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1. **Why does oral health matter?**

2. WHO Strategies on Oral Health

3. Next step

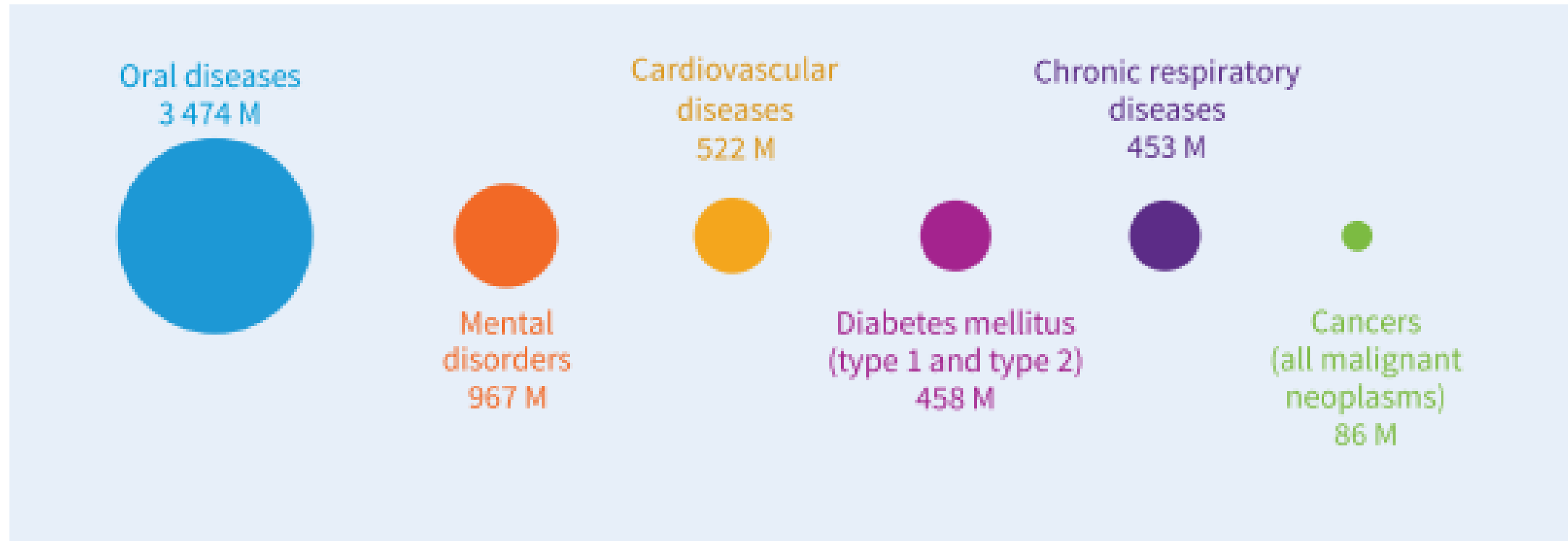World Health Organization

African Region

Disease burden: oral diseases are global and regional problems

- Oral diseases are **the most common diseases** globally and regionally

- Around **42%** of the population in the WHO African region was estimated suffered from major oral diseases in 2021

- The region experienced the **highest increase in the number of oral disease cases** in 30 years

	Global	World Bank low income	World Bank lower-middle income	World Bank upper-middle income	World Bank high income
Oral diseases	1	1	1	1	1
Neurological disorders	2	5	2	3	2
Digestive diseases	3	7	4	2	6
Respiratory infections & TB	4	4	3	4	9
Skin diseases	5	3	5	6	5
Sense organ diseases	6	9	8	5	7
Musculoskeletal disorders	7	11	9	7	3
NTDs & malaria	8	2	7	12	19
HIV/AIDS & STIs	9	8	10	8	10
Nutritional deficiencies	10	6	6	13	15

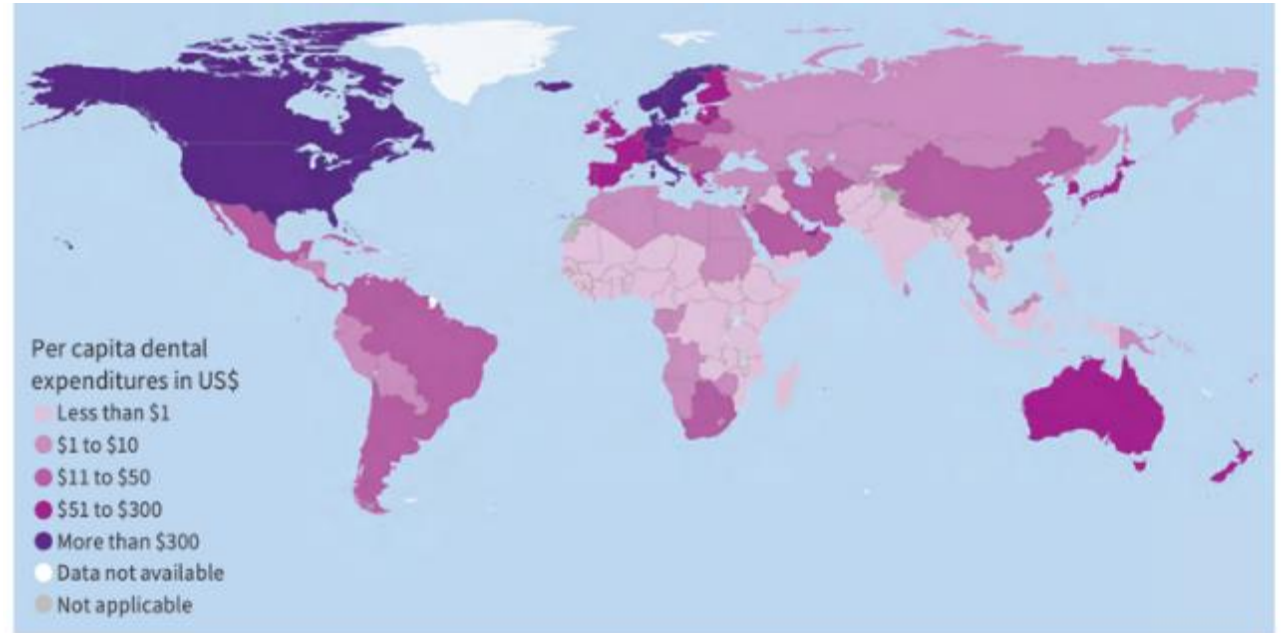**Ranking of most prevalent conditions per World Bank country income level in 2019**

World Health Organization
African Region

Comparison of estimated global case numbers of selected NCDs

Oral diseases
3 474 M

Mental
disorders
967 M

Cardiovascular
diseases
522 M

Diabetes mellitus
(type 1 and type 2)
458 M

Chronic respiratory
diseases
453 M

Cancers
(all malignant
neoplasms)
86 M

Note. Data are for all ages and both sexes from GBD 2019; oral diseases do not include lip and oral cavity cancer (4). A standard method has been applied to incorporate the latest UN population estimates.

World Health Organization
African Region

Economic burden of oral diseases

- The total direct expenditure for oral diseases globally amounted to **US$ 387 billion** in 2019 - about **4.8%** of global direct health expenditures

- The productivity losses from oral diseases were estimated to total around **US$ 323 billion** globally

- In the African Region, more than **70% of countries** in the region used less than **US$ 1/person/year** for direct expenditure (vs US$ 50 global average)

Per capita dental expenditures in US$
- Less than $1
- $1 to $10
- $11 to $50
- $51 to $300
- More than $300
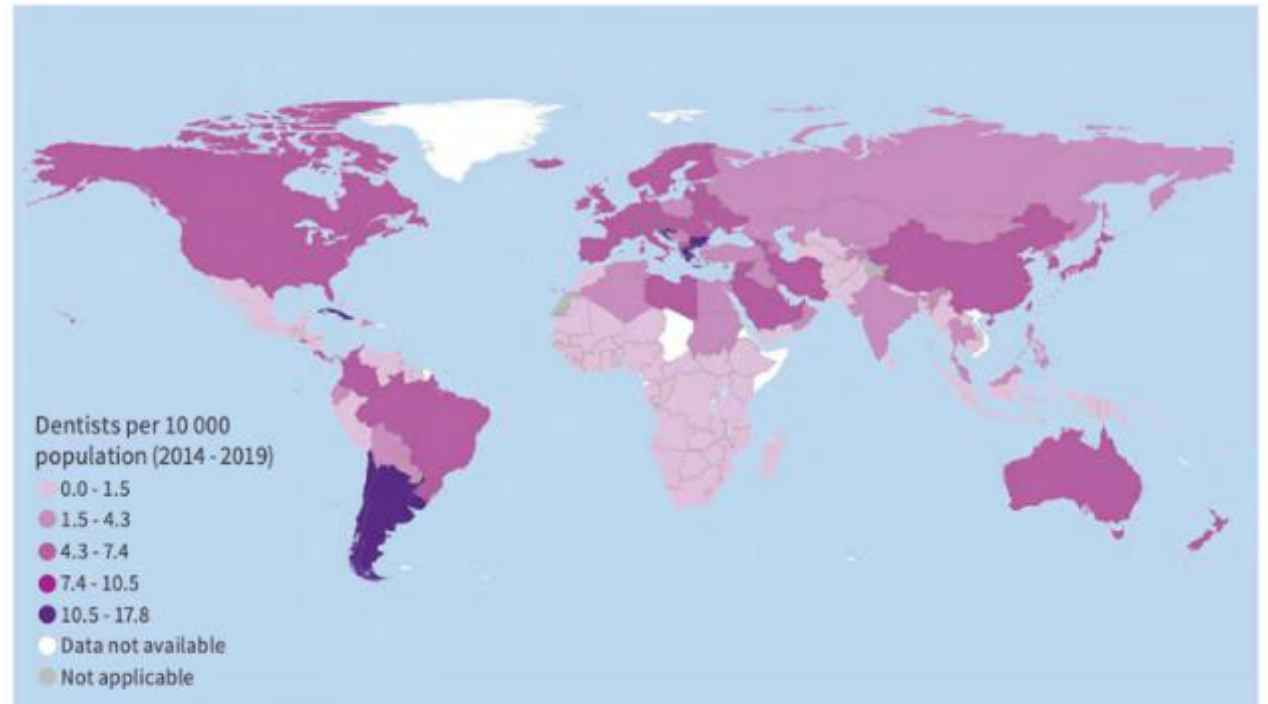- Data not available
- Not applicable

Data Source: Jevdjevic & Listl 2022. Economic impacts of oral diseases in 2019. Map Production: WHO NCD/MND unit. Map Creation Date: 30 August 2022. *Note:* N = 194 countries.

Oral health expenditure (public and private) per capita in 2019

World Health Organization
African Region

Chronically lack of oral health workforce

- A **lack of oral health professionals**, including dentists, dental assistants/therapists, and dental prosthetists, in the region

- The number of dentists per 10,000 population in the region is **one-tenth of the global ratio**

- The number of oral health professionals per 10,000 population in the region is **one-sixth of the global ratio**

Dentists per 10 000 population (2014 - 2019)
- 0.0 - 1.5
- 1.5 - 4.3
- 4.3 - 7.4
- 7.4 - 10.5
- 10.5 - 17.8
- Data not available
- Not applicable

Data source: The National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA) data platform, WHO; 2020. Map Production: WHO NCD/MND unit. Map Creation Date: 30 August 2022. *Note.* Per 10000 population, *N* = 184 countries, from the latest available data (2014–2019).

**Workforce for oral health – dentist per 10,000 (2014-2019)**

World Health Organization
African Region

Reference: WHO (2022). Global oral health status report: towards universal health coverage for oral health by 2030

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Integration of oral health into health system, NCDs and UHC is key
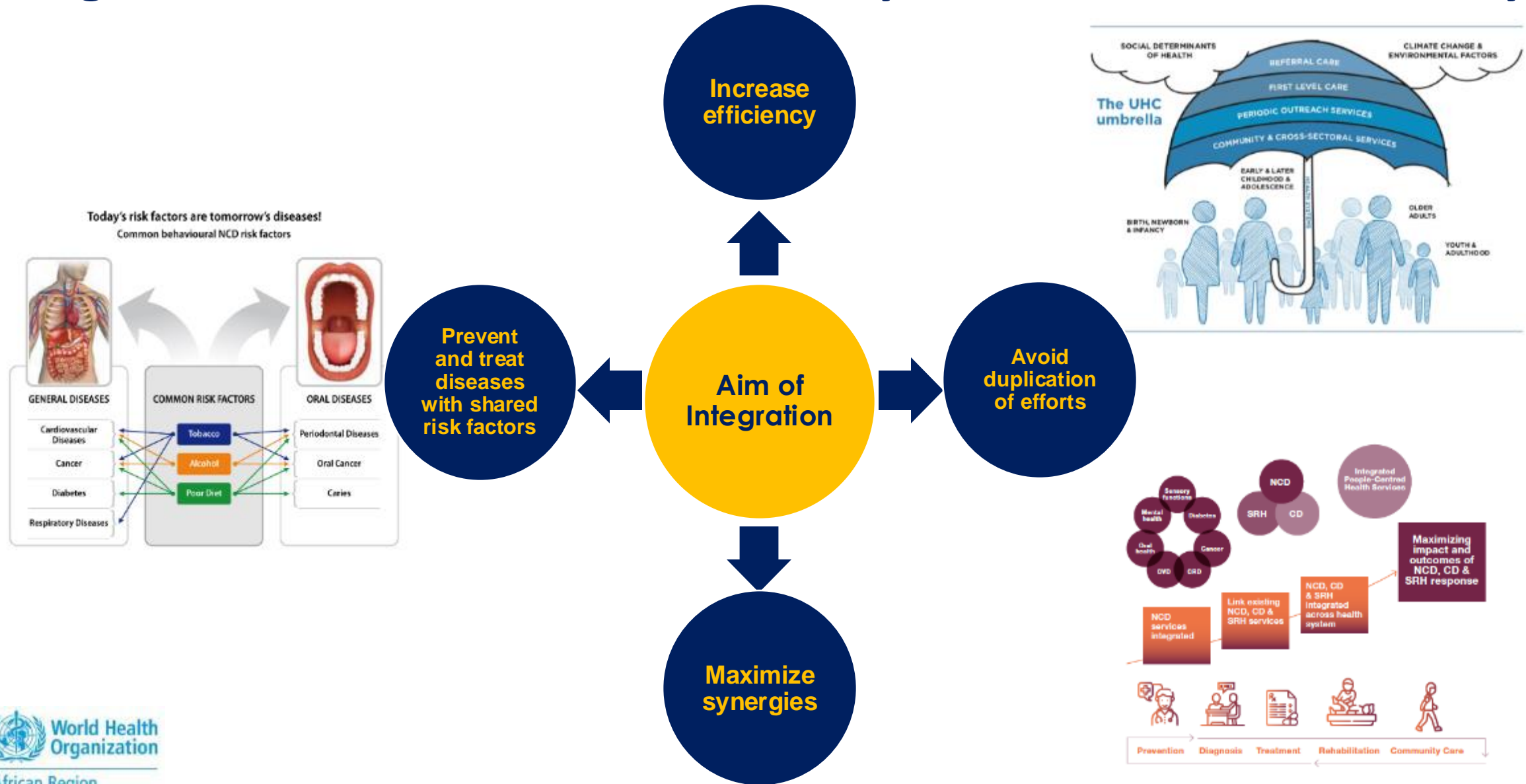
WHO global and regional strategic guidance on oral health

Regional Strategy on Oral Health 2016-2025: Addressing oral diseases as part of NCDs (2016)

Four strategic objectives

- Strengthen national advocacy, leadership and partnerships
- Reduce common risk factors
- Strengthen health system capacity for integrated prevention and control of oral diseases
- Improve integrated surveillance of oral diseases, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and research

WHO Resolution on Oral Health WHA74.5 (2021)

"Oral Health has been overlooked for too long in the global health agenda."

Global Strategy on Oral Health WHA75.10 Add.1 (2022)

Six Strategic Objectives

1. Oral Health Governance
2. Oral Health Promotion and Oral Disease Prevention
3. Health Workforce
4. Oral Health Care
5. Oral Health Information Systems
6. Oral Health Research Agendas

Draft Global Oral Health Action Plan (2023-2030)

- 11 Global targets
- 100 actions with responsibility spread across WHO Member States, the WHO Secretariat, International Partners, Civil Society & Private Sectors

Oral Health should be embedded within the NCDs and UHC agendas

World Health Organization

African Region

WHO's mandate from Resolution WHA74.5 (2021)

Time for implementation and full integration into NCD & UHC agendas!

✓ Global strategy on oral health adopted in May 2022 (WHA75(11))

✓ Global oral health action plan 2023-2030 (GOHAP) in May 2023

WHO Resolution on Oral Health WHA74.5 (2021)

World Health Organization
African Region
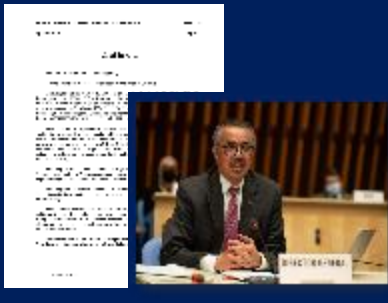
Global Strategy and Action Plan on Oral Health 2023-2030

Vision

Universal Health Coverage for oral health for all individuals and communities by 2030

Six strategic objectives

Oral Health Governance	Oral Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	Health Workforce	Oral Health Care	Oral Health Information System	Oral Health Research Agenda

100 proposed actions for Member States (MS), WHO, international partners, CSO, private sectors

22 actions	22 actions	16 actions	18 actions	10 actions	12 actions

World Health Organization
African Region

Measuring progress on the Global Oral Health Action Plan

Global targets/ core indicators

- 2 overarching targets
- 9 targets related to each strategic objective
- Data collected in all countries using existing and/or new systems and resources
- Pragmatic
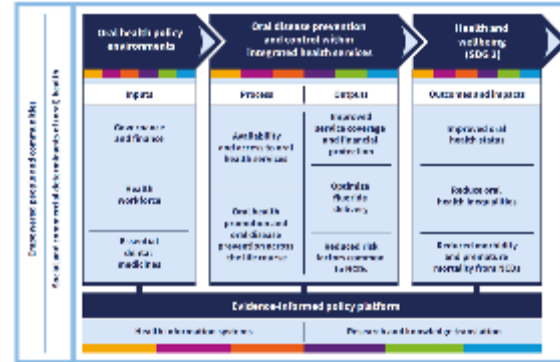
40 indicators

11 Global targets (populated by 11 core indicators)

29 Complementary indicators

Complementary indicators

- Reflect variation in country contexts at regional, national and sub-national level
- Priorities and resources

World Health Organization
African Region

Global oral health targets and current baseline by strategic objectives

Strategic objective	Global target	Global [Baseline 2024]	WHO African Region [Baseline 2024]	South Africa
Over-arching	**Universal health coverage for oral health** A.1. By 2030, 80% of the **global population is entitled to essential oral health care services**	23%	17%	85%[1]
	Reduced oral disease burden B.1. By 2030, the **combined global prevalence of the main oral diseases and conditions** over the life course shows a relative reduction of 10%	47%	42%	40.9%[2]
Oral health governance	**National leadership for oral health** 1.1. By 2030, 80% of countries have **an operational national oral health policy, strategy or action plan and dedicated staff for oral health** at the health ministry or other national governmental health agency	28%	30%	Fully achieved[3]
	Environmentally sound oral health care 1.2. By 2030, 90% of countries have implemented **measures to phase down the use of dental amalgam** as stipulated in the Minamata Convention on Mercury or have phased it out	31%	13%	Partially achieved[4]
Oral health promotion and oral disease prevention	**Policies to reduce intake of free sugars** 2.1. By 2030, 50% of countries implement policy measures aiming to **reduce intake of free sugars**	21%	4%	Partially achieved[5]
	Optimal fluoride delivery for population oral health 2.2. By 2030, 50% of countries have national guidance on **optimal fluoride delivery for oral health of the population**	29%	9%	Not achieved[3]

Global oral health targets and current baseline by strategic objectives (cont'd)

Strategic objective	Global target	Global [Baseline 2023]	WHO African Region [Baseline 2023]	South Africa
Health workforce	**Innovative workforce model for oral health** 3.1. By 2030, 50% of countries have an **operational national health workforce policy, plan or strategy that includes a workforce trained to respond to population oral health needs**	[Data not available]	[Data not available]	[Data not available]
Oral health care	**Integration of oral health into primary care** 4.1. By 2030, 80% of countries have **oral health care services generally available in primary care facilities**	**81%**	**53%**	Fully achieved[3]
	Availability of essential dental medicines 4.2. By 2030, 50% of countries include **dental preparations listed in the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines in their national essential medicines lists**	**1%**	**2%**	Not achieved[3]
Oral health information systems	**Monitoring implementation** 5.1. By 2030, 80% of countries have a **monitoring framework for the national oral health policy, strategy or action plan**	**6%**	**15%**	Not achieved[3]
Oral health research agendas	**Research in the public interest** 6.1. By 2030, 50% of countries have a **national oral health research agenda focused on public health and population-based interventions**	**18%**	**11%**	Not achieved[3]

References:
1: WHO Health Technology Assessment and Health Benefit Package Survey; 2021
2: Global Burden of Disease Collaborative Network. GBD 2021. Seattle: IHME; 2021
3: WHO NCD Country Capacity Survey, NCD CCS; 2023
4: WHO and Minamata Convention Secretariat, 2023; Minamata Convention Secretariat, 2021; WHO Informal Consultation, 2021; COP 4 submissions to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, 2021
5: WHO Global database on the Implementation of Food and Nutrition Action, 2023; WHO NCD Country Capacity Survey, NCD CCS, 2023

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African Region

Key high-level events

Sep 2022
1st Gathering of Global Group of HoSG for NCDs & mental health

Jan 2023
SIDS High-level technical meeting on NCDs & mental health

Sep 2023
2nd Gathering of Global Group of HoSG for NCDs & mental health

April 2024
1st Symposium on Meaningful Engagement

June (20-21) 2024
International Dialogue on sustainable financing for NCD and mental health

Nov 2024
Global oral health Meeting

Feb 2025
Executive Board

2022   **2023**   **2024**   **2025**

April 2022
International Strategic Dialogue on NCDs – **Global NCD Compact**

Dec 2022
Global and regional technical meeting on NCDs in emergencies

June 2023
SIDS Ministerial Conference on NCDs and mental health – **2023 Bridgetown declaration** on NCDs and Mental Health in the SIDS

Feb (27-29) 2024
Global Meeting on NCDs in emergencies

May 2024
4th Intl SIDS Conference

World Health Assembly

Oct 2024
2nd International Conference on Air Pollution

Nov 2024
2nd General Meeting of Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (GCM)

May 2025
World Health Assembly

September 2025

World Health Organization
African Region

WHO Global Oral Health Meeting: *Universal Health Coverage for Oral Health by 2030*

26-29 November 2024, Thailand

Overall objectives

- To reaffirm political commitment by Member States based on the **Resolution on Oral Health in 2021.**

- To accelerate and scale up national efforts to prevent and control NCDs with a focus on oral diseases to achieve **UHC for all by 2030.**

- To contribute to the preparatory process leading to the **fourth High-level Meeting on NCDs in 2025.**

Host : Government of the Kingdom of Thailand

Venue: Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld, Bangkok, Thailand

World Health Organization
African Region

Outcomes of the WHO Global Meeting on Oral Health

1

National oral health roadmaps aligned
with the GOHAP 2023-2030

2

Bangkok Declaration endorsed
by the Member States reaffirming commitment on oral health & informing WHO DG's report for the UNHLM on NCDs 2025

3

Global Coalition on Oral Health formed
including a platform of commitments from Member States & partners to support the implementation of the GOHAP 2023-2030

4

Meeting report developed
with recommendations outlining the potential for countries to achieve UHC for oral health

World Health Organization
African Region

Implementation of the Global Oral Health Action Plan

Country level
- Roadmap
- Commitment
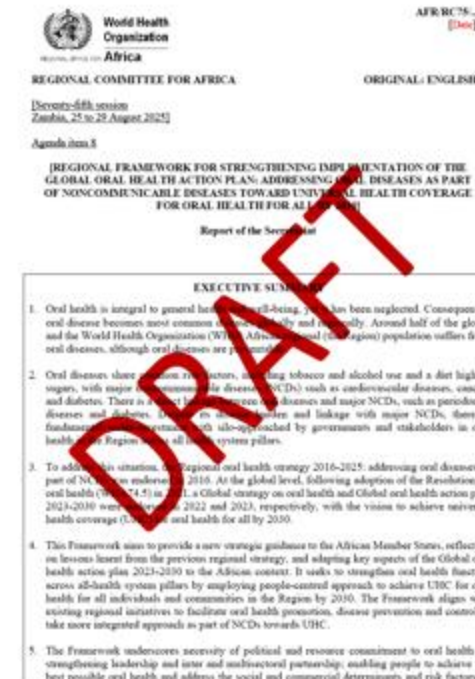
Regional level
- **Regional Framework for the Global Oral Health Action Plan discussed during the Regional Committee for Africa in Zambia (Aug 2025)**

Time to invest better in bold action on NCDs

African Region