

Integration of noncommunicable diseases and mental health into United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks

2022–2023 rollout report



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Abbreviations and acronyms

AFR	African Region
AMR	Region of the Americas
EMR	Eastern Mediterranean Region
EUR	European Region
NCDs	Noncommunicable diseases
SEAR	South-East Asia Region
UN NCD Task Force	United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WHO	World Health Organization
WPR	Western Pacific Region

1. Introduction

1.1 This report presents the trend in number of countries that have integrated noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health into their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) between 2012 and 2023¹ (1). These results will be used by the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (UN NCD Task Force) to:

(i) identify gaps in UN country support towards reaching NCD and mental health 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; and

(ii) encourage ever greater whole-of-UN system action at the country level.

1.2 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.

2. Integration of NCDs into UNSDCFs

2.1 Since 2012, and as of end of 2021, UNSDCFs have been reviewed for 152 countries², of which 122 countries³ (80%) 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; 79% (48/61) for 2018/2019; and 79% (30/38) in 2020/2021.

2.2 Of the 97 countries that rolled out a UNSDCF in 2022/2023 (Annex 2), 75 countries (77%) integrated NCDs into their UNSDCF (Figure 1), and 17 of these countries included NCDs for the first time since the 2012 rollout (the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Kuwait, and Turks and Caicos Islands had not been analysed before) (Annex 3).

2.3 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, with a decrease in 2022/2023 to 77% (Figure 2). It is important to note that 11 countries (Afghanistan, Brazil, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chile, Comoros, Mozambique, Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan and Togo) that included NCDs in their previous UNSDCF no longer include it in the current UNSDCF (2022/2023).

¹ This report is the sixth 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 Including the following areas/geographical territories: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Tokelau.

³ 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 2022/2023 rollout

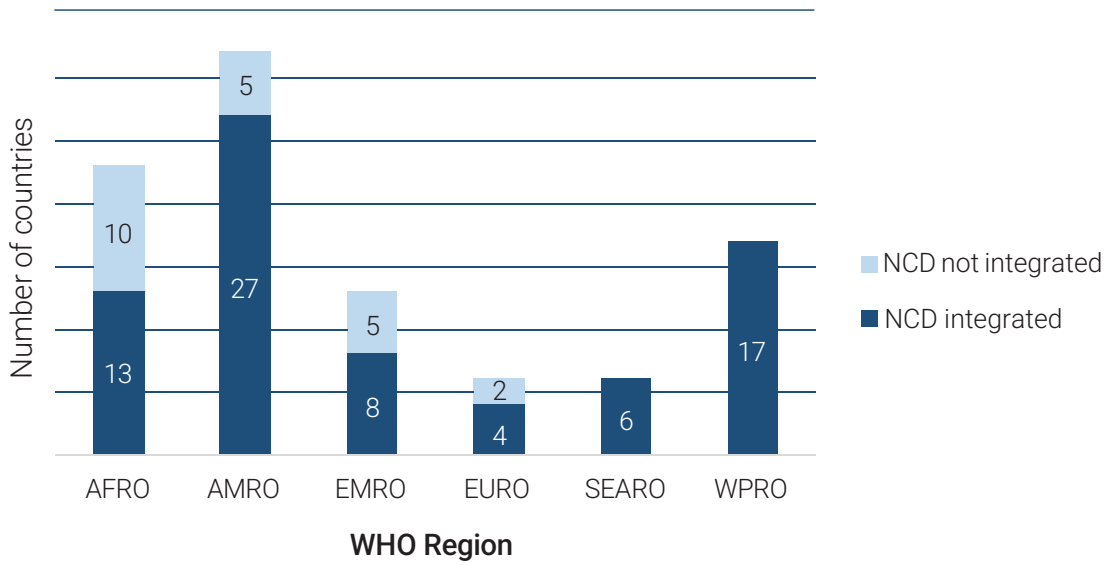
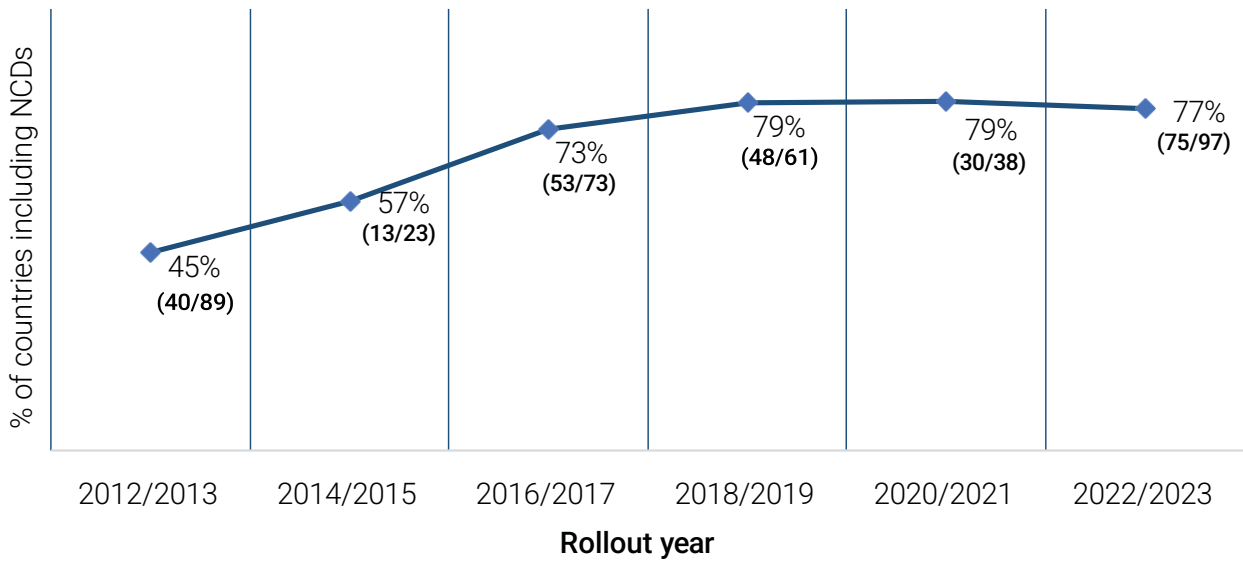


Figure 2. Percentage of countries with NCDs integrated into their UNSDCFs per biannual rollout analysis



2.4 As of end of 2023, 131 countries had an ongoing UNSDCF (expire in or after 2024) of which 79% (103/131) include NCDs. More specifically, 55% (18/33) of UNSDCFs currently ongoing in AFR include NCDs, 85% (33/29) in AMR, 60% (9/15) in EMR, 94% (16/17) EUR, 100% (9/9) SEARO, and 100% (18/18) WPRO.

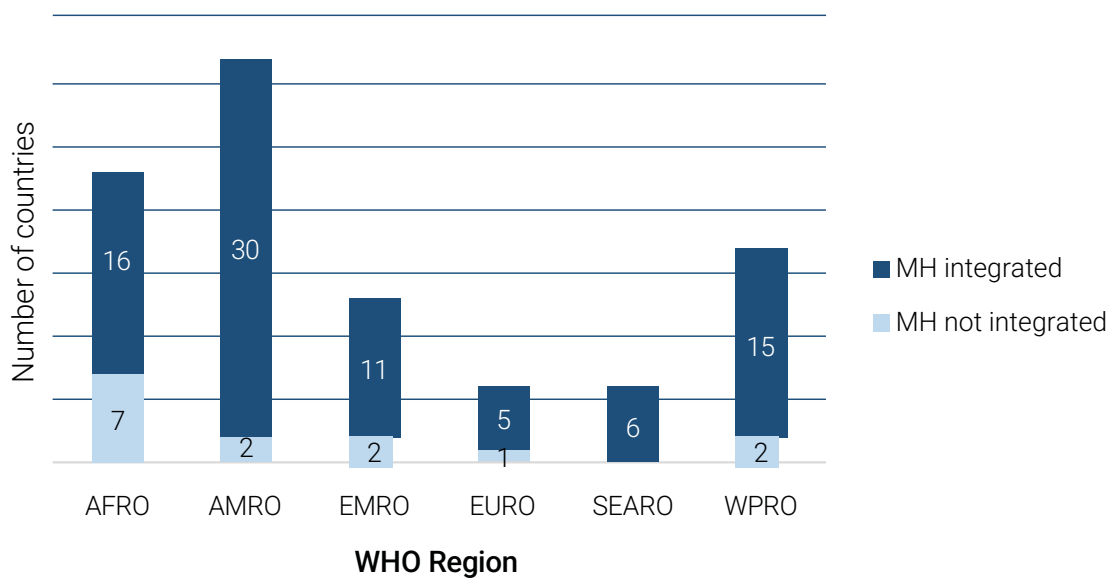
3. Integration of mental health into UNSDCFs

3.1 Since 2020, and as of end of 2021, UNSDCFs have been reviewed for 38 countries⁴, of which 29 countries (76%) integrated mental health.

3.2 Of the 97 countries that rolled out a UNSDCF in 2022/2023 (Annex 2), 83 countries (86%) integrated mental health into their UNSDCF (Figure 3).

3.3 As this is only the second assessment of mental health inclusion in UNSDCFs, no trend analysis has been conducted.

Figure 3. Integration of mental health in UNSDCFs by WHO region in the 2022/2023 rollout



4. Emerging points

4.1 Since the 2012/2013 rollout, there has been a substantial increase in the percentage of countries that integrate NCDs in their UNSDCF. The increasing trend has been stabilising between the 2016/2017 and 2020/2021 rollout, and the 2022/2023 rollout reveals a 2% decline of NCD integration compared to the 2020/2021 rollout.

4.2 A closer examination of the absolute numbers shows that 15 countries transitioned from excluding NCDs in their previous UNSDCF to including them in the current one, while 11 countries moved in the opposite direction. This shows that continuous efforts are needed to highlight the importance of NCDs as a development issue and advocate for their sustained inclusion in UNSDCFs.

4.3 It is important to consider that changes in the denominator over the years, along with the gradual addition of new countries rolling out UNSDCFs, limits the direct comparisons across different

⁴ Including the following areas/geographical territories: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Tokelau.

periods. The larger denominator for the 2022/2023 rollout adds to this limitation, as the increased total number of countries rolling out UNSDCFs impacts the trend to a decreasing one, even if the actual number of countries that shifted to including NCDs increases.

4.4 The high number of countries (compared to previous years) that rolled out a UNSDCF in 2022/2023 is due to the launch of two multicounty cooperations frameworks. In 2022 the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean UNSDCF was rolled out consisting of 21 countries in AMR, and in 2023 the Pacific UNSDCF was rolled out consisting of 14 countries in WPR.

4.5 In each region, the majority of countries with an ongoing UNSDCF include NCDs, yet the exact percentage varies considerably across regions (spanning from 55% to 100%). For the 2022/2023 rollout, the WPR and SEAR were the only regions that had all UNSDCFs integrate NCDs, and SEAR is the only region that had all UNSDCFs include mental health.

4.6 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 and mental health 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).

5. Next steps

5.1 In order to promote the inclusion of NCDs and mental health into UNSDCFs, the Secretariat of the UN NCD Task Force will contact all UN country teams with an expiring UNSDCF to emphasize the importance of including NCDs and mental health as a health and development strategic priority and offer technical and political support as required (3).

5.2 To expand the scope of this analysis, the Secretariat of the UN NCD Task Force will continue deepen its understanding of the integration of NCDs, mental health in UNSDCFs in order to provide further support and guidance to UN Country Teams in developing and evaluating UNSDCFs.

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2. WHO organizational structure. Geneva: World Health Organization; (<https://www.who.int/about/structure>, accessed 28 June 2024).
3. Guidance note on the integration of NCDs into UN development assistance frameworks. Geneva: United Nations Development Programme and World Health Organization; 2015 (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241508353>, accessed 28 June 2024).

Annex 1. Methods

The analysis of NCD inclusion in UNSDCFs was based on the indicator in WHO's Programme Budgets (2014-2015, 2016-2017, and 2018-2019). 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 2013-2020 (1) 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 NCDs (2).

The current analysis was performed in June 2024 and the UNSDCFs were obtained from the UN Sustainable Development Group's website (3) 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 (4), the Global NCD monitoring framework (5), Annex I of the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030 (6), and the WHO mental disorders fact sheet (7). 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.

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1. Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2013 (<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/94384>, accessed 28 June 2024).
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8. Mental disorders. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-disorders>, accessed 28 June 2024).

Annex 2. UNSDCFs reviewed in the 2022/2023 rollout (N=97)

Country	Start Year	End Year	NCD included (Yes/No)	Mental Health included (Yes/No)
AFR				
Algeria	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Benin	2023	2026	Yes	Yes
Botswana	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Burkina Faso	2023	2025	Yes	Yes
Burundi	2023	2027	No	No
Cabo Verde	2023	2027	No	No
Cameroon	2022	2026	No	Yes
Central African Republic	2023	2027	No	Yes
Comoros	2022	2026	No	Yes
Eritrea	2022	2026	Yes	No
Gabon	2023	2027	No	No
Ghana	2023	2025	Yes	No
Guinea-Bissau	2022	2026	No	No
Kenya	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Mozambique	2022	2026	No	Yes
Niger	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Nigeria	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Sao Tome and Principe	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
South Sudan	2023	2025	No	Yes
Togo	2023	2027	No	Yes
United Republic of Tanzania	2022	2027	Yes	Yes
Zambia	2023	2027	Yes	No
Zimbabwe	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
AMR				
Anguilla*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Antigua and Barbuda*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Aruba*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Bahamas*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Barbados*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Belize*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Brazil	2023	2027	No	No
British Virgin Islands*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Cayman Islands*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes

Country	Start Year	End Year	NCD included (Yes/No)	Mental Health included (Yes/No)
Chile	2023	2026	No	Yes
Costa Rica	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Curaçao*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Dominica*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Dominican Republic	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Ecuador	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
El Salvador	2022	2026	No	Yes
Grenada*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Guyana*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Haiti	2023	2027	No	No
Honduras	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Jamaica*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Montserrat*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Peru	2022	2026	No	Yes
Saint Kitts and Nevis*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Saint Lucia*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Sint Maarten*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Suriname*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Trinidad and Tobago*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Turks and Caicos Islands*	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2023	2026	Yes	Yes
EMR				
Afghanistan	2023	2025	No	Yes
Djibouti	2022	2024	No	No
Egypt	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Kuwait	2022	2025	Yes	Yes
Lebanon	2023	2025	Yes	Yes
Libya	2023	2025	Yes	Yes
Morocco	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Pakistan	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Saudi Arabia	2022	2026	No	No
occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem	2023	2025	No	Yes
Syrian Arab Republic	2022	2024	No	Yes
Yemen	2022	2024	Yes	Yes
EUR				
Albania	2022	2026	Yes	Yes

Country	Start Year	End Year	NCD included (Yes/No)	Mental Health included (Yes/No)
Kyrgyzstan	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Montenegro	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Republic of Moldova	2023	2027	No	Yes
Tajikistan	2023	2026	Yes	No
Ukraine	2022	2023	No	Yes
SEAR				
Bangladesh	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
India	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Maldives	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
Nepal	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Sri Lanka	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Thailand	2022	2026	Yes	Yes
WPR				
Cook Islands*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Fiji*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Kiribati*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2022	2026	Yes	No
Marshall Islands*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Micronesia (Federated States of)*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Mongolia	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Nauru*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Niue*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Palau*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Samoa*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Solomon Islands*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Tokelau*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Tonga*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Tuvalu*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Vanuatu*	2023	2027	Yes	Yes
Viet Nam	2022	2026	Yes	No

*Countries that are part of a multicounty UNSDCF

Annex 3. First reference of NCDs in UNSDCF by rollout year (N=139)

WHO Region	2012/2013	2014/2015	2016/2017	2018/2019	2020/2021	2022/2023
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	Burkina Faso Eritrea Niger Nigeria Sao Tome and Principe Zambia Zimbabwe
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	Bahamas Cayman Islands Costa Rica Honduras Turks and Caicos Islands
EMR	Djibouti Jordan	occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem	Iran (Islamic Republic of) Lebanon Morocco Saudi Arabia	Afghanistan Bahrain Egypt Pakistan Sudan	Tunisia	Kuwait Libya Yemen

WHO Region	2012/2013	2014/2015	2016/2017	2018/2019	2020/2021	2022/2023
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	Bangladesh Sri Lanka
WPR	Lao People's Democratic Republic Mongolia Viet Nam Pacific MSDF: Cook Islands Fiji Kiribati Marshall Islands Micronesia (Federated States of) Niue Palau Samoa Solomon Islands Tokelau Tonga Tuvalu Vanuatu Nauru		Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Cambodia Papua New Guinea Philippines	Malaysia	



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