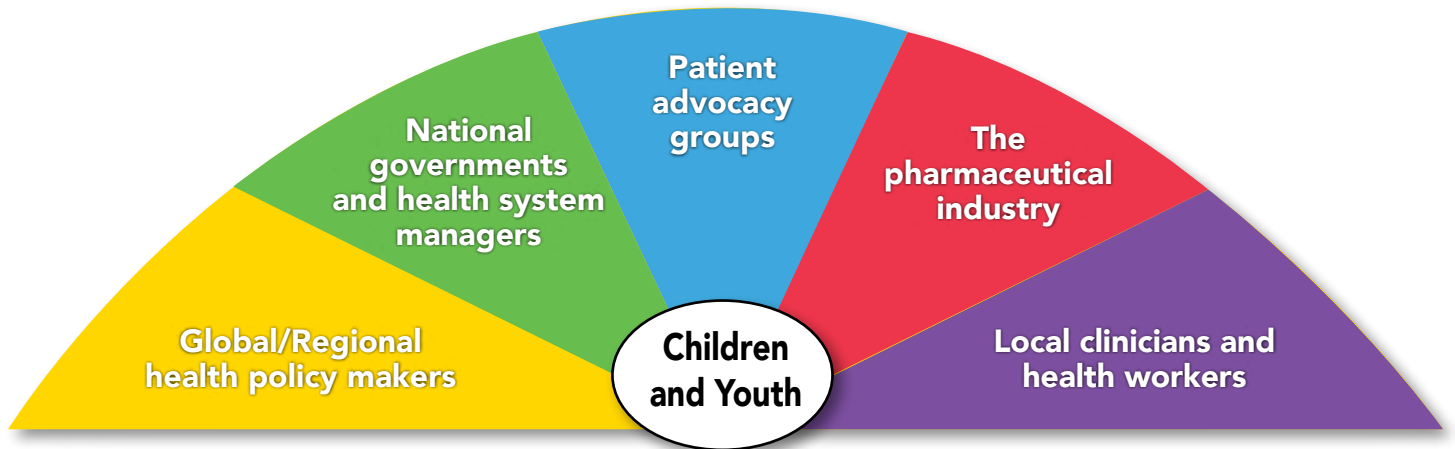


# CALL TO ACTION

Ensuring that children, youth and their families have optimum access to appropriate essential medicines and equipment (EME) depends upon the co-operation of key stakeholder groups:



These stakeholders must ALL engage in meaningful dialogue with children and youth who take medicines for NCDs, and their families

## Recommendations of the NCD Child Task Force on Essential Medicines and Equipment:

### Global / Regional Health Policymakers can:

- Protect and promote the rights of children and youth to be able to access appropriate, available, affordable, and quality EME
- Work collaboratively with national governments, civil society, academia and the private sector on strategic and sustainable approaches to updating the WHO Model Essential Medicines List for Children (EMLc)
- Restructure the EMLc with a disease focus rather than a product focus, including priority non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and other special health care needs that affect children and youth
- Ensure equipment which enhances the health and wellbeing of children and youth is included, and affordable options are promoted



Photo courtesy of Life for a Child / International Diabetes Federation

- Facilitate purchasing partnerships between countries in neighboring regions
- Harmonize regulation of medicines in terms of shelf life, packaging etc to underpin these partnerships
- Incentivize governments to establish universal health coverage, including affordable and accessible EME



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## National Governments and Health System Managers can:

- Establish guidelines and systems for access to medicines and for the prevention and treatment of NCDs prevalent among children and youth, including physical and mental health conditions, and vaccine-preventable illness
- Ensure that pediatric treatment guidelines, and rational prescribing, are core competencies in training of all clinicians
- Ensure health systems monitor – and are accountable for – the availability and accessibility of child-friendly EME in all public and private treatment facilities
- Harmonise EME registration and approvals, and improve pharmacovigilance
- Review governance of pharmaceutical management systems to optimise medicines distribution
- Work with academic groups to identify evidence gaps and fund health services research to address them
- Ensure EME for children and youth are included on national insurance lists



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## Patient Advocacy Groups can:

- Advocate with local managers and national government to raise awareness of unmet needs for children and youth living with NCDs to protect and promote their rights to health, life and access to EME
- Promote health literacy of children, youth and their families to ensure the most effective use of EME
- Connect internationally, and promote community action to make the best use of the EME available
- Promote collaborative support services for children and families including summer camps to foster self-reliance and adherence
- Hold other stakeholders to account by monitoring access to EME in their community



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## The Pharmaceutical Industry can:

- Establish partnerships with medicine purchasers to build national capacity in technology transfer for EME suitable for children and youth
- Provide high quality EME in user-friendly packaging that will promote adherence
- Provide a wider range of affordable and available child-friendly formulations
- Review intellectual property restrictions like TRIPS to address areas of particular need among children and youth

## Local Clinicians and Health Workers can:

- Promote health literacy of children, youth and their families about EME in community settings (such as schools, markets, and other public places) and during face-to-face consultations to ensure that they are used effectively, resulting in best adherence and treatment outcomes
- Monitor availability, cost, quality and wastage of EME available in the local community
- Inform national government, pharmaceutical industry and regional and global policy makers of the unmet EME needs of children and youth



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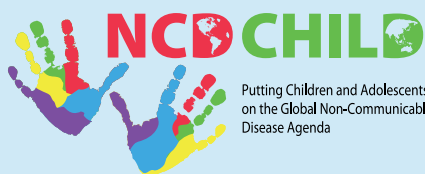
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Putting Children and Adolescents on the Global Non-Communicable Disease Agenda

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