



September 17 2019

**Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) agencies commit USD 50 million to scaling up research in the fight against chronic diseases**

***The Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases is funding over 25 landmark international research projects into preventing and controlling hypertension and diabetes in low income countries and vulnerable populations in high income settings.***

<sup>1</sup>Every year, 15 million people die from a non-communicable disease, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, respiratory diseases, and diabetes. This is the equivalent of 71% of all deaths globally, most of which occur in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). Unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, exposure to tobacco smoke, the harmful use of alcohol, as well as rapid unplanned urbanization and an ageing population, all contribute to the increase in the number of people affected.

This is why international health research funders, under the GACD, continue their partnership to facilitate research alliances and identify global solutions. The most recent investment will bring together researchers from both LMICs and High Income countries, to scale-up interventions that have shown to be effective in preventing or managing chronic hypertension and/or diabetes.

***“GACD is a unique collaboration of fifteen of the world’s leading publicly funded health research agencies that tackles the global burden of non-communicable diseases. Its focus is supporting research that systematically builds the evidence base for sound policymaking.”***

***Anne Kelso, Chair, GACD.***

The research will unite researchers from over 40 countries across the globe and represents USD 50 million of research funding investment over 3-5 years. The work will focus on the implementation of intervention research in LMICs, vulnerable populations in high-income countries including indigenous communities.

The research focuses on scaling up interventions to large populations. In practice, translation from a pragmatic trial to the real-life commissioning and continuous delivery of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases>

an intervention across a health system is a huge political and economic challenge. These GACD-funded projects highlight global efforts to guide scale up and ensure evidence-based interventions are available to all those in need.

***“Through this multi-million dollar investment, the GACD is making an important contribution to global research in low and middle-income countries and to indigenous communities and vulnerable populations in high-income settings. Each project has a unique collaboration with a research centre in a high- and low-income country. Through this alliance, funders are making a significant impact in the fight against chronic diseases at country level.”***

***Mark Palmer, Director of International Relations, Medical Research Council, UK & Chair Elect of the GACD***

The GACD Scale Up Programme of NCD research will form part of the global GACD research network of over 900 researchers working in over 65 countries. This ambitious programme will contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by improving health and wellbeing at a global scale and, by 2030, reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one third through prevention, treatment, and better promotion of mental health and well-being.

**Further details of funded projects can be found [here](#)**

### **Background**

The GACD is a collaboration of fifteen major international public research funding agencies to address chronic non-communicable diseases. The scale up programme is the GACD’s 5<sup>th</sup> joint funding programme.

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