

## TOBACCO AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Tobacco control is essential to reducing non-communicable diseases and achieving global development goals.

**Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading killer globally and are increasing around the world**

- In 2008, almost two-thirds of all deaths, or 36 million, were caused by NCDs; nearly 80% of these deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>1</sup>
- The global burden of NCDs, including cancer and cardiovascular disease, is growing. By 2020, NCDs are projected to increase to 44 million per year.<sup>1</sup>

**NCDs are a burden on the global economy.**

NCDs reduce productivity, contribute to poverty, burden health systems, and impede overall development.

- 25% of NCD-related deaths occur before the age of 60, significantly reducing workforce productivity.<sup>1</sup>
- Over the next 20 years, NCDs will cost more than US\$30 trillion, representing 48% of global GDP in 2010, and pushing millions of people below the poverty line.<sup>2</sup>

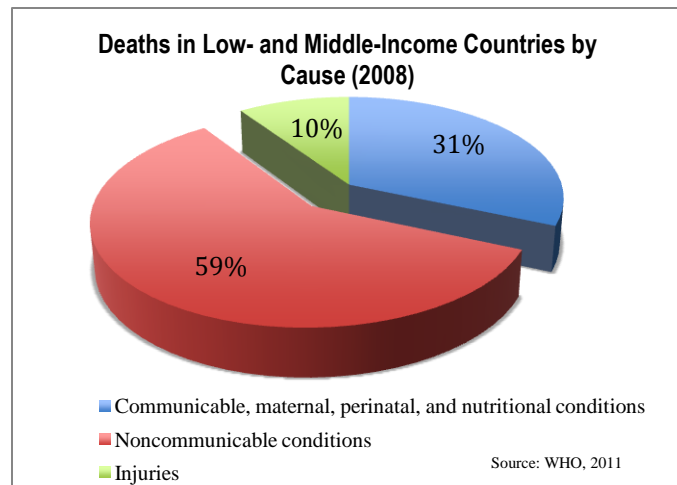
**Tobacco use is the leading preventable risk factor for NCDs.**

The major risk factors that cause NCDs include tobacco use, poor diet, physical inactivity, and harmful use of alcohol. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death.

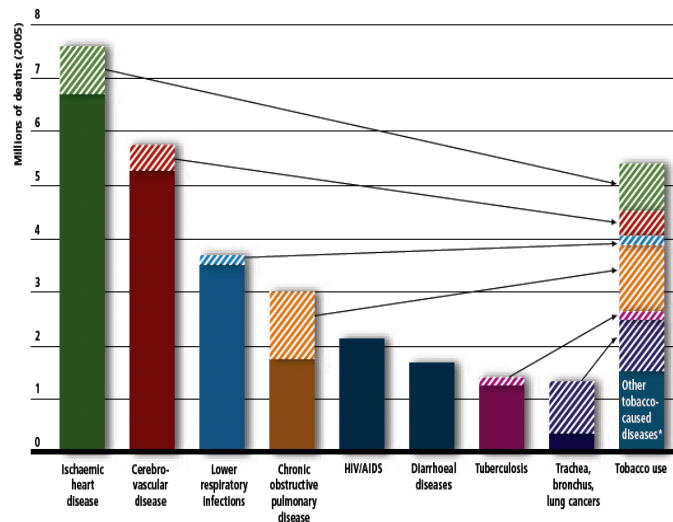
- Globally, more than 1 billion people smoke.<sup>3</sup>
- Tobacco use causes 1 in 6 NCDs.<sup>4</sup> It is a risk factor for 6 out of the world's 8 leading causes of death<sup>3</sup> and causes nearly 6 million deaths per year.<sup>5</sup>
  - Smoking is estimated to cause about 71% of all lung cancer deaths, 42% of chronic respiratory disease and nearly 10% of cardiovascular disease.<sup>1</sup>
- Tobacco use is projected to kill 1 billion people in the 21st century.<sup>5</sup>

**The global burden of tobacco is a development issue and must be addressed as a part of the global development agenda.**

Tobacco use hinders development and worsens poverty, yet tobacco use is increasing in many low- and middle-income countries.



### TOBACCO USE IS A RISK FACTOR FOR SIX OF THE EIGHT LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE WORLD



- By 2030, tobacco will kill more than 8 million people worldwide each year, with 80% of these premature deaths among people living in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>5</sup>
- Tobacco use costs the world hundreds of billions of dollars each year. Tobacco-related diseases result in high health care costs, which are borne by individuals, families and the government. Smoking kills up to half of all lifetime users, most in their most productive years (30-69), reducing national productivity.<sup>6</sup>
- Addiction to tobacco causes poor families to spend more on tobacco and less on food, health care and education.<sup>7</sup>

### **Progress: The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)**

The Political Declaration adopted at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in September 2011 calls on nations to accelerate implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), highlighting the effectiveness of raising taxes on tobacco products to prevent NCDs.

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the world's first public health treaty, establishes specific steps governments must take to reduce tobacco use. As of September 2011, more than 174 Parties have ratified the FCTC. Governments commit to establishing policies to reduce tobacco use when they ratify the treaty, including:

- Adopting tax and price measures to reduce tobacco consumption;
- Banning tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship;
- Creating smoke-free work and public spaces;
- Putting prominent health warnings on tobacco packages; and

### **Tobacco control is a cost-effective and feasible intervention to address the NCD epidemic.**

Governments must prioritize tobacco control and implementation of the FCTC to reduce tobacco use and the global burden of NCDs, save lives and benefit their country's economy.

- Full implementation of the FCTC would avert 5.5 million deaths over 10 years in 23 low-income and middle-income countries with a high burden of NCD.<sup>4</sup>
- The scale-up of tobacco control measures would cost:<sup>8</sup>
  - US\$ 620 million per year for all low- and middle-income countries combined, or US\$ 0.11 per person per year.
  - US\$ 0.05 per person per year in low-income countries.
  - US\$ 0.15 per person per year in upper-middle income countries.

### **Key Messages**

- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading causes of death in the world.
- NCDs burden health systems, reduce productivity, and can cause poverty.
- Tobacco use is the leading preventable risk factor for NCDs.
- Tackling the NCD epidemic through the full implementation of the FCTC is both cost-effective and feasible.

(1) World Health Organization. Global Status Report on Non-Communicable Diseases. Geneva: WHO; 2011. (2) World Economic Forum, Harvard School of Public Health. The Global Economic Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases. Geneva: World Economic Forum; 2011. (3) World Health Organization. WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2008 - The MPOWER package. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2008. (4) Beaglehole R, Bonita R, Horton R, Adams C, Alleyne G, Asaria P, et al. Priority actions for the non-communicable disease crisis. *Lancet*. 2011 Apr 23;377(9775):1438-47. (5) World Health Organization. WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2011: warning about the dangers of tobacco. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011. (6) Mackay J, Eriksen MP, Shafey O. The tobacco atlas, 2nd edition. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2006. (7) World Health Organization. Tobacco Free Initiative: Why tobacco is a public health priority. [cited 2011 Sept 26]; Available from: [http://www.who.int/tobacco/health\\_priority/en/](http://www.who.int/tobacco/health_priority/en/) (8) World Health Organization. Estimation of Resource Needs and Costs for Scaling-up a Core Non-Communicable Disease Intervention Package in Low and Middle-income Countries. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011.