

Concept

Round Table: Leveraging Data-Driven Evidence to Inform Policy Decisions on Diabetes in Kyrgyzstan

November 5, 2024

Background. In recent years, the prevalence of NCDs has been escalating globally, posing significant challenges to health systems and economies worldwide.

Kyrgyzstan, like many other countries, faces the challenge of effectively managing non-communicable diseases, particularly diabetes, within its health system.

Considering this, there is a pressing need to utilize data-driven evidence to inform and influence policy decisions regarding diabetes management and prevention strategies in Kyrgyzstan.

Despite available official health statistics, various studies and analyses conducted in the country over the years, there remains a question about the extent to which these findings inform and influence policy decisions.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is one of the main donors contributing to the fight against NCDs at national and global levels and collaborates with the University of Geneva to achieve a common goal, which is to improve access to medicines and medical technologies needed for managing NCDs worldwide, using diabetes as a tracer condition.

One of the outcomes of this collaboration is to create conditions for evidence-based policy making to improve access to diabetes treatment, medicines and medical technologies and will be implemented by the NCD Policy Lab Project over the period by 2027.

The project will work in four countries (Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Peru and Switzerland) in three areas: research, capacity development and “Services a la Cité” – for better service delivery at local level. The key objective will be to share research findings at global and national levels, improve evidence-based policy making, enhancing the capacity of researchers and decision-makers with a particular focus on improving access to insulin, antidiabetic medicines and associated medical technologies for diabetes.

Therefore, the **Objective** of the upcoming Round Table is to discuss how data-driven evidence related to diabetes management in Kyrgyzstan can inform and influence policy decisions.

It is also important to bear in mind that diabetes is a condition that can be effectively controlled at the Primary Health Care level through the effective use of limited resources, prevention measures, early detection, and comprehensive care.

This event will discuss the gap between diabetes-related information and data collection, utilization, policy-making, identifying the opportunities for improvements and bridging the gap in utilizing the research and data-driven evidence in decision-making to ensure effective resource allocation and better health care for patients with diabetes.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Better understanding/knowledge with regards to diabetes in Kyrgyzstan.
2. Identification of gaps and challenges in the current utilization of diabetes-related data.
3. Increased awareness among stakeholders regarding the importance of data-driven evidence in shaping diabetes policy.
4. Identifying next steps to develop and implement mechanisms for articulating research needs and utilizing its findings in policymaking, particularly in the control of NCDs, using diabetes as a tracer condition.