



Coalition for Access to NCD Medicines and Products

Advancing access and financing for NCD medicines and products



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Overview

Goals
On the eve of the 4th UN High-Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (HLM4), amid a challenging time for global health financing and progress, **this high-level event consolidated momentum and set the stage for sustained, collective action by:**

1. **Showcasing bold, actionable commitments** from countries and partners to advance financing and access to noncommunicable disease (NCD) medicines and products
2. **Exploring practical solutions** to drive progress, from innovative financing models to smarter supply chain approaches
3. **Highlighting the power of partnerships** to ensure high-quality NCD care reaches the people who need it most

Hosts: The event was co-hosted by **Denmark, Brazil, the Coalition for Access to NCD Medicines and Products (Coalition), International Generic and biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA), Novo Nordisk, Access Accelerated, and PATH**, and took place at the Consulate General of Denmark in New York City.

Participants: 100 leaders from **government, civil society, multilateral agencies, the private sector, and academia** attended the event, unified by a palpable desire to ensure that political commitments from HLM4 translate to practical, collaborative action.

“The reality is clear: NCDs remain the leading cause of death worldwide – they do not disappear in times of crisis. On the contrary, the challenge will only grow if we do not act.”

*- H.E. Sophie Lødhe,
Minister of Health, Denmark*





Speaker Highlights & Country Commitments

Full event recording available [here](#).

Setting the Scene: The Case for Investing in NCDs

Opening speakers reinforced **why investing in NCDs is a global imperative** to keep people healthy, strengthen health systems, and build strong economies that work for everyone, in times of crisis or calm.



H.E. Sophie Lødhe (Minister of Health, Denmark)

called NCDs one of the **“defining health challenges of our time,”** and highlighted the urgent need for visionary political leadership and cooperation across sectors and borders to adapt health systems for the future, not just to keep up, but to improve health outcomes for all. **“This is not just for Denmark. We each hold part of the solution. Imagine what we can do if we put those parts together.”**



Monique Vledder (Head of Global Health, Nutrition, and Population, World Bank)

delivered a strong economic case for investing in NCDs at a time of constrained resources and growing health needs: **“When economies are struggling, healthy populations become the foundation for recovery.”** She also emphasized the importance of prioritizing the right investments: **“Financing alone is not sufficient. We need to support countries to build systems that leapfrog: screening for hypertension before it becomes a stroke, providing HPV vaccines before it becomes cancer, managing diabetes proactively.”**



Dr. Kimberly Green (Global Director, Primary Health Care, PATH)

highlighted how the Coalition is doing its part to meet the moment and translate momentum on NCDs into action. **“This year, with the opportunity of the High-Level Meeting, and also with the dire impacts of the abrupt withdrawal of millions of dollars in global health aid, we have galvanized our advocacy efforts around pragmatic ways to (1) finance more, (2) finance better, and (3) finance NCDs transparently as part of primary health care.”** This work has also included partnering with countries to advance bold commitments (announced later in the event).

“The cost of inaction is staggering – lost lives, lost opportunities, lost growth. But if we flip it, this is an investment in healthier lives and stronger societies.”

- Monique Vledder,
Head of Global
Health, Nutrition, and
Population, World
Bank

Panel 1: Solutions in Action

The first dynamic panel discussion featured countries and partners who are actively expanding financing and access to NCD medicines and products with **proven innovative solutions**.



H.E. Budi Sadikin (*Minister of Health, Indonesia*) highlighted how NCD prevention offers an extremely high return on investment: **“The strategy is clear: keep the population healthy, not cure the population when they are sick.”** To this end, in February 2025, Indonesia launched an ambitious campaign to screen **280 million Indonesians** for NCDs every year through its ‘birthday screening gift’ campaign, which is successfully leading to an average of **500,000 screenings per day**.



Dr. Letícia de Oliveira Cardoso (*Director, Department of Epidemiological Analysis and Surveillance of NCDs and Injuries, Brazil*) emphasized the importance of adopting a **primary health care financing model** that ensures that resources are allocated most efficiently, while expanding access to high-quality, continuous and comprehensive care in communities. She also highlighted how institutional and scientific partnerships have been essential to **integrate technological innovations** (e.g., point-of-care diagnostics) into routine care.



Dr. Susana Almeida (*Secretary General, IGBA*) highlighted that as governments grapple with a rising burden of NCDs and health care costs, generic and biosimilar medicines are a wise investment to **“make treatments more affordable, provide relief for health care budgets, and enhance patient access to safe, effective, and quality-assured therapies.”** She also called for action to address barriers, such as inappropriate patent life extensions, regulatory burdens, and supply chain challenges.

Panel 2: Partnerships for Sustainable Progress

The second interactive panel highlighted inspiring examples of how **partnerships among governments, normative agencies, civil society, and the private sector** can ensure more sustainable, impactful results.



Herb Riband (*Executive Director, Access Accelerated*) highlighted the powerful work of the **Financing Accelerator Network for NCDs (FAN)**, a partnership between Access Accelerated, the World Bank, and Results for Development that leverages a **strong local engagement model** to meet countries where they are on their NCD financing journey through a mix of technical assistance, cross-country learning, and catalytic seed funding. Common challenges unearthed through FAN dialogues have included **weak data systems that prevent informed decision-making, and a need for better investment cases to drive more funding and more efficient spending.**



Dr. Dan Chisholm (*Mental Health Specialist, World Health Organization [WHO]*) shared how the WHO partnered with the World Bank to host an **international dialogue on sustainable financing for NCDs and mental health**, with a goal of answering the looming question of “how do we move from political commitment to financial commitment” on the WHO Best Buys. Key solutions included: 1) **adopting smart fiscal policies**, including and beyond health taxes; 2) **reducing prices** of medicines, including through pooled procurement and reduced tariffs; 3) **enhancing financial protection** to explicitly cover people with NCDs and mental health conditions.



Diah Satyani Saminarsi (*Founder, Center for Indonesia’s Strategic Development Initiatives*) emphasized that **partnering with people with lived experiences** is essential to making NCD care more accessible, affordable, and high-quality, and in turn, improving health outcomes overall. For example, demand-side research in Indonesia demonstrated women’s health needs vary across distinct populations (e.g., urban, rural, sub-urban) and therefore require a tailored response. **“Communities have identified what they actually need. Listening to voices of communities—starting with the most vulnerable—is the way to go.”**



Country Commitments

Full event recording available [here](#).

Country Commitments (1)

The heart of this event showcased *country and regional leaders making bold, specific, and actionable commitments to advance financing and access to NCD medicines and products. These include, in order of appearance:*



Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): H.E. Dr. Samuel-Roger Kamba (*Minister of Health, DRC*) presented four transformative commitments to:

1. **Scale up the WHO essential NCD package to reach 50% of health zones by 2030**, beginning with hypertension and diabetes, including by **training 10,000 additional primary health care workers by 2028** and ensuring **consistent availability** of essential medicines and diagnostic tools by 2027
2. **Increase the allocation of tobacco and alcohol excise tax revenues from 2% to at least 50% by 2027** to directly support prevention and treatment services
3. **Establish robust national surveillance** through the DRC's first comprehensive **WHO Step Survey by 2026/2027** to create integrated data systems with robust and transparent progress reporting
4. **Progressively eliminate user fees** for essential NCD services in **25% of health zones by 2030**, prioritizing vulnerable populations



Kenya: Dr. Ouma Oluga (*Principal Secretary, State Department for Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Kenya*) presented bold commitments to:

1. **Implement a pharmacy benefit package** that will have a specific delineation for NCD medicines by **March 2026**
2. **Scale up decentralized NCD screening and treatment**, leveraging existing mechanisms including primary care networks and community health promoters
3. **Work with international and regional communities to expand access to commodities** through pooled procurement, local manufacturing, and mechanisms that can reduce the cost of care



Country Commitments (2)

The heart of this event showcased **country and regional leaders making bold, specific, and actionable commitments** to advance financing and access to NCD medicines and products. These include, in order of appearance:



Tanzania: On behalf of the Minister of Health of Tanzania and the United Republic of Tanzania, **Dr. Omary Said Ubuguyu** (*Assistant Director, Non-Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Health, Tanzania*) presented crucial commitments including:

1. **Sustain gains** that have been made and work together
2. **Ensure that primary health care is given more opportunity to excel**, including through **direct health facility financing** that ensures planning and financing are driven by the grassroots level, more and **better data** through digital tools, and **strong centralized regional procurement** for commodities
3. **Empower people with lived experiences** to drive the agenda



East, South, and Central African Health Community (ESCA-HC): On behalf of **Dr. Ntuli Kapologwe**, Director General of ESCA-HC, Dr. Kimberly Green (*Global Director, Primary Health Care, PATH*) read a statement of commitments including:

1. Building on their success in health system strengthening, best practice sharing, and collaboration, **establish a platform for regional cross-country learning and collaboration for NCDs** that leverages better forecasting, pooled procurement, and collective bargaining to reduce costs and increase access to essential NCD diagnostics and medicines
2. **Support ongoing regional discussions on pooled procurement and joint price negotiations**, building on the success of the Diabetes CarePak initiative in Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda
3. Work with ESCA-HC member states on a **Three-Point Plan to expand access**, focusing on policies, products, and people



Country Commitments (3)

Additional commitments that were shared post-event or earlier in the event program include:



Somalia: The following commitments were shared post-event on behalf of **Honorable Dr. Ali Haji Adam** (*Minister of Health and Human Services, Somalia*):

1. Develop a **2026–2030 multisectoral NCD strategy**, targeting risk factors like **tobacco, unhealthy diets, and air pollution**, and **integrating NCD interventions into national emergency preparedness and humanitarian agendas**
2. Embed NCD services comprehensively into the **Essential Package of Health Services**
3. Scale up **WHO's Package of Essential NCD interventions** systematically within primary health care
4. Empower communities through **support groups for people living with NCDs** and **digital health technologies** that enhance education, communication, and monitoring
5. Increase the percent of **primary health care** facilities offering NCD services **from 29% to more than 90% by 2030**, focusing on equitable access in rural and underserved areas
6. Develop a **national financial plan** to mobilize resources, including **taxing harmful products** and **prioritizing NCDs in humanitarian funding**, while establishing financial protection mechanisms to **reduce out-of-pocket expenses** for vulnerable groups



Denmark: As part of her opening remarks, **H.E. Sophie Lødhe** (*Minister of Health, Denmark*) reiterated the Ministry of Health's commitment to reshaping Denmark's health care system to ensure that patients with NCDs and mental health conditions can better access and navigate the system, including by:

1. **Investing in 40% more general practitioners** across Denmark over the **next 10 years** to ensure strong and accessible primary health care centers
2. **Develop new standards for people with NCDs** ("chronic care packages") to guarantee patients the right to comprehensive health services, tailored to their individual needs and enabling ability to access their own data and digital home solutions
3. **Secure faster integration of innovative solutions** in health care by fostering effective public-private cooperation

Country Commitments (4)

Additional commitments that were shared post-event or earlier in the event program include:



Indonesia: As part of his remarks on Panel 1, **H.E. Budi Sadikin** (*Minister of Health, Indonesia*) reiterated the Ministry of Health's commitment to:

1. Reach **280 million Indonesians with NCD screening every year** through the 'birthday screening gift' campaign, which has already reached **35 million** people
2. Scale up NCD treatment to increase percentage of people who can control their hypertension, blood glucose, and high cholesterol from **5-8% to 50%**
3. Scale up nationwide coverage of NCD and mental health care through **integrated primary health care**



Brazil: As part of her remarks on Panel 1, and on behalf of the Minister of Health of Brazil, **Dr. Letícia de Oliveira Cardoso** (*Director, Department of Epidemiological Analysis and Surveillance of Non-Communicable Diseases and Injuries, Brazil*) reiterated the Ministry of Health's commitment to:

1. Continue **strengthening the primary health care financing model** to ensure efficient allocation of resources, continuity of high-quality services, community-based care, and fewer unnecessary hospitalizations
2. Invest in **strong institutional and scientific partnerships**, including between government, civil society, medical societies, and more that can help ensure **medicines are available for free at point-of-use** (e.g., via popular pharmacies) and strengthen **integration** between primary health care and specialized care, such as for cancer
3. **Invest in technological innovation**, including to support better **NCD surveillance and rapid diagnostics** in remote areas and better data for monitoring and decision-making

Closing Remarks



Elin Jäger (*Senior Vice President of Corporate Strategy and Sustainability, Novo Nordisk*) closed the event by highlighting the company's ongoing commitment to “**make health equity a bigger focus and ensure sustainable access for all**” as a founding member of the Coalition, while stressing the urgent need to work together on this shared challenge. “**It is our collective responsibility to join forces to work together and change the game when it comes to NCDs...No single company, government, or organization can do this alone.**”

“In a year when global health is being challenged, even staying the course demands courage – but being here today has reminded me that we can raise the ambition.”

- *Elin Jäger, Senior Vice President of Corporate Strategy and Sustainability, Novo Nordisk*

Looking ahead

Building on months of strategic preparation for UNGA80 and HLM4, the Coalition is collectively well-positioned to sustain action and momentum on NCDs looking towards 2026, including realizing the promise of the HLM declaration (to be voted on by the UN General Assembly).

- **The Coalition** will work with its member countries to help realize their commitments, including by co-creating pathways to more efficient investments, strengthened regional collaboration, regulatory harmonization, and procurement efficiency.
- **The Coalition** have a critical role to play in lending multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral evidence and advocacy to reach the Declaration's target of **80% of PHC facilities having NCD medicines and products available at affordable prices.**
- **Coalition members** will continue coordinating to **maximize complementary strengths and minimize duplication** of efforts to make the most strategic and efficient use of NCD-related investments.



Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Coalition for Access to NCD Medicines and Products, we would like to thank all of the the phenomenal co-hosts and partners who made this important gathering possible:



We would also like to thank our wonderful moderator **Babita Sharma**, award-winning author, journalist, and broadcaster, for leading these compelling conversations from start to finish, and **all attendees** for lending your time, energy, and steadfast commitment to the ongoing effort to improve financing and access for NCD medicines and products.

