



World Health
Organization

Saving lives, spending less

A strategic response to noncommunicable diseases

Saving lives, spending less

Document highlights

This page summarizes the findings of "Saving lives, spending less: A strategic response to noncommunicable diseases". This document lays out, for the first time the health and economic benefits of implementing the most cost-effective and feasible interventions to prevent and control NCDs (WHO Best Buys) in low- and lower-middle-income countries. The main findings of this document are:

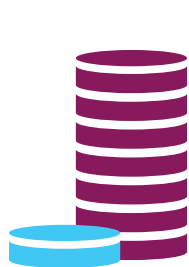


An additional

US\$ 1.27

per person per year in low- and lower-middle-income countries is needed to implement the WHO Best Buys

What will low-and lower-middle-income countries get for this investment?



US\$ 1 US\$ 7

Every **US\$ 1** invested in the WHO Best Buys will yield a return of at least **US\$ 7** by 2030



15%

A **15%** reduction in premature mortality could be achieved by 2030 by implementing the WHO Best Buys



17 M

Implementing the WHO Best Buys will prevent over **17 M** cases of ischemic heart disease and stroke by 2030 in low- and lower-middle-income countries



8.2 M lives

8.2 M lives can be saved by 2030 in low- and lower-middle-income countries by implementing the WHO Best Buys



Implementing the WHO Best Buys can generate

US\$ 350 B

in economic growth between now and 2030

Foreword

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General, World Health Organization

The human toll of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) is unacceptable. These diseases including – cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and mental disorders – are the leading causes of death worldwide, and carry a huge cost that extends beyond health to undermine workforce productivity and economic prosperity. NCDs are also becoming an issue of equity. They disproportionately affect low- and lower-middle-income countries, and in all countries the poorest and most vulnerable are the most at risk and the least likely to have access to treatment.

WHO has a bold new strategic plan that builds on lessons learned and experience gained with its 70-year history. We are dedicated to three core aims: ensuring that 1 billion more people benefit from universal health coverage; that 1 billion more people are better protected from health emergencies; and that 1 billion more people enjoy better health and well-being. NCDs are relevant to all three: progress towards universal health coverage will increase access to services to prevent, diagnose and treat NCDs, without out-of-pocket expenses impoverishing people; protecting people from the impact of health emergencies includes continuity of care for people who suffer from NCDs; and improving health and well-being requires intensified action against the world's leading causes of death and disease.

Saving lives, spending less: a strategic response to noncommunicable diseases equips countries and donors with the information they need to prioritize their actions. For the first time, the financing needs for tackling NCDs in low- and lower-middle-income countries have been calculated and translated into health and economic returns. Crucially, the document presents the most cost-effective, feasible interventions by which these outcomes can be realized.

The overarching message is optimistic. Governments and donors are invited to view tackling NCDs as an opportunity to achieve better health outcomes and improved economic performance. If all countries put in place the most cost-effective interventions, by 2030 they will not only save millions of lives, but also see a return of US\$7 per person for every dollar invested.

“For the first time the financing needs for tackling NCDs in low- and lower-middle-income countries have been calculated and translated into health and economic returns.”

Michael R. Bloomberg
WHO Global Ambassador for Noncommunicable Diseases

For the first time in history, more people are dying from NCDs – such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease – than from communicable diseases like malaria and tuberculosis.

This is a serious and growing problem that has not gotten the attention it deserves. NCDs kill nearly 41 million people each year, many of them well under the age of 70. Only 1% of global health funding is dedicated to preventing and treating NCDs in low- and middle-income countries, where they account for nearly 67% of deaths.

NCDs also impose a huge financial burden in health costs and lives cut short – and the countries that bear the greatest burden are the low- and middle-income countries that can least afford it.

Part of the problem stems from a misconception: governments tend to accept deaths from NCDs as unavoidable – but they are not. A different future is possible. We can turn the tide on NCDs and the suffering they cause. What's more, a relatively small investment can help to prevent enormous costs.

This document makes the economic case for bold action against NCDs, and outlines some of the most effective ways to reduce their toll, which can help to direct more resources to where they are needed most. By spreading those measures around the world – and raising awareness of the urgency of the challenge – we can save millions of lives.



Investing to save lives

Maximizing the impact of every dollar spent is crucial if we are to tackle one of the biggest health challenges of our time: NCDs. These conditions including – cancer, diabetes, heart diseases and chronic respiratory diseases – cause far more deaths and disability than any other group of diseases. NCDs are the largest cause of death in the world, and their impact undermines multiple aspects of national development, including economic growth, productivity, social welfare, education and quality of life. For low- and lower-middle-income countries in particular, NCDs are a growing challenge, with the majority of all premature deaths occurring in these countries.¹

In public health as in finance, investors are committed to seeing the greatest impact for every dollar spent. Increasingly, this can extend beyond health gains and towards other impacts such as economic, environmental and social returns. The best NCD policies can provide returns in all of these domains. This means that by investing in them, countries can avoid the health and economic impact of NCDs, and also maximize the benefits for other areas of development.

To help countries achieve this, the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified a set of interventions that are considered affordable, cost-effective and evidence-based. Implementing these will deliver the greatest possible health impact in reducing illness, disability and premature death from NCDs. For this reason, they are known as the 'WHO Best Buys'.

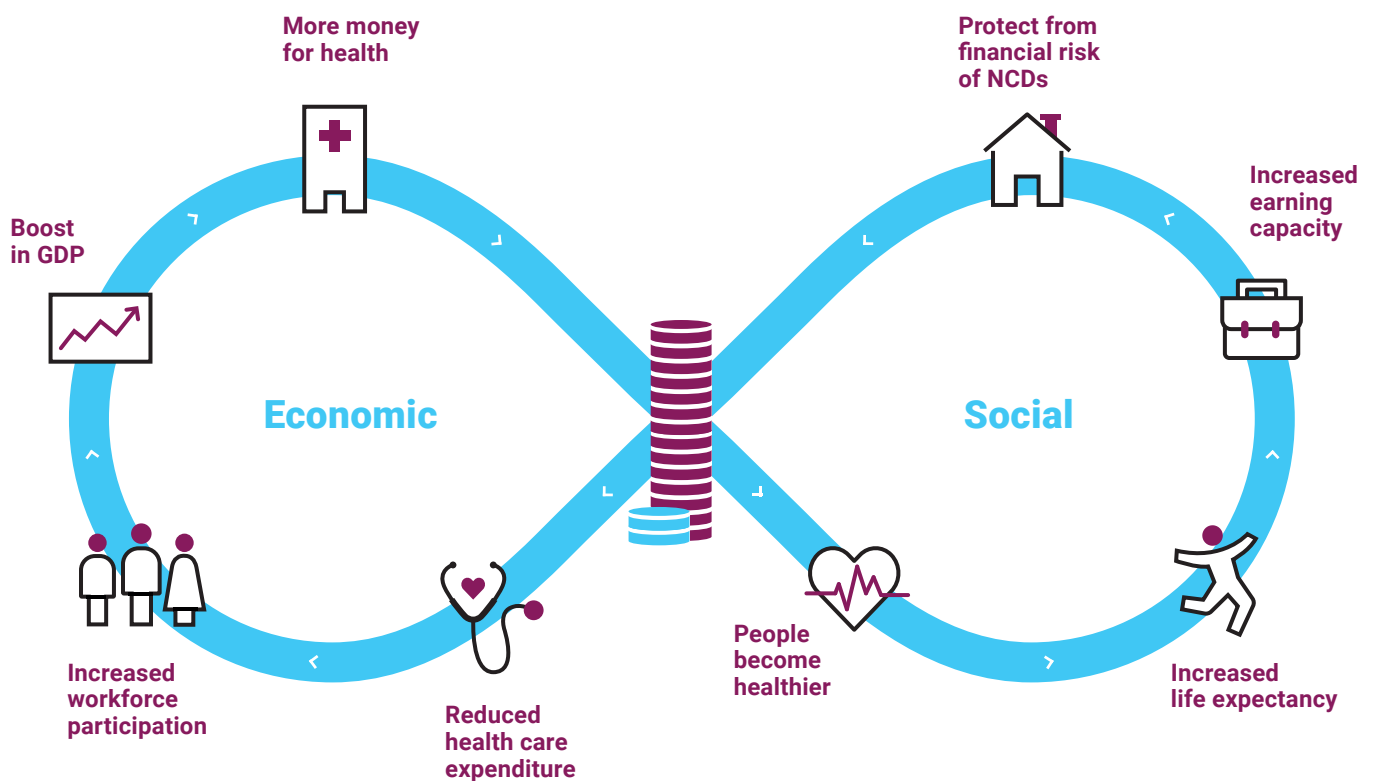
This document provides policy-makers, funders and other stakeholders with an overview of the value of investing in NCDs, and the health impact and economic returns that can be expected from using the right policies.

“Maximizing the impact of every dollar spent is crucial if we are to tackle one of the biggest health challenges of our time: NCDs.”

¹ NCD mortality and morbidity. Global Health Observatory [online database]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018 (http://www.who.int/gho/ncd/mortality_morbidity/en/).

The value of preventing and controlling NCDs

Investing in NCD prevention and control not only improves health and saves lives, but can also improve a country's economic productivity. It can improve workforce participation and productivity, and limit the financial burden of unexpected health costs from NCDs on individuals and families. Investment is particularly important in low- and lower-middle-income countries, where the NCD burden continues to rise, and health systems are less resilient.



Delivering the **greatest** possible health impact



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_25536

