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PREVENTIVE HEALTH IN A CHANGING WORLD

GOVERNANCE OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES GLOBALLY: A QUALITATIVE STUDY EXPLORING PERSPECTIVES OF GLOBAL HEALTH ACTORS

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Background

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for over 40 million deaths per year, equivalent to 70% of all deaths worldwide. Of these deaths, 15 million are premature deaths in people aged between 30 and 69 years leading to reduced work productivity and performance. While global and national health organisations have developed strategies to manage NCDs, the mortality from NCDs continues to be on a rising trajectory with a projected 52 million deaths from NCDs by 2030.

Methods

We conducted semi-structured in-depth interviews with 30 key informants identified through purposive sampling. We used interpretative approaches to explore respondents' perspectives. We coded and thematically analysed the data using deductive and inductive approaches to identify key and emergent themes.

Results

Preliminary findings include:

- Key actors in NCDs such as the private industry play a vital role in influencing consumers' behaviours suggesting that power and influence are asymmetrical among actors.;
- NCDs are framed differently and highlighted competing interests. More clarity is needed to devise tailored messages for policy implementation.;
- Insufficient investments in NCDs and lack of political commitment impede progress in policy coherence and health outcomes.;
- Global, regional, and national actors lack a close collaboration structure globally. For example, the regional or national actors commonly reported collaborations with other national actors.

Conclusion

Governance of NCDs involves not only strong political leadership, but also a shift towards establishing closer collaborative links between the global, regional, and national actors. Safeguarding health against powerful vested interests remains an essential element when developing strategic partnerships and designing the whole-of-society approaches to NCDs.