

Dear subscribers to the AMR e-discussion,

As moderators of Part II of the AMR e-discussion on Global Public Health we would like to briefly summarize the contributions of the first week of discussions on emerging and future health challenges and invite your specific remarks on some additional points that we find useful to address.

Before that, let us kindly draw your attention to the [responses in full of Part I of the AMR e-discussion](#) in case you have not been able to follow the debate from the beginning. The summary of Part I will also be made available shortly on the AMR homepage.

So far, the discussion in Part II has been very stimulating and we thank the participants for their critical thoughts and specific examples, especially with regard to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Some of the key points coming out of the discussion of this first week of Part II were the following:

1. Health care delivery tends to be fragmented, which makes it especially difficult to address multifaceted problems, such as tobacco control, alcohol abuse or mental health care effectively. Therefore, it should be a priority to also address NCDs through preventive measures at the PHC level, which often is ill-prepared to deal with chronic health problems in a holistic way, especially in developing countries.
2. In order to counter-act the growing magnitude of NCDs a more integrated and coordinated effort of government, municipalities and communities is necessary to promote healthier lifestyles and habits, with focus on health promotion and an environment more conducive to NCD prevention. This requires collaboration across sectors and should lead to government-wide commitment to develop strong policies, to support community-based strategies and global partnerships to set norms and standards.
3. Despite numerous concrete examples to promote health in daily lives, more explicit and customized implementation strategies are needed, based on national resources and priorities. They will need to position certain health risk groups, and in particular children and mothers, as a priority of health care and society overall.

In the remaining days of the e-discussion (until next Thursday, 26 February) we would like to invite you to share concrete suggestions and examples, especially with regard to questions 2 and 3 – global health and the financial crisis and innovative partnerships. As the intervention on tobacco control by Dr. Bettcher has shown, there are good arguments to enhance efforts in times of financial turmoil.

We also find it necessary to collect and share among all of us:

- (i) more concrete country-level examples of good practices to address NCDs, including collaborative mechanisms with areas which are not typically seen as health-related.
- (ii) recommendations as to which aspects of NCDs you think require the most attention.

(iii) arguments which address the trade-off between NCD policies and other priorities of national health systems.

All your recommendations and proposals will play an integral role in the preparation of this year's High-level segment of ECOSOC on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health."

We would appreciate your response to above mentioned questions and hope that the remaining days for the 2009 AMR e-discussion continue with a stimulating debate.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or e-mail at mdg-amr-2009@groups.dev-nets.org.

With kind regards,

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