Accelerating the reduction of Household Air Pollution through multisectoral actions plans for NCD in South-East Asia

Lesley Onyon
Regional Adviser, Occupational & Environmental Health
WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
Mortality due to NCDs in WHO South-East Asia

- NCDs account for 44 M (72%) of all deaths globally with 20% in SEAR

- Data revealed that air pollution is estimated to cause more NCD deaths in SEAR than tobacco (20% versus 16%)

- Higher than percentage deaths from diabetes (raised blood glucose (20% vs 17%)

Source: Global Burden of Disease Collaborative Network, GBD, 2016
Regional NCD Action Plan
10 targets (2013-2020)

- 10th target adopted in addition to 9 global targets
- “Relative reduction in proportion of households using solid fuels as primary source of fuel for cooking”
- 8/11 countries have activities for HAP in NCD action plan for HAP + 1 under revision
Some of the activities covered in National NCD action plans

- Conduct of air quality studies
- Implementing national guidelines
- Expanding/improving community-based programmes & cookstove programmes
- Introducing subsidies for clean fuel
- Improving evidence & research

Trends in reducing reliance on biomass fuels (2000-2016)
Some of the challenges faced in addressing NCDs in SEAR

- Multisectoral coordination
- Lack of complete accurate data on number & cause of death
- Technical expertise, resources, research & information systems
- Early diagnosis, treatment, care & priority interventions
Working on NCDs in Primary Health

- All SEAR countries implementing PEN or PEN-like programmes
- PEN based on high impact interventions for PHC workers
- Household air pollution module for PHC workers included in the SEAR PEN training manual (2018)
What would be needed to accelerate achievement of NCD action plans on HAP?

- Greater awareness & engagement of NCD programme managers in MoH (working with Env Health colleagues)
- Additional & simple to understand information on health impacts e.g. Pathophysiological understanding of Cardiovascular Disease
- Better understanding of solutions & role of different ministries outside of health (best buys & cost effective interventions)
- Additional technical assistance to countries facing the highest reliance on biomass fuels e.g. MYR, TLS, BAN
- Wider use of harmonized household level survey tools and more emphasis on monitoring progress & effectiveness of policy interventions – based on country specific & program context.
Thank you