



## NCD Child is a global multi-stakeholder coalition, championing the rights and needs of children, adolescents, and young people living with or at risk of developing NCDs.

**Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** primarily include cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes, which account for 82% of all NCD deaths. Injury and violence, and mental health conditions also contribute to NCDs in young people.

Historically, NCDs have been viewed as a problem of adulthood, but **children, adolescents, and young people** are at risk as well. Addressing NCD risks and treatment early is an issue of human rights, as well as a priority for health and sustainable human development.

**NCDs are often preventable** through effective interventions that address risk factors like tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, injury, and harmful use of alcohol or other drugs. Many of these behaviors and risk factors begin during childhood and adolescence.

**NCDs can lead to further complications** for individuals and families. Children, adolescents, young people, and families with special needs require access to health care and other services to fully participate in society. In addition, many young people are burdened with the physical and economic task of caring for relatives with NCDs.

**Intervention at an early stage** of life is crucial and offers cost-effective strategies for reducing the social and economic burden of NCDs. There is a crucial opportunity to address the global burden of NCDs through a life-course approach to reduce the rates of NCDs in the future and improve the lives of individuals currently living with NCDs.

### By The Numbers

**38M** deaths attributed to NCDs each year

**82%** of all premature NCD deaths occur in low and middle income countries

**41%** of the world's population is under age 25

**1/2** of NCD-related deaths each year are associated with behaviors beginning in adolescence

**52M** projected NCD-related deaths by 2030

**It's critical that youth who are living with NCDs, or who have previously battled NCDs, speak up to close the awareness and education gaps in their communities.**

Seun Adebiji, Founder, Bone Marrow Donors Registry Nigeria

## Mission: Advocacy, Awareness, Communication, and Collaboration

NCD Child actively engages and collaborates with governments, foundations, multilateral and non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, and academic and research institutions to promote awareness, education, prevention, and treatment of NCDs in children, adolescents, and young people.

**To do justice by our duty as the voice of all those who have been affected by NCDs, and to protect the lives of all those who will be affected by them in the coming years, we need to ensure that NCDs receive a new label marked 'urgent action required now!'**

HRH Princess Dina Mired of Jordan,  
NCD Child Governing Council

## Rationale: Focus on Young People

- ⇒ NCDs are largely preventable; NCD risk begins early in life; 41% of the world's population are under 24; greater attention and investment are needed in early years to advance progress worldwide for the prevention of NCDs
- ⇒ Addressing NCD risks and management in children, adolescents, and young people is an issue of human rights, as well as a priority for health and sustainable human development
- ⇒ Childhood and adolescence represent an "age of opportunity" for prevention and control, early detection, treatment, and care of NCDs
- ⇒ The international development community cannot promote sustainable development without addressing the impact of NCDs on children, adolescents, and young people

## Opportunity: Strategic Investments in Early Life Interventions

- ⇒ Begin prevention early—A healthy start to life matters for a lifetime
- ⇒ Create enabling environments and supportive communities for healthy behavior
- ⇒ Integrate NCD risk assessments and interventions in the reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health continuum of care
- ⇒ Ensure health systems work for children, adolescents, and young people; ensure treatment options are affordable and accessible for all; and close the data information gap on children and adolescents
- ⇒ Institutionalize programs for youth participation in NCD policy and program development

## Action: NCD Child as a Platform for Advocacy

- ⇒ Advocate for a life-course approach to the prevention and control of NCDs in national and global development agendas including the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals
- ⇒ Representation at high level UN and WHO meetings ensuring presence of youth voices
- ⇒ Advocacy trainings to engage young people, clinicians, civil society, and others in national NCD plans
- ⇒ Communication via website, social media, publications, fact sheets, newsletters and other channels
- ⇒ Provide a platform for young people to be involved in the core activities and dialogue for NCD Child's priority issues

visit [www.ncdchild.org](http://www.ncdchild.org)



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