

NCD Medicines & Products Forecasting Program

Developed by the Coalition for Access to NCD Medicines and Products



BACKGROUND & NEED

Availability of NCD medicines in low- and middle-income countries is driven by unique and persistent challenges. Ministries of health recognize that strengthening forecasting capacity is essential for improving supply chain performance, enabling adequate financing, and supporting effective planning. However, inadequate tools and limited capacity for supply chain and surveillance data capture, reporting, and use, compounded by frequent stockouts, poor consumption data, and unstable market dynamics, undermine these efforts. The historical prioritization of acute conditions and infectious diseases has further limited investment in NCD medicines, making strong evidence essential to mobilize procurement funding.

In response to this need, the Coalition developed a digital forecasting tool called NCD4Cast, accompanied by workshop materials and a user's guide. The tool was developed in partnership with the ministries of health in Kenya and Uganda, alongside local and global forecasting experts.

Our Approach

- Develop a global public good adaptable to any country for forecasting NCD medicines.
- Provide ministries of health with a methodology and tools that accommodate limited or poor-quality data by using alternative sources and adapting to unstable market dynamics.
- Estimate quantities and costs of NCD medicines to meet population health needs within a defined geographic scope and sector.
- Equip ministries to develop and communicate five-year forecasts to key stakeholders and use results to inform financing and procurement.
- Generate evidence for advocacy to reduce financing gaps and create dedicated budget line items for NCD medicines and products.

Impact to Date

Since 2018, the **NCD4Cast** has been piloted in Kenya, Uganda, and Ghana, generating annual and multi-year costed estimates for NCD medicines and products that support procurement planning, resource mobilization, and policy discussions on NCD financing. The tool has enabled countries to generate transparent and reproducible forecasts, even in settings with limited or inconsistent data.

- **Kenya:** A five-year forecast revealed that 74% of people living with hypertension and diabetes need medication and quantified the budget needed to fulfill this demand. The data informed advocacy that led to a proposed national government funding for NCD medicines at the health center level. The tool has since been digitized and is expanding to all 47 counties (2023–2026).
- **Uganda:** National forecasting in 2021 estimated substantial unmet need for NCD treatment and quantified national requirements. The Ministry of Health used the data to inform planning, resource mobilization, and financing requests within the national health budget. Following advocacy with Parliament, a motion was passed urging the government to provide free NCD medicines and increase NCD medicine budgets.
- **Ghana:** The tool was piloted in six regions. Forecasts revealed a supply-demand gap 6–10 times the current medication availability, validating long-standing concerns about unmet NCD care demands and providing evidence for long-term planning under the Ministry of Health's MahamaCare Initiative.

For more information, visit <https://coalition4ncds.org>