

# Country Priorities for NCD Financing

## Six trends to build on in 2026



The Coalition for Access to NCD Medicines and Products (Coalition) is a multisectoral coalition of governments, private sector entities, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, civil society, and foundations that seek to address gaps in access to affordable medicines and products for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). In 2025, the Coalition surveyed seven ministries of health on the state of NCD financing, including opportunities to improve resource mobilization, efficiency, and accountability.<sup>i</sup> Our survey results show that when financing is constrained, leaders do not stop investing in health—they find ways to invest better.

### 1. Tax unhealthy products to mobilize domestic resources for health

Countries see taxing tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverages as a common-sense way to mobilize domestic financing for health. Six of seven countries who responded to our survey had already implemented a tobacco tax. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Somalia committed to scale up taxation of unhealthy products specifically for domestic financing for NCDs and health systems.

#### Priority actions for 2026

- Transparently track and report if tax revenue from unhealthy products is reinvested in health.
- Increase tax rates to levels recommended by the World Health Organization.
- Reduce government subsidies for fossil fuel subsidies and repurpose funding for health.

### 2. Protect people living with NCDs from unaffordable health

Globally, people living with NCDs pay twice as much per clinic visit as those seeking care for infectious diseases.<sup>ii</sup> Five of six responding countries with national health insurance had already integrated NCDs into essential benefits packages; however, implementation and results remain inconsistent. In 2025, six countries (Brazil, DRC, Indonesia, Kenya, Somalia, and Tanzania) committed to reduce health costs for people living with NCDs by eliminating user fees, advancing pooled procurement, or negotiating medicine prices.

#### Priority action for 2026

- Bridge the gap between policy and practice to ensure initiatives are implemented and adapted.

### 3. Integrate NCD financing into strong primary health care – and beyond

Countries see the value and need for integrating NCD screening, treatment, and prevention into strong primary health care. All seven countries who responded to the survey had integrated NCDs into one or more national health plans. Five of six countries with national health insurance had NCDs in their essential health package; however, only one of the six reported integrating NCD services beyond the primary care level. In 2025, seven ministries of health (Brazil, Denmark, DRC, Indonesia, Kenya, Somalia, and Tanzania) made bold commitments to scale delivery of NCD services through primary health care

#### Priority action for 2026

- Reduce fragmentation by ensuring NCD services are integrated at all levels of the health system.



## 4. Collect more and better data across the financing cascade for NCDs

Many countries lack sufficient data to assess if their resources are adequately addressing NCDs within their populations. All seven responding countries had data on the percentage of gross domestic product spent on or allocated to health. Two of seven knew the percentage of their health budget spent on primary health care. Three of seven knew the percentage of their health budget spent on NCDs. None of the seven knew what percentage of primary health care spending went to NCDs. All seven countries named data collection and analytics as top priorities for NCD financing and an area where donors and development partners could play a critical role.

### Priority actions for 2026

- Invest in stronger data systems to evaluate if investments in health and NCDs translate to better health outcomes
- Collect more and better data on where funding is allocated and spent.

## 5. Partner and innovate across sectors to expand access to NCD services

Multisectoral partnerships are needed to expand access to NCD services. Five of seven countries who responded to our survey were exploring innovative financing mechanisms, including pooled and/or centralized funds, community-based campaigns and insurance schemes, decentralized budgets, and partnerships. Five of seven countries had initiatives to engage private sector in NCD financing and access.

### Priority action for 2026

- Pursue multisectoral partnerships for innovative approaches to deliver NCD medicines and stretch the value of every dollar.

## 6. Leaders stay the course and find ways to invest better

Country leadership on NCDs remains strong. Globally, 175 of 178 United Nation Member States supported the 4th High-Level Political Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health, leading to its adoption. 11 countries plus the East, Central, and Southern Africa Health Community worked closely with the Coalition to announce specific commitments to scale up financing and access from 2026 onward. Twelve country and regional partners made actionable NCD commitments at Coalition events in 2025.

### Priority action for 2026

- **Sustain the momentum.** Countries have shown they can stay the course and invest better. Now is the time to translate commitments into sustained action.

<sup>1</sup> Coalition for Access to NCD Medicines and Products. Country Priorities for NCD Financing: Six Trends from 2025 to build on in 2026. Accessed 12 May 2026. Available: [https://coalition4ncds.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Country-Priorities-for-NCD-Financing\\_6-Trends-for-2026.pdf](https://coalition4ncds.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Country-Priorities-for-NCD-Financing_6-Trends-for-2026.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Haakenstad AM. Out-of-Pocket Payments for Noncommunicable Disease Care: A Threat and Opportunity for Universal Health Coverage. Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; 2019.