

Brief Report

Punjab



Rapid Formative Assessment on NCDs

The Rapid Formative Assessment (RFA) was conducted with support from General Electricals by PPHF and Anchal Charitable Trust in collaboration with the State Government of Punjab.

Introduction

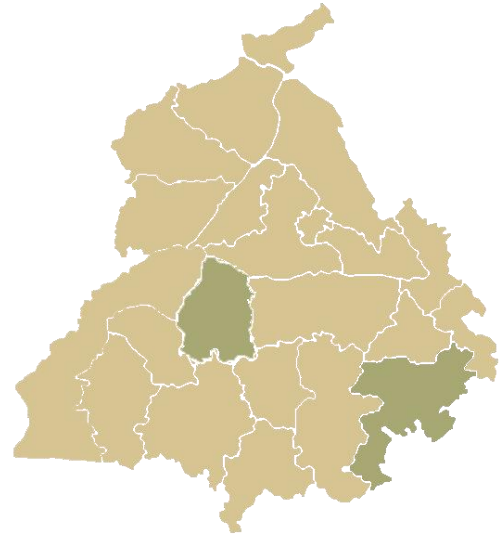
The objective was to assess the community needs, behaviours and perceptions on NCDs; factors (both demand and supply side) affecting appropriate care seeking for NCDs; and the preparedness of the health system for providing NCD services at various levels of care.

State: Punjab

Districts: Moga and Patiala

Block: Dhudike and Patran

Village: Buttar and Shutrana



Methodology of the Assessment

12
Focused Group
Discussions



Frontline
Functionaries
(ASHAs and ANMs)

People in the
Community

Other Local
Stakeholders

9
In-depth
Interviews



Healthcare
providers
(nodal officers &
medical officers)

2
Districts



Rapid health
facility assessment
(one CHC each
district)

June - July
(2018)

Preparation of
study
instruments

Data Collection &
Audio Recordings

Summarised
Field Note
Preparation

English Translation
of Field Notes

Data Coding &
Analysis

Report
Preparation

Summary of Findings:



Increased exposure to risks of NCDs



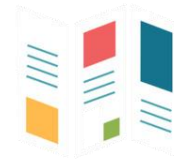
Need for capacity building on NCDs



Need for multi-sectoral engagement



Demand for adequate supplies for screening



Effective communication & counselling materials

- 1. Indulgence in high alcohol intake and drugs, use of pesticides** in farming, unclean water, poor dietary practices (high preference for fatty food which they think makes them stronger) and reluctance towards regular health screenings were reported to be major factors for NCDs.
- 2. Community members preferred self medication or alternate means of treatment** unless they faced a severe complication. People preferred home remedies like bitter gourd juice, neem leaves in black plums powder, other ayurvedic combinations and are practicing blind beliefs of wearing holy bangles and consuming holy water for managing NCDs. Long waiting queues, lack of awareness on referral and treatment pathways, distant health facilities, shortage of equipment for confirmatory tests, etc, further prevented timely visits to health centers.
- 3. Healthcare professionals requested additional man power**, role clarities, health promotion strategies focused on prevention to help them better manage people with NCDs. The state government is providing free treatment to all cancer patients under the Chief Minister's Cancer Relief Scheme. However, people are asking for increased access to palliative care.
- 4. Both community and health professionals highlighted** the need for creating mass awareness through campaigns, education against use of tobacco, alcohol and other addictive drugs, regular health check-ups etc. They requested for customized counselling materials and expressed video shows, street plays in local language, mike announcements, wall paintings and posters/pamphlets– as a preferred means of communication.
- 5. Health professionals demanded periodic refresher training** and on-the-job training on latest protocols and researches for management of NCDs across frontline health workers. They also highlighted the need to develop a continuous M&E system; periodic review meetings at the state and block level.

Recommendations

At facility level



Developing sustainable intersectoral governance arrangements and operating models



Demand for multi-profile primary healthcare teams for coordinated and integrated service delivery



Strengthen mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of NCDs and associated risk factors



Strengthen supply chain & logistics



Strengthen mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of NCDs and associated risk factors

At Community level



Develop less resource intensive and context specific IEC & BCC strategy



Create community leaders/champions for health promotion



Aanganwadi centers may be developed as an infotainment centre for the NCDs



Demand for increased accessibility to quality health services

Conclusion

The findings of the assessment highlights need and strategies which may be crucial for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in selected districts of Punjab. There is an urgent to prioritize prevention and screening interventions to reduce financial burden. NCD health care services needs to be strengthened and the benefit gained by the community should be assessed periodically to understand the impact of the interventions in long term.



@PPHFAisia

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