Fourth World Bank-hosted Knowledge Exchange Report

Commissioners from ten of the national NCDI Poverty Commissions/Groups participated in the fourth World Bank-hosted Knowledge Exchange on Wednesday, 26 April 2017, along with representatives from the World Bank and Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission, technical advisors and staff.

The Exchange featured presentations from Jones Masiye, Co-Chair of the Malawi NCDI Poverty Commission, and Mahlet Kifle Habtemariam, Co-Chair of the Ethiopia NCDI Poverty Commission, on the progress of their respective Commissions. Both shared findings from analysis of country-specific data on the burden of NCDIs, methods used to identify priority NCDIs and develop intervention packages, and progress on NCDI advocacy.

The Ethiopia Commission also presented the methods they employed to estimate the cost of their intervention packages using the One Health Tool. The group will hold a national-level meeting and present a final report to the Minister of Health in June 2017. The Malawi Commission is currently in the process of engaging outside economic expertise to cost their priority interventions. They will reconvene for the third time to validate initial findings this month. Below is a report on Exchange discussion and slides from the presentations:

- Malawi NCDI Poverty Commission presentation
- Ethiopia NCDI Poverty Commission presentation
- Knowledge Exchange 4 Report

The Exchange also featured an example clip from the Malawi Voices of NCDI Poverty project produced by videographer David Murdock. More information on the Voices of NCDI Poverty project is provided below. The clip shared at the Knowledge Exchange can be viewed (bandwidth permitting) by clicking on the image below:
Bhagawan Koirala of Nepal NCDI Poverty Commission Seminar at Harvard University

Bhagawan Koirala, Co-Chair of the Nepal NCDI Poverty Commission, and pioneer of open heart surgery in Nepal gave a seminar titled "Free Pediatric Cardiac Surgery for the Poor in Nepal" hosted by the Program in Global NCDs and Social Change at Harvard Medical School, on 5 May 2017. Following his meaningful and informative presentation Dr. Koirala was joined by Dr. Kathy Jenkins, Professor of Pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital; Dr. Prem Shekar, Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital; and Dr. David Jones, A. Bernard Ackerman Professor of the Culture of Medicine at Harvard Medical School for a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Gene Bukhman, Co-Chair of the Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission. Discussion spanned from panelists' experiences supporting cardiac surgery in under-resourced settings, to barriers and inroads in making cardiac surgery available through the public sector, areas of collaboration and lessons learned from the current and historical Nepal experience. A video recording of the seminar and discussion is available to watch online.

NCDI Poverty Website Updates

Over the past couple of weeks, pages have been progressively developed on the NCDIPoverty.org website highlighting each national NCDI Poverty Commission/Group. We hope that each page will ultimately contain background information, commissioner biographies, updates on progress and meeting, and recent publications. We ask that members of national NCDI Poverty Commissions/Groups kindly review their respective countries' pages and send any updates, corrections, or additions to Claire McDonell (claire_mcdonell@hms.harvard.edu). We want to make sure all of the meaningful work and accomplishments of the Commissions are represented and thank you in advance for your support with site development.

Update on Lancet Commission Meeting Report and Publication Timeline
One of the key outcomes of the *Lancet* NCDI Poverty Commission meeting in Dubai in June was the Commission’s decision, with support from *Lancet* editor Jennifer Sargent, to push back the timeline for producing and publishing the Commission report. With the revised timeline, the Commission will review a full draft of the report with *Lancet* editors at a meeting in September 2017 (probably in Boston), submit for peer review in November 2017, and aim at publication and launch early in 2018. For more details on the Dubai meeting please review the [meeting report](#).

### National Commission Updates

- **The Ethiopia NCDI Poverty Commission** held a commission meeting on 9 May to review a first draft of the commission report and outline next steps for report finalization and dissemination.
- **The Haiti NCDI Poverty Commission** will hold its third meeting on 6 June.
- **India NCDI Poverty Commission** Co-Chair Indrani Gupta is investigating state NCD financing in relation to poverty.
- **The Kenya NCDI Poverty Commission** held its second commission meeting on 11 April to set priority conditions and is currently reviewing interventions and drafting of report.
- **The Liberia NCDI Poverty Commission** held its second commission meeting on 20 April to review working group objectives and existing national-level NCDI service coverage. Currently the commission is reviewing priority conditions.
- **The Malawi NCDI Poverty Commission** is reviewing interventions and financing for a priority set of conditions.
- **The Mozambique NCDI Poverty Commission** is meeting on a regular basis and is currently collecting facility data and drafting report.
- **The Nepal NCDI Poverty Commission** is reviewing interventions and drafting a commission report. As highlighted above, Co-Chair Dr. Bhagawan Koirala recently gave a seminar at Harvard University.
- **The Rwanda NCDI Poverty Group** held its first meeting in March 2017 and is currently now concentrating on literature review and working group development.
- **The Tanzania** and **Afghanistan NCDI Poverty Commissions** have recently engaged in literature review in anticipation of their first commission meetings.

### Voices of NCDI Poverty

Videographer David Murdock, who is working with the Voices of NCDI Poverty Project, has finished two successful trips to Nepal and Malawi, collecting patient and care provider narratives. Most recently, working with representatives from the Nepal NCDI Poverty Commission and [Possible Health](#), David filmed interviews with NCDI patients and care providers in both rural Accham and Kathmandu.

In addition to the video (above) featured in the fourth Knowledge Exchange, below are two developing patient narrative capsules that will be expanded both as videos and for publication in the coming months.
Muna, a 26-year-old mother, holding her 4-year-old son, Bhabesh

Bhabesh was diagnosed with neuroblastoma cancer in Itahari (a city in eastern Nepal) when he was unable to walk. Muna brought him to Kanti Children's Hospital in Kathmandu for treatment. The two live in a tiny, rented apartment in Kathmandu and have run up over $5,000 in debt so that Bhabesh can continue treatment, while Muna's husband works as a laborer in Saudi Arabia. Although they could not afford the recommended stem cell treatment, Bhabesh is receiving chemotherapy with support from the hospital.

Pabitra Manar, 26-year-old chronic kidney disease patient

Pabitra lives with her mother and father in a makeshift hut they moved into after an earthquake destroyed their home. She suffers from chronic kidney disease and has been receiving dialysis treatment for the past eight years. Neither she nor her father is able to work. The family's sole source of income is Pabitra's mother who works as a farm laborer. Pabrita needs a kidney transplant. Her mother would be the best donor, but Pabrita doesn't want her to undergo surgery that could possibly limit her ability to work and support the family.

Items and Events of Interest

- An NCD Roundtable consultation was held on April 17 in India focused on "Optimizing the Skills of Health Workforce to Tackle NCDs in India."
- Adnan Hyder, Margaret Kruk, and Rachel Nugent all spoke at the 2017 Consortium of Universities for Global Health conference in Washington, DC, during the week of April 6.
- Neil Gupta, Coordinator of the 11 National NCDI Poverty Commissions and Groups, gave a seminar on Tuesday, 11 May, at Partners In Health (PIH). Dr. Gupta discussed the ongoing work of PIH's NCD Synergies project and shared lessons learned from the 11 national NCDI Poverty Commissions/Groups and the Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission

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