

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