

## Strategy brief: Novo Nordisk Foundation Strategy on Humanitarian and Development Aid 2019–2023

The Novo Nordisk Foundation's humanitarian and development aid initiatives aim to improve the opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people in areas affected by humanitarian crises and poverty. We will have a strategic focus on **youth empowerment** and **fighting non-communicable diseases** (NCDs).

The geographical focus will be **countries affected by the Syrian crisis**, starting with Jordan and later scaling up to Lebanon and potentially Syria. For NCD initiatives, **countries in eastern Africa** are also a geographical focus.

Grants will be provided through a combination of selected **strategic partnerships** and **thematic calls** for applications that will be publicly available on our website.

Additionally, the Foundation will remain committed to supporting people affected by protracted **humanitarian crises by targeting the most vulnerable people** globally via open calls.

### Strategic focus area: youth empowerment

The Foundation will support **youth empowerment** to improve prospects and possibilities for refugee and host community youth through quality education and other learning opportunities. The Foundation will focus on areas affected by the Syrian crisis, primarily Jordan and secondarily Lebanon and potentially Syria.

The global displacement crisis is one of the major humanitarian challenges of our time, with more than 68.5 million people forcibly displaced worldwide.

In an area with such huge needs, the Foundation must prioritize strategically and geographically to enhance the possibility of impact. Jordan has been selected as a priority country. The insights and lessons learned from the engagement in Jordan will inform the expansion of support in Lebanon and potentially Syria.

By targeting youth, the Foundation will focus on a group that receives significantly less attention and a smaller share of international aid allocated to education compared with younger children. The Foundation will support programmes that help young people to acquire the skills necessary to contribute in their host communities and in Syria, if and when they return.

The focus on youth empowerment aims to improve the prospects and opportunities for young refugees and host community youth through areas such as – but not limited to – psychosocial support, quality education and technical and vocational skills development.

### Strategic focus area: fighting NCDs

The Foundation will **fight NCDs** to reduce NCD morbidity and mortality by supporting prevention and treatment programmes in developing countries – including selected countries in eastern Africa – as well as areas affected by protracted humanitarian crises: Jordan, Lebanon and potentially Syria.

NCD rates are high and increasing all over the world, and NCDs are a leading cause of mortality and morbidity. Unfortunately, NCDs are given insufficient priority, with less than 2% of global official aid for health allocated to NCD prevention and control.

**Eastern Africa:** The populations of developing countries are particularly vulnerable to NCDs since these countries are experiencing the double burden of both infectious diseases and NCDs and since they are the countries least prepared to handle NCDs due to the limited funding and capacity of their healthcare systems at all levels.

**Syrian crisis:** The health responses in humanitarian situations are traditionally short term and reactive, responding to the acute phase of an emergency. Treatment of chronic conditions, including diabetes and long-term prevention planning, have not been a sufficient part of the response so far. However, people living with NCDs are particularly vulnerable in a protracted humanitarian crisis, since NCDs require continuous care over extended periods of time.

### Grant vehicles

The Foundation will work through *strategic partnerships* implemented through the most suitable partners. This will include capacity-building of local partners and implementing organisations as well as support for research initiatives to identify good practices and scalable solutions. Furthermore, the Foundation will explore new ways of financing development and humanitarian action through blended financing opportunities.

The existing open humanitarian response *calls* will continue and be supplemented by thematic calls with a focus on the strategic focus areas.