

# UN HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Recognizing the enormous human suffering, socio-economic impact and growing burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in developed and developing countries, the UN will hold a High-Level Meeting on NCDs (UNHLM) the 19th and 20th of September 2011. The UN HLM will address the social and economic impact of NCDs and risk factors, as well as the development challenges posed by NCDs particularly for developing countries. Plenary and roundtable discussions will be held on strengthening national capacities, fostering international cooperation, as well as the socio-economic impact of NCDs. These discussions will lead to the adoption of an outcome document. Addressing the NCD challenge requires a multi sectoral and multi disciplinary response from all of society, include governments public and private sectors, academia, civil society, professional associations, and the population at large.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM THE UN HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON NCDs?

- Increased awareness of development implications of NCDs by global leaders.
- Changed perception that there are no cost effective interventions especially in developing countries.
- Political declaration of commitment for coordinated, multi sectoral action.
- International solidarity for policies for universal access to services, affordable medicines and technologies.
- Higher engagement and commitment to significant increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) and technical cooperation for NCDs.
- Establishment of NCDs on the UN agenda.

## WHAT CONCRETE ACTIONS ARE NEEDED PRIOR TO THE UN HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON NCDs?

- Advocate for attendance of Heads of State at the UN Summit on NCDs, Sept 2011.
- Mount communication and media campaigns to raise public and professional awareness of the problem of NCDs.
- Communicate information to influence key stakeholders such as Ministers and public figures in the fight against NCDs.
- Hold consultations and seek input on perspectives and opinions from key multi stakeholders.
- Ensure all sectors are aware of the UNHLM.
- Support countries to develop national/subregional analyses and policy briefs on NCD prevention and control.

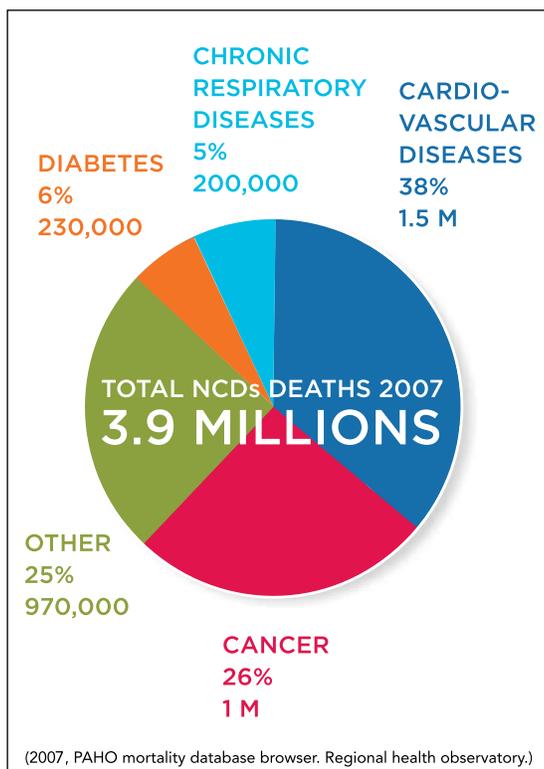
## CONSIDER THAT:

- > NCDs affect all social strata, but disproportionately affect the poor, adding to the burden of inequity.
- > Cost effective interventions are available, feasible and can be implemented in various resource levels. The greatest impact can be achieved through creation of healthy public policies and reorientation of health system and services.
- > NCDs require a response beyond the health sector. The causes and risks for developing NCDs, and interventions to prevent and control them require a whole of society approach.
- > NCDs link to many other global agendas, particularly poverty reduction, agriculture and food security, education, climate change and transport.
- > All sectors play a role in creating healthy environments and need to be engaged in the dialogue.

# NCDs IN THE AMERICAS THE NUMBERS

Approximately **3 out of 4** of all deaths in the Americas are due to **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)**, mainly cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.

## FACING THE FACTS



**OF THESE DEATHS: 1.5 MILLION WERE PREMATURE (AGE <70 YEARS OLD).** Men and women are equally affected (50% vs 50%) although 15% more men die prematurely (age <70 years old).

## KEY NCD RISK FACTORS

**145M** of adults (22%) smoke in the Americas.

**26%** of people in the Americas are obese, the highest in the world.

(2005, WHO Global infobase)

## ECONOMIC BURDEN

Non-Communicable diseases present an economic burden to societies, families and communities from government health care costs, out of pocket expenditures for treatment, and economic loss caused by premature death from heart disease, cancers and diabetes. For example, in the USA, it is estimated that **5%** of GDP is spent on obesity related chronic diseases.

(World Economic Forum, Global Risks Report, 2010)