

A Global Response to Noncommunicable Disease

KEY FACTS ABOUT FHI 360 AND NCDs

FHI 360 is helping focus international attention on the growing burden of noncommunicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries.

FHI 360 sees health systems strengthening and community-level engagement as key components of an effective response to chronic and noncommunicable diseases.

In partnership with international organizations, the private sector and communities, FHI 360 is leveraging its global platform to address the NCD burden through its country-based research and programs.



A Growing Health and Development Problem

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancers, diabetes and chronic lung diseases, are a growing threat to the health and prosperity of individuals living in all regions of the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 63 percent of the 57 million deaths each year are linked to NCDs.

Among the leading causes of death in the developed world, NCDs now disproportionately affect low- and middle-income countries. Researchers estimate that by 2030, CVD alone will cause more deaths in low- and middle-income countries than AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, maternal and perinatal conditions and nutritional disorders combined. Regardless of locality, key factors that contribute to increased prevalence of NCDs include tobacco use; physical inactivity; consumption of diets high in fat, salt and sugar; and the harmful intake of alcohol.

Providing Leadership

FHI 360 is working in concert with WHO, the Institute of Medicine, the Global Health Council, the African Heart Network and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, specifically, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to strengthen the capacity of communities and health systems to respond holistically to the challenge of NCDs.

FHI 360's Global Strengthening Efforts

- In Vietnam, FHI 360 collaborated with the Vietnam Committee on Smoking and Health to establish guidelines for smoke-free hospitals. Through these efforts, FHI 360 also encourages young people to support tougher tobacco control legislation through a multimedia campaign that includes a website, *Click No Smoking*, that allows youth to sign a petition supporting passage of Vietnam's Tobacco Control Law.
- In Ghana, FHI 360 conducted an assessment of biological and behavioral CVD risk factors within urban and rural communities and evaluated the capacity of the local health systems to manage CVD and implement locally appropriate prevention and treatment programs.

About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research and technology — creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 60 countries, all 50 U.S. states and all U.S. territories.



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- In Kenya, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Kenya Cardiac Society, FHI 360 introduced the integration of biomedical and behavioral screening for CVD and diabetes risk factors within existing HIV services at five facilities. The National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan will integrate the screening of CVD and underlying factors.
- In Nigeria, FHI 360 launched a pilot program in Kano to screen HIV patients for CVD and a second pilot in Abuja to integrate the screening of HIV-positive women for cervical cancer into prevention of mother-to-child-transmission services. Robust referral and health information systems connected to these screenings facilitate follow-up care.

FHI 360's U.S. Strengthening Efforts

- FHI 360 and its partners have been working with the CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity to develop an action guide for state health departments on implementing model nutrition, physical activity, breastfeeding and screen time policies and practices in early care and education settings. FHI 360 also provides technical assistance and training to five pilot states for building their capacity to implement change.
- FHI 360 is providing technical assistance and media support to 50 communities in the CDC's \$650 million Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative, which addresses tobacco use and obesity. FHI 360, in collaboration with the Campbell-Ewald agency, has created powerful, evidence-based advertisements and marketing strategies in support of local initiatives, such as those to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, increase access to safe sidewalks and bike paths, and increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables in communities where healthy food is scarce.
- FHI 360 provides strategic and communications support to the National Asthma Control Initiative (NACI) of the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program, coordinated by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. NACI encourages health care providers to implement evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for treatment of asthma. NACI engages health care professionals, patients, families, schools, and national, state and local organizations to eliminate ethnic, racial and economic disparities in asthma morbidity and mortality and to improve quality of life for all people with asthma.

Applying Lessons Learned

FHI 360 programs strengthen health systems by training providers, improving service delivery and health information systems, building effective referral systems and ensuring drug supply. Other crucial work includes raising awareness, engaging community support, creating demand for services and supporting those at risk to adopt healthy behaviors. FHI 360 also assists national and local governments in creating environments that enable efforts to reduce risk factors for NCDs at the individual, community and population levels.

FHI 360 has substantial expertise in clinical and operational research, behavioral and biological surveillance, and program development and implementation in countries around the world. For over 40 years, our customized, evidence-based technical assistance and capacity building have helped strengthen health systems in more than 125 countries, engaging partners in all sectors to improve lives in lasting ways.