

Candidate for NCD Alliance Board of Directors



Eva Njenga
Chair, NCD Alliance Kenya
Kenya

Why would you like to be on the NCD Alliance Board of Directors?

Through NCD Alliance's advocacy platform and influence, I hope to improve population health outcomes, make healthcare accessible and affordable to ensure that no one is left behind, and ensure accountability. We need to see the strength of CSOs harnessed and governments take up their responsibility to ensure that health as a basic right for all citizens is actualised for the highest attainable level of health for all. I am currently involved in advocacy for health system strengthening for people-centred care and have been instrumental in regulating health practice and ensuring the provision of quality health services to all in Kenya.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the gaps in healthcare systems and highlighted the importance of mitigating NCDs and other chronic conditions through strengthening health systems in Kenya and globally. The pandemic exacerbates the disparities and inequities in access to healthcare with vulnerable populations being the most affected. My participation in the COVID-19 response and assessment of health system readiness and strengthening for UHC in Kenya has given me the requisite additional experience to advocate and lobby for African governments to prioritise health care as a basic need for its citizens, thus ensuring the highest attainable level of health for all. With sub-Saharan Africa and other low- and middle-income countries on the verge of an NCD tsunami, I would like to bring my experience to halt and reverse this impending disaster by working with like-minded individuals and organisations through the NCD Alliance Board.

What makes you a good candidate for the NCD Alliance Board of Directors?

I bring a wealth of experience to the NCD Alliance Board of Directors having worked across the healthcare spectrum from clinical practice; academia, research, pre-service and in-service training of healthcare professionals; regulation of professional practice and drug regulatory affairs; to policy development and implementation.

I am currently involved in advocacy for health system strengthening for people-centred care as Chair of the Non-communicable Diseases Alliance Kenya and co-chair of the NCD Inter-agency Coordinating Committee

of the Ministry of Health (Kenya). As the current Chair of the Kenya Medical Practitioners' and Dentists' Council, I have been instrumental in regulating health practice and ensuring the provision of quality health services to all in Kenya.

I am a strong advocate for a people-centred approach and throughout my career I have worked to ensure that no one, especially the vulnerable, marginalised, and under-represented populations, is left behind.

I believe I will make a significant contribution to the Board making NCD prevention and control a priority everywhere especially in sub-Saharan Africa and other low- and middle-income countries.

Biography

Dr Eva Njenga, Mmed (UoN), MBS, is a well-respected and world-renowned endocrinologist with vast experience and knowledge in Tropical Medicine, Social Medicine and Medical Anthropology, and a Fellow at Harvard University. She is the Founder Director of the DMI Centre; Chair of the NCD Alliance Kenya and is the 1st female Chair of Kenya Medical Practitioners' and Dentists' Council. She sits on the Advisory Board of Diabetes Africa, African Research Universities Alliance. Dr Njenga is the Chair of the National Coordination Centre for Isolation & Quarantine Facilities in Kenya and team leader of the MOH Technical Team for Mitigation of COVID-19 Pandemic and Strengthening of Health Systems for UHC. Dr Njenga's exemplary work through service, and commitment, to healthcare matters in Kenya, saw her being awarded State Honours by President Uhuru Kenyatta as Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (MBS). Dr Njenga is a passionate NCDs champion and cares very much about people's health.