally agreed development goals – the MDGs – NCDs were not included in this ambitious global compact. **With only three years left until the expiry date of the current MDGs, we have a unique opportunity to put this right and ensure that NCD prevention and control and health more broadly are central to the future development agenda.**

Whilst we have always given our full support to the MDGs, the absence of NCDs has been a major barrier in generating political priority, resources, and accountability for NCDs in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Many LMICs lack the national capacity to respond to the epidemic, which is crippling national economies, overwhelming ill-equipped health systems, and pitching poor households and vulnerable populations into vicious cycles of poverty. Bilateral and multilateral technical assistance and resources for NCDs in LMICs has been deeply inadequate to date, due in part to aid policies focusing solely on the health priorities in the MDGs and enduring misperceptions that NCDs are diseases of affluence or old age.

As the end date of the MDGs draws nearer, it is clear there is “unfinished business” within existing health goals. Maternal and child health and infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria) undoubtedly remain significant development challenges for LMICs, and in order to sustain gains and protect investment, these priorities should not be lost in the new development agenda. But it is also clear that the health and development context in LMICs has changed in the past two decades, most markedly by the surging NCD epidemic. **The next global development framework must therefore accommodate for both “unfinished business” in health and the new challenges, including NCDs.**

We have a clear political mandate for the inclusion of NCDs in the post-2015 development framework. The UN MDG Review in 2010, the UN Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs adopted at the UN High-Level Meeting in 2011, and the *Future We Want* Outcomes Document from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012 all recognise NCDs as one of the greatest challenges to development in the 21st century. The NCD community must now take strong actions to ensure this political recognition is carried forward and these past commitments translate into the meaningful inclusion of NCDs in the post-2015 development agenda.

The United Nations (UN) has launched a process to inform the priorities and format of the post-2015 development framework. Calling it a “global conversation,” this process will review the current MDGs – including what worked and did not work – and consider the design, scope and priorities of the post-2015 development framework. Arguably unlike the MDGs, the process this time round is inclusive and participatory, with multiple opportunities for civil society to engage and influence the process.

This NCD Alliance Advocacy Pack aims to support NCD advocates get involved in the post-2015 development process to ensure strong NCD voices are heard at all levels. The pack provides NCD advocates with:

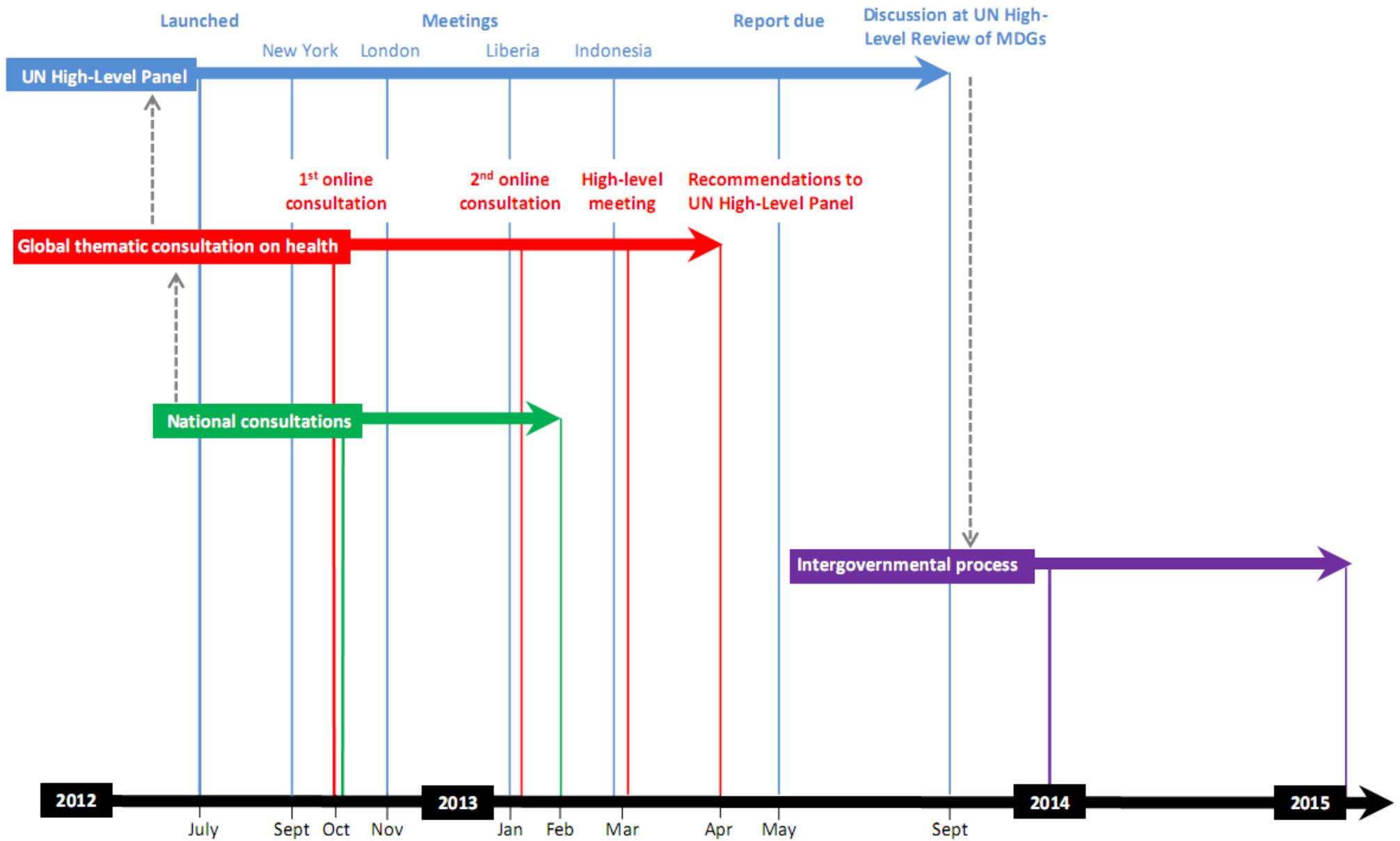
- **An introduction into the post-2015 process;**
- **A timeline of key milestones on the road to 2015;**
- **Advice on how NCD advocates can get involved;**
- **Key messages to use or tailor in your advocacy efforts;**
- **Additional resources for post-2015.**

1. About the Post-2015 Development Process

Here is an overview of the different processes involved:

- **UN Task Team:** A United Nations Task Team (UNTT) was set up in January 2012 to coordinate the UN system's initial thinking on the post-2015 development framework and produce a report to inform the consultations going forward. The Report, ['Realising the Future We Want for All'](#), and a series of thematic briefs were published in July 2012. This report is a broad overview of current and future development priorities, including the recognition that NCDs are one of the foremost global health challenges today, were neglected in the current MDGs, and should be a focus in the post-2015 agenda. The report proposes a post-2015 development framework built around three core principles (human rights, equality, and sustainability) and four core dimensions (inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, environmental sustainability, and peace and security).
- **UN High-Level Panel:** In July 2012, the UN Secretary-General appointed a UN High-Level Panel (HLP) to advise on the post-2015 development agenda. The HLP consists of 26 members representing governments, the UN, the private sector, academia, and civil society. It is co-chaired by UK Prime Minister David Cameron, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia. The HLP has met twice already, and will meet twice more prior to submitting a report with their recommendations on the post-2015 framework to the UN Secretary-General around May 2013. This report will be informed by the global and national consultations described below.
- **UN Global Thematic Consultations:** There are eleven [global thematic consultations](#), covering a range of development issues. Although many of the thematic consultations are important for the NCD community, our foremost priority is the global thematic consultation on health, co-led by WHO and UNICEF and co-organised by the governments of Sweden and Botswana. Key actors in this consultation include Anders Nordstrom, Ambassador for Global Health in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Joy Phumaphi, former Minister of Health in Botswana. The different elements of the consultation are:
 - **WHO/UNICEF Consultation:** WHO has issued a [call for papers](#) on health in the post-2015 framework. The consultation is open to NGOs and the private sector, and the deadline is 15 December. WHO has published a [discussion paper](#) to inform this consultation, and request that papers review the lessons learned from the MDGs and consider health priorities and goals for post-2015. Based on these contributions, the first draft of the health position will then be posted by WHO in January 2013 and will be open for comments.
 - **Civil Society Consultation:** Beyond 2015, a civil society coalition, is providing a platform for civil society to contribute to the thematic consultations. For health, this includes developing a coordinated [civil society position paper](#) by 15 December 2012. The NGO Medicus Mundi International Network (MMI) is coordinating this on behalf of Beyond 2015, and the NCD Alliance is part of the drafting team. A number of civil society consultation meetings are also expected to be held between November 2012 and March 2013. Details of these are yet to be confirmed.
 - **High-Level Meeting:** A High-Level Meeting will be held in Botswana from the 5-6 March 2013, involving all sectors - UN agencies, governments, NGOs and the private sector. Approximately 40 experts will attend.
 - **Recommendations to the UN-High Level Panel:** Based on input gathered from all of the above processes, recommendations on health in post-2015 will then be submitted to the High-Level Panel in March 2013 to inform their report due around May.
- **National Consultations:** The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) is supporting a series of at least [56 national consultations](#) across the different regions. These national consultations will be open to civil society and are an opportunity to influence the health priorities for post-2015 at a national level.
- **UN Online Platform:** To support the global and national consultations, the UN has launched an online platform – the [World We Want 2015](#). It is designed to be an open and inclusive consultation space for all sectors to discuss post-2015, and has a specific platform for [health](#).

2. Timeline of key milestones on the road to 2015



3. How NCD advocates can get involved

The NCD Alliance is coordinating advocacy at the global level to ensure NCDs remain visible and central in the post-2015 development dialogue. **Our success at the global level is dependent on our national-level advocates engaging in national and regional level consultations, influencing government positions, and sharing intelligence with us at the global level.** It is critical we have strong NCD voices heard at all levels on the road to 2015.

Of the processes outlined in section 1, the NCD Alliance strongly urges advocates to keep track of the global processes and where possible, input into them to ensure a wide range of NCD voices are heard. The NCD Alliance will be producing template response which can be replicated and tailored by national advocates. But where the NCD Alliance would value your engagement the most is in the national and regional consultations on post-2015.

The NCD Alliance recommends a four step approach to influencing the post-2015 development agenda at the national or regional level, relevant for advocates in both donor countries and recipient countries of aid:

- **Scope:** Find out what the official UN, government, and civil society consultation process is in your country for post-2015, and determine who the key actors are (UN agencies, bilateral development agencies, government representatives, civil society organisations).
- **Convene and strategise:** Convene like-minded NGOs, including through local NCD Alliances, to discuss your shared agenda and opportunities for joint advocacy efforts. Establish NCD “key asks” for national and regional level advocacy for post-2015.
- **Act:** Work together to press the case for NCDs in national development policies and frameworks and the post-2015 development agenda. Engage in national consultations, organise meetings with leading UN agencies and government representatives, and with other members of civil society and the private sector, where appropriate.
- **Share:** Share updates and intelligence with the NCD Alliance, so we can continue to coordinate at the global level.

4. Key messages on NCDs, development and the post-2015 agenda

The current Millennium Development Goals – lessons learnt from a health and NCD perspective

- While the MDGs succeeded in recognizing **the centrality of health to human development**, with three of the eight goals directly related to improving health outcomes, **they failed to include NCDs.**
- **The omission of NCDs as a threat to global health, well-being, and development is a critical gap in the MDG framework.** NCDs are linked to and affected by all aspects of human development, including poverty, gender equity, and other health issues such as infectious diseases and maternal health.
- The literal interpretation by donors of the current MDGs has led to a **heavily skewed allocation of official development assistance.** While NCDs account for 60% of the global burden of disease, they have received just 3% of the \$22 billion Official Development Assistance (ODA) spent on health.
- The requests of low- and middle-income countries (LMCs) for technical assistance for NCDs have largely been ignored by donors. **This is a violation of the principles of recipient country ownership and alignment within the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness,** to which all bilateral aid agencies and donor countries are signatory to.
- While the MDGs have driven progress in health in LMCs, the absence of NCDs in the MDG framework, and the narrow interpretation of the MDGs by donors and countries, **have resulted in a disease-specific, vertical, and siloed approach to health which should be avoided at all costs in the post-2015 development framework.**

The post-2015 development framework – rationale for including NCDs

- **NCDs affect all areas of human and economic development** and are threatening progress towards the existing development goals.
- **NCDs are now the leading cause of death in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)**, representing 29 million of the 36 million NCD deaths every year. In absolute terms, deaths from NCDs in LMICs are projected to rise by over 50% by 2030, with the largest increase in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- **NCDs impede upon economic growth and cause household poverty.** These diseases cause a cumulative economic loss of nearly \$500 billion per year, or a total of \$30 trillion by 2030, and trap poor households in cycles of catastrophic expenditure due to of pocket payments for NCD treatment and care.
- **NCDs are linked to and affected by all aspects of human development**, including poverty, gender equity, and other health issues such as infectious diseases and maternal health. Because of the cross-cutting, multi-sectoral nature of NCDs, investing in NCD prevention and control is proven to deliver significant and measurable benefits for a number of human development indicators.
- **There is a clear political mandate for the inclusion of NCDs in the post-2015 development framework.** The UN MDG Review in 2010, the UN Political Declaration on NCD Prevention and Control in 2011, and Future We Want Outcomes Document from Rio+20 in 2012 all recognise NCDs as one of the greatest challenges to development in the 21st century.

Post-2015 development framework - positioning health and NCDs

- To safeguard progress made on the MDGs and drive sustainable and equitable development, **health must remain at the heart of the post-2015 framework.** But the priorities and definition of health in post-2015 needs to shift to reflect current and emerging disease burden – including NCDs.
- The UN Task Team Report recommends **four dimensions for post-2015:** economic development, environmental sustainability, social development, and peace and security. While health intersects with all four key dimensions of development, **the rightful place for health and NCDs in the post-2015 framework is within the inclusive social development dimension.**
- The UN Task Team recommends an **overarching health goal framed to reinforce health as a global concern for all countries.** The overarching **focus of the health goal should be on preventable morbidity and mortality** but be underpinned by targets that would drive progress on priority health issues - including NCDs. It is essential there is a standalone target on NCDs in the post-2015 development framework.
- As well as a stand-alone target on NCDs, we must ensure **health and NCDs are integrated across all dimensions.** NCDs are a multisectoral issue, therefore an understanding of how improvements in NCD prevention and control impact upon poverty reduction and economic development, social development, and environmental sustainability needs to be evident in the post-2015 development framework. **This will require NCDs and health considered in the formulation of all goals, and the incorporation of health sensitive indicators across the dimensions.**
- **Approaches and enablers that will drive progress in health and NCDs** include universal health coverage (UHC); access to medicines, health system strengthening and social protection mechanisms; social determinants of health; multi-sectoral action; rights-based approach; and gender.
- **Important to integrate global targets and indicators from the global NCD monitoring framework into the post-2015 development framework.** Member States have recently adopted an overarching target to reduce preventable mortality from NCDs by 25% by the year 2025 in a landmark decision taken at the World Health Assembly in May 2012. The integration of NCDs in the post-2015 agenda will be crucial in achieving the overarching target.

5. Additional Resources:

- **NCD Alliance Background Briefing:** [Dialogue on the Global Development Agenda](#)
- **NCD Alliance Think Piece:** [NCDs - Central to the Post-2015 Development Framework](#)
- **NCD Alliance Think Piece V2:** [Shaping how NCDs fit in the Post-2015 Development Framework](#)
- **NCD Alliance Policy Brief:** [Tackling Non-communicable Diseases to Enhance Sustainable Development](#)
- **NCD Alliance Summary of the UN Task Team Report:** [‘Realizing the Future We Want’](#)
- **UN Task Team Report:** [‘Realizing the Future We want’](#)
- **UN Task Team Health Thematic Brief:** [Health in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda](#)
- **WHO Discussion Paper:** [Positioning Health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)
- **Rio+20 Outcomes Document:** [The Future We Want](#)