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Belgian Platform for
International Health

Meeting on non-communicable diseases

Challenges and opportunities for integration of chronic care

8th October 2015, ITM, Antwerp

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Why a meeting on NCDs?

- **Request from DGD** in order to support the revision of the policy note on health => one of the chapters will focus on NCDs
- NCDs are recognised as an increasing public health problem in LMIC
- At national level, improvements are needed to
 - develop comprehensive policies
 - increase the coverage and quality of NCD programmes
 - promote more patient-centred care
- At international level, the issue must be better tackled by donors and better integrated in cooperation programmes

Some definitions (1)

- **WHO**

- Chronic diseases
- Not passed from person to person
- Of long duration and generally slow progression

- **Core definition** = cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, cancer

- High proportion of NCDs burden
- Shared risk factors : tobacco & harmful alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets
- => common approach to their prevention
- CVD, D, CRD : possible screening & management in primary care, prevention & care benefit related conditions (ex. chronic kidney diseases)
- Greater challenges in LMIC for cancer management

Some definitions (2)

- **Chronic diseases / Chronic lifelong illness**
 - ≠ also including communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis
- **Mental disorders**
 - Advocacy to include it as a 5th NCD to be focussed upon
 - Overall aim = physical and mental health!
 - They contribute significantly to the global burden of disease
 - Risk factor and consequence of NCDs
 - Holistic and patient-centred approach
- **Nutrition**
 - NCDs related to dietary and lifestyle changes

Some issues related to definitions

- Only shared ground = agreement that « non infectious »
 - Terrible brand as it begins with « non » = a « non-issue » or a « non-starter »
- Conventional understandings of “chronic” disease
 - Diseases that are stable, manageable, and lifelong
 - Conditions that are invisible / without the usual acute signs
 - Disorders linked to individual “life-styles” and “behaviours”
 - Leaving out the sometimes dramatic fluctuations in health that characterise most chronic illnesses

Objectives of today meeting

- **Sharing experiences** among policy-makers and experts
- Contributing to a **better understanding** of challenges and existing strategies to tackle NCDs
- **Facilitating discussions** on the current situation, on service delivery platforms and policy
- Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and mental health as entry point

Programme

9h45-11h	NCDs, a situation analysis
11h-11h30	Break
11h30-13h	Effective delivery platforms for responsive care
13h-14h	Lunch
14h-15h30	NCDs policies & programs
15h30-16h	Break
16h-17h	Consequences for DGD policy

(Presentation will be held either in French or English)