Afghanistan NCDI Poverty Commission

Earlier this month the eleventh national NCDI Poverty Commission was formed in Afghanistan. The new Commission is chaired by the Honorable Minister of Public Health, Feruzudin Feroz and Co-Chaired by H.E. Ahmad Jan Naeem and Bashir Noormal, Deputy Minister for Policy & Planning and General Director of the Afghan National Public Health Institute, respectively. The Commission was formed with the objectives:

- To strengthen national health systems response to address NCDs including injury prevention;
- To advocate for and raise NCD priority, as well as integrate NCD in the development work at the national level;
- To deepen the evidence base for the prevention and control of NCDs.
- To monitor implementation of the NCDs prevention and control interventions and evaluate progress at the national level Programs.
The Malawi NCDI Poverty Commission (pictured above on the right) convened for the second time in Lilongwe February 21 to discuss priority NCDI conditions and interventions. The meeting began with an initial workshop session dedicated to discussion of priority NCDI conditions based on different metrics of burden and severity of disease and poverty, including the Global Burden of Disease data. A second workshop then focused on discussion of effective NCDI interventions in the Malawian context. Moving forward the Malawi NCDI Poverty Commission will be collecting financial data on the identified interventions so that the Commission can work towards advocating for certain priority interventions.

The Liberia NCDI Poverty Commission (pictured above on the left), led by Co-Chairs Dr. Fred Amegashie of the Ministry of Health and Dr. Jason Beste of Partners In Health, Liberia, held its first meeting yesterday, February 23, in Monrovia. The meeting brought together Commissioners with a spectrum of expertise from the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare, Education, Justice, and Gender, Children, & Social Protection, as well as NGOs, hospitals, and academic and research institutions.

Voices of NCDI Poverty Spotlight

The following Voices example is the story of Dukhni Bai, a patient of Global Commissioner Yogesh Jain’s organization Jan Swasthya Sahyog (JSS). This narrative describes in detail Dukhni Bai’s diagnosis and subsequent challenges of living in rural India with Type 1 diabetes. Furthermore, the description sheds light on the frequency and danger of Type 1 diabetes in India, and the need to understand and treat chronic diseases amongst populations living in extreme poverty.

Knowledge Exchange Feedback

Thank you to those who submitted feedback on our first three World Bank-hosted NCDI Poverty Knowledge Exchanges. If you have not already had a chance, please take a moment to share your
thoughts on areas of improvement and ideas for future exchange topics in this short survey. The next Knowledge Exchange will be planned and scheduled following the third meeting of the global NCDI Poverty Commission which will take place in Dubai March 9-10.

Items of Interest and Upcoming Events

- Dr. Bhagawan Koirala, Co-Chair of the Nepal NCDI Poverty Commission, 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.
- The Lancet recently published a paper titled Socioeconomic status and non-communicable disease behavioral risk factors in low-income and lower-middle-income countries: a systematic review.

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