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On behalf of the FRESH AIR team

Problem

Mortality in LMICs

- COPD: >90%
- Asthma: >80%

Research LMICs: on-going trials

- COPD: 4%
- Asthma: 2%

An implementation science research project to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of chronic lung disease where resources are limited
FRESH AIR team
Settings

Uganda

Vietnam

Kyrgyzstan

Greece
Findings
Findings

- Improved understanding of context & risk factors
- Raised awareness of dangers (H)AP & smoking
- Increased knowledge on COPD & asthma
- Offered choice of cleaner cook stoves
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SMOKE IS HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH

Any form of smoke is harmful to your lungs

Always cook in a well ventilated kitchen for better health

For more information, please contact your nearest health facility

European Commission

Leiden University Medical Center
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Risk awareness

Van Gemert et al (in preparation)
Patients and communities involved in design, implementation, analysis and dissemination.

Engaged local university members as peer researchers.

Use of photography, film, art, dance to build positive messages.

Accomplishments.
Findings

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Creative community engagement.

https://ytcropper.com/cropped/8S5dca5fee26d41

Improved tools for diagnosis and treatment

Very Brief Advice

Spirometry training

Pulmonary rehabilitation

Findings


Communities want to improve the quality of the air they breathe.

Chronic lung diseases have an under-researched socio-economic impact. People may not take time off work but are less productive ("presenteeism").
Implementation research: **Explore local context, build trust** in process and workforce and **ensure local compatibility**.

Include a wide spectrum of healthcare **professionals** and community health workers (not just doctors).
Pulmonary rehabilitation can be run effectively and affordably in the community.

Where infectious disease is prevalent, asthma diagnosis is missed.
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**Very Brief Advice** for smoking cessation can be delivered, but challenging due to lack of availability of smoking cessation medication and counselling.
COPD’s early origins in low-and-middle income countries: what are the implications of a false start?

Take home message

Chronic (lung) disease can be targeted in settings where resources are low but...

- Know your context (by heart)

- Data-driven case for change established and owned by local stakeholders

- Change takes time: small steps to meaningful outcomes