National Commissions on the Calendar

Recent Events Involving Global and National Commission Colleagues

- Uganda NCDI Poverty Commission convened its first meeting, July 31, 2019 - The Uganda NCDI Poverty Commission will be chaired by Dr. Gerald Mutungi, Head of NCD Programme, Ministry of Health Uganda and Dr. Isaac Ssinabulya, Co-Director of Uganda Initiative for Integrated Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (UINCD).
The Uganda NCDI Poverty Commission launched in July with support from the Ministry of Health of Uganda and the Uganda Initiative for Integrated Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (UINCD). The Commission will be led by co-chairs, Dr. Gerald Mutungi, NCD Director of the Ministry of Health, and Dr. Isaac Ssinyabulya Co-Director of UINCD.

- **The NCD Synergies team at PIH and the Program in Global NCDs and Social Change at Harvard Medical School supported WHO AFRO** to host a four-day technical consultation to discuss and reflect on WHO PEN, and to review a draft regional strategy for PEN-Plus, a model for treatment of severe, chronic NCDs at first-level hospitals. Colleagues from several National Commission countries including Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Liberia and Sierra Leone participated in the four-day meeting in Kigali. [WHO AFRO's Press Release on the consultation is available here.](#)

- **Zambia NCDI Poverty Taskforce hosted a second meeting on September 5-6, 2019** attended by Dr. Sharon Kapambwe, Director of NCDs at the Ministry of Health of Zambia, colleagues from Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), and national leaders working in NCDs. The Honorable Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chilufya also attended the meeting, and provided remarks as the Guest of Honor. [More details on the Zambia NCDI Poverty Taskforce are available here.](#)
The 2nd meeting of the Zambia NCDI Poverty Taskforce. In attendance were Dr. Sharon Kapambwe, NCD Director, Ministry of Health Zambia (front row, 2nd from left) and the Honorable Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chilufya (front row, center)

**Upcoming Events**

- **Malawi Ministry of Health and NCDI Poverty Commission** will receive an award from The UN InterAgency TaskForce on NCDs - Congratulations to The Malawi Ministry of Health on receiving this recognition for their leadership and hard work in addressing NCD care, prevention and treatment.

- **Zimbabwe NCDI Poverty Commission** will host their first meeting on September 23 - 24, 2019. The Zimbabwe commission will be supported by the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, The University of Zimbabwe, SolidarMed and other national partners.

- **UN High Level Meeting on UHC** will be held on September 23, 2019 in NY. [More information about the HLM is available here.](#)

- **14th PASCAR Congress.** To be held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 31 October 2019

- **WHO Global Meeting to Accelerate progress on SDG target 3.4 on NCDs and Mental Health** to be held in Muscat, Oman on December 9-12, 2019. [More information is available here.](#)

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**Call for Survey Responses**

In partnership with the NCDI Poverty Network, Dr. Gene Bukhman and Dr. Ruma Rajbhandari are conducting a survey research study to better understand the current state of Crohn's Disease among populations living in extreme poverty. The team is looking to
survey gastroenterology specialists in low- and lower-middle income countries about the state of diagnostic and treatment capacity for Crohn's in their country.

If you, or any of your colleagues are interested in participating, please contact Samantha Smith: ssmith109@bwh.harvard.edu

Voices of NCDI Poverty

"Sometimes I lose hope. But then I think what will happen to my kids? They have no home. Where will they go? Who will be there for them?." - Nigist Dageto, 35 years old, Wolayta District of Ethiopia. Click here to read more about Nigist and her experience living with breast cancer.

Nigist's story was recently featured in a Devex article, co-written by Partners In Health and The George Institute, highlighting the need to involve female leaders in Global health discussions and decision making.

For feedback or content to include in future newsletters, please contact Amy McLaughlin