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Press Release

Survey for Monitoring the National Noncommunicable Diseases Targets

Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) are contributing to rising proportion of sickness and deaths worldwide, including India. These include heart diseases, diabetes, hypertension, stroke, cancer, obesity, chronic lung diseases, etc. These are driven by several risk factors mainly tobacco and alcohol consumption, inappropriate diet and physical inactivity, air pollution, stress, etc. In September 2011, the UN High Level Meeting on Prevention and Control of NCDs requested Member countries to implement strategies to reduce NCDs and their risk factors. In May 2013, the World Health Assembly proposed 9 global voluntary NCDs targets along with 25 indicators to be achieved by member countries by year 2025 keeping the year 2010 as baseline for assessing progress. In 2014, through series of country wide consultations with key partners, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India formulated the National Action Plan for the prevention and Control of NCDs by including 10 NCD targets and their 21 indicators to be achieved by 2025, thus making India the first country to adopt the global NCD monitoring framework. The NCD targets are as under:

1. 25% relative reduction in overall mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases.
2. 10% relative reduction in the harmful use of alcohol.
3. 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use in persons aged over 15 years
4. 10% relative reduction in prevalence of insufficient physical activity
5. 30% relative reduction in mean population intake of salt/sodium
6. 25% relative reduction in prevalence of raised blood pressure
7. Halt the rise in obesity and diabetes
8. 50% relative reduction in the proportion of households using solid fuels (wood, crop residue, dried dung, coal and charcoal) as the primary source of cooking
9. 20% of eligible people receive drug therapy and counselling (including glycaemic control) to prevent heart attacks and strokes
10. 80% availability of affordable basic technologies and essential medicines, including generics, required to treat major NCDs in both public and private facilities.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been identified as the nodal agency for NCD surveillance, and has received sanction of budget to undertake a national level survey for monitoring the national Noncommunicable Diseases targets during 2015-2016. This will generate country/national level estimates of key NCD related indicators (risk factors and health system response) identified in the national NCD monitoring framework for the year

2015, create a central and regional pool of resources (protocols, standard tools, training manuals etc.) to support conduct of similar surveys at state level, and strengthen capacities for monitoring of NCDs at national and sub-national level. It will enable assessment of progress on some of the targets being made at the country level towards achieving them by 2025 through repeat surveys. The survey will be done on a nationally representative population sample drawn from various regions of the country, and will include face to face interviews with selected male and female population, aged 15-69 years, residing in urban and rural areas, on key behavioral risk factors, physical measurements, laboratory assessments and health facility assessments for national systems response. The survey will be implemented in partnerships with key institutions/agencies with relevant experience. The oversight will be provided by the national apex committee and national technical working group on NCD surveillance.

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