

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are responsible for 41 million deaths each year, which makes them the leading cause of death worldwide. With timely diagnosis and effective management, many of these deaths are preventable.

Cardiovascular diseases and diabetes account for nearly half of all NCD-related deaths, with the greatest burden falling on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) because high costs and supply barriers mean that the essential tests and tools needed to both diagnose and manage on an ongoing basis are inaccessible in many of these countries.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIAGNOSTICS

Early detection and management can prevent long-term complications and reduce the health and economic burden of these chronic conditions. Yet millions remain undiagnosed or poorly managed, not due to lack of treatments but because of a lack of access to essential diagnostic tools and data.



➤➤ **Hypertension** is often undetected or mismanaged due to inadequate or uncalibrated equipment.

➤➤ **Diabetes**, especially gestational diabetes, remains under-diagnosed. Only 48% of low-income countries report blood glucose measurement technology as being “generally available”, and one in every three people with diabetes in LMICs has never had their blood glucose measured at all.

➤➤ **Chronic kidney disease** typically requires laboratory-based tests that are not feasible in many settings, and there is no simple way to assess overall cardiovascular risk using point-of-care tools.

➤➤ **Lung conditions** such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma are difficult to diagnose without spirometry, which is rarely available at the primary care level.

➤➤ **Screening for cancers** – such as cervical, breast, and colorectal – is limited by the lack of reliable, low-cost tools that can be used outside of specialized facilities.

FIND'S WORK IN NCDs

The focus of FIND's work on NCDs is to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by improving access to affordable and quality-assured diagnostic and screening tools, especially in resource-constrained settings.

FIND works across the diagnostics ecosystem to improve access to essential tools for diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, and selected cancers. Our efforts focus on generating evidence to inform product evaluation, WHO guidance and national policies; assessing innovations to ensure appropriate, fit-for-purpose tools reach the market; and strengthening the capacity of health workers, health systems, and communities. We also engage in market shaping to promote sustainable and equitable pricing and procurement, and advocate for the integration of diagnostics into noncommunicable disease strategies and financing frameworks.



FIND'S WORK IS STRUCTURED AROUND THREE MAJOR WORKSTREAMS ADDRESSING KEY GAPS:

WORKSTREAMS	WS1 IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY	WS2 ADVANCE TECHNOLOGY	WS3 STRENGTHEN CHRONIC CARE
GAPS	Tools exist but costs are too high for out-of-pocket expenses or health system uptake at PHC	Growing landscape of technologies but highly variable quality and little data from LMICs	Large gaps in the chronic care cascade: 50% are undiagnosed and <25% controlled
OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE	Drive availability of affordable existing tools	Build portfolio of fit-for-purpose tools through evaluation and R&D guidance	Implement optimized testing strategies and patient journey for screening, diagnosis and management
ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price agreements with manufacturers (BGMs, HbA1c) Market shaping through local production of glucose test strips (exploratory) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance and usability evaluations for all tools in scope (BGMs, HbA1c, CGMs) Target product profiles for Cardiometabolic devices and Continuous Glucose Monitoring devices (CGMs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing of Dx care delivery models at community and PHC level (Cardiometabolic and CGMs) NCD Dx health system readiness building Optimization of self-management under resource constraints (CGMs)

EXAMPLES OF EXPANDING ACCESS TO DIAGNOSTICS FOR NCDs

- For **DIABETES**, FIND generated the first independent performance data for key diagnostics such as blood glucose meters and glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) point-of-care devices and has driven efforts to make continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) and test strips more affordable. The Access to CGMs for Equity in Diabetes Management (ACCEDE) project in **Kenya** and **South Africa** aims to improve access to CGMs for diabetes self-monitoring through operational research, capacity building and market shaping.

By strengthening primary care through decentralized testing and supporting the inclusion of diagnostics in policy, FIND has been working to improve care at scale. In **CARDIOMETABOLIC HEALTH**, FIND is piloting community-based point-of-care testing for multiple cardiometabolic markers at both primary care and community levels.

In **Cambodia**, **Colombia** and **Nigeria**, a performance evaluation of blood glucose meters (BGMs) generated data to support manufacturers in achieving WHO prequalification and strengthened evidence of real-world performance of devices.

- In **CERVICAL CANCER**, FIND has expanded access to high-performance HPV screening in **Viet Nam** – especially self-collection methods – enabling early detection for more women and supporting integration of screening into national health strategies.

FIND aims to reduce preventable deaths from NCDs by focusing on primary healthcare and self-monitoring in LMICs through working with communities, healthcare professionals, developers and manufacturers to identify and address key barriers to access for diabetes testing and monitoring for example.

About FIND

Established in 2003, FIND is a global nonprofit dedicated to ensuring equitable access to diagnostics, based in Geneva, Switzerland, but also has regional offices in India, Kenya, South Africa, and Viet Nam.

We connect countries and communities, funders, decision-makers, healthcare providers and developers to spur diagnostic innovation and make testing an integral part of sustainable, resilient health systems.

For more than 20 years, FIND has been at the forefront of revolutionizing diagnostics, particularly in the realm of infectious diseases, bringing lower-cost, quality diagnosis to those who need it as an essential component of universal health care while also leading efforts in pandemic preparedness, and driving access to essential tools as a recognized thought leader.

