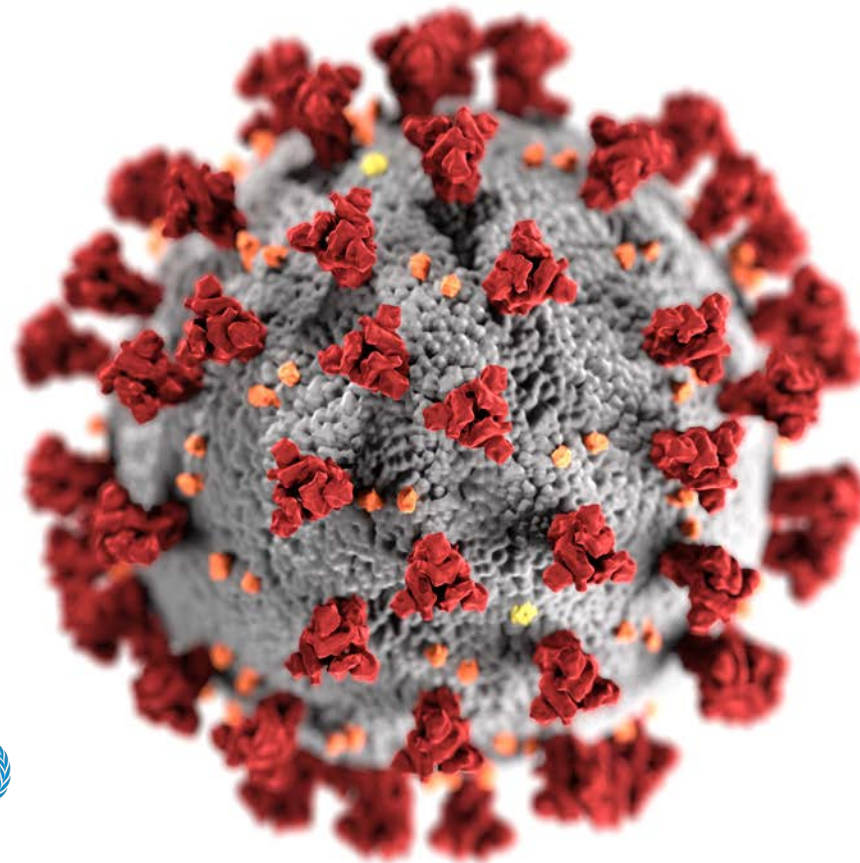
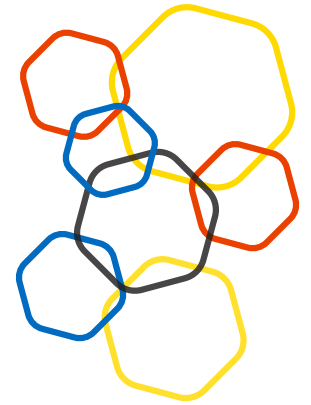


Responding to non-communicable diseases during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

Examples of actions being taken by selected members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases



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Graphic design by Zsuzsanna Schreck.

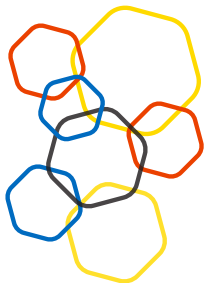
This document lists examples of NCD-relevant actions being taken by agencies, funds and programmes to support countries in COVID-19 response and recovery. Opportunities to increase, build upon and further apply these actions to NCDs should be pursued, including for “building back better”. Agencies, funds and programmes should ensure that their support for NCDs is aligned with the United Nations comprehensive response to COVID-19, which comprises:

- the strategic preparedness and response plan, with its two main objectives: (i) preparing for and responding to COVID-19; and (ii) maintaining essential health services during response and recovery(1), led by WHO;
- the global humanitarian response plan, which provides the immediate humanitarian response to the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable countries with life-saving assistance (2), led by the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs; and
- the United Nations framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, with five core areas of socio-economic support: (i) health first: protecting health services and systems during the crisis; (ii) protection of people: social protection and basic services; (iii) economic response and recovery: protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises and informal sector workers; (iv) macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration; and (v) social cohesion and community resilience (3), led by UNDP.

Partners in the SDG 3 Global action plan for healthy lives and well-being for all (4) can ensure that action on NCDs does not slow down during the COVID-19 pandemic and that NCD-related activities are extended as part of building back better.

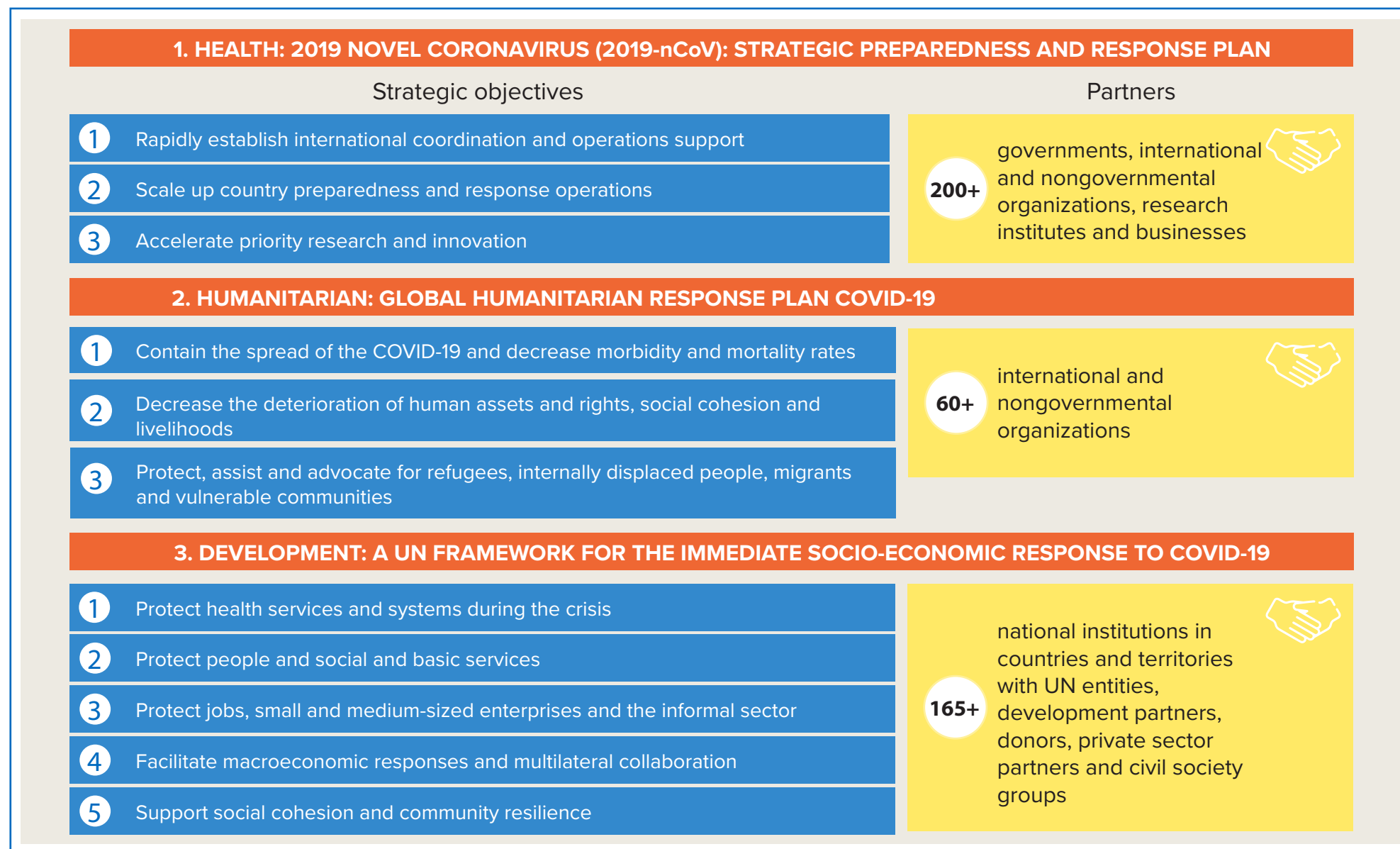
We cannot go back to the same health system models which have failed the majority of people living with NCDs. We need to build back better.

**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
Director-General, WHO**



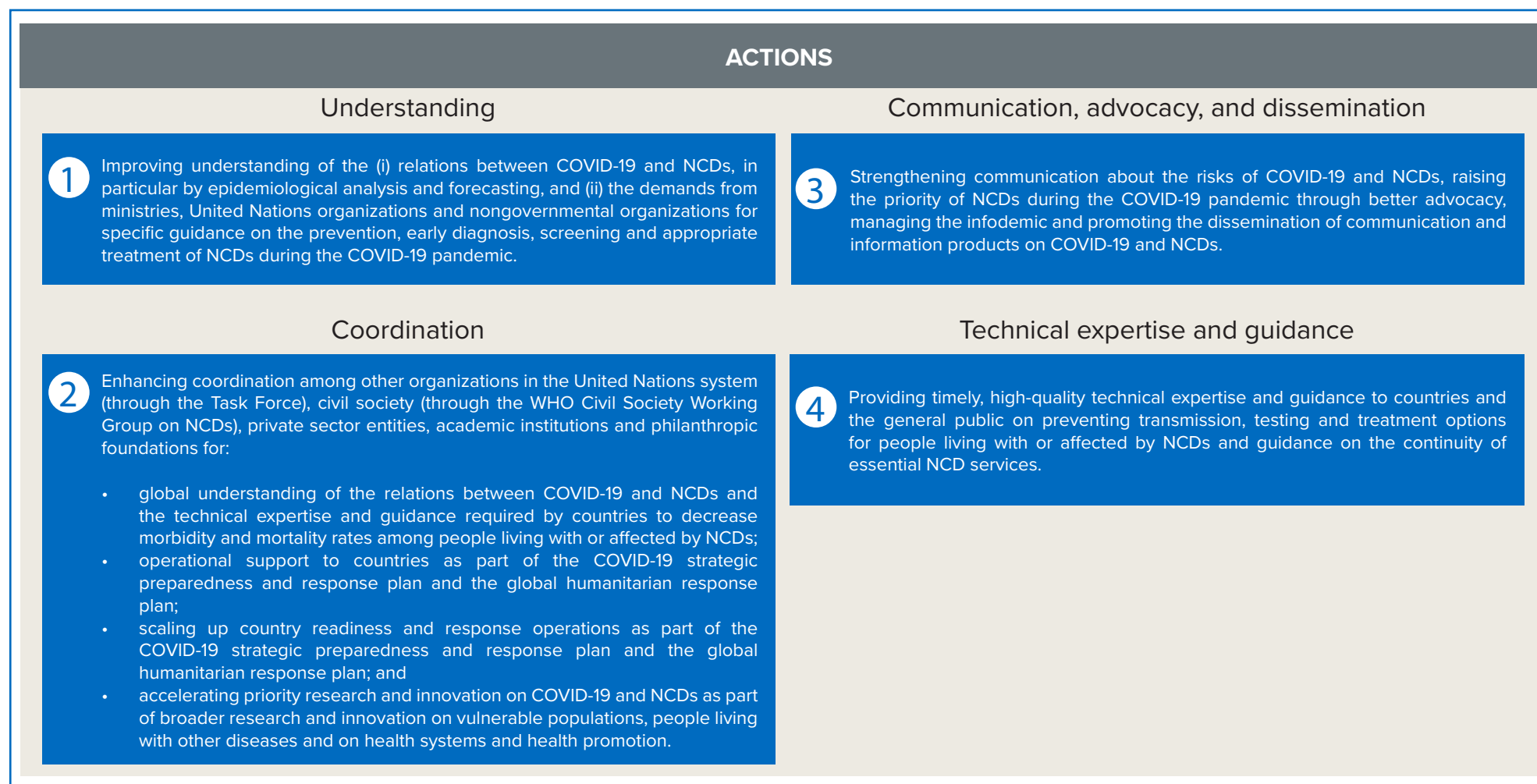
Agencies, funds and programmes should ensure that their action on NCDs is aligned with the United Nations comprehensive response to COVID-19.

Fig. 1: Joint operational strategies against COVID-19 for the United Nations family and partners



World Health Organization

As the United Nations specialized agency for health, WHO leads and coordinates the response of the United Nations system to NCDs. During COVID-19, WHO is supporting countries in strengthening the design and implementation of policies, including for resilient health systems, health services and infrastructure, in treating people living with NCDs and preventing and controlling NCD risk factors, with a focus on the people most vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19 (5, 6).



Responding to NCDs during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

Examples of actions being taken by selected members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

Other agencies, funds and programmes

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19	Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19	Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19
<p>Supports COVID-19 responses by procurement of medical supplies, capacity-building and epidemiological surveillance. Includes NCDs.</p> <p>Mainstreaming of nutrition in COVID-19 operations. Enhancing nutrition education and promoting healthy diets.</p> <p>Analysing comorbid conditions to ensure that people living with NCDs are among the vulnerable groups prioritized for COVID-19 testing.</p>	<p>Supports countries in addressing NCDs and pursuing UHC as a critical response to COVID-19. Includes grants, loans and technical assistance for immediate and longer-term health system responses to COVID-19 and investments in social protection and digital health.</p> <p>Strengthens partnerships with WHO, UNICEF and others to address COVID-19, UHC and NCDs. Includes advocacy for health taxes, NCDs and UHC.</p>	<p>Integrates health and well-being into investments for new projects, in line with the 2019 EBRD Environmental and Social Policy.</p> <p>Ensures that relevant projects include public health and safety for workers (including NCDs when appropriate) during project preparation and implementation and in response to COVID-19. Includes development of tools and resources for assessing and managing COVID-19 risks among vulnerable workers with underlying diseases.</p> <p>Guidance and training on health and well-being during and beyond COVID-19 for private sector partners.</p> <p>Assesses the impacts of COVID-19 on transport, including on health.</p>
Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief ¹	Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief	Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief
Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available
Websites and weblinks	Websites and weblinks	Websites and weblinks
AfDB : COVID-19	COVID-19 (Coronavirus): ADB's response	Sustainability and coronavirus

¹ These briefs provide policy advisors and decision-makers in the United Nations, Member States and development partners with information on how the United Nations system is responding to the challenge of NCDs. The briefs describe: (i) the role of each agency in ensuring an effective contribution to the prevention and control of NCDs; (ii) current and potential actions of the agencies to support the World Health Assembly-endorsed “best buys” and other recommended interventions to address NCDs; (iii) the importance of partnerships in ensuring that agencies mobilize an effective response to NCDs; (iv) the importance of partnerships in the agencies’ responses to NCDs; and (v) how agencies are mobilizing resources to deliver support to Member States.

Responding to NCDs during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

Examples of actions being taken by selected members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS	GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA	INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19	Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19	Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19
<p>Safeguards livelihoods and food security for the most vulnerable.</p> <p>Ensures access to safe, diverse, nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets.</p>	<p>Chairs the SDG-3 Global Action Plan Sustainable Financing for Health accelerator, with a working group comprising a broad range of partners to support governments in using health taxes to reduce NCDs and increase public revenues during and beyond COVID-19.</p>	<p>Ensures continued management of cancer patients. Radiotherapy webinars are available in five United Nations languages, providing guidance on when to treat, techniques to minimize exposure to COVID-19 and practical guidance to support centres in continuing services.</p> <p>Webinars to support nuclear medicine professionals, a technical publication on “the new normal” in nuclear medicine and guidance published in journals.</p> <p>Assesses factors that affect the supply of radiopharmaceuticals and a technical brief for its member states.</p> <p>Completed an international survey on the status of nuclear medicine and patterns that influence decreased use of or fewer studies on nuclear medicine in hospitals for cancer, cardiovascular disease and other diseases.</p>
Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief	Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief	Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief
<p>Responding to the challenge of NCDs: The role of the food and agriculture sector</p>	<p>Not yet available</p>	<p>Responding to the challenge of NCDs: IAEA</p>
Websites and weblinks	Websites and weblinks	Websites and weblinks
<p>FAO : Novel Coronavirus</p>	<p>The Global Fund: COVID-19</p>	<p>IAEA: COVID-19</p>

Responding to NCDs during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

Examples of actions being taken by selected members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER	INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION
Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19	Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19	Examples of important issues and/or activities common to NCDs and COVID-19
<p>Supports countries in planning interventions to improve access to services for NCDs and high-quality primary care services during and beyond COVID-19.</p> <p>Supports countries in providing social protection interventions for vulnerable populations, including those with NCDs.</p> <p>Scales up digital solutions for health and NCDs during and beyond the pandemic.</p> <p>Activities are in line with the Bank's Health and Nutrition Sector Framework, which emphasizes NCDs as well as gender, ethnic and socioeconomic inequalities.</p>	<p>Research on interactions between COVID-19 and cancer, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• monitoring the COVID-19 situation and exploring initiatives and collaborations to assess the impact of the disease on cancer and cancer prevention. See examples of recent papers here.• as part of the global COVID-19 and Cancer Taskforce, coordinates the synthesis and rapid dissemination of data on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer outcomes worldwide.	<p>Ensures a response to COVID-19 pandemic based on the rule of law, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• strengthening legal and policy frameworks for managing COVID-19 and its aftermath, e.g. public health laws consistent with the International Health Regulations (2005);• mitigating the impact of the crisis on justice systems and justice seekers, with a focus on the most vulnerable, particularly women and marginalized groups, and on the resilience of the justice sector and delivery of justice for women; and• advocating for maintenance of the rule of law, strengthening of countries' governance and institutions and supporting and investing in a culture of justice to protect the rights and dignity of people everywhere.
Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief	Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief	Agency-specific NCD Task Force brief

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