countries most affected, such as China and India. More countries are asking us to be more active, not only in Asia, but also in Africa, such as Kenya and Sudan.

Q: The tobacco control convention has come into force. What needs to be done now to make sure that countries adopt and enforce it?
A: We still need to convince countries which have not yet ratified the convention to do so. We need to have countries that have ratified the convention implement it. This convention is a great achievement, but there is still a lot of work to do. Countries are developing their national tobacco control policies. Developing countries are taking this very seriously.

Q: Are you making any headway persuading governments to adopt a more inclusive approach to disabled people, including the mentally ill?
A: This is a very important part of our work. Many countries are already willing to reintegrate people with mental illness into the community, such as Lesotho and Thailand. First you need the political will and commitment. Then, you need to make things happen, develop a national policy and implement it.

Q: What does the cluster hope to achieve by publishing a global report on Preventing chronic diseases later this year?
A: This is to give a strong advocacy instrument to ministers of health and other stakeholders in other ministries. You can't have a more appropriate diet if you don't have an integrated approach to nutrition, agriculture and trade. We also need to involve other stakeholders, such as the private sector. This report will be part of our strategy and will really help us strengthen the importance of taking action now.

Q: What can we learn from the developed world about fighting chronic disease?
A: We have learned that prevention works and that it is crucial to invest in it. We should not neglect the management and treatment of chronic diseases. We already have many people suffering from these conditions in developing countries, so access to effective and affordable treatment is becoming more and more urgent. We would like to scale up access to treatment for chronic diseases in countries facing a huge problem with them. An integrated approach is important, so that a number of diseases such as cancer and diabetes can be addressed by tackling common risk factors.

Q: Which countries have tackled these issues and which were successful?
A: No one country has been a leader in fighting all chronic disease; however, we have some very positive examples of efforts in Cuba, Finland, and Poland. One of the challenges is to make things happen at the country level. That's where we are focusing all our efforts at the moment by building capacity in countries, www.who.int/nmh