

Integration of non-communicable diseases and mental health into United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks: Rollout year 2020/2021

Summary: Of the 38 countries that rolled out United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) in 2020/2021, 79% (30/38) integrated NCDs and 76% (29/38) integrated mental health.

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1. This report presents the trend in number of countries that have integrated non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health into their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) between 2012 and 2021.¹ These results will be used by the Task Force to:
 - (i) Identify gaps in UN country support towards reaching NCD and mental health 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
 - (ii) Encourage ever greater whole-of-UN system action at the country level.

This report is the fifth in a series of reviews since 2014. Some of the figures published in this latest report have been updated from previous publications as additional data are now available for previous years.

2. A UNSDCF was considered to include NCDs and/or mental health if one or both are referenced as part of the UNSDCF strategic priorities or as an outcome, output or indicator. The data are presented biannually and by WHO region: African region (AFR), Region of the Americas (AMR), South-East Asia Region (SEAR), European Region (EUR), Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), and Western Pacific Region (WPR).² Additional information on the methods can be found in Annex 1.

Integration of NCDs into UNSDCFs

3. Since 2012, and as of end of 2019, UNSDCFs have been reviewed for 150 countries*, of which 113 countries** (75%) integrated NCDs. During the 2012/2013 rollout 45% (40/89) of countries included NCDs; 57% (13/23) for 2014/2015; 73% (53/73) for 2016/2017; and 77% (47/61) for 2018/2019.
4. Of the 38 countries that rolled out a UNSDCF in 2020/2021 (Annex 2), 30 countries (79%) integrated NCDs into their UNSDCF (Figure 1), and 9 of these countries included NCDs for the first time since the 2012 rollout (Annex 3).

¹ UNSDG (2019). United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance. Available from: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/united-nations-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-guidance>

² WHO. WHO regional offices. Available from: <https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/regional-offices>

*Including the following areas/geographical territories: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Tokelau.

**Countries that included NCDs in at least one of their UNSDCFs rolled out since 2012, excluding the current analysis.

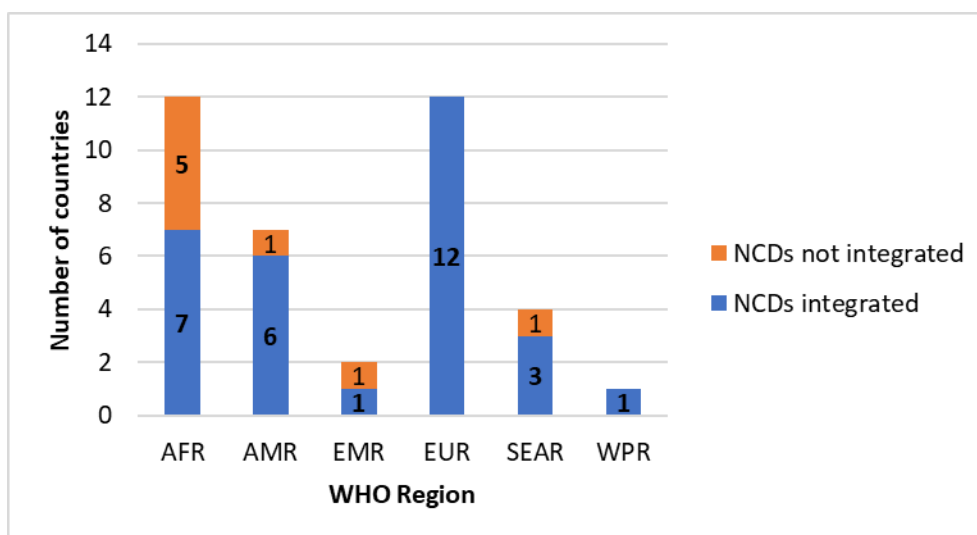


FIGURE 1. Integration of NCDs in UNSDCFs by WHO region in the 2020/2021 rollout.

- Since the 2012/2013 rollout date, the percentage of countries including NCDs in their UNSDCF by rollout date has increased from 45% to 79% in 2020/2021 (Figure 2). It is important to note that 3 countries (Ethiopia, Mexico, Myanmar) that included NCDs in their previous UNSDCF no longer include it in the current UNSDCF (2020/2021).

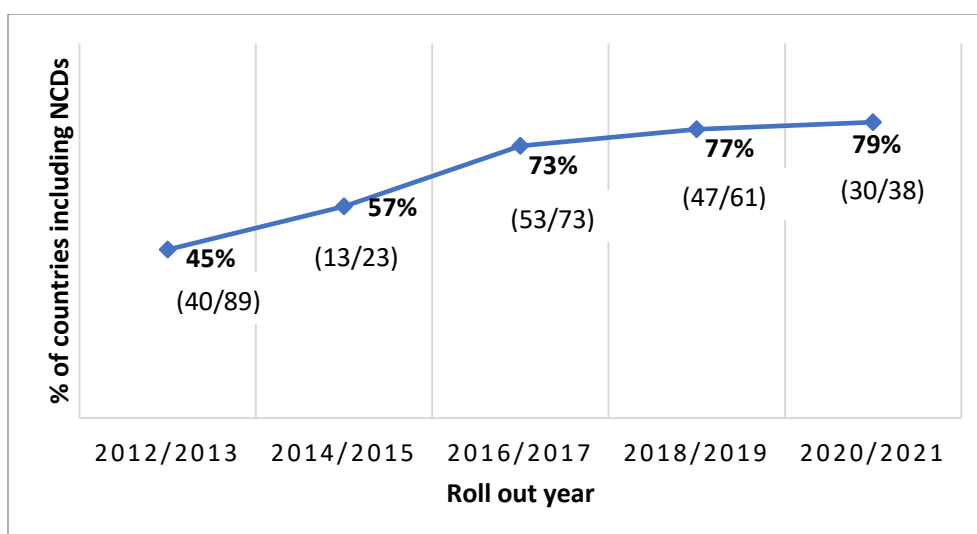


FIGURE 2. Percentage of countries with NCDs integrated into their UNSDCFs per biannual rollout analysis.

6. As of end of 2021, 92 countries had an ongoing UNSDCF (expire in or after 2022) of which 80% (74/92) include NCDs. More specifically, 69% (20/29) of UNSDCFs currently ongoing in AFR include NCDs, 83% (10/12) in AMR, 56% (5/9) in EMR, 93% (14/15) EUR, 78% (7/9) SEARO, 100% (18/18) WPR (Annex 4). Of the ongoing UNSDCFs in the WPR, 14 countries are part of a joint UNSDCF (the United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022).

Integration of mental health in UNSDCFs

7. This is the first time that the inclusion of mental health into UNSDCFs has been assessed. Of the 38 countries that rolled out a UNSDCF in 2020/2021 (Annex 2), 29 countries (76%) integrated mental health into their UNSDCF. Specifically, 67% (8/12) of UNSDCFs in AFR include mental health, 71% (5/7) in AMR, 0% (0/2) in EMR, 100% (12/12) EUR, 100% (4/4) SEAR, 0% (0/1) WPR (Figure 3).

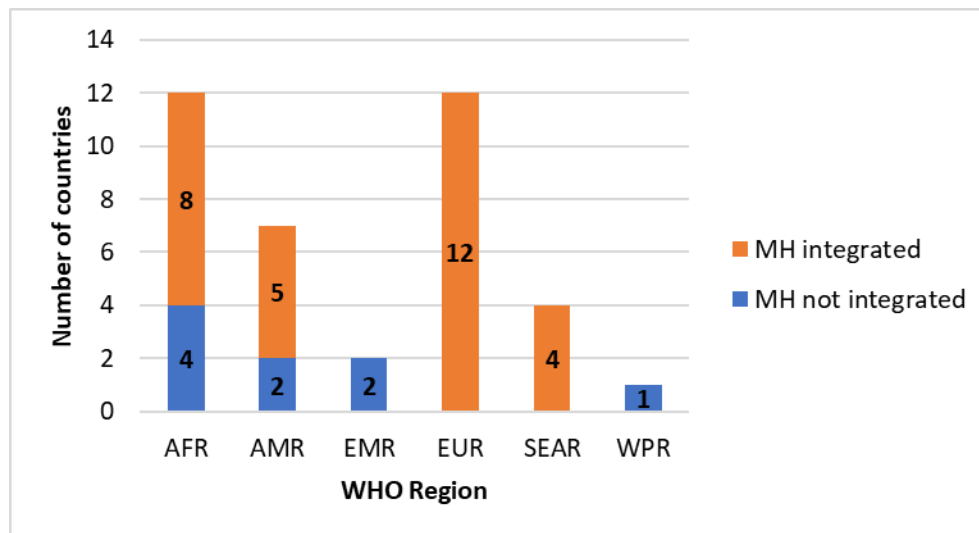


FIGURE 3. Integration of mental health in UNSDCFs by WHO region in the 2020/2021 rollout.

Emerging points

8. Since the 2012/2013 rollout, there has been a substantial increase in the percentage of countries that integrate NCDs in their UNSDCF, however the increasing trend has been

stabilising with a 5% increase between the 2016/2017 and 2018/2019 roll out, and 2% between the 2018/2019 and 2020/2021 roll out.

9. Three countries were found to have transitioned from including NCDs in their previous UNSDCF to excluding them in the current one. This shows that continuous efforts are needed to highlight the importance of NCDs as a development issue and advocate for their inclusion in UNSDCFs.
10. In each region, the majority of countries with an ongoing UNSDCFs include NCDs, yet the exact percentage varies considerably across regions (spanning from 56% to 100%). For the 2020/2021 rollout, the EUR and WPR were the only regions that had all UNSDCFs integrate NCDs, and EUR is the only region that had all UNSDCFs include mental health.
11. It is important to note that the results presented in this document have limitations. UNSDCFs may be missing from the analysis if they were unavailable online or not shared by UN country teams. These results are limited to describing if NCDs are included in UNSDCFs and the analysis does not provide insights on how they were integrated (e.g., what aspects of NCDs are being addressed).

Annex 1. Methods

The analysis of NCD inclusion in UNSDCF was based on the indicator in WHO's Programme Budgets (2014-2015, 2016-2017, and 2018-2019).³ The indicator was the number of countries that have integrated NCDs into their UNSDCF. This indicator built on policy options recommended for Member States which are included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020⁴ and commitments from Member States which are included in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs⁵.

The current analysis was performed in June 2023 and the UNSDCFs were obtained from the UN Sustainable Development Group's website⁶ or provided by WHO regional NCD directors and country representatives. Key terms were searched in the UNSDCFs. The key terms were obtained from Annex 3 of the Global NCD Action Plan,⁷ the Global NCD monitoring framework,⁸ Annex I of the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030,⁹ and the WHO mental disorders fact sheet.¹⁰ A set of inclusion and exclusion criteria were developed to filter content that did not specify NCDs and/or mental health as part of the UNSDCF strategic priorities or as an outcome, output or indicator. The information was then extracted and the UNSDCF categorised as including or not including NCDs and/or mental health.

³ WHO (2020). Programme budget 2018-2019. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/programme-budget-2018-2019>

⁴ WHO (2013). Global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013-2020. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241506236>

⁵ United Nations (2014). Outcome document of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Comprehensive Review and Assessment of the Progress Achieved in the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases : draft resolution / submitted by the President of the General Assembly. Available from: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/774662?ln=en>

⁶ UN Sustainable Development Group: <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/country-level?tab=countries-listing>

⁷ WHO (2022). Draft Updated Appendix 3 of the WHO Global NCD action plan 2013-2030. Available from: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/ncds/mnd/2022_discussion_paper_final.pdf?sfvrsn=78343686_7

⁸ WHO (2011). NCD Global Monitoring Framework. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/ncd-surveillance-global-monitoring-framework>

⁹ WHO (2021). Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240031029>

¹⁰ WHO (2020). Mental disorders. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-disorders>

Annex 2. UNSDCFs reviewed in 2020/2021 rollout (N=38)

Country	Start Year	End Year	NCD included (Yes/No)	MH included (Yes/No)
AFR				
Angola	2020	2022	Yes	Yes
Congo	2020	2024	No	Yes
Côte d'Ivoire	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2020	2024	No	Yes
Ethiopia	2020	2025	No	Yes
Liberia	2020	2024	No	Yes
Madagascar	2021	2023	Yes	No
Mali	2020	2024	No	No
Somalia	2021	2025	Yes	No
South Africa	2020	2025	Yes	Yes
Eswatini	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Uganda	2021	2025	Yes	No
AMR				
Argentina	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Cuba	2020	2024	Yes	No
Guatemala	2020	2025	Yes	Yes
Mexico	2020	2025	No	Yes
Panama	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Paraguay	2020	2024	Yes	No
Uruguay	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
EMR				
Iraq	2020	2024	No	No
Tunisia	2021	2025	Yes	No
EUR				
Armenia	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Azerbaijan	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Belarus	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Georgia	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Kazakhstan	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Kosovo	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
North Macedonia	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Serbia	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Türkiye	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Turkmenistan	2021	2025	Yes	Yes

Uzbekistan	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
SEAR				
China	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Indonesia	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
Myanmar	2021	2023	No	Yes
Timor-Leste	2021	2025	Yes	Yes
WPR				
Malaysia	2021	2025	Yes	No

Annex 3. First reference of NCDs in UNSDCF by rollout year (N=122)

WHO Region	2012/2013	2014/2015	2016/2017	2018/2019	2020/2021
AFR	Burundi Gabon Ghana Lesotho Mauritania Mozambique Rwanda	Angola Benin Comoros Kenya Namibia Togo	Algeria Botswana Côte d'Ivoire Ethiopia Gambia Eswatini United Republic of Tanzania Uganda	Cabo Verde Equatorial Guinea Guinea Malawi Mauritius South Sudan	Madagascar Somalia South Africa
AMR	Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Barbados Belize Bolivia (Plurinational State of) British Virgin Islands Dominica Grenada Montserrat Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Mexico Paraguay Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Argentina Aruba Brazil Curaçao Guyana Jamaica Panama Sint Maarten Suriname Trinidad and Tobago Uruguay	Chile Dominican Republic Ecuador	Cuba Guatemala
EMR	Djibouti Jordan	State of Palestine	Iran (Islamic Republic of) Lebanon Morocco Saudi Arabia	Afghanistan Bahrain Egypt Pakistan Sudan	Tunisia
EUR	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Georgia Kazakhstan Kosovo Montenegro North Macedonia Serbia Tajikistan Türkiye Turkmenistan Uzbekistan	Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova	
SEAR	Nepal	Bhutan Timor-Leste	Maldives Thailand	India Myanmar	China Indonesia
WPR	Lao People's Democratic Republic Mongolia Viet Nam Pacific MSDF: Cook Islands Fiji Kiribati Marshall Islands		Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Cambodia Papua New Guinea Philippines	Malaysia

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Annex 4. Percentage of ongoing UNSDCFs that include NCDs by WHO region (expiring in or after 2022)

