Global status report on alcohol and health 2018
is unlikely to be offset by substantial declines in consumption in the other regions. As a result, total alcohol per capita consumption in the world can amount to 6.6 litres in 2020 and 7.0 litres in 2025 unless projected increasing trends in alcohol consumption in the Region of Americas and the South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regions are stopped and reversed.

CHAPTER 4: HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

- In 2016, the harmful use of alcohol resulted in some 3 million deaths (5.3% of all deaths) worldwide and 132.6 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) – i.e. 5.1% of all DALYs in that year. Mortality resulting from alcohol consumption is higher than that caused by diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and diabetes. Among men in 2016, an estimated 2.3 million deaths and 106.5 million DALYs were attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Women experienced 0.7 million deaths and 26.1 million DALYs attributable to alcohol consumption.

- The age-standardized alcohol-attributable burden of disease and injury was highest in the WHO African Region whereas the proportions of all deaths and DALYs attributable to alcohol consumption were highest in the WHO European Region (10.1% of all deaths and 10.8% of all DALYs) followed by the Region of the Americas (5.5% of deaths and 6.7% of DALYs).

- In 2016, of all deaths attributable to alcohol consumption worldwide, 28.7% were due to injuries, 21.3% due to digestive diseases, 19% due to cardiovascular diseases, 12.9% due to infectious diseases and 12.6% due to cancers. About 49% of alcohol-attributable DALYs are due to noncommunicable and mental health conditions, and about 40% are due to injuries.

- Worldwide, alcohol was responsible for 7.2% of all premature (among persons 69 years of age and younger) mortality in 2016. People of younger ages were disproportionately affected by alcohol compared to older persons, and 13.5% of all deaths among those who are 20–39 years of age are attributed to alcohol.

- Alcohol caused an estimated 0.4 million of the 11 million deaths globally in 2016 which resulted from communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions, representing 3.5% of these deaths.

- Harmful use of alcohol caused some 1.7 million deaths from noncommunicable diseases in 2016, including some 1.2 million deaths from digestive and cardiovascular diseases (0.6 million for each condition) and 0.4 million deaths from cancers. Globally an estimated 0.9 million injury deaths were attributable to alcohol, including around 370 000 deaths due to road injuries, 150 000 due to self-harm and around 90 000 due to interpersonal violence. Of the road traffic injuries, 187 000 alcohol-attributable deaths were among people other than drivers.

- In 2016 the leading contributors to the burden of alcohol-attributable deaths and DALYs among men were injuries, digestive diseases and alcohol use disorders, whereas among women the leading contributors were cardiovascular diseases, digestive diseases and injuries.