Chhattisgarh Meeting Postponed to Fall 2017

Last week national commission Co-Chairs received news that the National Commissions/Groups meeting originally planned for March 2017 will be postponed until the fourth quarter of 2017. We are eager to maintain and strengthen connections among national commissions and groups. As one way of doing that, we have been discussing plans with the World Bank to continue the regular NCDI Poverty Knowledge Exchanges and to have them include more in-depth presentations and discussion from National Commissions and Groups.

We would like to call for feedback from national Commissioners and contributors on how we can improve the Exchanges moving forward. Please share feedback in this short survey.

The third Knowledge Exchange took place on Wednesday, 18 January 2017, from 7:30am-9:30am EST. The videoconference focused on financing and fiscal space analysis to address NCDIs of the poorest billion on the national level. It featured presentations and discussion led by Lancet NCDI Poverty Commissioner Rachel Nugent; Senior Health Economist Netsanet Workie of the World Bank; and Joseph Kibachio, Head of NCDs at the Ministry of Health in Kenya. For more information on the Exchange, please read the report, watch the video recording or review the presentation slides:

- Donor Financing for NCDs and Injuries - Rachel Nugent, Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission, and Andrea Feigi, Health Economist, OECD
- Approaches to fiscal space for health assessment - Netsanet Workie, World Bank
National Commission Spotlight

The Nepal NCDI Poverty Commission, pictured above on the left, convened for its second meeting on Wednesday, 1 February, in Kathmandu. At the meeting commissioners presented and discussed working group progress including the analysis of national data on NCDI out of pocket spending, review of equity-driven, priority-setting case studies, and analysis of national STEPs data.

The Ethiopia NCDI Poverty Commission, led by Chair Mahlet Kifle Habtemariam, held its second meeting last week in Addis Ababa over the course of four days from 10-13 January. The meeting brought Commissioners together to discuss NCD intervention priorities. Lancet Commissioner Dr. Ole Norheim joined the meeting helping and assisted with a review and preliminary priority-setting for interventions. An overview of Dr. Norheim’s priority-setting framework can be found in the Knowledge Exchange #2 report and presentation slides.

The Mozambique NCDI Poverty Commission met in Maputo February 1 under the leadership of Lancet NCDI Poverty Co-Chair Dr. Ana Mocumbi. The Commission brings together a spectrum of clinicians, researchers, and policymakers, who have been working on drafting a national NCDI Poverty report.

Voices of NCDI Poverty Spotlight

The following is a brief patient narrative describing the challenges faced by Mondeh, a young cancer patient in Sierra Leone. Supported by Partners In Health, Mondeh and his father traveled to Rwanda to access additional treatment. With an accurate diagnosis and adequate care, Mondeh was able to thrive and will be returning home in the coming weeks.
Mondeh Mansaray sits with his father, Abubakar Mansaray at Butaro District Hospital in Rwanda between Mondeh's chemotherapy treatments for Hodgkin's Lymphoma on Sept. 14, 2016.

Originally from Freetown, Sierra Leone, they were told that it was tuberculosis, but when treated for that, there was no improvement. Eventually Mondeh was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and received treatment for his cancer in Sierra Leone. But the tumor was too big and the PIH team there sent him to Butaro District Hospital in Rwanda to receive treatment.

"The drugs make me sick, but not too much," Mondeh says. He is 10 years old and currently a primary school student. But when he grows up and gets better, he says "I want to be a doctor. I want to treat other patients from cancer."

Photo credit: (Photo by Cecille Joan Avila / Partners In Health)

**Items of Interest and Upcoming Events**

- **Knowledge Exchange #4** will take place in late February 2017. Please expect Exchange invitations in the next two weeks. For any questions regarding Exchanges, please email Claire McDonell.
- **The Liberia NCDI Poverty Commission** will hold its first meeting on 14 February 2017.
- **The Malawi NCDI Poverty Commission** will hold its second meeting on 21 February 2017.
- **The Rwanda NCDI Poverty Group** also plans to hold its first meeting in mid to late February.

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