

Statement on Noncommunicable Diseases and Universal Health Coverage

76th WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC76)

Agenda item 15: A new era of health for Africa, united action for Vision 2035

25 August 2026, Addis Ababa.

The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) in the Africa Region urges Member States to recognize non-communicable diseases as key priorities for primary health care and accelerating UHC as part of Flagship 1.

The prevalence of NCDs such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and mental health problems is increasing. The number of people with NCDs necessitates high-quality ongoing primary care.

People live with multiple chronic conditions which lead to disability, financial hardship, and premature mortality.

Governments should invest in community-orientated primary care, particularly the health workforce, expand access to essential medicines and equipment, and strengthen mental health services as an integral part of prevention and care management programs.

Policies must address social, commercial and environmental determinants, reduce stigma, and ensure equitable access for all from every age, including vulnerable and frail populations, migrants, and people affected by conflict.

WONCA calls for sustained financing, measurable targets, and accountability to achieve healthier communities worldwide for all.