

# **Title: Public Policy and the Challenge of Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY**

Within a decade, chronic noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) will dominate health care needs in most low-and middle-income countries. Increasingly, policymakers and program managers are being challenged to formulate effective strategies for preventing NCDs, to address cost-pressures arising from new technologies, and to mitigate the effects of disabilities on those affected by NCDs.

But how can policymakers control health costs even as new technologies become available? How might program managers deliver services as efficiently and equitably as possible? What are some broad guidelines for determining the roles of public policy in relation to preventing and controlling NCDs?

The authors point out that the effective policy response will be twofold: to develop programs to *avoid* the looming NCD burden of disease to the extent possible—for example, through public health interventions and improved health care- and simultaneously to *prepare* to address the health system and economic pressures that will arise from the increase in NCDs.

## **CHAIR**

### **Joy Phumaphi, Vice President & Head of Network, HDNVP**

Joy Phumaphi is the Vice President of the Human Development Network at the World Bank. Prior to joining the Bank, Ms. Phumaphi worked at the World Health Organization as the Assistant Director General for Family and Community Health Department. Before that, she served in the Parliament and as Minister for Health of Botswana. Ms. Phumaphi holds a Master of Science degree in Financial Accounting and Decision Sciences from Miami University, Ohio.

## **MODERATOR**

### **Phillip Jeremy Hay, Communications Adviser, HDNOP**

Phillip Hay is Communications Adviser for the Human Development Network, helping to raise the profile and proven impact of human development issues such as health, nutrition and population, HIV/AIDS, education, etc, in the global and national media, and within the Bank's own development community. He also works closely with key partners such as civil society, the specialist UN agencies, parliamentarians, the private sector, and others to advance the human development agenda. Mr Hay is a former BBC Special Correspondent and veteran commentator on international affairs.

## **COMMENTARY (Authors)**

### **Olusoji Adeyi, Coordinator of Public Health Programs, HDNHE**

Olusoji Adeyi is the Coordinator of Public Health Programs in the Human Development Network. He has extensive experience in strategies and programs for health systems and disease control. He was previously Lead Health Specialist in the Europe and Central Asia Region. He has worked for WHO, the Government of Nigeria, UNAIDS and Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Adeyi graduated from medical school in Nigeria. He holds a DrPH from the Johns Hopkins University and an MBA from the University of London.

### **Sylvia C. Robles, Senior Public Health Specialist, HDNHE**

Sylvia C. Robles is a Senior Public Health Specialist at the World Bank. Dr. Robles has worked on program evaluation and research on prevention for tobacco, cancer, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases. She has worked on training local public health professionals and developing surveillance systems in underserved areas. Before being seconded to the World Bank in 2005, she was the head of the WHO/PAHO Program for Non-communicable Diseases for the Region of the Americas. She holds an MD from University of Costa Rica and MSc. in Epidemiology from the University of Toronto.

### **Owen Smith, Economist, SASPR**

Owen Smith is currently working as an Economist in the South Asia poverty reduction and economic management (PREM) unit of the World Bank, having previously worked in the Health, Nutrition, and Population (HNP) anchor on non-communicable diseases. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2005, he worked as a health economist with Abt Associates, Inc., and as an economist in the Canadian Ministry of Finance. He holds Masters degrees in economics and international development from Queen's University and Harvard University.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

### **Cristian Baeza, Acting Director, Health, Nutrition and Population, HDNHE**

Cristian Baeza is the Acting Director, Health, Nutrition & Population in the Human Development at the World Bank in Washington DC. His main area of work and research is on Health Financing and Health Systems and their contribution to social protection and poverty alleviation. Previously, Dr. Baeza was the Lead Health Policy Specialist in the Latin America and Caribbean Region of the World Bank and prior to that, Senior Health Systems Specialist for Social Security Policy and Development at the International Labor Organization (ILO).

