Key mission findings from 2016

1. The national NCD strategy 2015-2025 is aligned with the voluntary global NCD targets and includes five action plans in which 12 agencies, as well as the People’s Committees of Provinces and cities, are involved. The strategy emphasises multisectoral action and is already being demonstrated through tobacco and alcohol steering committees as well as in the area of road safety.

2. Viet Nam is committed to health through universal health coverage. Examples include the Tobacco Control Fund and the newly established primary care pilots for NCDs prevention and control.

3. Over the next few years, priority NCD interventions for Viet Nam should be to reduce tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol and salt intake of the population. These require an urgent and sustained whole-of-government and whole-of-society response, including support from political, social, professional and mass organizations.

“*We are committed to preventing premature deaths from NCDs in our country. The prevention and control of the NCD epidemic requires all parts of the government and our development partners to work together.*”

Dr Nguyen Thanh Long,
Vice Minister of Health of Viet Nam

Key recommendations from 2016

1. Establish an inter-ministerial committee for NCDs (by merging the tobacco and alcohol control ministerial steering committees) to be chaired by a senior member of the Government in order to provide the strongest possible leadership for the multisectoral action that is required to combat NCDs.

2. The NCD Health Promotion Fund should be formed by expanding the existing Tobacco Control Fund.

3. Levels of excise tax on tobacco should be increased to at least 70% of the retail price and the tobacco law fully enforced (e.g. ensuring indoor workplaces, public places and public transport are completely smoke-free).

4. Accelerate completion of the law on alcohol. This law should strengthen the licensing system on retail sales and put in place a set of regulations of marketing for alcohol.

5. Develop and implement a national salt reduction action plan.

6. Re-orient the primary health care delivery system from the current focus on communicable diseases to one that provides long-term and continuing care for patients with NCDs and chronic diseases.

### Key adult NCD mortality and risk factors*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probability of premature mortality from NCDs: 17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19% of adult men and 31% of adult women are insufficiently physically active (2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5% of adult men and 5% of adult women have raised fasting blood glucose (2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23% of adult men and 22% of adult women have raised blood pressure (2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>47% of men and 1% of women (aged ≥15 years) smoke tobacco (2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16% of adult men and 21% of adult women are overweight (2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pure alcohol per capita consumption: 8.3 litres per year (population 15+, 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>57% of adults eat insufficient amounts of fruits and vegetables (2015)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Adding value: actions taken following the mission

1. An NCD investment case was developed with technical and funding support from WHO and World Bank.

2. WHO is supporting the Ministry of Finance to estimate the potential benefits of an initial tobacco tax increase in 2016 and estimates for future tax scenarios.

3. The Government is estimating the probability of premature deaths from NCDs, based on data from commune health stations.

4. A National Salt reduction action plan was approved by Minister of Health on 28th March 2018.

5. The Alcohol control law has been included in the official law making agenda. The first hearing of the draft law at the National Assembly will take place in November 2018.

6. The model of NCD management in one province was completed and evaluated and made ready for expansion.

7. The Prime Minister issued Decision 2348 on the Master plan to develop the primary care system in Viet Nam in the new situation.

8. The Central Party Committee issued the Resolution No 20 on the Protection, care and improvement of people’s health in the new situation. Primary health care strengthening is at the center of these policy documents and NCD prevention and control is also given a proper attention.

Next steps

1. Support implementation of the National Salt Reduction Action plan.

2. Support approval and implementation of the Alcohol control law.

3. Support approval of the excise tax law with increased tax on tobacco and sugar sweetened beverage.

4. Support approval and implementation of the Viet Nam National Healthy Program.

5. Expand NCD management model to many provinces.

*All data are rounded WHO crude country comparable estimates taken from the WHO Global Health Observatory who.int/gho/ncd/en, accessed 18/6/2018, with the exception of rounded data on physical activity and fruit and vegetable consumption, which are from Viet Nam STEPS Survey, 2015, accessed 18/6/2018. Additional information on the status of NCDs in Viet Nam can be found on the WHO NCD DataFinder app.

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