Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission Convenes for Third Meeting

Fifteen Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission members and Lancet editor Jennifer Sargent met in Dubai, UAE, March 19-20 for two full days of intense and productive discussion. The meeting focused on a section-by-section review of the annotated outline, draft text, working papers, and other inputs for the Commission report. The meeting also provided time for critical discussion of key messages and recommendations, analysis of report data and evidence, and delegation of report section authors. A detailed meeting report will be circulated in the next bulletin.

National Commission Spotlight
The Rwanda NCDI Poverty Group (pictured above) held its first meeting on Monday, 20 March, under the leadership of Permanent Secretary Dr. Jean Pierre Nyemazi, who chairs the group, and group coordinator Dr. Marie Aimee Muhimpundu. During the meeting four working groups were established and Rwanda-specific NCDI disease burden data were reviewed. Moving forward, the Rwanda NCDI Poverty Group will assess baseline NCDI data and country-level fiscal space.

Voices of NCDI Poverty Project

The Voices of NCDI Poverty Project is working with David Murdock, an award-winning American filmmaker, to gather first-person narratives of NCDI patients living in extreme poverty. In February, David traveled to Malawi, where he filmed interviews with over 40 NCDI patients and care providers, both in rural areas served by Abwenzi Pa Za Umoyo (Partners In Health) and Dignitas International, and in Ministry of Health facilities in Lilongwe.

Currently, David is in Nepal, where he will film NCDI patients and care providers both in Kathmandu – with guidance and support from Nepal NCDI Poverty Commission co-chair Dr. Bhagwan Koirala and Research Fellow Dr. Abha Shrestha – and in the rural district of Achham with Possible Health. We hope to be able to share some of the work David has produced with the global and national NCDI Poverty Commissions soon.
14-year-old Type 1 Diabetes patient Sheila Chipenga with her mother.

Items of Interest and Upcoming Events

- **The next World Bank-hosted Knowledge Exchange** is scheduled for Wednesday, 26 April 2017 from 7:30am-9:00am EST and will serve as a time for National Commissioners to share lessons, challenges, and discoveries that have been encountered thus far in commission development.

- **Dr. Bhagawan Koirala**, Co-Chair of the Nepal NCDI Poverty Commission and Professor of Surgery at Tribhuvan University, will be giving a seminar on NCDs in Nepal at Harvard Medical School scheduled tentatively for 5 May 2017 at 1pm EST. Videoconference connection instructions will be disseminated in late April.

Please send all feedback and updates for the next bulletin to Claire McDonell.