NCD HARD TALKS

Digital solutions for NCDs: what worked and what can be taken forward? COVID-19 AND BEYOND

AGENDA

Webinar
12 May 2021
13.00 - 14.30 CET

#UHCPartnership

World Health Organization

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Martyna Hogendorf, NCD Department, WHO
Dr Bente Mikkelsen, Director, NCD Department, WHO
Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, Science Division, WHO
Sylvia Poll, Head of Digital Society, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
Dr Cherian Varghese, Cross-cutting Lead, NCD Department, WHO

COUNTRY PERSPECTIVES
Dr Nazik Izzeldin M. Ibrahim, National NCD Program Director, Ministry of Health, Sudan
Dr Arunah Chandran, Public Health Physician, Ministry of Health, Malaysia
Dr Devina Nand, Head of Wellness, Ministry of Health & Medical Services, Fiji
Dr Seynabou Mbow, Head of CVD and Metabolic Disease, Division of NCDs, Ministry of Health, Senegal

PANEL DISCUSSION
Adele Waugaman, Senior Digital Health Coordinator, USAID
Amanda BenDor, Deputy Director of Partnership, PATH
Ulrike Kreysa, Senior Vice-President Healthcare, GSI Global Office
Anne Aerts, Head, Novartis Foundation
Jennifer Esposito, Vice-President and GM, Magic Leap

Q&A/CONCLUDING REMARKS
Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, Science Division, WHO
Moderated by Surabhi Joshi, NCD Department, WHO

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WHO HQ/UCN/NCD supported by the Joint Working Team for UHC/UHC Partnership
Contact: Hogendorfm@who.int

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OBJECTIVES

REGISTER NOW

The webinar provides a platform to connect, share, and learn from initiatives on digital health and innovations and how they have addressed the burden of NCDs. We will hear from the government, private sector, civil society actors, NGOs and others, as we aim to:

❑ Identify key learnings on digital innovations/services for NCDs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
❑ Explore how – in a post-pandemic world – we can design and implement NCD digital interventions that keep the end users in mind, and consider ethical, regulatory, implementation, technology and sustainability issues.
❑ Explore strategic and technical aspects, implementation mechanisms, and programme impact of digital solutions.
❑ Look at critical bottlenecks and challenges on NCDs and digital health.

THE PANEL

A panel of female leaders and experts from the NCD and digital health space – innovators, policy makers, country experts and funders – share insights on how we can advance and ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to and benefits from innovation and digital technologies to improve NCD outcomes. In recognition of the gender digital divide, the panels are female-only: globally, women have less access to digital technology/Internet than men and are less likely to work in the digital sector.

The government perspective
What are some of the success stories on NCDs and digital health?
What has worked during COVID 19 and what made them work?
What did not work and why?

The private sector perspective
How does the private sector see the evolution of digital health for NCDs during the pandemic?
How does the private sector plan to address some of the questions and requests by the government panel?

THE ISSUE

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted a surge of digital health technologies to support real world public health challenges, including non-communicable disease (NCD) service delivery. New digital innovations as well as regulatory and policy changes have been enacted to increase uptake of digital products and services, including: mobile and chatbot applications, Internet, SMS messaging, wearable technologies, health information systems, telehealth/telemedicine, machine learning, artificial intelligence, data collection and Big Data.

But innovation is not without bottlenecks and challenges. There have been major digital failures during COVID-19 around digital tracking and tracing: data produced is not always reliable, and digital products and services remain unused due to low demand, poor end-user experience, or reluctance to adopt these new digital tools. Moreover, significant groups of the population in many countries remain completely untouched by the digital world.