

Improving Affordable Access to Essential Medicines and Technologies for Children and Adolescents Living with Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)

A proposed WHO resolution for consideration at WHA80 (2027)

Children and adolescents living with NCDs continue to face major barriers in access to essential medicines, diagnostics and health technologies. The proposed resolution responds by strengthening strategic and coordinated multistakeholder action.

- ❑ **Addresses** a neglected gap in child health
- ❑ **Promotes** a child-focused, integrated health-systems approach
- ❑ **Calls for** stronger national action
- ❑ **Requests** WHO technical guidance

1 Why this Resolution matters

More than 2.1 billion children and adolescents under 20 years of age are affected by NCDs¹, yet access to essential medicines, diagnostics and health technologies remains deeply unequal. In childhood, delayed diagnosis and interrupted treatment can lead to avoidable complications, disability, preventable death and lifelong consequences for growth, development and well-being. Existing equity gaps reflect broader health-system failures, including weak diagnostic pathways, supply systems, financial protections and integration of medicines access and use into primary health care. **Equitable, affordable and continuous access** to essential health products is both a **child health right and a health systems imperative**.

This Resolution will benefit, in particular but not limited to, children living with NCDs for which there are already medicines, diagnostics and technologies on WHO Essential Lists (including, but not limited to the **Asthma, Diabetes, Sickle Cell Disease, Cancer, Rheumatic Heart Disease, Adrenal Insufficiency, Epilepsy and Hypothyroidism Communities** in lower income countries).

2 Why action is needed NOW

Existing political commitment

2030 target: at least 80% of primary health care facilities should have access to affordable essential medicines and basic technologies for NCDs, as set out in the 2025 Political Declaration on NCDs.

2027 offers a strategic policy window

A 2027 Resolution would coincide with the:

- 50th anniversary of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML),
- 20th anniversary of the WHO EML for Children and
- 3rd United Nations High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage



These unique timelines and synergies offer a critical opportunity to ensure the health and well-being of children and adolescents are reflected in implementation efforts.

¹UNICEF. *Non-communicable diseases* (<https://www.unicef.org/health/non-communicable-diseases>)

3 What this resolution proposes

The proposed resolution provides a practical framework for Member States and WHO to address persistent gaps in access for children and adolescents living with NCDs. It would guide collective action towards:

Integrating childhood NCDs

into existing Universal Health Coverage, Primary Health Care, and essential medicines and diagnostics policies

Improved pathways to diagnosis, referrals, affordable medicines, age-appropriate products, continuity of care

Strengthening

procurement, forecasting, financial protection and secure, uninterrupted supply chains

Mobilizing

WHO support for evidence-based implementation, and data driven monitoring and coordination

4 Why Member States should support it

The proposed resolution gives Member States **an opportunity to turn existing commitments into meaningful action** for children and adolescents living with NCDs. It addresses **a major but often overlooked gap in child health** and offers a practical framework to improve equitable access to essential medicines, diagnostics and health technologies. By supporting this broad, system-oriented response, Member States can **strengthen health systems, advance universal health coverage and improve continuity of care** for children and adolescents living with NCDs.

5 Next steps

The coming months will be critical to build momentum across Member States and generate the political support needed for adoption in 2027.

- ➔ Socialize the draft
- ➔ Strengthen the advocacy case
- ➔ Engage partners and government representatives
- ➔ Identify countries willing to support and champion the resolution



[@MATES4Kids \(Maximising Access To Essential Supplies for Children\)](#) is a coalition of like-minded organisations and individuals committed to collaborative action aimed at identifying, implementing, monitoring and sharing practical solutions to reduce the preventable mortality associated with childhood non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in resource poor settings. @MATES4Kids receives Secretariat support from [CLAN \(Caring & Living As Neighbours\)](#), an Australian non-government organisation in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC. For more information about the proposed Resolution please contact info@mates4kids.org