HealthInvest

Position Statement

Tobacco

Summary

Tobacco use is a major cause of preventable disease and premature death and is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being. For this reason, we apply exclusion criteria for tobacco.

Purpose of this document

This document maps tobacco to SDG 3 and explains why we apply exclusion criteria for tobacco.

Our position

Tobacco products undermine health so severely that the United Nations uses the prevalence of tobacco use as a quantitative indicator of good health and well-being (SDG indicator 3.a.1). Given these adverse impacts and their relevance to HealthInvest's focus on healthcare and positive health outcomes, we apply exclusion criteria for tobacco.

Mapping tobacco to SDG 3

SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Comment
3.2 End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate	Second-hand smoke kills over 168,000 children each year (Öberg et al. 2011). Lower respiratory tract infections among children under 5 are the largest disease burden from second-hand smoke (Öberg et al. 2011).
	3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate	The infant mortality rate is 40% higher for women who smoked during pregnancy than for women who did not (Salihu et al. 2003).

SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Comment
3.4 Reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	Smoking tobacco causes 17% of non-communicable disease deaths (Reitsma et al. 2021).
3.9 Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	Second-hand smoke is a form of air pollution that kills about 600,000 non-smokers per year (Öberg et al. 2011).
3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate	3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	Global tobacco use is decreasing, but few countries are on track to meet targets established at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC (Bilano et al. 2015). Tobacco use is forecast to increase in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean (Bilano et al. 2015).

References

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Öberg, M. et al. (2011). Worldwide burden of disease from exposure to second-hand smoke: a retrospective analysis of data from 192 countries. *The Lancet* 377, 139–146.

Reitsma, M. B. et al. (2021). Spatial, temporal, and demographic patterns in prevalence of smoking tobacco use and attributable disease burden in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *The Lancet* 397, 2337–2360.

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