Comments and recommendations to the WHO Global Coordinating Mechanism on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)

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Comments:

To successfully address the SDG goal of reducing premature mortality from NCDs by one third by 2030, significant changes in the increasingly highly commercialized practice of clinical medicine in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will be needed. Our perspective is that even very successful introduction of the 15 WHO Best Buys policies can only have modest population benefits in this time-frame. As general premises, our clinical practice knowledge (our evidence base) is all-too limited about how to:

- intervene effectively with many NCDs and their risk factors; and
- organize ambulatory health care systems and clinics to provide affordable and adequately high-quality adult medical care.

Only significantly increasing the magnitude of LMIC implementational and clinical systems research can lead to information about interventions justifying greater investments in many clinical medical activities. Accountability in clinical medicine has long been ignored.

Recommendation

Mechanisms must be created to support financially, targeted research into interventions for NCDs, and systems to deliver affordable and high-quality health care for adults. Catalytic international funding, and technological expertise to create rigorous project review are needed to then encourage in-country commitments of resources.