

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Directorate of Non Communicable Diseases
Ministry of Health – Sri Lanka



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Directorate of Non-Communicable Diseases

Directorate of Non-Communicable Diseases
Ministry of Health
No: 385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,
Colombo 10
Tel/Fax 0112 669 599
E mail ncdunit@gmail.com

Contents

CONTENTS	III
LIST OF FIGURES	VI
LIST OF TABLES	VIII
1. OVERVIEW	- 1 -
1.1 Administrative and technical capacity at the national and regional level	- 1 -
1.1.1 Central level	- 1 -
1.1.2 Provincial and district level	- 2 -
1.2 Scope of the Directorate	- 2 -
1.2.1 Unit for planning and capacity building	- 3 -
1.2.2 Strategic Information Management (SIM) Unit	- 3 -
1.2.3 Unit for promotion of healthy diet, public awareness and settings: schools and workplaces	- 4 -
1.2.4 Unit for promotion of physical activity	- 4 -
1.2.5 Unit for prevention and cessation of tobacco use, community empowerment, and mobilizing civil society	- 4 -
1.2.6 Unit for standardizing NCD management	- 5 -
1.2.7 Injury Prevention Programme	- 5 -
1.3 Purpose of producing the annual report	- 6 -
1.4 Chronic NCD prevention & control programme	- 7 -
1.4.1 The national policy and Multi Sectorial Action Plan	- 7 -
2. KEY ACTIVITIES- NCD PREVENTION & CONTROL	- 9 -
2.1 Advocacy, partnership & leadership	- 9 -
2.1.1 Coordinating mechanism of NCD prevention & control program	- 9 -
2.1.1.1 The NCD Council	- 9 -
2.1.1.2 National Steering Committee for Non-communicable Diseases	- 10 -
2.1.1.3 National Advisory Board for Non-Communicable Diseases (NABNCD)	- 12 -

2.1.1.4 Progress review of the Multi-sectoral involvement in NCD prevention & control-	13 -
2.1.1.5 Review of the National program for prevention and control of NCDs	14 -
2.1.1.6 Annual Action plan for prevention and control of NCDs.....	15 -
2.1.2 Commemoration of special days.....	15 -
☒ Commemoration of world No Tobacco Day	15 -
☒ Commemoration of the world heart day	18 -
☒ Commemoration of the World Diabetes Day	20 -
2.2 Health promotion and risk reduction	21 -
2.2.1 Promoting physical activity	21 -
2.2.1.1 Development of the medium-term action plan (2021-2025) of the National Programme for Physical Activity Promotion – Directorate NCD.....	21 -
2.2.1.1.1 Development of national guidelines:	21 -
2.2.1.1.2 Capacity building on physical activity	23 -
2.2.1.1.3 Exercise program at the Ministry of Health premises for the staff of the Ministry of Health.....	26 -
2.2.2 Promoting healthy diet.....	27 -
2.2.3 Prevention of Tobacco Use and Tobacco Cessation	29 -
2.3 Strengthen health system for early detection and management of NCDs and their risk factors	31 -
2.3.1. Healthy Lifestyle Centers	31 -
2.3.2 Implementation of the NCD screening for healthcare staffs	34 -
2.3.3 Strengthening the standards of management for patients with NCD.....	36 -
2.4 Surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and research	40 -
2.4.1 Chronic NCD surveillance system	40 -
2.4.1.1 Screening for chronic NCD.....	40 -
2.4.1.2. Screening of Risk Factors	45 -
2.4.1.2.1 Tobacco Smoking.....	45 -
2.4.1.2.2 Chewing Tobacco (with or without betel).....	46 -
2.4.1.2.3 Alcohol use.....	46 -
2.4.1.2.4 Overweight and obesity.....	47 -

2.4.1.2.5 High Blood pressure.....	- 47 -
2.4.1.2.6 Risk of Cardiovascular disease \geq 20%.....	- 48 -
2.4.2 National & district NCD reviews	- 48 -
2.5 National Injury Prevention and Management Programme.....	- 51 -
2.5.1 Overview of burden due to injuries.....	- 51 -
2.5.2 National Policy.....	- 52 -
2.5.3 Coordinated action for injury prevention	- 53 -
2.5.4 Raise awareness among stakeholders and the public on injury prevention and empower them to design and develop safe environments	- 55 -
2.5.5 Surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and research	- 56 -
2.5.5.1 National injury surveillance performance - 2020	- 57 -
2.5.5.2 Outpatient surveillance	- 58 -
2.5.5.3 Inpatient surveillance.....	- 60 -
2.5.5.4 Mortality surveillance	- 61 -
2.5.5.5 Monitoring and evaluation.....	- 63 -
2.6 Special Activities of NCD prevention and control program during COVID-19 outbreak.....	- 65 -
2.6.1 Ensuring a continuous supply of medicines for clinic patients with NCDs followed up in government hospitals.....	- 65 -
2.6.2 Development of circulars/guidelines during COVID-19	- 67 -
2.6.3 Enhancing public awareness	- 67 -
2.6.4 Promotion of telemedicine facilities	- 72 -
2.6.5 Patient information services.....	- 73 -
2.6.6 Conduction of mobile clinics for patients in Colombo Municipal Council area.-	73 -
2.6.7 Monitoring and research	- 73 -
3. CHALLENGES.....	- 74 -
OUR TEAM	- 75 -

List of Figures

- Figure 1 Organogramme of Directorate of NCD..... - 2 -
- Figure 2: Distribution of the percentage of eligible participants screened by the district in 2020 - 44 -
- Figure 3: Distribution of number of eligible participants screened by the district in 2020 - 44 -
- Figure 4: Distribution of the percentage of eligible male and female participants screened by the district in 2020 - 45 -
- Figure 5: Distribution of percentage of male smokers among the total eligible male population screened by the district in 2020..... - 45 -
- Figure 6: Distribution of percentage of participants chewing tobacco among the eligible population screened in the districts in 2020..... - 46 -
- Figure 7: Distribution of percentage of male alcohol users among the eligible males by the districts in 2020 - 46 -
- Figure 8: Distribution of percentage of participants with obesity among the eligible population screened by districts in 2020 - 47 -
- Figure 9: Distribution of percentage of participants with high blood pressure among the eligible population screened by districts in 2020- 47 -
- Figure 10: Distribution of percentage of participants with cardiovascular risk $\geq 20\%$ among the population screened by districts in 2020- 48 -
- Figure 11 The age distribution of the victims reported to outpatient, inpatient, and death surveillance - 58 -

Figure 12:Leading mechanism of reported injuries	- 58 -
Figure 13: Leading mechanisms of reported injuries	- 59 -
Figure 14: Leading places of occurrence of reported injuries.....	- 59 -
Figure 15: Intention of the reported injuries	- 60 -
Figure 16: Leading mechanism of reported injuries	- 60 -
Figure 17: Leading places of occurrence of reported injuries.....	- 61 -
Figure 18: Activity done at the time of the occurrence of reported injuries	- 61 -
Figure 19: Intention of the reported injuries	- 62 -
Figure 20: Leading mechanism of reported injuries	- 62 -
Figure 21: Intention of the reported injuries	- 62 -

List of tables

Table 1 Cumulative number of eligible participants screened from the year 2011 to 2020	- 43 -
Table 2 Number of institutions that conducted the injury surveillance in 2020	- 57 -
Table 3 Total number of reported in each component in 2020	- 57 -

1. OVERVIEW

The Directorate of Non-Communicable Disease (NCD), Ministry of Health, was established in 1998 under the Deputy Director General (Medical Services I) to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate the national prevention and control program against the emerging epidemic of NCDs in Sri Lanka. Later in 2017 the Deputy Director-General - Non-Communicable Disease (DDG/NCD) was appointed and NCD Bureau was established expanding the human resources and the financial allocations. The Injury Prevention Unit was established in the Directorate in 2010.

The National policy and strategic framework for prevention and control of non-communicable Diseases were launched in 2010 with a vision of a “Country that is not burdened with chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs), deaths and disabilities”. based on the national policy, the ‘National Multi-sectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2016-2020’ with technical bodies, Non-Health sectors, Non-governmental organizations, and UN organizations. The ‘National policy and strategic framework on injury prevention & management in Sri Lanka’ launched in 2016 with a vision of ‘Injury free Sri Lank’. Based on the national policy, the ‘National Multi-sectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Injuries 2021-2025’ was developed with technical bodies, Non-Health sectors, Non-governmental organizations, and UN organizations.

The post of Medical Officers of Non-Communicable Disease (MONCD) attached to the office of the Regional (district) Director of Health Services (RDHS) was created in 2003 to coordinate the implementation of the NCD program in the districts under the guidance of the RDHS and the regional Consultant Community Physician (CCP).

1.1 Administrative and technical capacity at the national and regional level

1.1.1 Central level

The Directorate of Non-Communicable Diseases is the apex body in the Ministry of Health for the NCD prevention and control in the country. The Directorate has the overall responsibility for implementing and monitoring the National Policy for prevention and control of NCDs in Sri Lanka. The Directorate also advocates for necessary policy changes, development of strategies and action plans for the central



and regional level, and is involved in monitoring and evaluation of the program throughout the country with multisectoral collaboration.

1.1.2 Provincial and district level

Medical Officer-Non-Communicable Diseases (MO-NCD) is the district-level focal point in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the NCD program. The MO-NCDs work under the administrative purview of the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) and the technical guidance is provided by the Provincial/Regional Consultant Community Physician.

1.2 Scope of the Directorate

The Directorate of NCD is functioning, under several units, each lead by a Consultant Community Physician.

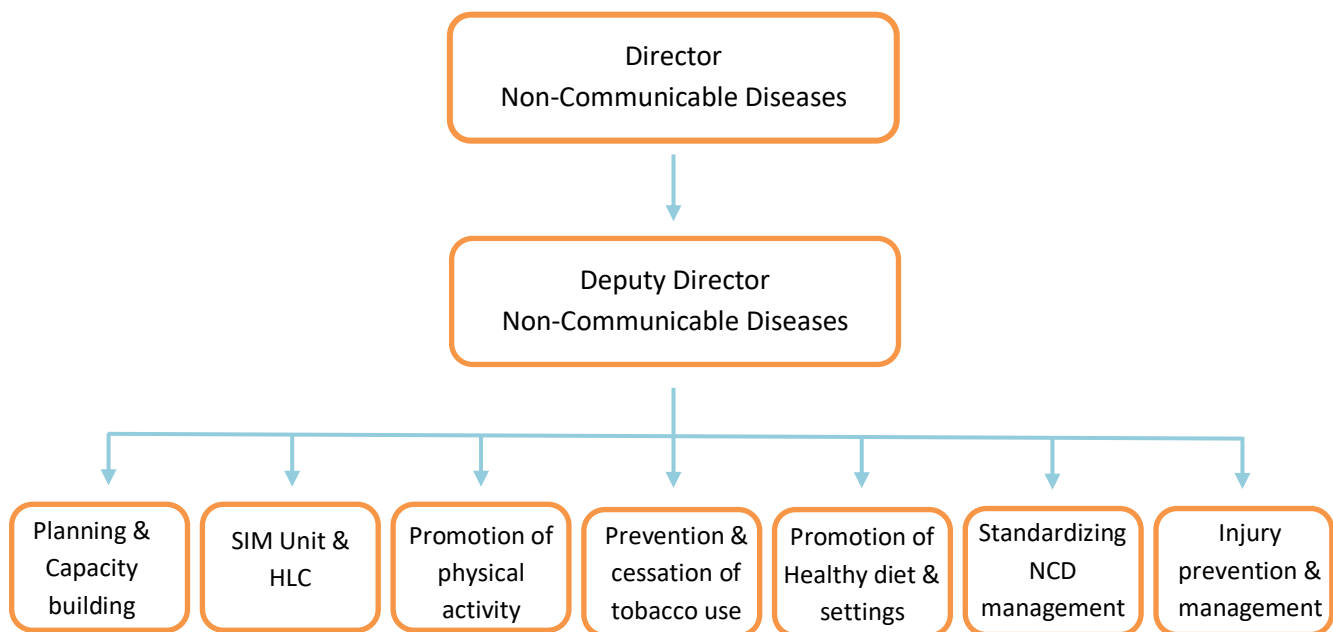


Figure 1 Organogramme of Directorate of NCD

1.2.1 Unit for planning and capacity building

This Unit facilitates the revision or development of the National NCD Policy, strategic framework, Multi-sectoral action plan, and the monitoring & evaluation plan. The Unit develops the NCD annual action plan and prioritizes the activities in order to utilize the funds effectively from various sources and monitor the progress in implementation of the activities at national and district levels. In addition, technical guidance is also provided for the development of annual action plans of the districts. The Unit is also responsible for human resource need assessment and development as well as capacity building of the health staff involved in NCD prevention and control. The conduct of the National NCD council, NCD steering committee, National NCD Advisory Board is coordinated by the planning unit.

1.2.2 Strategic Information Management (SIM) Unit

Strategic Information Management Unit (SIM) maintains and upgrades the Hospital Information Management System (HIMS) for chronic NCD and risk factors established through the Healthy Lifestyle Centers throughout the country and provides technical guidance to ensure the quality of data. The SIM Unit oversees the Capacity building of staff conducting the HLCs, supply chain including Personal Medical Records (PMR), Registers, Returns, equipment, establishment of new HLCs to cover vulnerable populations and performance monitoring of Healthy Lifestyle Centers through conduct of quarterly and annual performance reviews of the districts, publication of the quarterly and annual NCD bulletins and biennial HLC award ceremony.. In addition, the Unit closely works with the Primary Healthcare System Strengthening Project (PSSP) in improving the coverage of NCD screening at the HLCs. The unit is also responsible for conducting research and periodic surveys such as STEPS in collaboration with relevant agencies.



1.2.3 Unit for promotion of healthy diet, public awareness and settings: schools and workplaces

This unit advocates for the prevention of NCDs through the promotion of healthy dietary practices among public. This includes reduction of salt, fat including trans-fat, and sugar levels in foods up to the recommended levels, and addition of vegetables and fruits as recommended portions in the diet. The unit is involved in the development of Training of Trainer manuals, IEC material etc. on promotion of healthy diet. Further, it is involved in the planning and implementation of mass media and social media campaigns for the general public. The unit coordinates with the health sector as well as non-health sector partners in prevention of NCD in schools and work places. World salt awareness week, World Health Day and World Diabetes Day are celebrated annually with the participation of stakeholders.

1.2.4 Unit for promotion of physical activity

This unit advocates to prioritize and integrate improving physical activity into policies across all government ministries and private sector organizations through evidence-based strategies. Initiatives to improve national-level capacity for the formulation of regulation and standards to promote physical activities in the country have been taken in collaboration with WHO under RECAP (Global Regulatory & Fiscal Capacity Building program). The unit also holds technical leadership for capacity building of health staff including development of Training of Trainer Manuals, conduct island-wide training in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Association of Sports and exercise Medicine for the promotion of physical activity in, settings such as HLCs, Communities, schools, preschools and workplaces.

1.2.5 Unit for prevention and cessation of tobacco use, community empowerment, and mobilizing civil society

The unit carries out various evidence-based strategies for prevention and cessation of tobacco use among the Sri Lankan population in coordination with governmental and non-governmental organizations. Establishment of tobacco free zones/settings in the workplaces, schools, pre-schools or in the community and tobacco quitting clinics



at the HLCs are coordinated by the unit. Capacity building of the health staff including development of Training of Trainer manuals and island-wide training is carried out by the Unit in collaboration with Consultant Psychiatrists. World No Tobacco Day is celebrated annually on 31st of May with the participation of stakeholders.

1.2.6 Unit for standardizing NCD management

This unit coordinates with the professional Colleges such as the Endocrinologists, Cardiologists, Internal Medicine specialists, Pulmonologists, Gastroenterologists, Community Physicians, Family Medicine Specialists to ensure standardized care for patients with NCD. Initiatives are taken to update and review management guidelines, NCD screening guidelines, essential NCD medicine lists and investigation lists for primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Training of health staff is coordinated with the MONCD and relevant specialists at district level.

1.2.7 Injury Prevention Programme

This unit plays a leading role in advocating and multi-sectoral coordination for prevention and control of injuries in the country under the guidance of the National Committee on Prevention of Injury (NCPI). The unit is responsible for the development/revision of injury policy and the development of MSAP and their implementation. The unit implements prevention and awareness programs under many themes such as home safety, school safety, workplace safety, drowning safety and Safe Community Programme. Further it coordinates the poison prevention activities with the National Poison Information Centre established in the NHSL. The national injury surveillance system (outpatient, inpatient, death [notification, investigation and review] established at secondary and tertiary care level hospitals maintains the injury mortality and morbidity in the population in a database by linking with e-IMMR and dhis2 (District Health Information Software 2). The unit is responsible for carrying out national and district level capacity building programs for health and non-health partners.



1.3 Purpose of producing the annual report

The main purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the current functionality and strengths and weaknesses of the NCD program to its partners. It will also provide a platform for the other related agencies involved in NCD prevention and control activities such as stakeholder ministries, NGOs, international development partners, professional organizations, and researchers to learn about the NCD burden & trends and activities carried out by the National and regional level.



1.4 Chronic NCD prevention & control programme

1.4.1 The national policy and Multi Sectorial Action Plan

Sri Lanka was one of the countries to adopt the WHO requirements for combatting NCDs by means of formulating a national NCD policy (2010-2020). The goal of the National Policy is “To promote health and well-being of the population by preventing chronic NCDs associated with shared modifiable risk factors, providing acute and long-term care for people with NCDs in an integrated manner, and maximizing their quality of life”.

As the prevention and control of NCD need a multi-sectoral involvement the ‘National Multisectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs’ was developed in 2015 with a vision of a ‘country that is not burdened with chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs), deaths, and disabilities and being implemented island wide. This multisectoral action plan was developed for the period of 2016-2020. The Multisectoral action plan clearly identified and described the role and responsibilities of other health and non-health stakeholders in the prevention and control of NCDs. A prioritized action plan for 2018-2020 was also prepared in order to expedite the attainment of national targets.

The process of revising the existing policy was initiated in 2019 and is at the final stages. This will be further fine-tuned with the finding of the external review of the NCD program being conducted by a group of independent local and foreign experts. Based on the revised policy for NCD prevention and control, a multi sectoral action plan will be developed for 2021-2025 and an integrated results-based monitoring framework will be developed to attain the set national targets.



The MSAP has set up nine national targets related to NCDs and their risk factors.

- 1. A 25% relative reduction in premature mortality from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases**
- 2. A 10% relative reduction in the use of alcohol**
- 3. A 10% relative reduction in the prevalence of insufficient physical activity**
- 4. A 30% relative reduction in mean population intake of salt/sodium**
- 5. A 30% relative reduction in the prevalence of current tobacco use in persons aged over 15 years**
- 6. A 25% relative reduction in the prevalence of raised blood pressure and or contain the prevalence of raised blood pressure**
- 7. Halt the rise in obesity and diabetes**
- 8. A 50% of eligible people receive drug therapy and counseling (including glycemic control) to prevent heart attacks and strokes**
- 9. An 80% availability of affordable basic technologies and essential medicines including generics, required to treat major non-communicable diseases in both public and private facilities**

These targets will be achieved through four strategic areas,

- 1. Advocacy, partnership, and leadership**
- 2. Health promotion and risk reduction**
- 3. Strengthen health system for early detection and management of NCDs and their risk factors**
- 4. Surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and research.**



2. Key activities- NCD prevention & control

2.1 Advocacy, partnership & leadership

Ministry of Health and indigenous Medical services take the lead in coordinating the partnerships between stakeholders towards a coherent national policy response required to attain nationally set targets. The mechanisms are in place both at the national and sub-national level to ensure the propagation of centrally made decisions to materialize at the grass-root level with an integrated monitoring framework. The planning unit successfully took a step forward to develop Terms of Referendums (ToR) for the National Advisory Board on NCD, National Steering Committee as well as the NCD Council and to table at relevant meetings for approval of Membership. Except the NCD Council chaired by the Ministry of Health, the other two have been finalized.

2.1.1 Coordinating mechanism of NCD prevention & control program

2.1.1.1 The NCD Council

The NCD Council is chaired by the Hon. Minister of Health is the supreme body imparting political leadership for inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral collaboration and multi-sectoral partnerships for NCD prevention and control, securing political commitment at the highest levels. The council also monitors the progress of implementation of the National NCD policy. Incorporating health into the school curriculum, and passing regulations on front of pack labeling, were some of the recent collaborations on the prevention of NCDs. Tenth meeting of the National NCD Council was held on 14th February 2020 under the chairmanship of the Minister of Health Hon. Pavithra Wanniarachchi.



Establishment of the model health corners developed by the WHO country office at Government institutions with the partnership of Private sector for screening and follow up of major NCDs, Annual NCD screening of workforce at Ministry of Health with plans to expand to other ministries, development of infrastructure and initiation of virtual learning platforms for health staff (Initiated with 'Online training module for Primary Health care Medical Officers' were some of the salient turning points made in the year 2020. Due to the extraordinary workload due to Covid 19 epidemic and lock down of the country, subsequent council meeting was not held in 2020.

2.1.1.2 National Steering Committee for Non-communicable Diseases

Chaired by the Secretary of Health, constitute high-level representation from all relevant ministries, government agencies and development partners including local and international NGOs. Two meetings were held in February and September 2020. Terms of Reference (ToR) for the National NCD Steering Committee was developed and adopted by the membership. Monitoring of implementation of the National Multi-sectoral Action Plan for prevention and control of NCDs for the period of 2016-2020, was identified as a key mandate of the NCD Steering Committee. It was decided to take steps to improve the active participation and effective collaboration with the other non-health sector stakeholder participation. Nominations from relevant non health government and Non-governmental organizations were called from the relevant secretary to the ministries.

Considering the emerging threat of childhood obesity and other major NCDs among children, very important initiatives like making 'Health science and physical

education' a compulsory subject for GCE O/L, making available of healthy food options at school canteens, introduction of new grading methods for school canteens, recommending to terminate the contract of those canteens with grade "C", allocation of compulsory 20 minutes for physical activity at schools were followed up in the meetings. Introduction of concept of 'NCD prevention at Workplace', annual NCD screening of the employees, establishing NCD Corners, promoting Physical activity programs and awareness raising were initiated at the meetings. Extension of NCD screening services for the hard-to-reach populations such as Estate, and Urban poor communities were also taken up at the meeting and continued to be monitored.



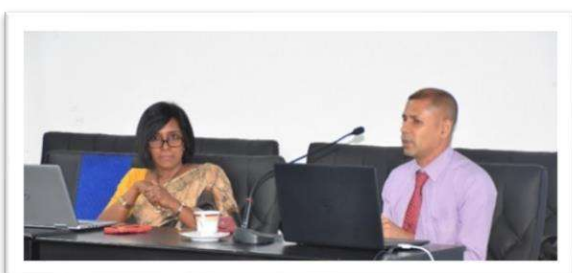
2.1.1.3 National Advisory Board for Non-Communicable Diseases (NABNCD)

The NABNCD is chaired by the Director-General of Health Services and constitutes high-level technical representation from relevant directorates of the Ministry of Health. The 18th meeting of the National Advisory Board on Non communicable Diseases (NAB NCD) was held on the 17th of August 2020. Revision of screening criteria including the frequency of re-screening at HLCs, interpretation of Front of Pack Labels, introduction of standards for Medical Clinics at PHC and development of 'Clinical Management Guidelines for NCD at secondary/tertiary level' with professional colleges were some of the initiatives taken up at NAB NCD. The Technical Working Groups (TWG) are formulated to support implementation of decisions taken at the NABNCD.



2.1.1.4 Progress review of the Multi-sectoral involvement in NCD prevention & control

The Directorate of NCDs conducted several stakeholder meetings and virtual communications to review the progress of the implementation of the National Multi-sectoral Action Plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2016-2020. The Progress of the Health sector stakeholders were focused during 2020, was slowed down due to the Covid19 pandemic associated lockdown that took place in the country. However, several areas such as prevention and control of Chronic Respiratory Diseases, Cardiac and Pulmonary rehabilitation, stroke care, were identified as priority areas for action during the next planning period.





2.1.1.5 Review of the National program for prevention and control of NCDs

The Directorate of NCD together with the WHO country office initiated an independent review of the National program for prevention and control of NCDs. The proposed review was intended to critically review the extent and the linkages of the existing NCD Control Programme in Sri Lanka (both Government and non-government health sectors) towards providing prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in the country. The findings of the review will be useful to further strengthen the NCD control strategies, for Sri Lanka to meet the national NCD targets by 2025 and SDG NCD targets by 2030.

The review team consisted of independent international and national experts with vast experience in the field. The Ministry of Health through the Directorate of NCD and WHO country office actively involved in organizing and conducting the review. The review teams were subdivided into six groups representing the health systems building blocks and developed methodology to perform the review of which the final objective was as follows

Objectives of the review

1. To examine the current structure, functionality including the mechanisms for intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination, monitoring and evaluation processes, mechanisms in addressing the country's NCD burden.
2. To identify the strengths, gaps, bottlenecks in health systems that impede the NCD control programme and solutions to address governance and oversight, service delivery, monitoring and evaluating of services and outcomes of the public health sector while collaborating with other health programmes of the country.

The Directorate of NCD concluded the preliminary work for the review including granting permission for the review, development of tools to assess the current organization, structures, facilities, functions, practices, gaps and challenges within the context of the broader health systems, the population health needs, role of private providers in NCD services etc, to determine a holistic NCD service delivery perspectives. The national team is expected to conduct the in-country exercise through field visits, stakeholder interviews and in-depth interviews among officials

and providers joining virtually or meeting physically taking all precautions for prevention of COVID 19.

2.1.1.6 Annual Action plan for prevention and control of NCDs

The Planning unit monitored the progress of the implementation of the annual action plan of the Directorate and prepared the annual action plan for 2021 with relevant fund sources. The Unit conducted training for the Medical Office of NCD from all districts in preparation of the district annual action plan and guided with recommended activities which are in line with the national strategic plans.

The Unit also developed a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the District Multisectoral Steering Committee meetings for prevention and control of NCDs to be co chaired by the District Secretariat and the RDHS. The directives given through the DGHS to all the Provincial and the RDHS. It was planned to advocate through the Secretary of Health to the Secretary of Public Administration for further enforcement to district level sustainable implementation. The Unit is planning to monitor the implementation and well as outcomes in accordance with the decisions taken at the National NCD Steering Committee.

The unit developed duty lists for all unit Heads within the Directorate of NCD and the Development officers in order to streamline the functions within the directorate.

2.1.2 Commemoration of special days

The Directorate commemorated World Heart Day, World No Tobacco Day, and World Diabetes Day in 2020. Various programs were organized in collaboration with stakeholders to create awareness among the population and to draw the attention of policymakers of the impact of health issues for preventable deaths and disabilities due to NCDs.

- **Commemoration of world No Tobacco Day**

A media seminar and social media campaign were conducted to commemorate World No Tobacco Day 2020. The theme for the year 2020 was 'Protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use'. Sri Lanka

has a national target to achieve a 30% reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use in persons aged over 15 years by 2025.



Social media campaign and health promotion messages were focused mainly on how tobacco is being promoted to youth, how the youth can speak up against tobacco, how to empower children and adolescents and how covid is more likely to be prevalent among tobacco smokers. It's been planned to establish at least one tobacco free zone per each Happy village, to setup tobacco cessation services and to strengthen the services available for tobacco cessation.

