

Gathering For The Future Of Global Health

Launch of Norway's strategy "Better Health, Better Lives

– Combating Non-Communicable Diseases in the Context of Norwegian Development Policy 2020-2024"

22. November, from 14.00 to 16.30 in the University Hall (Universitetets Aula)



Key facts:

- Non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease, diabetes and mental health disorders cause more than 70% of all deaths worldwide.
- The most important risk factors are tobacco use, air pollution, harmful alcohol use, lack of physical activity and unhealthy diets with too much salt, sugar and trans-fat/saturated fat.
- Non-communicable diseases cause premature death and reduce quality of life, and have high costs for the individual, for the family and for society.
- The proportion of NCD-related deaths before the age of 70, is highest in low- and middle-income countries. This is also where we see the fastest rate of increase in overall NCD mortality.
- Large-scale global efforts could save millions of lives, contribute to healthier populations and economic growth in low-income countries. This will be crucial for achieving several of the sustainable development goals, not just the health-related ones.
- Only 1-2 percent of the world's total health-related development assistance goes toward combating non-communicable diseases.

The Norwegian government's new strategy

The government's new strategy "*Better Health, Better Lives - Combating Non-Communicable Diseases in the Context of Norwegian Development Policy 2020-2024*" aims to contribute to reducing the number of premature deaths from non-communicable diseases in low-income countries by a third by 2030 (SDG 3.4), and generally to improve people's health through the life-course.

Norway has a long record of support for action on NCD risks through WHO and other multilateral actors. However, this new strategy marks NCDs as an important cornerstone in Norwegian development policy. It responds to the shift in the global burden of disease from infectious to non-communicable diseases, which place a particularly heavy burden on the societies and health systems of low-income countries. The focus of the strategy is on universal measures that can reduce the NCD burden among the poorest and most vulnerable population groups, leaving no one behind. The strategy positions Norway as a global leader in the fight against non-communicable diseases in low-income countries.

The strategy prioritizes efforts to strengthen primary health care, prevent diseases through the reduction of NCD risk factors and foster clean, enabling environments for healthy lifestyles. The effort concentrates on risks that contribute heavily to illness and death in low-income countries; tobacco use, air pollution and unhealthy diets. The strategy is based on experiences from Norwegian public health work in the context of *Health Services for All*, and from development cooperation. It supports efforts to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and implement the World Health Organization's *Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs*. Measures relating to Norway's priority areas of development policy are included, with emphasis on health, education, sustainable food systems, climate and the environment, renewable energy, humanitarian work, people with disabilities, digitalisation and good governance.

Launch of the strategy

The *Gathering* is co-organized by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Centre for Global Health at the University of Oslo. Norwegian Minister of International Development Dag-Inge Ulstein and Norwegian Minister of Health Bent Høie will co-host. Leading global health actors will participate in a high-level panel and concerned stakeholders will make interventions. There will be a musical performance by the young artist Lukas Claude. Dr Tore Godal, a longtime Norwegian leader in the global health arena, will be the *Gathering's* Guest of Honor.

The *Gathering* will focus on what has been achieved in global health since the start of the Millennium and explore how global health institutions and leaders can respond to the NCD challenge. There will be thematic presentations on the diseases that are today's biggest killers; how we can turn disease threats into success stories including a dynamic panel debate focusing on issues such as how we can synergize our efforts to combat threats from climate and environmental risks to health with the NCD agenda.

Program (tentative)

Welcome: *Norwegian Minister of International Development Dag-Inge Ulstein*

Musical performance: *Lukas Claude*

Launch of video: Fighting NCDs for Better Health and Longer Lives

Launch of the Norwegian Government's new strategy: "Better Health, Better Lives. Combating Non-Communicable Diseases in the Context of Norwegian Development Policy 2020-2024". *Norwegian Minister of International Development Dag-Inge Ulstein and Norwegian Minister of Health Bent Høie*

Greeting: *Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General WHO: Prevention and control of NCDs – WHO's efforts*

Video and appeal: Mental Health in a Local Context. *Matrika Devkota, Koshish, Nepal*

Presentation: NCDs - A Global Health Crisis. How to Move from Words to Action? *Bente Mikkelsen, Director of the Division on NCDs, WHO Regional Office for Europe*

Intervention: The Norwegian NCD-Strategy – How to Work Together to Get the Job Done. *Anne Lise Ryel, Secretary General, the Norwegian Cancer Society, and NCD Alliance Board member.*

Panel discussion: On present and future global health challenges, including related to climate change and the environment and non-communicable diseases. These challenges or crisis put development at risk. The discussion will focus on what we can do to save lives, ensure a healthy population and contribute to economic growth in low-income countries. It will also focus on efforts towards children and young adults and how we can scale up the proportion of aid that goes towards combating NCDs.

Moderator: *Maria Neira, Director Public Health and Environment, WHO*

Participants: *Omnia El Omrani, Egyptian Medical Student and Liaison Officer for Public Health Issues, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA); Amir Aman, Minister of Health, Ethiopia (tbc); Andrea Winkler, Director, Centre for Global Health, the University of Oslo; David Nabarro, Professor of Global Health at Imperial College, London and former Special Advisor to the UN (tbc)*

Appeal by the Guest of Honor: *Tore Godal*

Closing remarks: *Minister of International Development Dag-Inge Ulstein*

Musical performance: *Lukas Claude*



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

UiO : Global Health



Norwegian Ministry
of Health and Care Services