Non-communicable Diseases and the Strategic FUND

Strategic Fund for Improving Access to Quality Medicines for Non-communicable Diseases

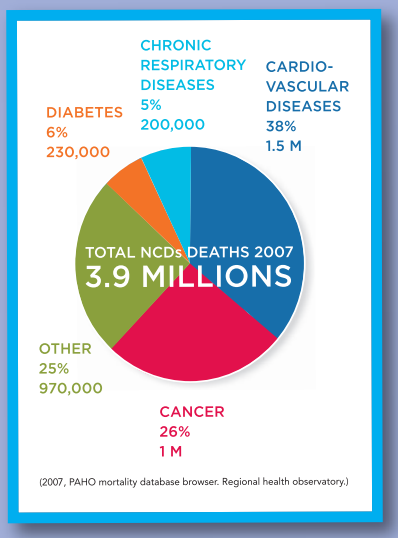
What is the Strategic Fund?

The Strategic Fund, also known as the Regional Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies, was created by PAHO in September 2000 to promote the acquisition of high quality medicines and essential public health supplies at affordable prices for countries of the Americas.

Currently, 23 PAHO Member States acquire medicines by means of an agreement with the Strategic Fund.

Why does the Strategic Fund prioritize medicines and supplies for non-communicable diseases?

1. The burden of non-communicable diseases in the Americas is very significant. The four main diseases: cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes are responsible for approximately 3.9 million deaths.
   - 1.5 million people died prematurely from NCDs, before the age of 70 years.
   - In the Americas, it is estimated that 200 million people are living with a non-communicable disease; that 20%-30% of the adult population suffer from hypertension; and 8%-12% of adults have diabetes.
2. There is a high economic cost associated with non-communicable diseases.
   - In 2010 the estimated global cost associated with treating cardiovascular diseases was US$ 863 billion; US$ 290 billion for cancer, due to 13.3 million new cancer cases; and US$ 500 billion for diabetes.
3. Controlling non-communicable diseases and some of their associated risk factors require availability and access to medicines.



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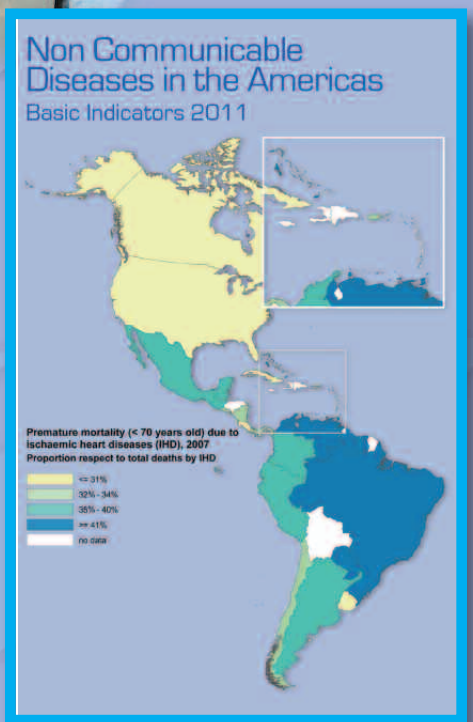

What advantages does the Strategic Fund offer to the Member States?

- The Strategic Fund uses approved suppliers which meet PAHO quality standards.
- The Strategic Fund provides quality essential public health supplies at low costs. Significant cost savings are achieved by consolidating regional demands and taking advantage of the savings offered by economies of scale.
- PAHO provides technical support in procurement planning, forecasting and supply chain management to ensure continuous availability of essential public health supplies.

What non-communicable diseases drugs are available through the Strategic Fund?

- Medicines included in the World Health Organization (WHO) Model Lists of Essential Medicines, for treatment of the four main non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes).
- Medicines not on the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines, but scientific evidence demonstrate their efficacy and safety.
- Expensive medicines that have a great benefit, supported by scientific evidence.
- Medicines with limited availability or that are difficult to procure at the national level.

The Strategic Fund has been recognized by PAHO and the Region's Member States as an effective mechanism for improving access and availability of essential medicines for non-communicable diseases. To learn more about the Strategic Fund, please consult the website.

Examples of medicines for NCDs in the Strategic Fund Medicine List	
Cisplatin	Morphine
Hydralazine	Methotrexate
Insulin	Tamoxifen
Currently being evaluated to be incorporated	
Amlodipine	Metformin
Enalapril	Simvastatin

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