

Strengthening the health system response to NCDs in humanitarian settings (Case study 1)

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Language English

This case study focuses on the health system response to NCDs in humanitarian settings and is part of a series exploring the importance of strong health systems for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 3.4 to reduce premature mortality NCDs by one-third by 2030.

Policy Briefs



[NCDs_humanitarian_settings-Case_Study-May_2025-ENG.pdf](#) [1]

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Resource Section: Publications and Multimedia

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Vehicles try to drive through a flooded street in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2020. ©Shutterstock

Extended Description:

Despite the high prevalence of NCDs in humanitarian settings, until relatively recently, healthcare responses in these contexts have focused heavily on communicable diseases and immediate life-saving health needs. Evidence from stakeholders interviewed in the development of this case study suggest reasons for this include the low visibility of NCDs and lack of awareness of NCDs among key humanitarian stakeholders, a lack of integration of NCDs into emergency response plans and assessments, and the long-term, chronic nature of NCD treatment and care which

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requires a different health system response to the provision of emergency healthcare. As a result, NCDs have not yet been adequately and systematically integrated into many countries' essential package of health services at primary care level, or into emergency preparedness and response procedures and emergency national action plans.

This case study aims to illustrate the key health system challenges, alongside tested solutions, to improving NCD care and management in humanitarian settings. Drawing on evidence from humanitarian responses to conflict and natural disasters, it also aims to illustrate how investing in effective NCD programming in humanitarian settings can contribute to strengthening person-centred primary healthcare.

This case study is part of a series exploring the importance of strong health systems for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 3.4 to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by one-third by 2030.

We also invite you to explore the [second case study on NCDs and primary healthcare](#) [2] and the [third case study on NCD and HIV care](#) [3].

Related Resource: [Integrating NCDs into Ethiopia's primary healthcare system \(Case study 2\)](#) [4]

[Building resilient health systems to deliver integrated, person-centred NCD and HIV care \(Case study 3\)](#) [5]

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