NCDs and mental health conditions

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in Small Island Developing States

January 2023

This paper describes how noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health are prioritized in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to support discussions at the SIDS high-level technical meeting on NCDs and mental health, 17–18 January 2023 in Barbados.

13 country and 2 multi-country Cooperation Frameworks were identified, covering a total of 48 of the 58 SIDS as defined by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.[1]

WHO region	SIDS
AFR	Mauritius Seychelles Comoros Guinea-Bissau São Tomé and Príncipe Cabo Verde
AMR	Haiti Cuba Dominican Republic English/Dutch-speaking Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Bahamas, Jamaica, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Belize, Guyana, Suriname)
EMR	Bahrain
SEAR	Timor-Leste Maldives
WPR	Papua New Guinea Pacific (Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)

Of the 15 UNSDCFs, 5 were rolled out in 2018/2019, 2 in 2020/2021 and 8 in 2022/2023.

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[1] https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states

Question 1: Are NCDs and mental health included in the strategic priority section?

Methods used:

The first step in the analysis was to determine if the Cooperation Frameworks' strategic priorities mentioned NCDs or mental health. This was done by searching the documents for key words related to NCDs and mental health. Key words included diseases, conditions, risk factors and the provision of dedicated health services.

Results obtained:
- NCDs included in 10 (67%) UNSDCFs, 43 SIDS (90%)
- Mental health included in 2 (13%) UNSDCFs, 2 SIDS (%)
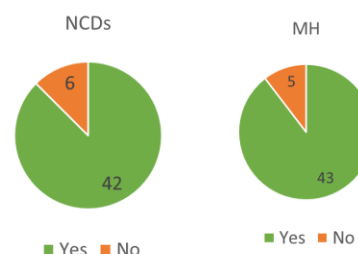
NCDs

MH

5

2

43

46

Yes No   Yes No
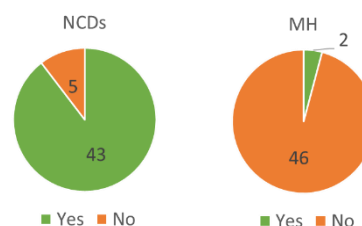
Question 2: Does the result matrix include NCD/mental health-related outcome indicators?

Methods used:

Indicators of the result matrix were analysed to check if they measured an outcome related to NCDs and mental health. The indicators were then categorised by topic. Indicators were analysed as they are the most granular components of the result matrix.

Results obtained:
- NCDs: 26 indicators in 9 (60%) UNSDCFs, 42 SIDS (88%)
- Mental health: 18 indicators in 10 (67%) UNSDCFs, 43 SIDS (90%)

NCDs

MH

6

5

42

43

Yes No   Yes No

Question 3: Do UNSDCF evaluation reports describe country/countries progress on NCDs and mental health?

Methods used:

UNSDCF evaluation reports were scanned for key words related to NCDs and mental health and the results extracted and categorised by topic. Cooperation Frameworks that started after 2021 did not have an evaluation of the current framework, so the final evaluation of the previous framework was used. No evaluation report was found for Seychelles, so a total of 14 evaluation reports have been analysed.
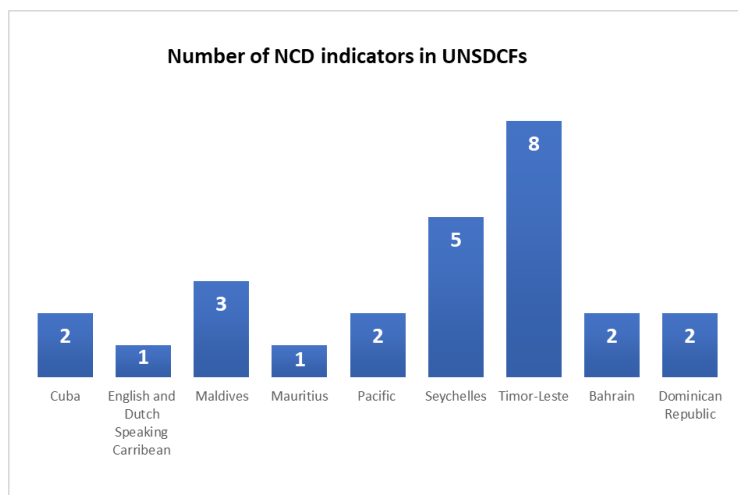
Results obtained:
- NCDs: 11 (79%) UNSDCFs, 44 (94%) SIDS
- Mental health: 14 (100%) UNSDCFs, 47 (100%) SIDS
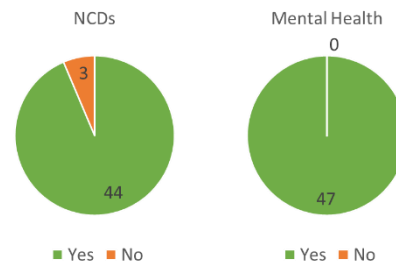
In a little more detail...

With regards NCDs, Timor-Leste was the country with the most indicators (n=8), covering a variety of NCD topics including: (i) prevalence of overweight children; (ii) NCD mortality; (iii) tobacco; and (iv) alcohol consumption.

Number of NCD indicators in UNSDCFs

With regards to mental health conditions, Haiti and Cuba were the countries with most UNSDCF results (each with 6), covering a variety of mental health topics including: (i) psychosocial support to victims of violence; (ii) mental health interventions for vulnerable groups (e.g. prisoners and elderly); (iii) psychosocial assistance during emergencies; and (iv) psychosocial assistance to children and in schools.

Mental health progress results in UNSDCF evaluation reports
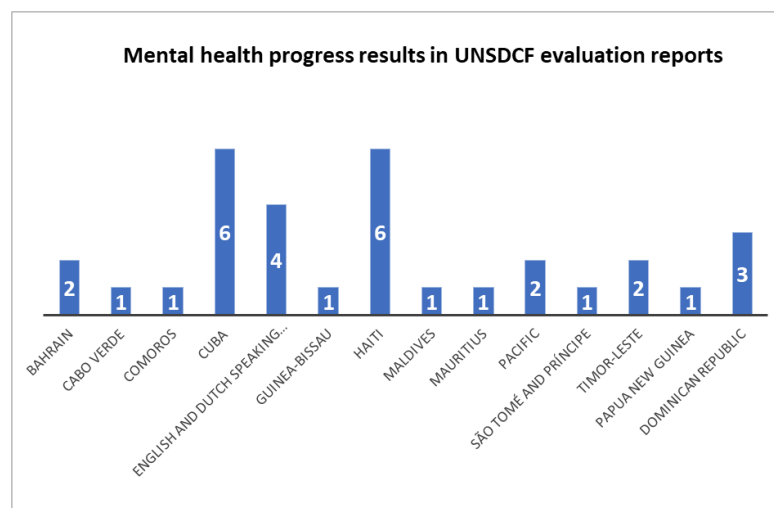
Trends over time for the inclusion of NCDs into Cooperation Frameworks

Based on previous analysis conducted by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, countries have increasingly incorporated the inclusion of NCDs and mental health in their UNSDCFs since 2012/2013. In 2020/2021, 85% of SIDS had a Cooperation Framework that included NCDs compared to 71% globally. In 2022/2023 96% of Cooperation Frameworks for SIDS included NCDs. This data is not yet available globally.

Percent UNSDCFs that include NCDs: **SIDS**

Percent UNSDCFs that include NCDs: **all countries**
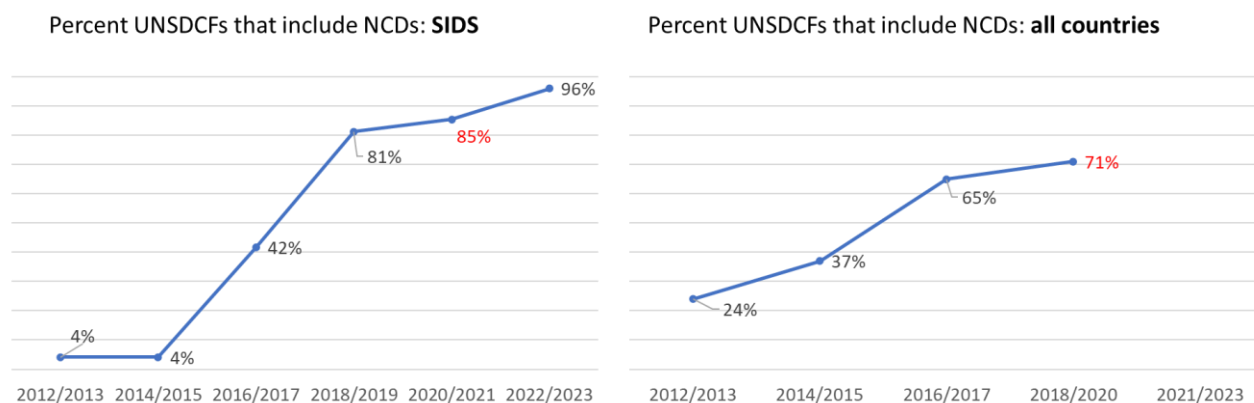
Conclusions and reflections

1. Overall, NCDs and mental health are being included in UNSDCFs, but further efforts are required to include mental health as a strategic priority.

2. UNSDCFs need to build on the best in class, i.e.
- ✓ describing the country/regional burden of NCDs and mental health conditions and clearly define them as strategic priorities;
- ✓ including indicators that are sufficiently SMART and be cognisant of the full range of NCDs and mental health conditions;
- ✓ detailing progress in evaluation reports.

3. Inclusion of NCDs and mental health in UNSDCFs is necessary but not sufficient. Commitments need to be turned into action. This requires:
- ✓ sufficient resources to ensure that the UN can provide the necessary political and technical assistance and advocacy to support SIDS;
- ✓ SIDS to be making the demand from the UN system and holding it accountable for delivering action.

NCDs and mental health conditions. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in Small Island Development States. January 2023

This publication does not represent an official position of the United Nations, the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, WHO or any of the agencies or countries referred to in the publication. It is being issued as an informal tool to explore the views of those participating in the SIDS high-level technical meeting on NCDs and mental health, 17–18 January 2023. References to international partners do not constitute or imply any endorsement whatsoever.