

8. PEN-Plus - A regional strategy to address severe, chronic noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) at the intermediate level of national health systems

[En français ci-dessous](#)

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In focus

[AFR/RC72/4](#) presents a regional strategy to address severe NCDs at first level referral health facilities.

The draft resolution in [AFR/RC72/WP2](#) would endorse this draft strategy.

Background

The name “PEN-Plus” is a reference to WHO’s [package of essential noncommunicable \(PEN\) disease interventions](#) for primary health care.

Organisationally, PEN-Plus follows on from the *Lancet Commission on Reframing NCDs and Injuries* for the Poorest Billion ([Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission](#)).

Following the publication of the Lancet Commission report, the co-chairs of the Commission have headed up the [NCDI Poverty Network](#) which brings together the national level NCDI poverty commissions in Africa, South Asia and the Caribbean. See national level NCDI poverty commission reports [here](#). Apparently no Francophone countries.

The NCDI Poverty Network is supported by (US NGO) Partners in Health, through its [NCDs Synergies Project](#). Some support also from NORAD.

[PEN-Plus](#) is one of the NCDI Poverty Network's major strategic initiatives and is directed to strengthening diagnosis and treatment for severe NCDs and Injury at ‘first level hospitals’ in 16

low and lower middle income countries. As well as the support from Partners in Health PEN-Plus is supported by WHO AFRO and UNICEF.

See also [WHO 2019 Global survey of national capacity](#) for the prevention and control of NCDs

See [NCDI Poverty Network site](#) for more updates.

PHM Comment

Real needs. Good directions in general. But PHM has reservations about the way the slogan “UHC” is being used. Also important to ensure that PEN+ does not become a stand alone silo.

Region-wide strategy can only prescribe at the most general level; countries are very different; (see national level NCDI commission reports for national level assessments).

If PHM is to have a view we need to assemble reports from different countries assessing the NCDI / PEN+ situation in their countries (both on the ground health services as well as organisational status).

Lack of resources for health care in many African states. Why? Many countries which are rich in natural resources are fiscally poor. Why? Where is the political economy analysis?

Perhaps we can involve the HS TG in developing a response to this item.

Notes of discussion

PEN-Plus - Une strategie regionale pour s'attaquer aux maladies non transmissibles chroniques graves au niveau intermediaire des systemes de sante nationaux

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Au point

Circonstances

Le nom « PEN-Plus » fait référence à [l'ensemble d'interventions essentielles contre les maladies non transmissibles](#) (PEN) de l'OMS pour les soins de santé primaires.

Sur le plan organisationnel, PEN-Plus fait suite à la Commission Lancet sur le recadrage des MNT et des blessures pour le milliard le plus pauvre ([Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission](#)).

Suite à la publication du rapport de la Commission Lancet, les coprésidents de la Commission ont dirigé [le Réseau sur la pauvreté du NCDI](#) qui rassemble les commissions nationales sur la pauvreté du NCDI en Afrique, en Asie du Sud et dans les Caraïbes. Voir les rapports de la commission nationale sur la pauvreté du NCDI [ici](#).

Le NCDI Poverty Network est soutenu par (une ONG américaine) Partners in Health, par le biais de son NCDs Synergies Project.

[PEN-Plus](#) est l'une des principales initiatives stratégiques du NCDI Poverty Network et vise à renforcer le diagnostic et le traitement des maladies non transmissibles graves et des blessures dans les «hôpitaux de premier niveau» de 16 pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire inférieur. En plus du soutien de Partners in Health, PEN-Plus est soutenu par l'OMS AFRO et l'UNICEF.

Commentaire du MPS

Notes de discussion