

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs) IN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

A CALL TO ACTION ON A HIDDEN CRISIS



KEY MESSAGES

NCDs represent the **primary cause** of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Specific attention needs to be given to NCDs in **fragile and crisis-affected contexts**, where health systems, communities and individuals have even more difficulties in managing these diseases.



In 2018, an estimated **128 million people** will be affected by humanitarian crises.



There are currently **25.4 million refugees** and a further **43.1 million displaced people** globally.



For these people, displacement is often measured in **years or even decades**.



NCD prevention, treatment and care **must be integrated** into the humanitarian response—and long-term, comprehensive health care should extend **beyond the acute phase** of an emergency.



To date, challenges related to NCDs in humanitarian crises have been **unrecognized** and **inadequately addressed**.

CALL TO ACTION

There is a significant, **urgent** upcoming opportunity to **raise the profile** of this issue.

The High-level Meeting (HLM) on NCDs will be held at the United Nations on 27 September.

At the HLM, countries will approve a Political Declaration on NCDs—a short document setting the trajectory for countries to take in tackling these diseases globally and nationally. Drafts of this Political Declaration will be negotiated at the United Nations and will be finalised in July. A Civil Society Interactive Hearing on NCDs is being held on 5 July in New York, with discussions then informing the negotiations of the Political Declaration.

The current draft of the Political Declaration contains no mention of NCDs in humanitarian crises.

We call on all those with influence over the negotiations on the Political Declaration—including Ministries of Health, Country Missions at the UN in New York, and civil society leaders speaking at the Interactive Hearing on NCDs on 5 July—to raise the issue of NCDs in humanitarian crises as a major and growing health threat to some of the world’s most vulnerable populations and ensure its inclusion in the Political Declaration.

If we are genuine in calls to provide Universal Health Coverage and to “leave no one behind”, NCDs in humanitarian crises simply cannot be ignored. The inclusion of NCDs in humanitarian crises in the Political Declaration would be a strong indicator to governments and donors to global health and development that this is a health emergency, deserving of much greater attention, funding and research.

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document is an outcome of the “NCDs in Humanitarian Settings” Advocacy Bootcamp, which brought together 70 young professionals and established experts from 15 countries to identify points for advocacy and to suggest effective, multisectoral solutions in June 2018. Partners in the Bootcamp were the Danish Red Cross, NCDFREE, the IFRC, and the University of Copenhagen.

For further information or to collaborate on this important issue, please contact NCDFREE at hello@ncdfree.org.



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