The Taskforce on Women and Non-Communicable Diseases was launched in 2011 to respond to the unique and growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on women in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The Taskforce brings together leading global health organizations from the women’s health and NCD communities to improve women’s health by expanding programs to meet women’s needs throughout the lifecycle.

The goals of the Taskforce are two-fold. The first is to expand technical expertise and disseminate evidence to guide the greater integration of NCD prevention, detection and treatment into existing programs for women in LMICs. The second goal is to inform and mobilize national policymakers, public health leaders and civil society to advocate for national health policies and financing that drive a gender- and resource-specific response to NCDs in women.

Since 2011, the Taskforce has expanded knowledge and awareness of the causes and consequences of NCDs in women by participating in key global health events, organizing high-level panels at meetings—including the International AIDS Society Conference (IAS)—and producing technical guidance tools for policymakers, national health planners and clinicians in LMICs.

The Taskforce has produced a number of policy briefs, snapshots and articles including “Women, HIV and Non-Communicable Diseases: Making the Links and Moving to Action” and “Recommendations towards an integrated, life-course approach to women’s health in the post-2015 agenda,” which was published in the Bulletin of the World Health Organization. In early 2015, the Taskforce will release additional technical tools to encourage an improved and expanded response to the growing burden of these diseases. The Taskforce will support this work with ongoing global and country-level advocacy and information dissemination efforts.

The Taskforce supports the NCD+ campaign, which encourages people across ages, nations, and professional training to use social networking creatively to build awareness and inspire action around NCDs globally.

Currently, the Taskforce includes fourteen organizations: the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, Arogya World, FHI 360, the Harvard Global Equity Initiative, International Planned Parenthood Federation, JHPIEGO, MSH, Partners in Health, PATH, PSI, Women Deliver and the World Heart Federation.

The Taskforce is currently co-chaired by Heather White, Technical Adviser, Noncommunicable Diseases, PSI and Nalini Saligram, Founder & CEO of Arogya World. Sage Innovation serves as the Secretariat.

http://www.womenandncds.org