

World Health Organization
Russian Federation
Non-Communicable Diseases

Within the past century, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have plagued the Russian Federation, but more importantly the entire world; as a matter in fact, in Russia alone, NCDs make up 30% of premature deaths while sixteen million premature deaths worldwide are NCD related. The issue of NCDs came to Russia's attention in the early 1960s when the citizen's intake of foods with high fat and salt contents gradually increased while physical activity gradually decreased which, in turn, caused hypertension and atherosclerosis; however, Russia did not take action until the 1990s when there was a sharp increase in deaths relating to NCDs between the 1980s to the early 1990s. NCDs can be classified into four groups, which are: cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes. The issue of NCDs is that they are, at times, incurable although they can be treatable. NCDs can have a prolonged duration in which individuals with NCDs will live with the illness while their health is gradually deteriorating towards a terminal end.

The Russian Federation recognizes that NCDs pose a deadly threat to the stability of the country and has been actively engaged in the fight against NCDs. In order to fight NCDs, Russia donated US\$ 22 million to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Office for Europe in order to fund prevention and control projects. These project will advocate for and make aware of preventative NCD measures in low- and middle- income countries due to 82% of the sixteen million premature deaths occurring in these areas. In order to promote national plans that target the decline of premature deaths of NCDs, the projects will also provide the necessary technical support and training to ensure the creation of these plans. Russia recognizes that the fight against NCDs is not one that can be done alone which is why Russia openly collaborates with surrounding areas, with the goals of: reducing smoking, promoting healthier diets, and reducing alcohol consumption in order to eliminate alcohol abuse. Russia is also working alongside states, such as Kazakhstan, Armenia, and Belarus to collect data regarding the analysis of cardiovascular and other NCDs in order to build an international network that is dependable and determined to eliminate NCDs and to achieve the aforementioned goals.

The Russian Federation believes that this issue can be addressed at numerous levels. Russia strongly supports a Tobacco Free Initiative which would focus on tobacco control economics, national capacity building, and informational systems regarding tobacco control. Countries would work in conjunction with one another to adopt tobacco control policies and would aim to decrease the demand of tobacco which is a causing agent of some NCDs. There should also be preventative measures at the grassroots and national levels. These preventative measures would be in the form of educational seminars that would be open to the public and would include successful NCD prevention and control methods. These seminars would promote health equity and healthy lifestyles. Country's governments would also take an active role in preventative care by developing financial policies that would support NCD prevention campaigns and programs. The international community could adopt a primary legislation that addresses NCD prevention and includes a comprehensive strategy that targets financing, interventions, and medical professional training. Russia believes that involving the country's government will prove to be the key factor that is necessary to reduce the number of individuals with NCDs.

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World Health Organization
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Global Pharmaceutical Development and Universal Access to Medication

The development of medicinal products is tedious due to it being a costly and long- term process. Over 80% of the pharmaceutical expenses are due to the stages of development of products and the clinical trials to ensure the quality and safety of the product. Along with this, pharmaceutical companies will increase the market price of the medicinal product in a set period of time in order to ensure profitability. The Russian Federation understands the importance of the pharmaceutical market in the economy of a country; thus, understanding the direct association between the successful and stable development of pharmaceutical products and the access to medication. The obstacles preventing the universal access to medicine deal with the quality and affordability of the medication; these obstacles tie back to the development of efficient pharmaceutical companies which are scarce especially within developing countries.

One of the Russian Federation's priorities is on the pharmaceutical industry which directly deals with the universal access to inexpensive medication. The pharmaceutical market is ranked among the top ten most profitable markets in the world, with the value end- user prices of the market increasing by an average of 12% each year. Russia implemented a development plan called Pharma 2020 in order to improve upon the domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing industry which serves as an outline for the projected increase of medicinal development and domestic manufacturing output within Russia. Russia also holds annual forums called the Russian Popular Front's forum for Quality and Affordable Medicine that reiterates the pharmaceutical goals of Pharma 2020 which is to increase market shares to at least 50% by 2020. At the moment, Russia is heading towards more accessible and affordable medication which is why there is such a large emphasis on the growth of the pharmaceutical industry.

The Russian Federation believes that in order to provide affordable and accessible medicinal products, countries will need to look at expanding their pharmaceutical industries. A country's government should focus on establishing a financial plan that outlines the allocation of funds to various pharmaceutical goals. These goals would target pre-existing flaws within the pharmaceutical market; therefore, these goals would: focus on local consumption and the high dependence on imported pharmaceutical products. Along with this, the goals would improve on the pricing regulation of pharmaceutical products to ensure affordability to every citizen despite their economic status and state registration of medicines which would promote the manufacturing of generic products. There should also be a nationwide campaign that focuses on promoting generic products and would include accounts made by pharmacists and other medical authority personnel that include objective and accurate information regarding the generic product of pharmaceutical goods. This would be done in order to advocate for the less expensive products which would ensure affordability of medicinal products. This campaign would eliminate the perception that in order to be ensure profitability and generate the necessary revenue, generic products compromise on quality, safety, and efficiency. Russia believes that in order to enable the universal access to medicine, the pharmaceutical industries within each country needs to be improved upon which in turn will allow universal access to subsidized medication.

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World Health Organization
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Gender Based Inequities in Global Health

When looking at gender disparities within global health, it is important to understand the complexity of the issue and the multitudinous factors that influence the gender gap. Socioeconomic status, age, and individual behaviors are just a few factors that severely influence health; however, governmental policies that regulate the allocation of finances ultimately determine which medical issues are the most prevalent to address. A prevalent disparity between the genders is suicide. Women are three times more likely to attempt suicide than men; however, men are four times more likely to die due to suicide than females. In the Russian Federation, suicide is one of the leading causes of mortality for men which is why Russia is invested in reducing any gender based inequalities within health. Women often lack access to certain medical procedures or products or even are forced to undergo unsanitary and dangerous medical procedures due to economic or religious reason. These reasons hinder women from receiving necessary medical attention.

The Russian Federation is aware of the gender disparities within the country and is working to reduce the gender gap. In order to combat economic disparities within the gender gap, Russia is a part of Osfam's programme on Empowering Civil Societies in an Unequal Multipolar World (ECSM BRICSAM) which targets economic inequality and inequality within the healthcare system. This program looks at obstacles that hinder the accessibility to healthcare, such as: geographic, social, economic, and gender. By looking at these factors, Russia believes that it will be able to target the sections within the healthcare system that are faulty and need the most attention and financing. Although male suicide in Russia is higher than female suicide, the government has been allocating funds to female psychiatric clinics and suicide prevention centers. The mortality age gap within developed countries are associated with the unhealthy behaviors that men engage in which in turn cause non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The Russian Federation believes that if there is more of a focus on reducing NCDs, then all the other disparities revolving around men will diminish.

The Russian Federation strongly believes that if the health disparities regarding men are solved, then women and child health inequalities will shortly resolve after. This is why there should be the collaboration between MenEngage, United Nations (UN) partners, and countries to work on advancing gender justice in healthcare. This would be done through global symposiums, seminars, and regional consultations which would work to engage men on the fight for gender equality. This collaboration would focus on the awareness on gender-based violence, child health rights, sexual and reproductive health, and psychological health. These awareness and education meetings would be open to public and work at grassroots, national, and regional levels. Along with this, Russia strongly believes in the implementation of the Foundation for Latrine Utilization in School Houses (FLUSH). In many cases, girls are afraid and embarrassed to go to school because of their menstrual cycles. FLUSH would work towards providing necessary conditions for proper sanitation care and seclusion during girls' menstruation periods and would try and restore a sense of security that is often obscured by hyper-masculinity. In order to efficiently and effectively solve this issue, the Russian Federation advocates for cooperation within the international community and the implementation of the aforementioned programs.

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