Rapid assessment of service delivery for NCDs during COVID-19 Pandemic
Region of the Americas
SURVEY METHODS

• Standardized questionnaire sent by PAHO/WHO, through PAHO/WHO country offices, on May 1, 2020 to Ministry of Health NCD program managers, to the persons who responded to the 2019 Country Capacity Survey, in the 35 Member States.
• Web-based questionnaire to assess impact of COVID-19 on:
  • NCD staffing
  • service disruptions, including for a set of tracer services and main cause of disruption
  • funding for NCDs in COVID-19 response
  • data collection on co-morbidity
  • suggestions for WHO technical guidance and tools
• Responses received from May 15-27, 2020
• Response rate:
  • Americas region - 28/35 Member States (80%)
  • Global – 158/194 Member States (81%)
• Survey responses were treated confidentially, and only aggregated results are presented.
COVID-19 in the Americas

Cumulative cases, Americas, June 1, 2020

Total number of cases: 2,840,714
Total number of deaths: 161,428

Subregion:
North America: 1,935,550
Central America: 27,318
South America: 850,205
Caribbean: 27,641

COVID-19 in the Americas

Doubling time for COVID-19, Region of the Americas, 30 January - 16 May 2020

NCD staff reassigned to COVID-19 response

Percentage of countries where the NCD staff were reassigned/deployed to help with COVID-19 response

- Some NCD staff partially reassigned: 36% (10/28)
- All NCD staff partially reassigned: 32% (9/28)
- Some NCD staff reassigned full time: 21% (6/28)
- All NCD staff reassigned full time: 7% (2/28)
- No NCD staff reassigned: 4% (1/28)
NCD funding reallocated to COVID-19

Percentage of countries where government NCD funds were reallocated to support COVID-19 response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transmission Type</th>
<th>% Countries Reallocated</th>
<th>51% - 100% of Funding</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>61% (17/28)</td>
<td>4% (1/28)</td>
<td>36% (10/28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporadic</td>
<td>14% (4/28)</td>
<td>4% (1/28)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clusters</td>
<td>18% (5/28)</td>
<td>14% (4/28)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>29% (8/28)</td>
<td></td>
<td>18% (5/28)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NCD funding reallocated to COVID-19

Percentage of countries, by subregion, where government NCD funds were reallocated to support COVID-19

North America

- 50% (1/2) None or not yet
- 50% (1/2) Don’t know

Non-Latin Caribbean

- 62% (8/13) None or not yet
- 31% (4/13) Don’t know
- 8% (1/13) No response

Mesoamerica

- 30% (3/10) None or not yet
- 10% (1/10) 51% - 100% of funding
- 20% (2/10) Don’t know

Andean Area

- 40% (2/5) None or not yet
- 20% (1/5) Don’t know
- 40% (2/5) No response

Southern Cone

- 60% (3/5) None or not yet
- 40% (2/5) Don’t know
NCD services in COVID-19 plan

Percentage of countries where the continuity of NCD services were included in the list of essential health services in the country's COVID-19 response plan

- **Americas**: 68% (19/28)
  - Yes: 21% (6/28)
  - No / Not Yet: 7% (2/28)
  - Don't know: 4% (4/28)
  - No Response: 4% (1/28)

- **Sporadic**: 14% (4/28)
  - Yes: 4% (1/28)
  - No / Not Yet: 4% (1/28)
  - Don't know: 4% (1/28)
  - No Response: 4% (1/28)

- **Clusters**: 29% (8/28)
  - Yes: 29% (8/28)
  - No / Not Yet: 4% (1/28)
  - Don't know: 7% (2/28)
  - No Response: 7% (2/28)

- **Community**: 25% (7/28)
  - Yes: 7% (2/28)
  - No / Not Yet: 14% (4/28)
  - Don't know: 7% (2/28)
  - No Response: 4% (1/28)
NCD services in COVID-19 plan

Percentage of countries, by subregion where the continuity of NCD services were included in the list of essential health services in the country's COVID-19 response plan

North America

- Don't know: 50% (1/2)
- No response: 50% (1/2)

Non-Latin Caribbean

- Yes: 69% (9/13)
- No: 23% (3/13)
- Don't know: 8% (1/13)

Mesoamerica

- Yes: 30% (3/10)
- No: 20% (2/10)
- No response: 10% (1/10)

Andean Area

- Yes: 60% (3/5)
- No response: 40% (2/5)

Southern Cone

- Yes: 80% (4/5)
- No: 20% (1/5)
Type of NCD service included in COVID-19 plan

- CVD services: 95% (18/19)
- Diabetes services: 95% (18/19)
- Cancer services: 89% (17/19)
- Chronic kidney disease and dialysis services: 84% (16/19)
- CRD services: 68% (13/19)
- Dental services: 42% (8/19)
- Rehabilitation services: 32% (6/19)
- Tobacco cessation services: 21% (5/19)
- Others: 21% (4/19)
Additional funding for NCDs in government budget for COVID-19 response

Percentage of countries with additional funding allocated for NCDs in the government budget for the COVID-19 response

Classification by transmission type

- **Americas**: 61% (17/28)
  - Yes: 25% (7/28)
  - No: 11% (3/28)
  - Don't know: 4% (1/28)
  - No response: 4% (1/28)

- **Sporadic**: 11% (1/28)
  - Yes: 4% (3/28)
  - No: 4% (3/28)
  - Don't know: 7% (2/28)
  - No response: 4% (1/28)

- **Clusters**: 21% (6/28)
  - Yes: 4% (1/28)
  - No: 4% (1/28)
  - Don't know: 7% (2/28)
  - No response: 4% (1/28)

- **Community**: 29% (8/28)
  - Yes: 18% (5/28)
  - No: 4% (1/28)
  - Don't know: 7% (2/28)
  - No response: 4% (1/28)
Additional funding for NCDs in government budget for COVID-19 response

Percentage of countries, by subregion with additional funding allocated for NCDs in the government budget for the COVID-19 response

- **North America**
  - 50% (1/2) Don't know
  - 50% (1/2) No response

- **Non-Latin Caribbean**
  - 23% (3/13) Don't know
  - 54% (7/13) Yes
  - 8% (1/13) No response

- **Mesoamerica**
  - 50% (5/10) No
  - 40% (4/10) No response

- **Andean Area**
  - 60% (3/5) No
  - 40% (2/5) No response

- **Southern Cone**
  - 40% (2/5) No
  - 60% (3/5) Don't know
Access to essential NCD services - outpatient services

Percentage of countries with access to outpatient services during COVID-19

- Outpatient NCD services are open with limited access and/or staff or in alternate locations or with different modes: 64% (18/28)
- Outpatient NCD services are open: 25% (7/28)
- Outpatient NCD services are closed: 7% (2/28)
- No response: 4% (1/28)
Percentage of countries with access to inpatient services during COVID-19

- Inpatient services open: 54% (15/28)
- Only emergency inpatient services: 36% (10/28)
- Don’t know: 7% (2/28)
- No response: 4% (1/28)
NCD activities postponed due to COVID-19

- **WHO Package for Essential NCDs (PEN)** training and implementation in Primary Health Care or similar: None
- Public screening programs for NCDs: 43% (12/28)
- WHO HEARTS technical package: 29% (8/28)
- Mass communication campaigns: 25% (7/28)
- None: 22% (6/28)
- Implementation of NCD Surveys: 57% (16/28)
- Others: 18% (5/28)
Type of NCD services disrupted during COVID-19

- Hypertension Management: 54% (15/28) No disrupted, 43% (12/28) Partially disrupted, 4% (1/28) Completely disrupted, 4% (1/28) No response
- Cardiovascular emergenices: 79% (22/28) No disrupted, 18% (5/28) Partially disrupted, 4% (1/28) Completely disrupted, 4% (1/28) No response
- Diabetes and Diabetic Complications Management: 46% (13/28) No disrupted, 39% (11/28) Partially disrupted, 7% (2/28) Completely disrupted, 4% (1/28) No response
- Urgent dental care: 50% (14/28) No disrupted, 43% (12/28) Partially disrupted, 4% (1/28) Completely disrupted, 4% (1/28) No response
- Cancer Treatment: 61% (17/28) No disrupted, 25% (7/28) Partially disrupted, 4% (1/28) Completely disrupted, 4% (1/28) No response
- Asthma services: 57% (16/28) No disrupted, 25% (7/28) Partially disrupted, 21% (6/28) Completely disrupted, 7% (2/28) No response
- Rehabilitation services: 36% (10/28) No disrupted, 36% (10/28) Partially disrupted, 14% (4/28) Completely disrupted, 4% (1/28) No response
- Palliative care services: 25% (7/28) No disrupted, 21% (6/28) Partially disrupted, 32% (9/28) Completely disrupted, 7% (2/28) No response
Reasons for NCD service disruption

- Decrease in inpatient volume due to cancellation of elective care: 58% (14/24)
- NCD related clinical staff deployed to provide COVID-19 relief: 50% (12/24)
- Decrease in outpatient volume due to patients not presenting: 50% (12/24)
- Closure of outpatient disease specific consultation clinics: 38% (9/24)
- Closure of population level screening programs: 38% (9/24)
- Insufficient staff to provide services: 38% (9/24)
- Government or public transport lockdowns hindering access to the health facilities for patients: 38% (9/24)
- Decrease in outpatient volume due to patients not presenting: 21% (5/24)
- Closure of outpatient NCD services as per government directive: 17% (4/24)
- Insufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available for health care providers to provide services: 13% (3/24)
- Unavailability/Stock out of essential medicines, medical diagnostics or other health products at health facilities: 13% (3/24)
- Others: 8% (2/24)
- Inpatient services/hospital beds not available: 0%
Strategies to overcome NCD service disruptions

- Triaging to identify priorities: 70% (16/23)
- Telemedicine deployment to replace in-person consults: 61% (14/23)
- Novel supply chain and/or dispensing approaches for NCD medicines: 57% (13/23)
- Redirection of patients with NCDs to alternate health care facilities: 52% (12/23)
- Task shifting / role delegation: 35% (8/23)
- Others: 5% (1/23)
Data collection on NCDs in COVID patients

Percentage of countries collecting or collating data on NCD-related comorbidities in COVID-19 patients

89% (25/28) - Yes
14% (4/28) - Yes
29% (8/28) - Yes
46% (13/28) - Yes

Classification by transmission type:
- Americas: 11% (3/28) - Yes
- Sporadic: 4% (4/28) - Yes
- Clusters: 4% (8/28) - Yes
- Community: 4% (1/28) - Yes
Requests from Member States

Communication materials
• public education messages on COVID-19 and links to NCDs and risk factors
• social media messages and promotion of healthy eating and healthy lifestyles during confinement
• Communication messages on NCD during confinement and what to do if you are not well

Data and information
• modeling and projections of the impact of COVID-19 on NCDs, risk factors and NCD mortality
• guidance on how to collect data on NCD-related comorbidities in COVID-19 patients
• how to register and report underlying conditions for those who die from COVID-19
Requests from Member States Cont’d

Technical guidance
• guide and protocol on how to manage people with NCDs and COVID-19

Capacity building
• build capacity for telemedicine and virtual consultations
• training/virtual meetings on how to manage COVID patients with underlying NCDs
• continue capacity building in the area of mental health with a special focus on the prevention and recognition and depression due to the situation
For further information contact: caixetro@paho.org

Acknowledgements:
Silvana Luciani, Roberta Caixeta, Carolina Chávez, Dolores Ondarsuhu