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## Children and Youth



© Aynah Janmohamed/Photoshare. Peru: Physical activity at primary school

Language English

NCDs and their risk factors have an enormous impact on the health of children.

Cancer, diabetes (both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes), chronic respiratory diseases (such as asthma), obesity, congenital and acquired heart disease and many endemic NCDs all affect children and/or start in childhood. Children and young people are often targeted by companies advertising fast food, tobacco or alcohol use, and many grow up today in environments that are not conducive to adopting healthy lifestyles (e.g. participating in sport).

At the heart of the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) [1] is the universally accepted principle that:

“In all actions concerning children ... best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.”

Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as “every human-being below the age of eighteen years”; therefore, when referring to protections afforded to a “child” this includes youth and adolescents.

Numerous international and national laws, policies of governments and statements of international institutions and organisations of international civil society recognise the rights of children to adequate health care. Nonetheless, when it comes to addressing NCDs, children are too frequently left off (or insufficiently acknowledged in) the policy agenda. The NCD Alliance seeks to address this inequity and to recommend a framework for improvement.

The NCD Alliance unites a powerful network of like-minded NGOs, associations and individuals with the experience, passion and commitment required to promote the profile of children within the NCD discourse, and ensure children are included within discussions, policy development, and tangible outcomes. Only in this way will we fulfil our collective

obligation to progressively realise the rights of all children (and paradoxically adults also) to health and life.

**Related Resource:** [Report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity](#) [2]

[Roundtable: NCDs and women, children and adolescent health](#) [3]

[NCD Alliance publication: A Focus on Children & Non-communicable Diseases \(briefing, 2011\)](#) [4]

[Briefing Paper on Children and NCDs](#) [5]

[CLAN Child Health & Chronic Conditions](#) [6]

[NCD Child](#) [7]

**Related Content:** [Thought leaders discuss a shared agenda for NCDs and women's, children's and adolescents health](#) [8]

[child health](#) [9]

[childhood obesity](#) [10]

[marketing to children](#) [11]

**Panel Image Link Text:** [CLAN Child Health Infographic]

**Search Keywords:** child health

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**Source URL:** <http://staging.ncdalliance.org/why-ncds/ncds-and-sustainable-human-development/children-and-youth>

### Links

[1] <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/pdf/crc.pdf>

[2] <http://staging.ncdalliance.org/resources/report-of-the-commission-on-ending-childhood-obesity>

[3] <http://staging.ncdalliance.org/resources/roundtable-ncds-and-women-children-and-adolescent-health>

[4] <http://staging.ncdalliance.org/resources/ncd-alliance-publication-a-focus-on-children-non-communicable-diseases-briefing-2011>

[5] <http://staging.ncdalliance.org/resources/briefing-paper-on-children-and-ncds>

[6] <https://www.clanchildhealth.org/>

[7] <http://www.ncdchild.org>

[8] <http://staging.ncdalliance.org/news-events/news/thought-leaders-discuss-a-shared-agenda-for-ncds-and-womens-childrens-and-adolescents-health>

[9] <http://staging.ncdalliance.org/taxonomy/term/160>

[10] <http://staging.ncdalliance.org/taxonomy/term/166>

[11] <http://staging.ncdalliance.org/taxonomy/term/84>