

Including NCD Interventions on the Road Towards Universal Health Coverage and Access

Transforming Health Systems Towards Optimal NCD management
Session 3 – PAHO Webinar Series on Tackling NCDs during COVID-19

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PAHO

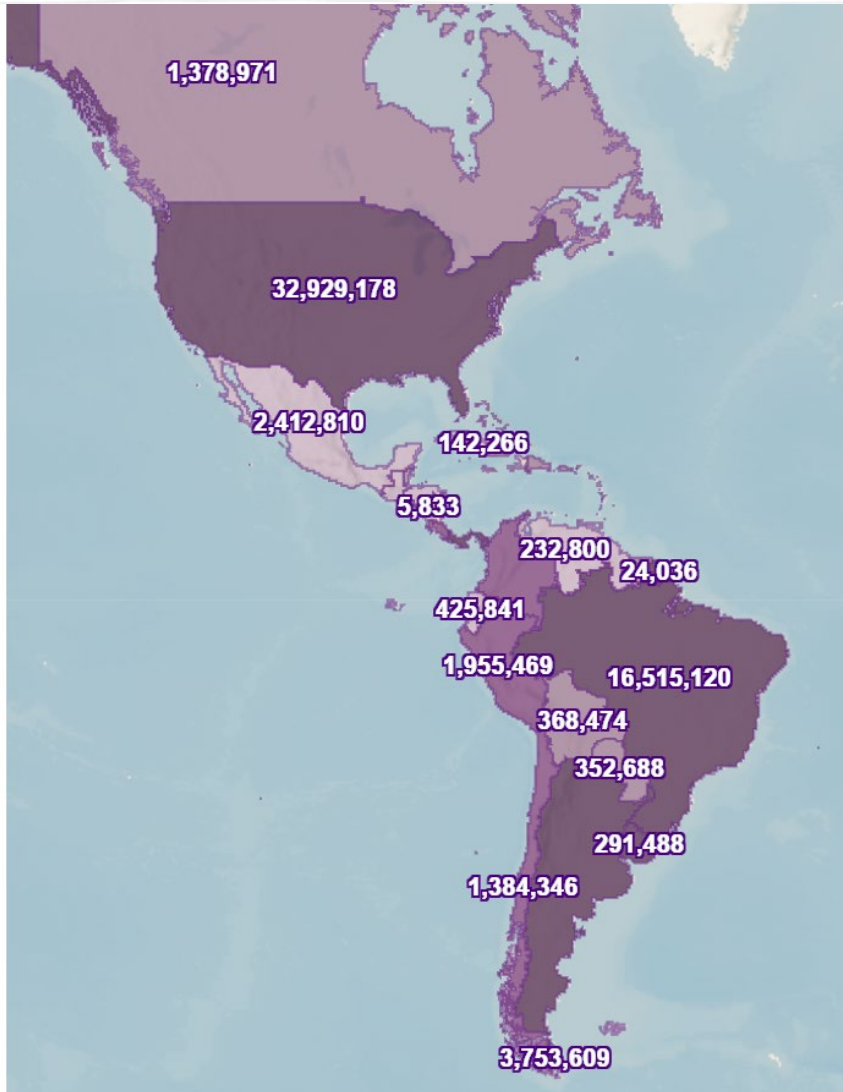


Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

The Americas is the Region most affected by COVID-19



68 533 720 COVID-19 cases
(as of 6 June 2021)

40% Of global cases are in the Americas region

1 798 954 COVID-19 deaths
(as of 6 June 2021)

48% Of global deaths are in the Americas region

Noncommunicable Diseases are the Leading Causes of Death in the Americas

7.1 million

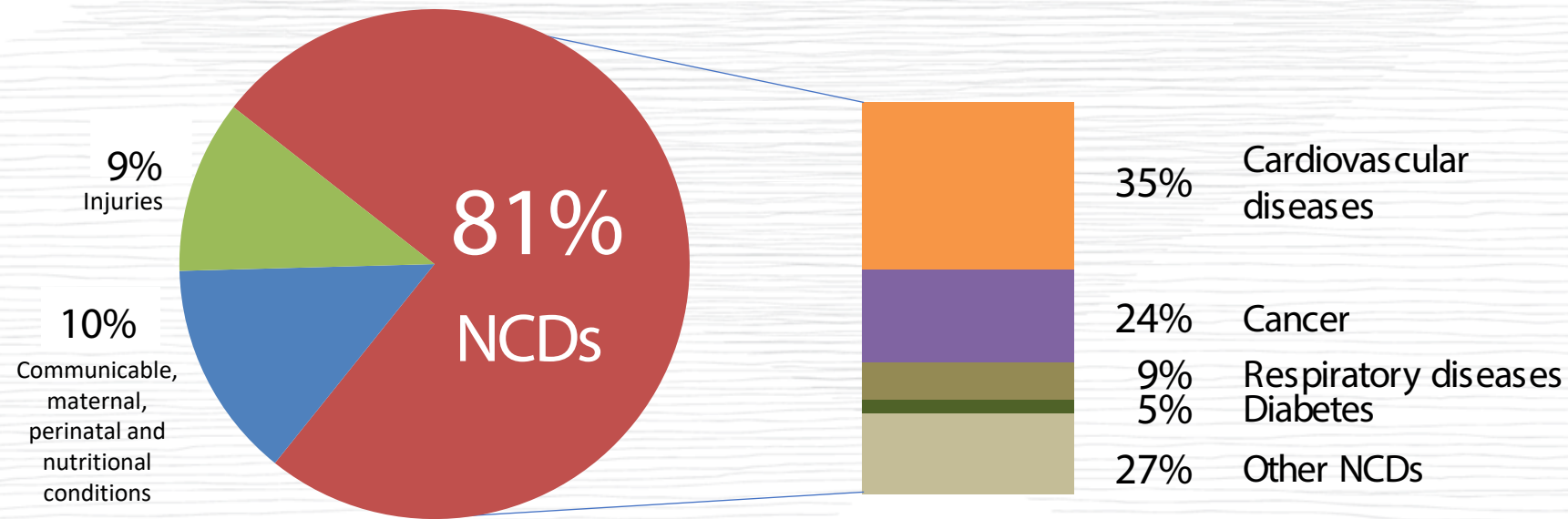
estimated total deaths

5.8 million (81%)

deaths caused by NCDs

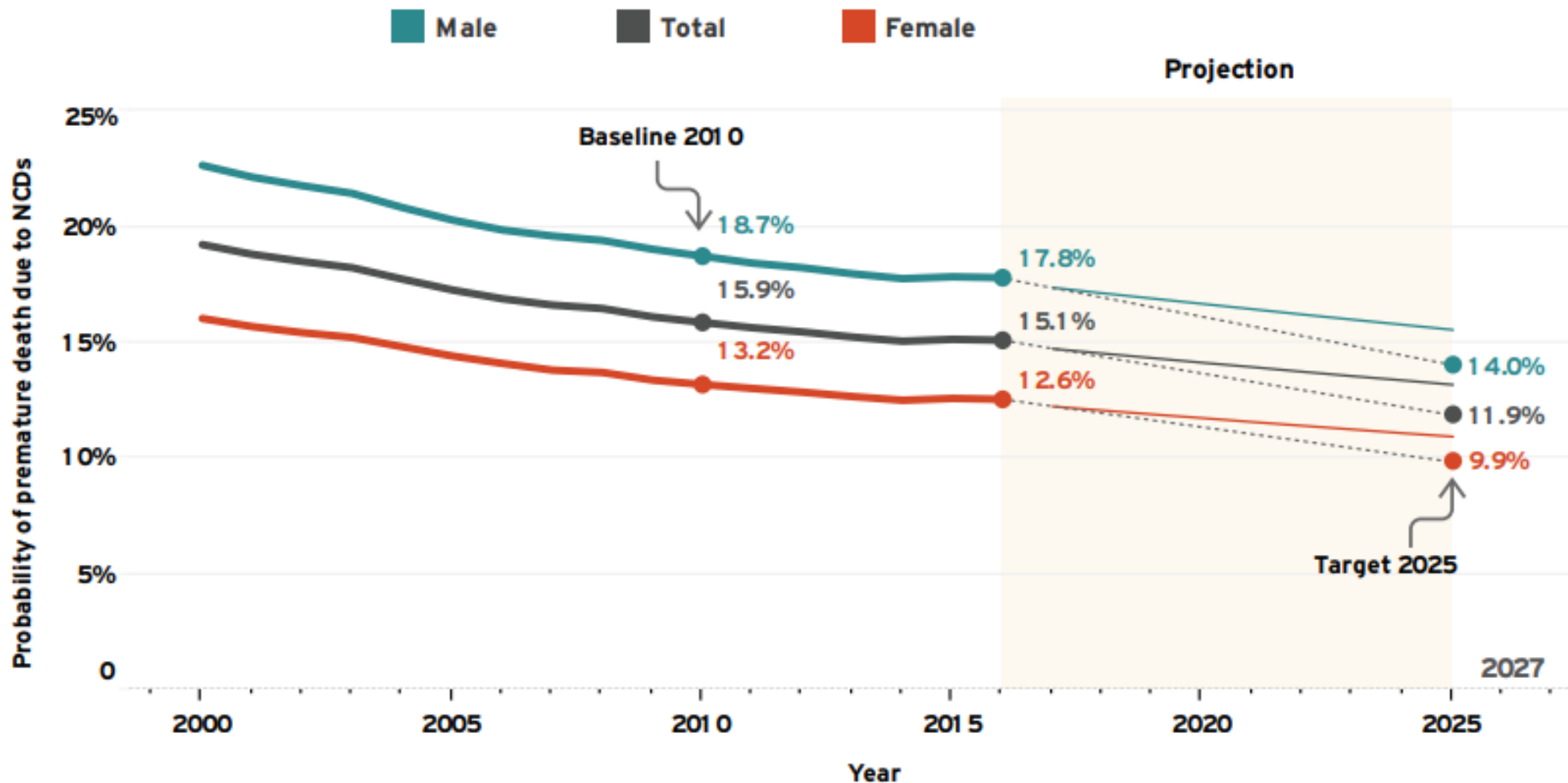
34%

NCD deaths are premature (30-70 years of age)



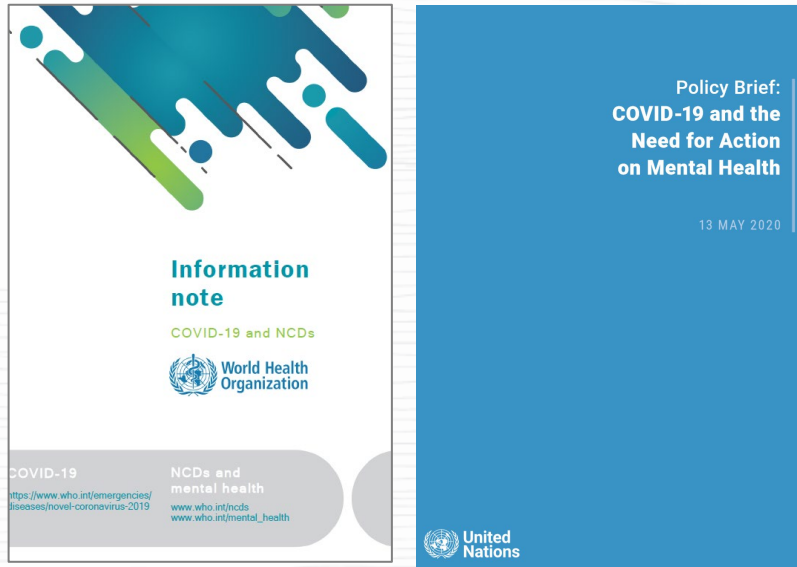
The Region is Not on Target to meet the Global Goal to reduce NCD premature mortality by 25% by 2025

Unconditional probability of dying between 30-70 years old from one of the four main NCDs, by sex (2000-2016 with projections to 2025)



Source: PAHO, NCDs at a Glance: NCD mortality and risk factor prevalence in the Americas

COVID-19 Presents Greater Challenges for People with NCDs

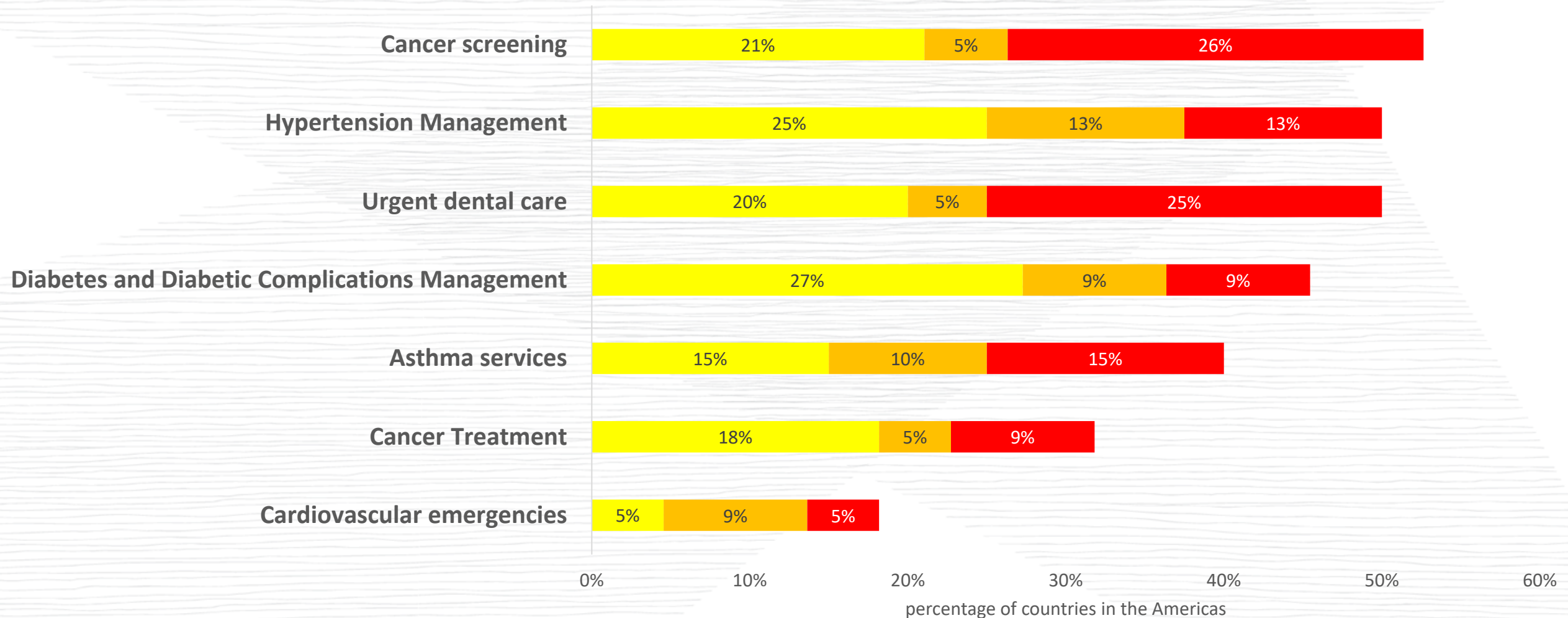


WHO Information Note on COVID-19 and NCDs
WHO Policy Brief on COVID-19 and Mental Health

- **325 million persons** in the Americas live with a chronic condition
- People with hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney disease or other NCDs at **higher risk** of developing COVID-19, and having severe cases of COVID-19
- Older age, hypertension, diabetes, COPD and CVDs were associated with **greater risk of death** from COVID-19 infection
- **6-fold higher hospitalizations** for COVID-19 and **12-fold higher mortality** from COVID-19 in those with NCDs and underlying conditions vs. those without, in the USA
- The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a **major mental health crisis**

NCD Services Disrupted during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Americas

Proportion of countries in the Americas reporting disruptions to NCD services



5-25% 26-50% More than 50%

Source: WHO. Second round of the national pulse survey on continuity of essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic, April 2021



The COVID-19 Pandemic Offers an Opportunity to Strengthen Health Systems including for NCDs



Governance

- NCDs in national health plans and COVID response plans
- Policies for chronic care and risk factors

Health financing

- Coverage of NCD services in UHC benefit packages

Medicines & tech

- NCD essential medicines
- NCD technologies
- Utilize PAHO Strategic Fund

Health workforce

- capacity building for primary care workforce in NCD management

Service delivery

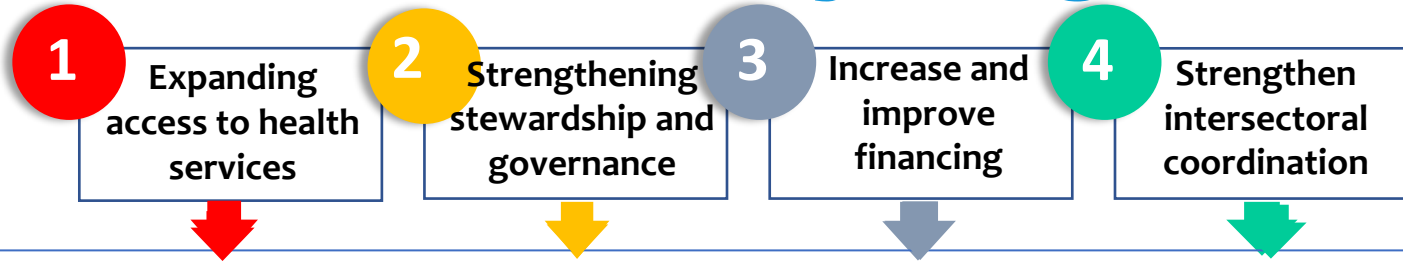
- NCD services integrated in primary care
- Guidelines/protocols
- Referral networks
- Community support

Health information

- NCD indicators in health information systems
- NCD population-based surveys



A Systemic Approach to Improve NCDs as a Priority Program



Applied to priority programs, including NCDs, according to country's disease burden



Health coverage

Health system critical resources (HRH, medicines and other technologies)

Health service delivery organization

Intersectoral action with an impact on health



Access to health

Eliminating barriers to access health services for NCDs, etc.

Effective and equitable use of health services for NCD management

Coverage and access to intersectoral interventions to reduce NCD risk factors and manage NCDs

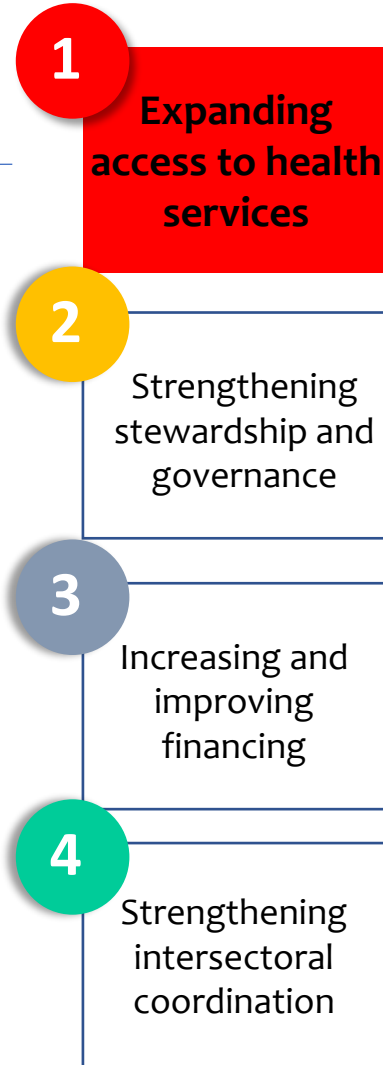


Health Status

Health priorities
NCDs, COVID, maternal health, among others

Challenges for integration of NCDs

- Disease-centered care
- Fragmentation of care
- Duplication of services
- Persistent barriers to access quality comprehensive health services



Sustainability-oriented actions

- ✚ Transition to a **model of care** that responds to people's needs for NCD chronic care
- ✚ **Improve responsiveness** of First Level of Care for NCDs
- ✚ **Comprehensive health services** guaranteed by the health service network for higher level NCD services
- ✚ Action on structural barriers: focus on **groups in conditions of vulnerability** (key populations, migrants, the poor, indigenous populations)
- ✚ Empower people with information on decisions regarding their own health and health care

Challenges for integration of NCDs

- Program-based planning not aligned with national NCD plans and policies
- Weak stewardship role regarding NCD program aspects
- Weak inter-programmatic coordination



Sustainability-oriented actions

- ✦ Develop **health plans and policies at the national** level that include the NCD programmatic perspective
- ✦ **Prioritize NCD services:** definition of progressively expanded health services that reflect health priorities
- ✦ Strengthen leadership capacity of Ministry of Health for NCDs and create **alliances** with key stakeholders and develop **normative, legal and regulatory frameworks**
- ✦ **Institutionalize** inter-programmatic coordination for NCDs and other priority programs

Challenges for integration of NCDs

- Low public expenditure in health
- Vertical financing and budgeting: increased segmentation
- Inefficient and inequitable expenditure
- High OOP (for some NCD services)

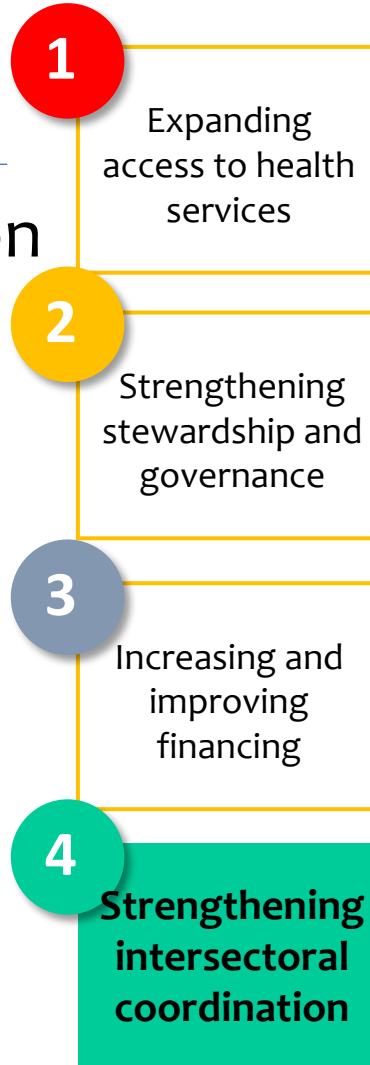


Sustainability-oriented actions

- ✦ **Increase fiscal space for health:** comprehensive health system approach instead of program by program
- ✦ Comprehensive health services costed and financed
- ✦ **Integrate resources and budget** associated with NCD program into health system resources
- ✦ **Strategic purchasing, payment mechanisms** aligned with national health objectives for NCDs
- ✦ **Prioritize** the First Level of Care for NCD management

Challenges for integration of NCDs

- Weak intersectoral coordination of NCD policies
- Limited approach towards social determinants of health
- Insufficient attention to risk factors and lifestyle
- Weak community participation in policies and programs



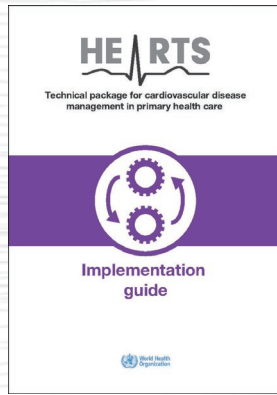
Sustainability-oriented actions

- ✦ Strengthen the leadership in defining the **NCD-related components of intersectoral policies**
- ✦ Address social determinants of health and include **intersectoral interventions in NCD plans**
- ✦ Lead interventions on **risk factors and lifestyles** that go well beyond the health system including legislation, taxation, social communication
- ✦ **Institutionalize mechanisms for involving people living with NCDs** in the development of NCD policies and programs

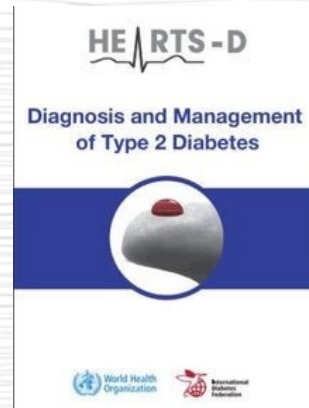
PAHO/WHO TOOLS TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH SERVICES FOR NCDs



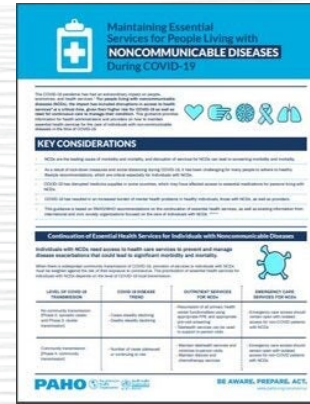
Package of Essential NCD Interventions



Hearts Technical Package



Diabetes Management Module



Maintaining services during COVID-19



Digital health for NCDs



Strategic fund for essential NCD medicines



Cervical cancer guidelines



NCD survey: Steps survey instrument

CONCLUSIONS

1. COVID-19 presents an opportunity to strengthen health systems and prioritize NCD services towards universal health
2. Strategic investments will be required for a transformed health system to respond to people's needs for NCDs
3. Integrate NCDs in strengthened primary health care, including building capacity for service delivery
4. Utilize innovations with digital health and electronic medical records
5. Strengthen surveillance for NCDs, with resilient and comprehensive information systems for health including data on NCDs and related COVID-19 outcomes