









### Context

Following the request of the Ministry of Health of Algeria, a voluntary evaluation of the National Multisectoral Strategic Plan to Address Risk Factors for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) 2015-2019 (extended until 2022) was undertaken. This evaluation was conducted by a team of experts from the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on NCDs (UNIATF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Health Organization (WHO) between September and December 2023. The evaluation was carried out through interviews and meetings in the country and a document review.

The objective of this evaluation was to examine the development process, content, and implementation of the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan (extended until 2022), identify areas for improvement and new aspects to include in the upcoming Strategic Plan.

## Summary

The 2015-2019 Strategic Plan (extended until 2022) focuses on the prevention of NCDs. The treatment and clinical management of NCDs are outlined in other national NCD policies. The Strategic Plan comprises of four strategic axes: (i) promoting healthy diets; (ii) promoting physical activity, sports, and active mobility; (iii) tobacco control; and (iv) the coordination framework. The targets for assessing the success of the plan are included in the supporting monitoring and evaluation plan but are not referenced in the Strategic Plan itself. The plan has not undergone a monitoring and evaluation process, which limits the analysis of its impact.

Furthermore, as there has not been a STEPS survey or other national risk factor surveillance activities on NCDs since the beginning of the plan, it is difficult to assess the epidemiological evolution and socioeconomic burden of NCDs between 2016 (the date of the last STEPS survey) and 2022.

The voluntary evaluation conducted by the Task Force concluded that numerous policy changes and law adoptions occurred between 2015 and 2022. Firstly, the plan was enacted by official decree, thus formally integrating it into the political and institutional landscape of Algeria. Additionally, as a direct result of the Strategic Plan, Executive Decree No. 15-72 of 2015 established a national multisectoral NCD committee, which was renewed in 2022 under Executive Decree No. 22-311. Other advancements include the adoption of Law No. 18-11 of 2018 on health; the draft law on risk prevention and management currently under development; an increase in the tobacco tax and alcohol tax that feed into the National Cancer Control Fund; the development of regulatory texts on sugar, fats, and jams; the creation of a nutritional guide for all stages of life and living environments; and the implementation of school policies aimed at promoting physical activity and healthy diets. The laws and advancements following the implementation of the plan suggest its influence on constitutional changes in Algeria. However, the precise way in which the plan has supported these laws is not systematically traceable to the Strategic Plan itself.



#### **Strengths of the Strategic Plan**

The voluntary evaluation identified several key strengths of the Strategic Plan, which provide a foundation for the development of the next Strategic Plan. They are as follows:

- The Strategic Plan is comprehensive and includes supporting plans focused on operations, communication, research and development, monitoring and evaluation, as well as a regulatory and budgetary framework.
- The Strategic Plan has raised awareness among the government and non-state actors regarding NCDs, particularly the need for action across all sectors to reduce the burden of NCDs.
- The Ministry of Health is well recognized by stakeholders as a leader in NCDs, convening the national NCD committee, and ensuring representation from multiple stakeholders to advance NCD action.
- Several government ministries have scaled up their individual activities to combat NCDs.



# Limitations of the Strategic Plan

The voluntary evaluation also identified several limitations. These include:

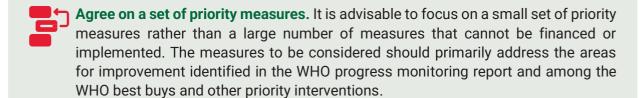
- The lack of a specific budget allocated to support the implementation of the plan.
- The limited feasibility of the plan due to the high number of actions and measures and the inability to meet deadlines.
- The ambiguous roles of the plan's implementing partners, which contributed to a lack of clarity about what was expected of them.
- Gaps in communication and coordination within the committee, preventing stakeholders from staying informed and up to date on NCD-related activities.
- The monitoring and evaluation plan was not implemented.



#### **Recommendations for the next Strategic Plan**

The core evaluation team was invited to provide recommendations for the next Strategic Plan based on the evaluation results. The recommendations presented in this report are key activities for the successful multisectoral implementation of the plan. The recommendations are as follows:

Strengthen coordination by convening the national NCD committee at the level of the Prime Minister's Office. Given the need for a whole-of-government response to effectively combat NCDs, it is essential to continue advocating for the committee to be convened by the Prime Minister's Office. This would draw the attention of senior government officials to NCDs, while promoting the integration of NCD-related policies and accelerating the necessary actions. In this context, the Directorate General for Prevention and Health Promotion should be reinforced to ensure that it can effectively act as a secretariat to the committee.



- When implementing the plan, work with a small number of key partners. It is recommended to focus attention on a small group of partners rather than inefficiently distributing political capital and limited resources across a large number of partners. Thematic working groups should consist of a limited number of key partners, who are responsible for implementing activities in each area and report to the committee.
- Increase the availability of reliable data on NCDs to define baselines and targets. The 2024 STEPS survey and the planned morbidity study should be prioritized as initial next steps.
- Develop measurable targets. In line with the plan's objectives, targets should be defined to evaluate the plan's success and should be accompanied by SMART indicators (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound) to track progress.
  - Agree on and allocate a budget for the Strategic Plan. All actions in the plan should be accompanied by a cost estimate. The Ministry of Finance and all implementing partners must agree on the annual budget and how expenses will be reported each year.



**Strengthen accountability of identified stakeholders.** Prioritize the establishment of a technical group for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) responsible for coordinating the M&E plan. Ensure that reports on the progress of the next Strategic Plan are communicated annually to relevant stakeholders, including government representatives and parliament.



**Strengthen capacities.** Develop and implement a series of technical capacity-building workshops (e.g., research, surveillance, and communication) throughout the duration of the plan, involving the entire government and its partners. The United Nations Country Team should support this effort, along with national partners such as universities and civil society.