

Special event 2: STI and harnessing global opportunities for transformations in 2021 (17:15-18:15) website version

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Intersectoral Forum to Fight NCDs in Brazil (ForumDCNTs)

The Intersectoral Forum to Fight NCDs in Brazil (NCDs Forum or ForumDCNTs.org) is grateful for the opportunity of presenting a statement during this distinguished multi-stakeholder Forum. Our initiative congregates the hundredth most relevant institutions from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors in Brazil, engaged in fighting the leading cause of deaths, the noncommunicable diseases, to help the country achieve the target 3.4. Following the Sustainable Development Goal 17, we offer neutral spaces for collaborative identification of priorities for directing resources, best practices sharing and multisectoral partnerships building (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=32811>).

What we bring today to your attention is the need we had to quickly innovate and implement technologies during the past year to guarantee that individuals living with chronic diseases were not left unassisted. In addition to the current need to sustain, scale and improve these technologies during the current year. With to goal of guiding the health system and our members, bringing together the best strategies to continue care while preventing coronavirus infection, we published a review article highlighting solutions from very different countries (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7724978/).

Meanwhile we encouraged our members to develop and share innovations. When the pandemic started, people with diabetes who depended on the public health system had trouble accessing their health teams, since many were reallocated to attend COVID emergencies. ADJ Diabetes Brasil then promptly adapted and started to provide free teleconsultation with different healthcare professionals. Meanwhile, our member Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), in partnership with the municipal secretary of health and an international foundation, developed an active telemonitoring system, where the population, with emphasis on people with chronic diseases, had their health monitored through regular phone calls and an emergency team dispatched whenever needed (www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0034-89102020000100703&lng=pt&nrm=iso&tlng=en&ORIGINALLANG=en). Both systems continue active and benefiting thousands who would not be able to continue their proper treatment otherwise. Unfortunately, those two models are not covering the entire country and other NCDs, like cancer, that are begging for innovative solutions.

Brazil is still in a severe crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent studies show that the risk for many new cases of NCDs and their complications has increased (<https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2021/03/26/brazil-a-country-collapsing-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/> and <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0168822720305568>). In the NCDs Forum we believe that the partnerships between the different sectors and stakeholders, always inviting the civil society to participate in the decision processes, is the only way to overcome the syndemic that we are experiencing, where the coronavirus potentialized the severe impact and high mortality attributed to noncommunicable diseases. Therefore, as a response we build powerful multisectoral alliances, as SDG 17 teaches, to overcome NCDs challenges and achieve the 3.4 and other SDG 3 targets.