

## Peer Review Report

# Review Report on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) Prevention Policies and their Implementation in Africa: A systematic review

Systematic Review, Public Health Rev

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### EVALUATION

#### Q 1 Please summarize the main theme of the review.

The review has looked into the policies on NCDs in Africa, including the equity aspect, coverage of NCD areas, and some aspects of the implementation of policies. The review has brought out the many deficiencies in mounting a comprehensive response to the rising burden of NCDs.

#### Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

Strengths- good to see the study from Africa using papers published from Africa. Such capacity is critical to advance the policy response. The authors have done the systematic review well and identified the main limitations.

Limitations- interpretation has gone beyond what was identified from the review. Mainly tobacco policies were in the final set of papers reviewed. Socio-cultural and economic context has a major bearing and needs more mention. There are many resources in WHO such as the <https://extranet.who.int/ncdccs/documents/> repository of NCD policies.

NCD data is available from WHO STEPS surveys <https://extranet.who.int/ncdsmicrodata/index.php/catalog>

#### Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors, structured in major and minor comments.

Major comments:

1. This is an important topic and very relevant for policy development in Africa.
2. Use of studies from Africa is a plus point and also helps to promote more studies in this area which is critical.
3. Scope can be indicated in a clear manner as there are multiple areas. Terminologies are important in terms of prevention, management of manifest diseases versus reducing the possibility of risk exposure by taxation, health system capacity, and UHC which is a slightly different but related area, the health of migrants and people in emergencies also need a slightly different take.
4. At present all these are mentioned in the inference and maybe better articulated.
5. Additional sources such as the NCD country capacity surveys from WHO, NCD document repository which has policies from countries and NCD data such as the STEPS surveys can be added.

### PLEASE COMMENT

#### Q 4 Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

Can be made simple and more attractive

Suggestion

NCD prevention policies and their implementation in Africa: A systematic review.

#### Q 5 Are the keywords appropriate?

Best practice- can be taken out

**Q 6** Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Can be edited to make it more clear in some areas.

**Q 7** Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

**Q 8** Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?

More reference to NCD databases from WHO can be added

**Q 9** Does this manuscript refer only to published data? (unpublished data is not allowed for Reviews)

Yes.

**Q 10** Does the manuscript cover the issue in an objective and analytical manner

Yes.

**Q 11** Was a review on the issue published in the past 12 months?

Yes.

**Q 12** Does the review have international or global implications?

It has international implications, especially in African countries. The need for a targeted approach to policymaking, based on national data and context has to be an agenda item for global health agencies and national agencies working on health policies.

**QUALITY ASSESSMENT**

**Q 13** Quality of generalization and summary



**Q 14** Significance to the field



**Q 15** Interest to a general audience



**Q 16** Quality of the writing



**REVISION LEVEL**

**Q 17** Please take a decision based on your comments:

Minor revisions.

