

KEY MESSAGES

- Non-health sectors are central to disease prevention, their policies and actions directly shape the outcomes of communicable and non-communicable diseases in Anglophone Africa.
- Multisectoral collaboration delivers better health outcomes by integrating health considerations into all policies and aligning efforts across sectors.
- Non-health stakeholders actively contribute to health goals through policy formulation, program design, financing, coordination, and community engagement.
- Dependence on donor funding undermines long-term impact; governments must increase domestic financing and invest in multisectoral initiatives.
- Policy co-creation with non-health actors ensures shared ownership, better alignment of priorities, and stronger implementation.

BACKGROUND

- The social, economic, and environmental determinants of communicable and non-communicable diseases (CDs and NCDs) are shaped by policies and activities of non-health sectors.
- Effective prevention and control of these diseases will require the actions and contributions from sectors like education, environment, and agriculture.
- This review synthesises evidence from Anglophone Africa on multisectoral actions and priorities of three key non-health sectors (education, environment, and agriculture) that have contributed to the prevention and control of CDs and NCDs.



METHODS

- The scoping review followed Arksey and O'Malley (2005) methodological framework, with a systematic search of PubMed, Scopus, Hinari, Google Scholar and Web of Science.
- Search terms were customized for each database to account for differences in controlled vocabulary and search syntax
- Articles that were published from 2004 to 2024 and available in English language were retrieved and screened.
- A total of 26 articles were included in the review. Data was extracted and synthesized thematically.

RESULTS

- The actions that have been implemented by non-health sectors for the prevention and control of CDs and NCDs cut across development of policies and plans, design of programs and activities, implementation of promotive and preventive interventions, funding, supervision, coordination, data and information management, etc.
- Recurrent interventions were policy development and implementation of promotive and preventive interventions.
- Education, agriculture, and environment sectors contributed through practical initiatives such as school-based health programs, nutrition-sensitive agriculture (e.g., school feeding and crop biofortification), and vector control for malaria prevention.
- Collaboration mechanisms such as inter-ministerial committees, technical working groups, and community partnerships enhanced coordination, policy alignment, and sustainability across sectors.

CONCLUSION

- Co-creating policies with non-health stakeholders ensures shared priorities and drives inclusive action toward better health outcomes.
- Governments must commit to increased domestic funding and stronger multi-sector partnerships to build sustainable health programs across Anglophone Africa.

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