PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Introduction to NCD
Epidemiology

Created: 2013
Introduction to NCD Epidemiology. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2013.
## Table of Contents

NCD PREVENTION AND CONTROL ......................................................... 3

- **Learning Objectives** ........................................................................................................ 3
- **Estimated Completion Time** .............................................................................................. 3
- **Prerequisites** ..................................................................................................................... 3
- **References and Resources** ............................................................................................... 3
- **Module Content** .................................................................................................................. 4
- **Skill Assessment** ................................................................................................................ 14
Learning Objectives:

At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Describe action items for accomplishing at least three of the WHO objectives from the 2008-2013 Global Strategy Action Plan in your own country.
- Describe potential barriers to implementing the recommendations and how to overcome them.

Estimated Completion Time:

- 120 minutes (90 minutes interactive presentation; 30 minutes Skill Assessment)

Prerequisites:

- Introduction to NCD Epidemiology, NCD Surveillance in Public Health

References and Resources:

Learning Objective
At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Describe action items for accomplishing at least three of the WHO objectives from the 2008-2013 Global Strategy Action Plan in your own country.
- Describe potential barriers to implementing the recommendations and how to overcome them.

Lesson Overview
- Global and national goals of NCD prevention and control
- NCD prevention and control strategies
- Integration of chronic disease prevention programs
- Current challenges in chronic disease control

Definition of Prevention
Prevention: Activities to stop people from getting diseases or to stop a disease from getting worse.
For example,
- Health promotion activities encourage healthy living and delay onset of disease.
- Early detection programs (e.g., screening populations at risk for certain diseases).
- Strategies to manage diseases and related complications so that their progress is slowed or stopped.
**Key Point:** Programs must be implemented with the knowledge that persistence and long-term commitment are vital.
Why Focus on Four Main NCDs?

% of total NCD deaths under age 70, by cause of death, 2008

- Cancer
- Cardiovascular disease
- Chronic respiratory disease
- Diabetes
- Infectious disease
- Other communicable diseases


Six WHO Objectives

1. Priority: Raise priority and integrate prevention and control into policies
2. Leadership: Establish and strengthen national policies and plans
3. Interventions: Focus on shared modifiable risk factors
4. Research: Promote research for NCD prevention and control
5. Partnerships: Promote partnerships for NCD prevention and control
6. Monitor and Evaluate: Monitor NCDs, and determinants and evaluate progress

Action Items: WHO Objective #1

1. Priority: Raise priority and integrate prevention and control into policies
   - Assess and monitor burden of NCDs and their determinants.
   - Incorporate NCD prevention and control into relevant social and economic policies.
   - Implement programs that focus on social determinants of NCDs.
Example of Implementing Objective #1 - Priority

- WHO endorsed the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health at the 57th World Health Assembly.
- Goal is “to improve public health through healthy eating and physical activity”.
- Reflects international recognition of the worldwide changes in physical activity levels as a consequence of countries’ demographic and socioeconomic development, and globalization.

Action Items: WHO Objective #2

2. Leadership: Establish and strengthen national policies and plans

Establish a high-quality surveillance and monitoring system to provide population-based mortality statistics and standardized data on:
- NCDs
- Key risk factors
- Behavioral patterns

Example of Implementing Objective #2 - Leadership

Thailand – Adopted national policies declaring exercise for health as priority action area (National Health Development Plan, 2002-2006)
- Working in collaboration with WHO, International Health Regulations (IHR), and Bureau of Epidemiology to rapidly identify, assess and lessen public health threats and emergencies
- High priority focus on disease surveillance, laboratory capacity and point of entry
Action Items: WHO Objective #3

3. Interventions: Focus on shared modifiable risk factors
   - Implement strategies for reducing risk factors for NCDs that aim at providing and encouraging healthy choices.
   - Consider strategies that involve public and private sectors in multiple areas (agriculture, finance, urban planning, education, sports).
   - Consider different settings for action; for example, schools, workplaces, local communities.

Example of Implementing Objective #3 - Interventions

- China – “Healthy Exercise For All” campaign (2008)
- Major promotional events with seasonal themes for the general public (e.g., Water Sport Carnival)
- Fitness programs targeting children, senior citizens, disabled people
- Stair climbing scheme promoting daily physical activity through stair use
- “Dance for Health” programs in districts (e.g., social and aerobic dance classes)
- Active Living Charter targeting people in workplaces and schools; participants get a brochure on how to organize activities in their settings
- Rope-skipping activities (e.g., Rope Skipping Promotion Day)

Action Items: WHO Objective #4

4. Research: Promote research for NCD prevention and control
   - Research is done at a high level within the Ministry of Health.
   - MOH researchers and administrators are likely to work with researchers and administrators at other national and international health agencies, academic institutions and private institutions.
**Action Items: WHO Objective #5**

5. **Partnerships:** Promote partnerships for NCD prevention and control
   - Participate actively in regional and sub regional networks for NCD prevention and control.
   - Establish effective partnerships for NCD prevention and control.
   - Develop collaborative networks involving key stakeholders.

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**Example of Implementing Objective #5 - Partnerships**

**Brazil** – “Agita São Paulo” grassroots campaign started to encourage people to exercise 30 minutes a day. Success at local levels grew to national and international levels, in part because of increased partnerships and key stakeholder participation:

- Centre for Laboratory Studies on Physical Activity of São Caetano do Sul (CELAFIC)
- State Department of Health
- Scientific Committee (Physicians, Physical Education Teachers, Social Workers)
- Intersectoral Executive Committee (>300 governmental organizations, NGO’s, and private health, education and sports industries)

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**Action Items: WHO Objective #6**

6. **Monitor and Evaluate:** Monitor NCDs and determinants and evaluate progress
   - Strengthen (or establish) surveillance systems and standardized data collection on risk factors, disease incidence and mortality by cause.
   - Contribute, on a routine basis, data and information on trends in NCDs and risk factors.
Example of Implementing Objective 
#6 - Monitor and Evaluate

Colombia – "Muévete Bogotá" exercise campaign: targeted companies and neighborhood groups to encourage physical activity in the workplace and community.

Process and outcome evaluations conducted by an evaluation committee.

Standardized data collection from:
- Databases of physical activity participants maintained by each partner company;
- Physical Activity Questionnaire baseline results;
- Multiple surveys conducted with partner companies annually.

Types of NCD Prevention and Control Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevention Strategy</th>
<th>Health Promotion</th>
<th>Primary Prevention</th>
<th>Secondary Prevention</th>
<th>Tertiary Prevention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Entire Population</td>
<td>People with one or more risk factors</td>
<td>People at early stage of disease</td>
<td>People with symptomatic or advanced disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects</td>
<td>Prevent risk factors; lower population risk</td>
<td>Prevent development of disease at early age</td>
<td>Prevent disease progression or recurrence</td>
<td>Reduce complications or disability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Point:** When you identify strategies, they should be proven intervention strategies that have an evidence base and are appropriate for the targeted population.
Key Point: The implications of the enormous challenge of NCD prevention and control AND the overlap among the populations affected suggest the need for a more integrated approach to public health practice.

**Integrated Approach**

- Integrates primary, secondary, tertiary prevention, health promotion, and related programs across sectors and different disciplines.
- Responds to the need of intervention on major common risk factors with the aim of reducing premature mortality and morbidity of chronic non-communicable diseases.

**How Can You Improve Program Integration?**

Determine which populations are at greatest risk.

Focus on social determinants of health and major risk factors: tobacco use, alcohol use, physical inactivity, and unhealthy diets:

- Social economic status, income level, education level
- Food security, housing security, job security

Coordinate interventions within key settings.
CURRENT CHALLENGES IN NCD PREVENTION & CONTROL

Activity: Challenges to NCD Prevention and Control
1. As a group, discuss recent challenges you have had in preventing and controlling NCDs
2. Discuss how you overcame each challenge
3. Choose one person's challenge and how it was solved and present to the rest of the class

Challenges to NCD Prevention and Control
- Lack of information about chronic diseases
- Lack of communication about health risks
- Workforce and training problems
- People's resistance to changing long-held habits
- Complexity of interventions to prevent or control NCDs
- Long time lag between implementation of interventions and measurable health outcomes
- Complex interaction among determinants
Half-Truths and Misunderstandings

- Reality: Inexpensive and cost-effective interventions

Skill Assessment

1. You will work *individually* to complete the assessment.
2. Select a *minimum of three* WHO objectives from the 2008-2013 Global Strategy.
3. Describe a minimum of one action item you would recommend your country implements to accomplish each objective selected.
4. Describe potential barriers to implementing the recommendations and how you would overcome them.
5. Be prepared to share your responses with the class.
**Instructions:** Select a minimum of three of the WHO objectives from the 2008-2013 Global Strategy Action Plan listed on the side panel and complete the following:

1. Describe a minimum of one action item you would recommend your country implements to accomplish each objective selected.

2. Describe potential barriers to implementing the recommendations and how you would overcome them.

**WHO 2008-2013 Global Strategy Action Plan Objectives**

1. **Priority:** raise priority and integrate prevention and control into policies
2. **Leadership:** establish and strengthen national policies and plans
3. **Interventions:** focus on shared modifiable risk factors
4. **Research:** promote research for NCD prevention and control
5. **Partnerships:** promote partnerships for NCD prevention and control
6. **Monitor and Evaluate:** monitor NCDs and determinants and evaluate progress