



INTERNATIONAL
RESPIRATORY
COALITION

A Manifesto for Better Respiratory Health

The International Respiratory Coalition (IRC) brings together national coalitions of clinicians, patients, scientists and policymakers to transform post-pandemic respiratory care and reduce respiratory disease-related mortality by a third globally by 2030, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



2.73
billion
people affected by
respiratory diseases
globally¹



Respiratory disease is
a leading
cause of death and
disability globally

€1.4
trillion
benchmark
societal cost in
Europe²



263
thousand
people affected by
lower respiratory¹
infections globally

468
million
living with chronic
conditions globally¹



15.7
million
people die
prematurely each
year globally¹

The most shocking finding about this huge burden of disease, is that a significant proportion of it is **preventable**, but not enough is being done, progress has stalled and only limited strategies or plans have been established to drive improvement.

As the world looks to strengthen the resilience of health care systems post COVID-19, **respiratory health must be prioritised.**

The IRC is committed to improving lung health and respiratory outcomes for patients, empowering national respiratory coalitions to work with governments in promoting the importance of overall respiratory health and making it a priority in national health policy.

The IRC is calling on governments and policymakers to establish funded national respiratory strategies, which include prevention, new models of care, ambitious measurable targets, and accountable leadership to improve lung health by focusing on **better**:



Prevention of respiratory diseases

Implementing preventative approaches, increasing vaccination coverage rate across all ages and addressing the impacts of climate change and environmental pollution.



Action on reducing inequalities

Putting people and their rights at the centre of respiratory health and addressing the social determinants of poor health to improve accessibility and delivery of healthcare by prioritising marginalised and hard to reach communities for example, through better involvement of community leaders and health networkers.



Access to the right treatment at the right time

Lung health checks to aid earlier and more accurate diagnosis. Ensuring integrated primary, secondary, and tertiary care - fostering holistic patient management, improving access to evidence-based therapy and implementing respiratory guidelines at every level of care, with financial incentives to drive improvement.



Prioritisation of research, data and insight to improve care

Focusing on research and insight into innovations in treatment and care to advance lung health, such as AI, use of real-world data and evidence, novel therapies, trials design, targeted research strategies and data registries to focus on inequality and areas of greatest need.

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“Struggling for breath is one of the most terrifying experiences anyone can ever have. It is obvious to us as patients that poor lung health has gone on too long without the attention it needs. Governments, policy makers and healthcare practitioners need to commit to dedicated investment in respiratory health because every breath counts.”

– **Dimitris Kontopidis**

Chair, European Lung Foundation

By taking **determined action** to improve lung health, governments can save or improve people’s lives, reduce inequalities and economic costs and build up essential healthcare resilience.