

Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia

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Health and social care providers How can you contribute to change?

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As a health or social care provider, you can play a key role in improving the lives of people with dementia, their carers and families by:

- Sharing evidence-based information regarding dementia, its risk factors, and existing dementia services and support with people with dementia, their carers and families.
- Providing equitable access to multidisciplinary, person-centered, and human rights-oriented care and support for people with dementia, their carers and families.
- Offering high-quality, community-based dementia services across the continuum, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and other support for people with dementia.

More specifically, you can:

Influence government policy-making by:

- Providing input into the development of national and/or sub-national dementia policies, legislation, strategies and plans.
- Advocating for high-quality, community-based dementia prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care that reflects the wishes and preferences of people with dementia and their carers.

Raise public awareness by:

- Contributing to national and local public health campaigns to raise understanding and acceptance of dementia, its risk factors, the importance of earlier diagnosis, and new and existing support and services.
- Supporting your medical and professional association to improve access to and quality of dementia care and carer support.

Improve service delivery and risk reduction by:

- Sharing evidence-based information and training tools with people with dementia, their carers and families to enable them to make informed choices about their care.
- Forming multidisciplinary care teams to ensure access to a coordinated continuum of health and social care services for people with dementia.
- Providing community-based rehabilitation services to support people with dementia in maintaining their autonomy.

- Implementing comprehensive risk reduction and health promotion programmes that link dementia with noncommunicable diseases interventions.
- Identifying opportunities for people with dementia, their carers and families to participate in care planning.

Build your capacity by:

- Participating in training programmes on dementia, including programmes aimed at identifying and reducing carer stress and burnout.
- Utilizing available tools and guidelines that can improve your ability to deliver evidence-based, culturally-appropriate and human rights-oriented health and social care for people with dementia.

Enhance dementia research and innovation by:

- Partnering with government to identify priorities for the national research agenda and the development of health technologies that best respond to the needs of people with dementia, their carers and families.
- Undertaking research to support progress towards finding a cure and identifying better prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care options.
- Promoting the use of technological innovations in dementia prevention, risk reduction, early diagnosis, treatment, care and support.

Who can you partner with?

- National, sub-national and regional **government** to improve health and social care planning and services.
- International, regional, national, sub-national, and local **nongovernmental organizations** such as Alzheimer's Disease International, Dementia Alliance International and other mental health and ageing organizations, to raise awareness and increase understanding and acceptance of dementia.
- **Community-based organizations** – including those representing people with dementia, their carers and families – to provide locally-based dementia information, care and support.
- **People with dementia, their carers and families** to share evidence-based information and better respond to their health and social care needs and wishes.
- **Private sector** to deliver health and social care services.