



Addressing the double burden of disease: improving health systems for Non communicable and Neglected Tropical Diseases

Research objectives

The COhesion HEalth System InnovatiON (COHESION) project aims to address the double burden of disease placed on health systems and communities in Mozambique, Nepal and Peru in order to sustainably improve the health of vulnerable populations. The project will address this challenge through 1) effective research to clearly understand barriers and enablers for diagnosis, management and care of both Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) 2) stakeholder identification and engagement 3) sustainable, gender and context appropriate interventions, at the policy, health system and community level, to be integrated into Primary Health Care (PHC) responses.

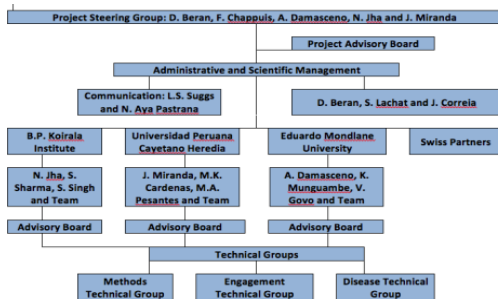
Expected scientific contributions

- Assess the burden of NCDs and NTDs in the selected regions by adapting existing research methods to allow an understanding of barriers from the policy, health system, community and individual perspective
- Organise policy dialogues with different stakeholders and the population in each country to share experiences and develop interventions
- Develop packets of interventions in the areas of capacity building, health information systems, diagnosis and treatment, family and livelihood support for PHC to address NCDs and NTDs
- Use innovative means of communication to share the results with a variety of audiences and stakeholders

Development relevance

- Switzerland is active globally in promoting health as a “global public good and a universal human right.”
- NCDs and NTDs not addressed in Millennium Development Goals, but included in Sustainable Development Goals
- Health system weaknesses and inability to address health problems of vulnerable populations
- Epidemiological transition and increase in NCDs in contexts still with a high burden of CDs
- Focus on countries achieving Universal Health Coverage needs to include NCDs and NTDs and needs to focus on PHC.

Project organisation and team



The project is driven by in-country partnerships based on long-standing collaborations. An international Steering Group will meet regularly to assess progress, discuss next steps and address any challenges. An overall Advisory Board as well as 3 country-based Boards will assist from a scientific, policy or communication perspective in reaching its goals.

Our project map

