

# Non-communicable diseases

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are defined as conditions that are not transmissible from person to person; NCDs are chronic diseases, and behaviors like smoking and overuse of alcohol can increase the chance of developing one. NCDs include cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancers.

As a group, NCDs were the leading cause of health loss globally in 2017, causing nearly four times as many deaths (more than 41 million, or 73.4% of deaths) as communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases combined. Despite this, however, NCDs development assistance for health remains a fraction of total DAH. Indeed, while the global burden of NCDs has grown – in 2000 NCDs led to more than 31 million deaths worldwide, or 61.6% of global deaths – NCD DAH has not risen to meet the increasing burden these diseases cause. In 2000, NCD DAH stood at \$190 million, or 1.6% of total DAH, whereas in 2019 it was \$730 million, or 1.8% of overall DAH.

The leading types of NCDs include ischemic heart disease, stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; NCD risk can be mitigated by modifying certain risk factors, like smoking.<sup>53</sup> Globally, NCD burden is highest in many middle-income countries. For example, 31% of 2017 deaths

in Russia were attributable to ischemic heart disease, and 17% to stroke.

Figure 1 shows NCD DAH by channel between 1990 and 2019. Figure 2, meanwhile, shows NCD DAH received compared to government spending in low- and middle-income countries, illustrating which countries remain dependent on DAH for NCD spending. And Figure 3 shows NCD DAH by program area in 2019.

*\*2018 and 2019 estimates are preliminary.*

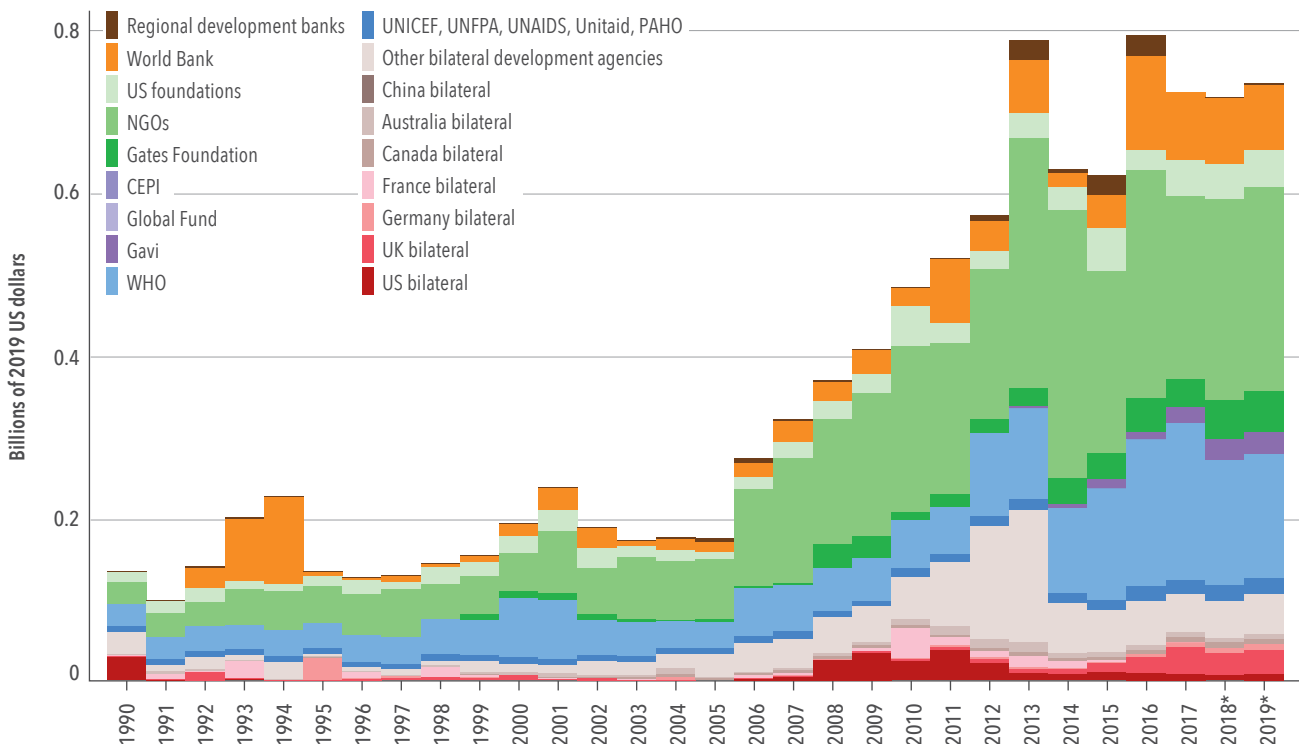
CEPI = Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations  
 NGOS = Non-governmental organizations  
 PAHO = Pan American Health Organization  
 UNAIDS = Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS  
 UNFPA = United Nations Population Fund  
 UNICEF = United Nations Children's Fund  
 WHO = World Health Organization

Regional development banks include the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

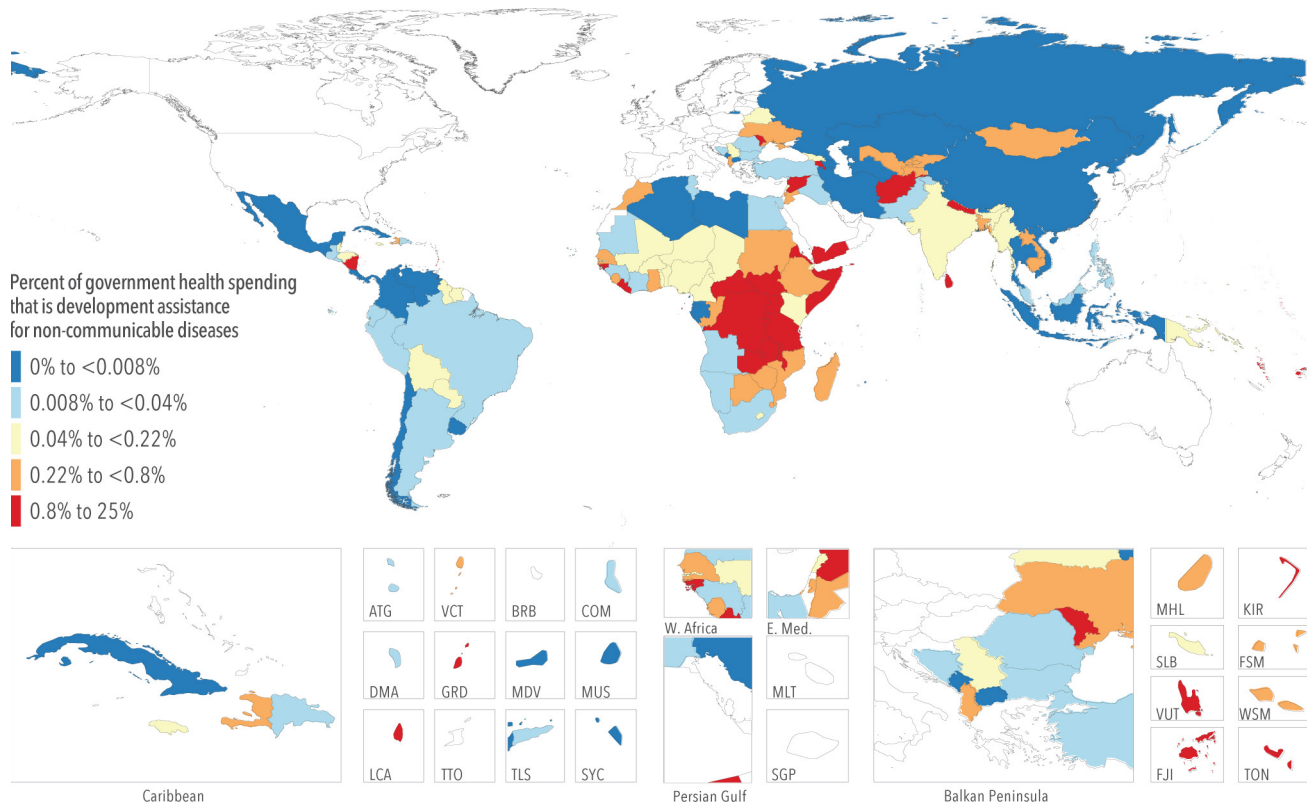
*\*\*All World Bank high-income designated countries are excluded and shown in white. Values are shown in 2019 US dollars.*

*“Other” captures development assistance for health for which we have program area information but which is not identified as being allocated to any of the program areas listed.*

**FIGURE 1** Development assistance for non-communicable diseases by channel of assistance, 1990–2019



**FIGURE 2** Development assistance for non-communicable diseases compared to government health spending, 2017\*\*



**FIGURE 3** Development assistance for health for non-communicable diseases by program area, 1990–2019

