Exploring Links: Non-communicable Diseases, Infectious Diseases And Maternal Mortality In Uganda

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Critical links: key themes in Uganda

- Persistent and/or expanding burden of maternal mortality and infectious diseases
  - Infectious communicable diseases compose 75% of major disease burden (malaria, HIV, tuberculosis among top ten causes of illness and death)

- Expanding burden of non communicable diseases
  - Diabetes estimated at 8% prevalence in Kampala
  - 10 fold increase in diabetes projected in Uganda by 20205 if no action taken
  - NCDs might have higher mortality and morbidity rates in sub Saharan Africa than in developed countries
  - Recent NCD risk factor profile in Kasese showed higher than expected rates of high blood pressure, smoking, alcohol consumption, obesity and risk of diabetes
  - Socioeconomic status influences risk in multidirectional ways
    - Smoking (men only), alcohol consumption, and lower HDL cholesterol associated with lower SES
    - Overweight, raised blood pressure, high cholesterol, higher risk of diabetes associated with higher SES
Critical links: key themes in Uganda

• Multiple complex pathways linking these categories of preventable and treatable conditions

• Opportunities to strengthen high impact advocacy to achieve control of the leading preventable causes of death in Uganda
Examples

• Primary links
  – Smoking and tuberculosis
  – Malaria and high risk pregnancy
  – Alcohol consumption and HIV
  – HIV and cardiovascular disease

• Cross cutting themes
  – Community and health worker stigma
    • Epilepsy, mental illness, HIV
  – Weak health systems
  – Under investment in priority interventions
  – Non existent community based health education and linkage to preventative interventions
  – Socioeconomic status
  – Inequity in disease outcome
    • Up to triple the risk of death from cardiovascular disease in SSA compared with Europe
  – High economic burden on households
What interventions are needed?

• Community level

• Health facility level

• Government level
Exercise:
Describing the links together