CVD Status Report Guidance Document

This document should act as guidance when developing the content for your own country status report (within the template provided).

Part A: Your Organization and Your Country’s Demographics

Your Organization(s): [ ]

1 Background

1.1 Your Organization’s goals
- Particularly goals relevant to reducing CVD.
- Mention shared CVD goals if more than one organization is involved in preparing this report.

1.2 Your Commitment to the 25x25 goal
State how your organization and others like it (within your country) are committed to meeting the WHF goal of 25% reduction in premature CVD mortality by 2025 (25x25)


1.3 The purpose of this report
Areas for discussion:
- How your unique civil society angle benefits, and will benefit from, an understanding and assessment of your country’s response to CVD
- How you will use these findings
- How these findings will support actions by your government and other relevant stake holders to reduce CVD

1.4 Country demographics
Elaborate on the statistics given in Section A of the score card, giving an overview of the country’s demography. For example, discuss the diversity of the population, languages spoken or the country’s age structure.

2 National Government Commitment to Action on CVDs

2.1 Commitments made at the 2011 UN High Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs and the resultant Political Declaration.
Particularly highlight any statements made on CVD concerns.

- Country delegation
- Office of Head of State
- 2011 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs - Outcomes, statements, and commitments
- Ministry of Health

2.2 Commitments made to the WHO Global Action Plan on NCDs (2013-2020)
- State any commitments/ announcements made by your Government in response to the WHO Global Action Plan on NCDs.
- These commitments/announcements could have been at regional meetings/fora.
- Emphasise reference to the Global Monitoring Framework with its global targets and indicators, especially those of relevance to CVDs.

Part B: National Response to Cardiovascular Disease

1 Status of the National CVD Epidemic

1.1 Overview of CVD epidemic
Elaborate upon the statistics given in the CVD scorecard regarding the prevalence of CVDs, hypertension and tobacco use in your country.

1.2 Indicate gaps in CVD care, in particular secondary prevention

- WHO Global Infobase
- WHO STEPs Survey
Care gaps can be measured in terms of people who have had a heart attack or stroke and are not taking aspirin, statin and at least one anti-hypertensive. Also include gaps in access to tobacco dependence treatment as part of secondary prevention challenges.

2 Health Care System Capacity
Briefly discuss the availability of health care facilities, professionals, drugs, guidelines, finances and any laws or policies that mandate any of these.

- Discuss the access to health care services with specific reference to those affected by CVDs, hypertension or who are dependent on tobacco and special risk populations
- Discuss the first medical response system, is it highly organised? Is the system based upon the Anglo-American or Franco-German system?
- Discuss geographic disparities in access to health facilities
- Give additional information regarding the role of private health care and NGOs in CVD care delivery

3 Cardiovascular Disease Governance
Describe the national CVD plan
Specify:

- The CVD goals and targets.
- The plan’s time frame.
- How the plan was developed, including how relevant stakeholders were involved.
- Multi-sectoral or multi-disciplinary committees/commissions.
- Allocation of budgetary resources, the percentage of government expenditure on healthcare and the percentage of healthcare expenditure of NCDs or CVDs.
- The provision of human resources to facilitate CVD interventions.
- If CVD Governance is prominent at the subnational level, describe the specific elements of this including targets, coverage and resources - if possible include subnational data sources.
- Whether there is a national surveillance system for NCD/CVD control:
  - Specify the risk factors investigated
  - How often are these risk factors covered by the surveillance system
- Any projects the Ministry of Health (or equivalent) has initiated with other ministries for the delivery of CVD interventions (example-interventions run by the Ministry of Industry for industrial workers).

4 Policies and Implementation
Detail the existing policies that address CVD concerns and their level of implementation.
Specify:

- Policy that addresses hypertension in particular
- Policy focusing on access and affordability of essential medicines and technologies, in relation to the health care system capacity described in section B.2.
- Policy regarding healthy eating (fruit and vegetable subsidies?) and regulation of product contents (eg. ban trans-fat). Include information about specific taxes and bans on advertising and promotion of relevant products.
• Policies by non-health ministries that address CVD risk factors (for example is the Urban Development ministry creating more walking and cycling lanes and playgrounds to increase physical activity?).
• Policy addressing indoor air pollution.

5 Cardiovascular Disease Advocacy
Discuss how CVDs are incorporated within national development plans (or the United Nations Development Assistance Framework), national events and media campaigns.
Consider the following questions and how these factors influence CVD response within your country:
• Are CVDs or their risk factors included within the plans of non-health ministries? (For example...)
• Has your Government organized or supported any consultations, workshops or conferences on CVDs? Discuss if commitments made at these events are advancing CVD action.
• Is there a Government-funded media campaign or awareness-raising initiative focusing upon CVD? If so, what are its key messages, who were its key audiences and how has it complemented other CVD actions of the Government.
• Is there a health promotion initiative specifically promoting healthy eating and physical activity? What platforms does it use and who are its key targets?

6 Stakeholder Action
Analyse stakeholder engagement.
• How has the CVD community (NGOs, medical professional bodies and people affected by CVDs) been involved with Government action against CVDs?
• Is there a national NCD coalition?
• What are the strengths of the civil society response to CVDs?
• What can be done to strengthen civil society’s response to CVDs?
• How have other sectors of society been involved in CVDs?
• Have there been judicial (court) orders protecting patients’ rights and mandating improved CVD interventions, facilities, health system procedures or resources? What role does the private sector play in providing cardiovascular care? How prominent are CVDs and their risk factors in the media?

-National budgets
-Plan documents of Ministries of Finance/Planning/national planning body could indicate reference to CVDs in sectoral plans outside health.
-National Development Plans and UNDAFs
-NCD Civil Society Mapping in countries.
-In countries where formal media priority scorings exist, these can be used to ascertain the position of CVDs within them. Where they do not, you can describe if the media coverage in the country addresses the nature and magnitude of CVD issues in the country, the Government and civil society initiatives, observation of CVD-related days such as World Heart Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Stroke Day, World Hypertension Day etc.
Challenges and gaps in the response to CVD

Describe the main national challenges and gaps in response to CVD, based upon your report thus far and your national CVD Score Card.

This could cover gaps and challenges in:

- Governance of CVD program and policies
- Health system capacity
- Stakeholder action
- Comparative efforts between focus on CVDs and other NCDs
- Finance and research
- Surveillance systems
- Civil society awareness, participation and capacity.

Call to Action on CVD

Identify areas where urgent action is critical and outline a “call to action”. The “call to action” should address the challenges and gaps identified in the previous section (or the situational analysis if part of a Road Map) and from the CVD Scorecard. There should be a focus on the main policy, resourcing, service development and implementation demands identified by your assessment of the current response and capacity for CVD prevention.

Specify the target audiences of your ‘asks’. The target audiences may include national government(s)/international and regional bodies/private sector/the media/civil society etc. Add subnational (regional/state/municipal) government level action points if you have sufficient data to base these recommendations upon.

Include recommendations on how to improve and increase civil society participation in the country’s CVD planning and how civil society can better support policy implementation and programme delivery. Specify committees or CVD governance structures where civil society participation is critical. Identify programmes and policies where civil society contributions can make a difference. Also mention any capacity needs civil society could address to contribute fully to the national response.

Contextualise your recommendations within reaching the globally-agreed NCD premature mortality reduction target of 25% by 2025.
Part C: Tobacco control

1 Tobacco Use and Impact
Discuss trends in tobacco use in the country, and also the share of tobacco-attributable CVD mortality. Include trends in CVD mortality if in-country data is available.
Refer to the impact of CVDs and tobacco use on human development (if data available). How does tobacco use and CVD contribute to productivity loss, poverty and pose a burden on health systems, country economies and the environment? Make the case in terms of equity and health as a human right to address CVDs.

2 Tobacco Control Governance
Describe the national tobacco control plan, its goals, targets and timeframe.

- Specify multi-sectoral or multidisciplinary committees/commissions/plans
- Did the development of the tobacco control plan involve relevant stakeholders and subnational jurisdictions?
- Detail the budget available to tobacco control
- What percentage of health expenditure (or percentage of government spending) is on tobacco control?
- Discuss the provision of human resources that facilitate tobacco control interventions.
- Does the tobacco control programme receive sustainable funding from taxes on tobacco or other "sin" products?
- Is there a tobacco control surveillance mechanism that regularly assesses the national tobacco epidemic?
- Is tobacco control mentioned in the plans of non-health Ministries? For example- Ministry of Labour Plan’s to integrate tobacco cessation in their health package for workers or increased allocation in the budget of Ministry of Agriculture to shift tobacco farmers to alternate employment opportunities. Illustrate how these are improving the tobacco control response in the country
- Describe any projects that Ministry of Health has initiated with other Ministries for delivery of tobacco control interventions? (For e.g.: Is there a tie between the Youth Ministry for public education and cessation programmes?)
- Which tobacco control measures are addressed by partnership projects between Government and civil society in the country? What is the population covered by such projects?

- WHO Global Status Report on NCDs
- Noncommunicable diseases country profiles 2014
- WHO Global Report: Mortality Attributable to Tobacco.
- WHO global report on trends in prevalence of tobacco smoking 2015
- WHO STEPS
- National research demonstrating the linkages between tobacco and poverty, health cost studies demonstrating the impact of CVDs on productivity, national income and development.
- Global Adult and Youth Tobacco Surveys
- WHO Assessing the national capacity to implement effective tobacco control policies
- WHO Country Capacity Survey on NCDs
- Subnational Data Sources
3 Policy Response

Explain existing policies that address tobacco control and the level of implementation of these policies.

- Are there policies to reduce the availability and affordability of tobacco products, e.g. tax increases, illicit trade control, ban on vending machines and sales to minors?
- What is the percentage of excise tax share in final consumer price of various tobacco products in the country?
- Describe any policies that aim to either change the norms and perceptions regarding tobacco use and/or improve awareness about its harm.
- Is there a smoking ban? How comprehensive is the smoking ban?
- Are all forms of tobacco advertising and promotions prohibited?
- Are graphic warnings required on tobacco packs?
- What programmes exist to improve the availability and affordability of cessation support- are there quit lines, brief medical advice by doctors, medication and counseling support?
- Are there guidelines for treating tobacco dependence, relevant to the tobacco habits in the country?
- Are there limits on tobacco production/area under tobacco cultivation/volumes of tobacco leaf produced/ imports and exports of tobacco and tobacco products?
- How is the country's dependence on tobacco farming and trade reduced?
- Are there incentives/programmes aimed at shifting tobacco farmers to alternate crops?

4 Tobacco Control Advocacy

Mention how tobacco control is being considered in national development plans, national events and media campaigns. Also, consider how the following influence tobacco control response in the country.

- Is tobacco control mentioned in the plans of non-health ministries (e.g: Youth affairs/Agriculture- example or increased allocation in the budget of Ministry of Agriculture to shift tobacco farmers to alternate employment opportunities)
- Has your Government organised or supported any consultations, workshops or conferences on tobacco control?
- Discuss if commitments made at these events are advancing tobacco control action.
- Is there a Government-funded tobacco control media campaign? If so, what are its key messages, who were its key audiences and how has it complemented other tobacco control actions of the Government?
5 Stakeholder Action

- Describe the involvement of NGOs, medical professional bodies and people affected by CVDs in addressing tobacco control, eg. Input to Government planning bodies?
- What are the strengths of the civil society response to tobacco control? How can civil society be further leveraged to complement national tobacco control efforts?
- How have other sectors of society been involved in tobacco control?
- Have there been any court litigations that improved the tobacco control response?

Challenges and gaps in tobacco control

Describe the main national challenges and gaps in response to tobacco control, based on your national CVD Score Card.

This narrative could cover, for example, challenges and gaps in: governance of tobacco control programme, policies, stakeholder action, finance, research, surveillance, civil society capacity and participation. It could compare the efforts on tobacco control against actions targeting other NCD risk factors. To contextualize the information, describe the size and nature of the tobacco industry in the country. Discuss its influence on policymaking and any gaps in policy to prevent industry interference.

Call to action on tobacco control

Identify areas where urgent action is critical and outline a “call to action” The "call to action" should address the challenges and gaps identified in the previous section and from the CVD scorecard (or situational analysis if part of a roadmap). There should be a focus upon the main policy, resourcing, service development and implementation demands identified by your assessment of the current response and capacity for tobacco control and CVD prevention.

Specify your ‘asks’ to different target audiences (such as national government(s)/international and regional bodies/media/civil society etc.). Add subnational (regional/state/municipal) government level action points if you have sufficient data to base these recommendations upon.

Include recommendations about how to improve and increase CVD civil society participation in the country’s tobacco control planning and how this community can better support policy implementation. Specify committees or tobacco control governance structures where civil society participation is critical. Identify programmes and policies where civil society contributions can make a difference. Also mention any capacity needs civil society could address to contribute fully to the national response.

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