

Summary report on the

WHO-EM/NCD/091/E

**First regional meeting of
WHO and the International
Diabetes Federation on
collaborating for action on
noncommunicable diseases**

Cairo, Egypt
11–13 April 2013



**World Health
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Summary report on the

**First regional meeting of WHO
and the International Diabetes
Federation on collaborating for action
on noncommunicable diseases**

Cairo, Egypt
11–13 April 2013



**World Health
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

© World Health Organization 2013

All rights reserved.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

Publications of the World Health Organization can be obtained from Health Publications Production and Dissemination, World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, PO Box 7608, Nasr City, Cairo 11371, Egypt (tel: +202 2670 2535, fax: +202 2670 2492; email: HPD@emro.who.int). Requests for permission to reproduce, in part or in whole, or to translate publications of WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean – whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution – should be addressed to WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, at the above address: email: WAP@emro.who.int

Document WHO-EM/NCD/091/E

Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Conclusions	2
3.	Recommendations	4

1. Introduction

The first regional meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Diabetes Federation for the Middle East and North Africa (IDF/MENA) on collaborating for action on noncommunicable diseases was organized by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo, Egypt, from 11 to 13 April 2013.

The meeting was attended by a selected regional IDF/MENA group, in addition to representatives of the Noncommunicable Diseases Advisory Group, regional experts and WHO Regional Office and headquarter's staff.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- explore the role of the IDF/MENA in supporting the implementation of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and the regional framework for action on the commitments of Member States and develop an outline for collaboration in implementing the strategic framework on noncommunicable diseases.
- strengthen collaboration with the IDF/MENA and the role of regional civil societies.

The meeting was opened by Dr Ala Alwan, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Dr Alwan noted that the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted in September 2011, had spelled out several commitments to be fulfilled by WHO, Member States and international partners.

Furthermore, regional strategic directions on noncommunicable diseases outlined in “Shaping the future of health in the Eastern

Mediterranean: reinforcing the role of WHO (2012–2016)”, emphasized the need to strengthen collaboration and partnership with regional noncommunicable diseases alliances, such as the IDF/MENA, to support Member States in implementation of the Political Declaration.

Recently the commitments have been translated into the Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases: commitments of Member States and the way forward, which was endorsed by all Member States at the Fifty-ninth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, held in October 2012.

In view of the above, the first regional meeting of WHO and the IDF/MENA provides a suitable platform to strengthen partnerships between WHO and IDF in scaling up action on the prevention of diabetes in the Region.

2. Conclusions

Ensuring insulin availability and mobilizing resources

Development of the WHO/IDF partnership will enhance investment decisions by donor and philanthropic foundations that partner with the IDF. Shortages of insulin in the Region need to be addressed for cases of emergency. WHO has the resources and systems in place to support IDF/MENA in developing a joint proposal for resource mobilization to ensure the availability of insulin.

Conducting advocacy, increasing awareness and raising political commitment

The IDF has an efficient communication platform and strategy to raise awareness of the threat posed to public health as a result of

noncommunicable diseases in general, and diabetes in particular. The IDF has both the capacity and means to work more effectively with local communities in order to raise the profile and people's awareness of noncommunicable diseases and diabetes.

Preventing and controlling obesity epidemics

IDF/MENA has an opportunity to raise awareness and galvanize governmental and community action against the increasing trends of obesity in the Region. WHO and IDF/MENA will work together in preparing campaigns for World Diabetes Day and other WHO annual events to raise awareness and encourage political commitment for priorities related to noncommunicable diseases.

Improving quality of diabetes care

WHO will work with IDF/MENA to improve health care for people with diabetes and reduce the rates of complications using WHO existing packages for the integration of noncommunicable disease in primary health care, and IDF global guidelines and best practice projects, in addition to exchanging experiences and the resources of international experts and resources.

The diabetes registration process and generation of new evidence needs to be improved. WHO will promote comprehensive integrated noncommunicable disease care, including diabetes prevention and control, as part of the action plan and strategy for national noncommunicable diseases.

The IDF has an important role in discussing and coordinating diabetes care with all other noncommunicable diseases at national level. Addressing diabetes care (screening and management) at primary health care level is a cornerstone for quality health care.

IDF/MENA could support initiatives to strengthen primary health care services.

3. Recommendations

To WHO

1. Prepare campaigns for World Diabetes Day in collaboration with the IDF/MENA and all WHO country offices and invite representatives of IDF/MENA to attend activities related to the Day.
2. Invite IDF members to participate in WHO events, such as sessions of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean and the World Health Assembly.

To WHO/IDF

3. Establish a joint IDF/WHO task force to coordinate the insulin supply and accessibility for individuals in need in countries in crisis.
4. Establish a joint task force on childhood obesity.
5. Establish a task force on quality health care.
6. Organize jointly the conducting of long- and short-term training courses for various categories of health staff.
7. Organize jointly important scientific meetings and conferences.
8. Develop a clear action plan for lobbying for greater political commitment to address noncommunicable diseases and for implementation of the commitments of Member States of the UN Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable diseases commitments, working jointly with other noncommunicable diseases alliances, such as the World Heart Federation and the Union for International Cancer Control.



World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
P.O. Box 7608, Nasr City 11371
Cairo, Egypt
www.emro.who.int