Health Co-Benefits of Climate Mitigation Policies

The NGO Perspective

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NCD Alliance

Formed by IDF in 2009 – four federations and a network of 2000-NGOs

4 Diseases Diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular and

chronic respiratory disease (WHO)

4 Risk Factors Tobacco, unhealthy diets, alcohol and

physical inactivity

#1 killer 2/3^{rds} of global deaths









NCDs – Sustainable Development Disaster

"A major challenge for sustainable development in the 21st Century" (Rio+20)

Social

• 80% in LMICs

- Social determinants of health
- Vulnerable + marginalized populations

Economic

- A top global risk (WEF)
- Cost world economy
 \$47 trillion in next 20
 years
- Household poverty, lost productivity + catastrophic expenditure

Environmental

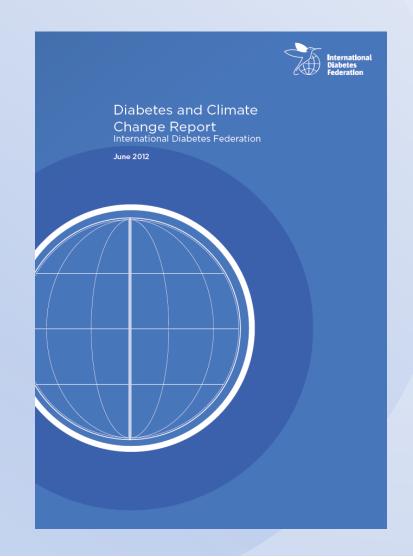
- Dirty development
- Shared global vectors
- Rising burden of NCDs – resources and energy





IDF Diabetes and Climate Change Report

- Launched at Rio+20
- Aims to:
 - Outline the interconnections between diabetes and climate change
 - Establish the co-benefit approach
 - Inform global discussions on health and sustainable development







Diabetes and Climate Change: The Interconnections

Direct Impact

Global Diabetes Epidemic

Today there are 366 million people with diabetes, and by 2030 that number will reach half a billion.¹ Globally diabetes kills 4.6 million people a year, it is among the top causes of disability, and costs the world USD 465 billion in healthcare expenditure every year. Four out of five people with diabetes now live in low- and middle-income countries. Diabetes impoverishes families, hampers labour productivity and overwhelms health systems.

Carbon-intensive health systems

Food insecurity

Weakened health systems

Climate Change

Greenhouse gas emissions are expected to grow by 52% by 2050,² raising the earth's temperature to exceed the safe threshold. There is now unequivocal evidence for human induced climate change. While high-income countries contribute almost all emissions, it is the poorest countries that suffer the greatest consequences. If nothing is done, climate change will cost 5–20% of the world GDP every year,³ and will impact on malnutrition, increased infectious and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), poverty and inequity.

Pathways

Mechanised transportation

Poor urban design and slum growth

Sedentary lifestyles

Ageing populations
Depleting natural resources

Animal source food production Industrial food processing Global food and agriculture trade Unhealthy diets and consumption patterns

Global Vectors

Rapid Urbanisation

Over half of the world's population live in cities today. By 2030, an estimated 5 billion of the world's 8.1 billion people will live in cities, and 2 billion of them will live in slums. The speed and scale of urbanisation globally is impacting upon climate change, and in developing countries and for socially disadvantaged populations it is compromising human and planetary health.

Fast-Changing Population Demographics

By 2050 the world's population will have grown from 7 billion to 9 billion, and the biggest increase will be in Asia and Africa. Overall global population is ageing, but many developing countries will witness increasingly young populations. These changing demographic trends place a strain on already insufficient resources, aggravate environmental problems, and contribute to shifting disease patterns.

Globalised Food System

The 21st century food system is framed by globalisation, liberalisation and industrialisation. While the benefits of a globalised food system are apparent, industrial food production, processing, trade, marketing and retailing are a major stressor to the planet and contribute to the nutrition and epidemiological transitions taking place in developing countries.

The Opportunity: Co-Benefit Solutions

- Well defined concept but still not in mainstream
- 2 clear messages to policy makers:
 - Health, Environmental +
 Economic Benefits new models
 for sustainable development
 - Public Support becomes a human issue



Catalogue of co-benefit solutions – e.g. clean household energy





Transport Policies

Problem: car use and sedentary lifestyles increasing worldwide

Co-benefit solution: Active travel (distances walked and cycled)

- 1. Design cities to ensure walking and cycling are safe, easy and enjoyable
- 2. Restrict car use and invest in public transport and pedestrian/cyclist infrastructure

Impact:

- Cut CO2 emissions and increase physical activity
- Prevent NCDs: shown to reduce diabetes prevalence by up to 17% in Delhi (Woodcock et al)
- Raft of other benefits, including equity







Food Policies

Global food system is **nexus of problems** for climate change, food security and malnutrition

Co-benefit solution – "Sustainable Diets"

- Reduce livestock consumption mitigate climate change and prevent NCDs in high income countries
- 2. Urban agriculture reduced 'farm to fork' emissions + increase access to healthy foods

"The current food system is deeply dysfunctional. The world is paying an exorbitant price for the failure to consider health impacts in designing food systems" (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food)







A Healthy Future – for people and planet



- End era of siloes adopt co-benefit approach
- Post 2015
 development
 agenda: MDGs and
 SDGs
- Principles: sustainability, equity+ social justice





IDF and the NCD Alliance – our contribution

- IDF Diabetes and Climate Change Report
- NCD Alliance briefing paper on sustainable development
- Rio+20 Health Cluster
- WHO Consultation on health indicators

Join Us!

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Diabetes and Climate Change Report



