



International
Diabetes
Federation



Advocating for diabetes initiatives in the Region of the Americas

About IDF

The [International Diabetes Federation](#) (IDF) is the global voice of the diabetes community. It is a non-profit umbrella organisation of more than 240 national diabetes associations in over 160 countries and territories, working together to improve the lives of the over 540 million people estimated to be living with diabetes and prevent diabetes in those at risk.

In 2023, IDF became an organisation in official relations with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The official relations aim to combine IDF and PAHO efforts to mobilise governments for improved diabetes prevention and care in the Region of the Americas.

🔗 Find [contact details](#) of the WHO/PAHO country offices.

Objective of this document

This leaflet intends to:

- Provide key information about existing interventions to improve access to quality and effective diabetes care and management.
- Highlight the potential of these interventions to improve the lives of people living with diabetes in the Americas.
- Strengthen national and regional advocacy capacity for the implementation of these interventions.

Target audience

This leaflet is for IDF Members, diabetes associations, diabetes and health advocates, policymakers, academics, and anyone interested in health in the Region of the Americas.

Diabetes in the Region of the Americas

The 10th edition of the [IDF Diabetes Atlas](#) (2021) provides the following estimates for the Region of the Americas:

- **82.9 million** people (20-79 years old) are living with diabetes.
- **22.9 million** people are living with undiagnosed diabetes.
- **370,000 people** (0-19 years old) are living with type 1 diabetes.
- **11.8%** of the population is affected by diabetes.
- **1.34 million** people died from diabetes or diabetes-related complications in 2021.
- **479.8 billion** USD was spent on diabetes-related healthcare in 2021.

Global Diabetes Compact

What is it?

The [Global Diabetes Compact](#) (GDC) is a [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) initiative to manage the growing diabetes epidemic comprehensively through access to care, prevention, early detection and treatment. The objective of the GDC is to integrate all existing diabetes prevention and care models into primary care, while providing new approaches to skills development, collaboration and resource mobilisation.

What are its objectives?

The GDC intends to support countries in developing, implementing and evaluating cost-effective programmes for diabetes prevention and control to:

- Prevent type 2 diabetes and improve early diagnosis of type 1 and type 2 diabetes.
- Ensure access to affordable, comprehensive and equitable quality care and treatment by:
 - Improving blood glucose control and major risk factors for cardiovascular diseases (CVD),
 - Screening for early detection and prevention of diabetes complications,
 - Fostering diabetes self-management.
- Standardise diabetes clinical monitoring and implement population-based surveys.

Which are its cross-cutting areas?

- Increasing access to insulin and other essential medicines and technologies for diabetes care.
- Including people with diabetes in the design and implementation of diabetes programmes.
- Strengthening health systems by making diabetes an integral part of noncommunicable disease (NCD) care in primary care settings and in plans to advance universal health coverage (UHC) by:
 - Developing information systems for monitoring care,
 - Ensuring diabetes is part of responses to health emergencies and humanitarian crises,
 - Standardising treatment protocols and training healthcare professionals.

What is its potential?

The GDC can support comprehensive diabetes management, advance the incorporation of diabetes prevention and control in the UHC framework, and help reduce premature deaths due to NCDs by one-third by 2030.

Learn more

- 🔗 [Global Diabetes Compact: Implementation in the Region of the Americas](#)

Tips to advocate for the Global Diabetes Compact

- Increase civil society's knowledge of the GDC by sharing information with your network as part of your activities and events and on social media.
- Discuss how your organisation can support the implementation of the GDC in your country with your contacts at the Ministry of Health.
- Contact the PAHO office in your country to learn the challenges they have identified to implementing the GDC and share this information with your contacts at the Ministry of Health.
- Include healthcare professionals, diabetes representative organisations, people living with diabetes and other key stakeholders in your advocacy efforts.



Global Coverage Targets for Diabetes

What are they?

In 2022, WHO Member States endorsed the establishment of global targets for diabetes, as part of recommendations to strengthen and monitor diabetes responses within national NCD programmes.

The five new targets set the standard that, by 2030:

- 80% of people with diabetes are diagnosed.
- 80% of people with diagnosed diabetes have good control of glycaemia.
- 80% of people with diagnosed diabetes have good control of blood pressure.
- 60% of people with diabetes of 40 years or older receive statins.
- 100% of people with type 1 diabetes have access to affordable insulin and blood glucose self-monitoring.

What is their goal?

The goal of these groundbreaking global targets for diabetes is to reduce the risk of diabetes and move towards a world where all people who are diagnosed with diabetes have access to equitable, comprehensive, affordable, and quality treatment and care.

What is their potential?

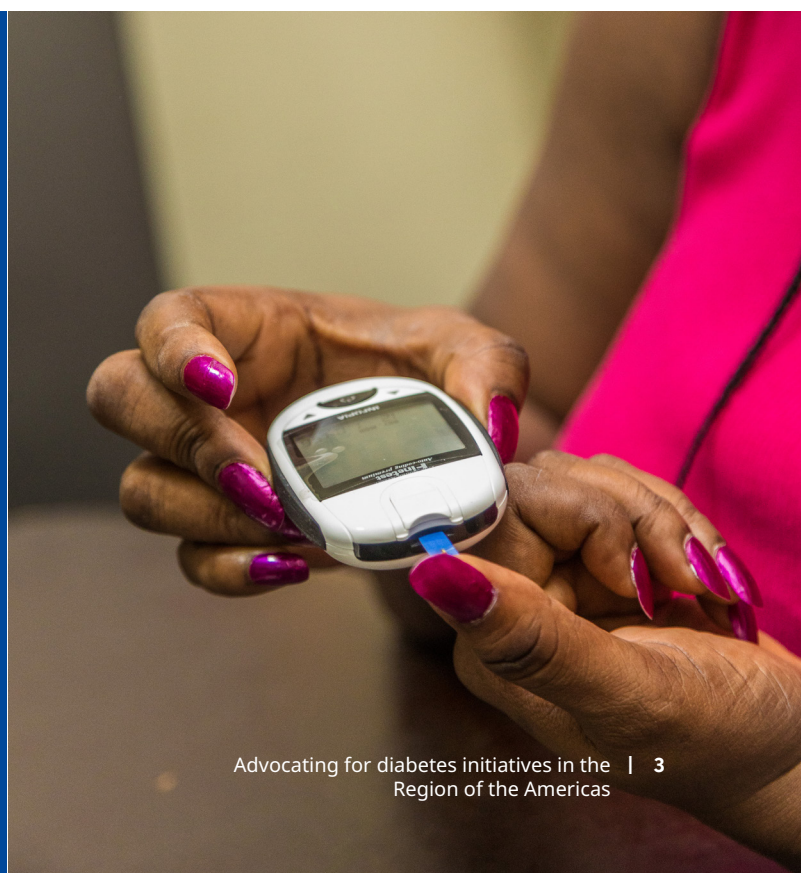
- Enable Member States to expedite action on diabetes and support individuals living with diabetes globally.
- Represent the pillars of the diabetes care cascade; they can be seen as a compass that Member States can use to guide and evaluate their response to diabetes.
- Highlight the benefits of a cardiovascular risk management approach by integrating diabetes care with hypertension and dyslipidemia within health services.

Learn more

- 🔗 [First-ever global coverage targets for diabetes adopted at the 75th World Health Assembly](#)

Tips to advocate for the Global Coverage Targets for Diabetes

- Highlight in your advocacy messages the relevance of these new global targets to improve the quality of diabetes care.
- Since these global targets are still relatively new, many policymakers are not aware of them yet. Make sure you mention them as much as possible to relevant stakeholders, to support their compliance.



Better Care for NCDs and HEARTS-D module

What are they?

Better Care for Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) is an initiative launched by PAHO in 2023 to scale-up and accelerate the integration of comprehensive NCD services in primary healthcare by 2030. It targets Ministries of Health, policymakers, health/NCD programme managers, facility managers, and primary health care staff and trainers.

The framework for this initiative is the [WHO Intervention Package for essential noncommunicable \(PEN\) disease interventions for primary healthcare](#). Better Care for NCDs is the umbrella that gathers all NCD-related work in the Region, including the GDC.

Better Care for NCDs includes a cardiovascular component, the HEARTS technical package. It also features the HEARTS-D module on diagnosis and management of type 2 diabetes as the tool to improve clinical management for diabetes.

The HEARTS-D module brings together WHO guidance on diagnosis, classification and management of type 2 diabetes in one document. It can be used independently or along with the HEARTS technical package.

What are their objectives?

- Support the capacity of health authorities to plan and implement comprehensive NCD services, including diabetes in primary healthcare.
- Increase healthcare capacity to deliver comprehensive quality NCD screening, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care.

- Promote a multi-level collaborative approach to improve quality of care for NCDs, including diabetes with clear, easy-to-follow treatment protocols integrated into national programs.
- Establish an institutionalised model of care for type 2 diabetes by combining prevention, early diagnosis, timely treatment, and early detection and treatment of diabetes-related complications.
- Strengthen data collection and monitoring of NCD diagnosis, treatment and health outcomes.
- Improve technical pillars, such as training and education of primary healthcare teams, and integrated healthcare for diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidaemia.

What is their potential?

- Expand equitable access to care.
- Integrate comprehensive NCD services with primary healthcare services in the Region.
- Improve the NCDs and diabetes-related knowledge of policymakers, health managers, and primary healthcare teams.
- Contribute to preventing, reducing, and controlling CVD, the leading cause of death worldwide, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

Learn more

- ☑ [HEARTS-D: Diagnosis and Management of Type 2 Diabetes](#)
- ☑ [Better Care for NCDs: Accelerating Actions in Primary Health Care](#)



Tips to advocate for Better Care for NCDs and HEARTS-D

- Highlight in your advocacy messages the relevance of Better Care for NCDs to improve diabetes care and prevent diabetes-related complications.
- Discuss with the Ministry of Health whether your country is planning on implementing Better Care for NCDs.
- In parallel, discuss with the PAHO office in your country to know the implementation status of the HEARTS-D module and identify the main challenges for its implementation.
- If there are no plans for implementing HEARTS-D in your country, advocate for its integration into the national healthcare system. Explain that it can prevent and improve the management of type 2 diabetes, hypertension and CVDs, leading to medium- and long-term healthcare savings.
- Use testimonials from people living with diabetes complications as part of your advocacy activities.
- Share the HEARTS-D module with healthcare professionals in your network and ask them to advocate for its implementation.



PAHO Strategic Fund

What is it?

The PAHO Strategic Fund is a regional technical cooperation mechanism for pooled procurement of essential medicines and strategic health supplies. It is a central component of PAHO's strategy to move towards universal health. It supports countries to strengthen rational medicine use and facilitates cost-effective purchasing.

All Ministries of Health and government institutions of the public health services network of PAHO members can purchase medicines and supplies through the Strategic Fund.

What are its objectives?

- Improve access and availability of quality, safe, cost-effective treatments and diagnostics for better health outcomes in PAHO Member States using collaborative planning and purchasing.
- Encourage technical cooperation between national and regional programmes to strengthen national supply chain management.
- Improve the availability of medicines and supplies for national priority health programmes while controlling cost and ensuring quality.

Which diabetes medicines and supplies are included?

The following medicines and supplies are included, in accordance with the [WHO Essential Medicines](#)

[List](#): insulin, metformin, gliclazide, glibenclamide, glucometers and test strips.

What is the potential of the PAHO Strategic Fund?

The PAHO Strategic Fund can:

- Contribute to universal access to essential medicines and health supplies for various diseases by prioritising safe and cost-effective diagnosis and treatment in the Region.
- Establish a regional pricing framework that empowers Member States by creating governance, control and ownership over medical supply pricing and management.
- Build resilience against potential supply chain disruptions by enhancing the Region's readiness for pandemics and disease control.
- Support innovative financing with cooperation for timely procurement through a mix of donations and lending partnerships.
- Promote collaboration for better public health by fostering strong partnerships with the United Nations and other international agencies.

Learn more

- [PAHO Strategic Fund](#)
- [PAHO Strategic Fund: improving access to essential medicines and supplies](#)
- [PAHO Strategic Fund product list](#)

Tips to advocate for the PAHO Strategic Fund

- Ask the Ministry of Health whether your country is using the Strategic Fund to purchase essential diabetes medicines and technologies. If the response is negative, encourage its use.
- Invite the Ministry of Health to participate in the PAHO Regional Demand Consolidation for Diabetes medicines available through the Strategic Fund.
- Ask the PAHO office in your country for information about the national use of the Strategic Fund to purchase diabetes medication. Contact: strategicfund@paho.org.





Final advocacy tips

- Your advocacy efforts will be more effective if you have a strong relationship with the Ministry of Health in your country and the local PAHO office. We encourage you to establish ongoing communication with both and to act as a link between the Ministry of Health and the local PAHO office if no relationship exists.
- Offer your expertise to support the work of the Ministry of Health and the PAHO local office and share relevant insights, for example [IDF Diabetes Atlas](#) figures, materials developed by national or local diabetes associations, invitations to events you may be organising.
- Collaborate with other relevant partners — healthcare professionals, people living with diabetes, the media and health-related organisations — to amplify your advocacy efforts and strengthen the collective impact
- Please remember to keep the International Diabetes Federation informed of your findings regarding the implementation of the GDC and the HEARTS-D module and the use of the Strategic Fund in your country. Contact us at advocacy@idf.org.