

**ASSESSMENT OF LITERACY OF THE POPULATION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN MATTERS OF PREVENTION AND  
TREATMENT OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

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Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases and their risk factors are an increasing public health and development challenge in Uzbekistan. This report provides evidence through three analyses that NCDs reduce economic output and discusses potential options in response, outlining details of their relative returns on investment. An economic burden analysis shows that economic losses from NCDs (direct and indirect costs) make up 9.3 trillion sum, which is equivalent to 4.7% of gross domestic product in 2016. An intervention costing analysis provides an estimate of the funding required to implement a set of policy interventions for prevention and clinical interventions. A cost–benefit analysis compares these implementation costs with the estimated health gains and identifies which policy packages would give the greatest returns on investment.

Reducing the major risk factors for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) – tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet and the harmful use of alcohol – is the focus of WHO’s work to prevent deaths from NCDs.

NCDs – primarily heart and lung diseases, cancers and diabetes – are the world’s largest killers, with an estimated 41 million deaths annually. Of these deaths, 17 million are premature (under 70 years of age). If we reduce the global impact of risk factors, we can go a long way to reducing the number of deaths worldwide.

Prevention of NCDs is a growing issue: the burden of NCDs falls mainly on developing countries, where 82% of premature deaths from these diseases occur.

Tackling the risk factors will therefore not only save lives; it will also provide a huge boost for the economic development of countries.

#### REFERENCES

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