



The Global Alliance for Chronic diseases (GACD)

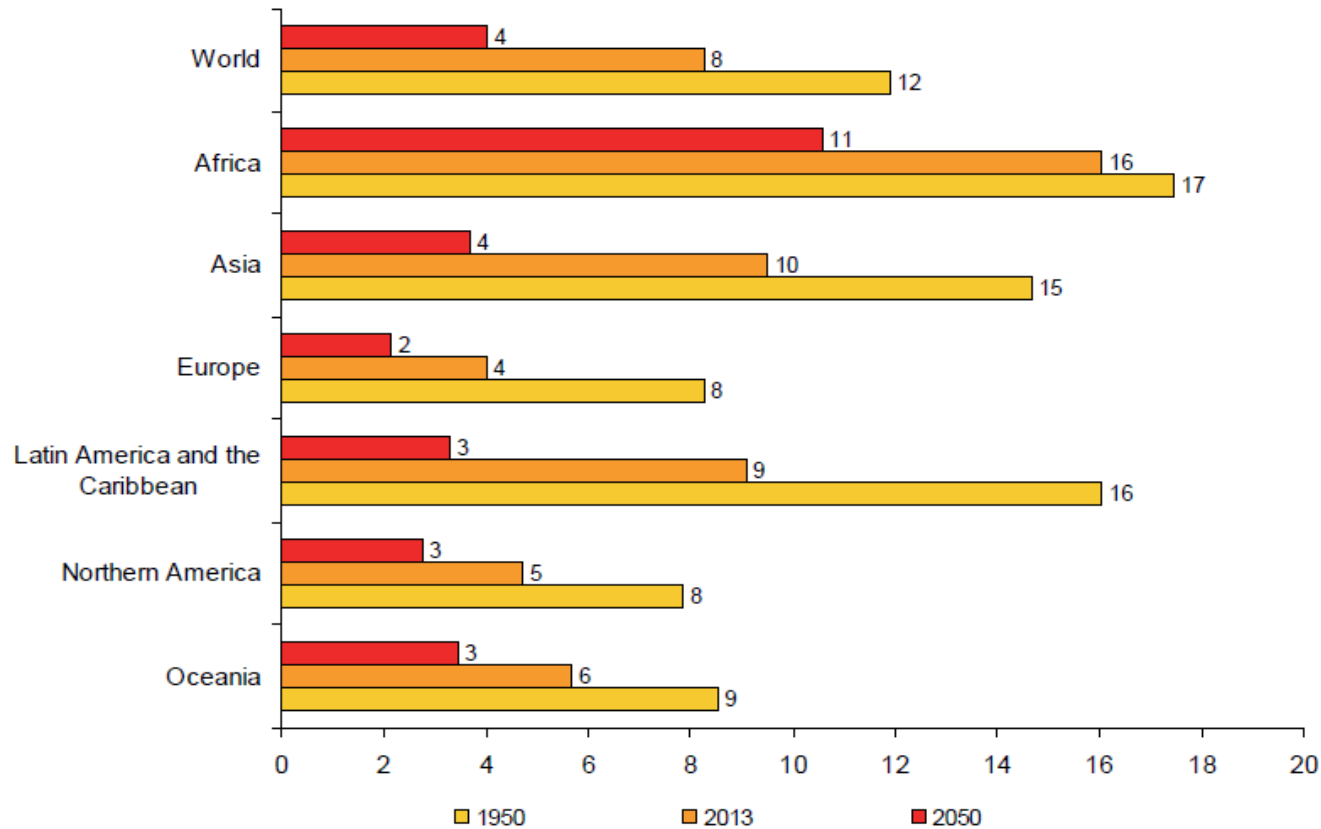
Global Health Policy Forum
Brussels, 12th June 2014

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Deputy Head of the Medical Research Unit
Health Directorate
Research & Innovation Directorate General
European Commission



- **Chronic diseases: a global challenge**
- **Generalities about the GACD**
 - Goal
 - How does it work?
 - What does it mean for researchers?
- **GACD calls**
 - 1st call: Hypertension
 - 2nd call: Type 2 diabetes

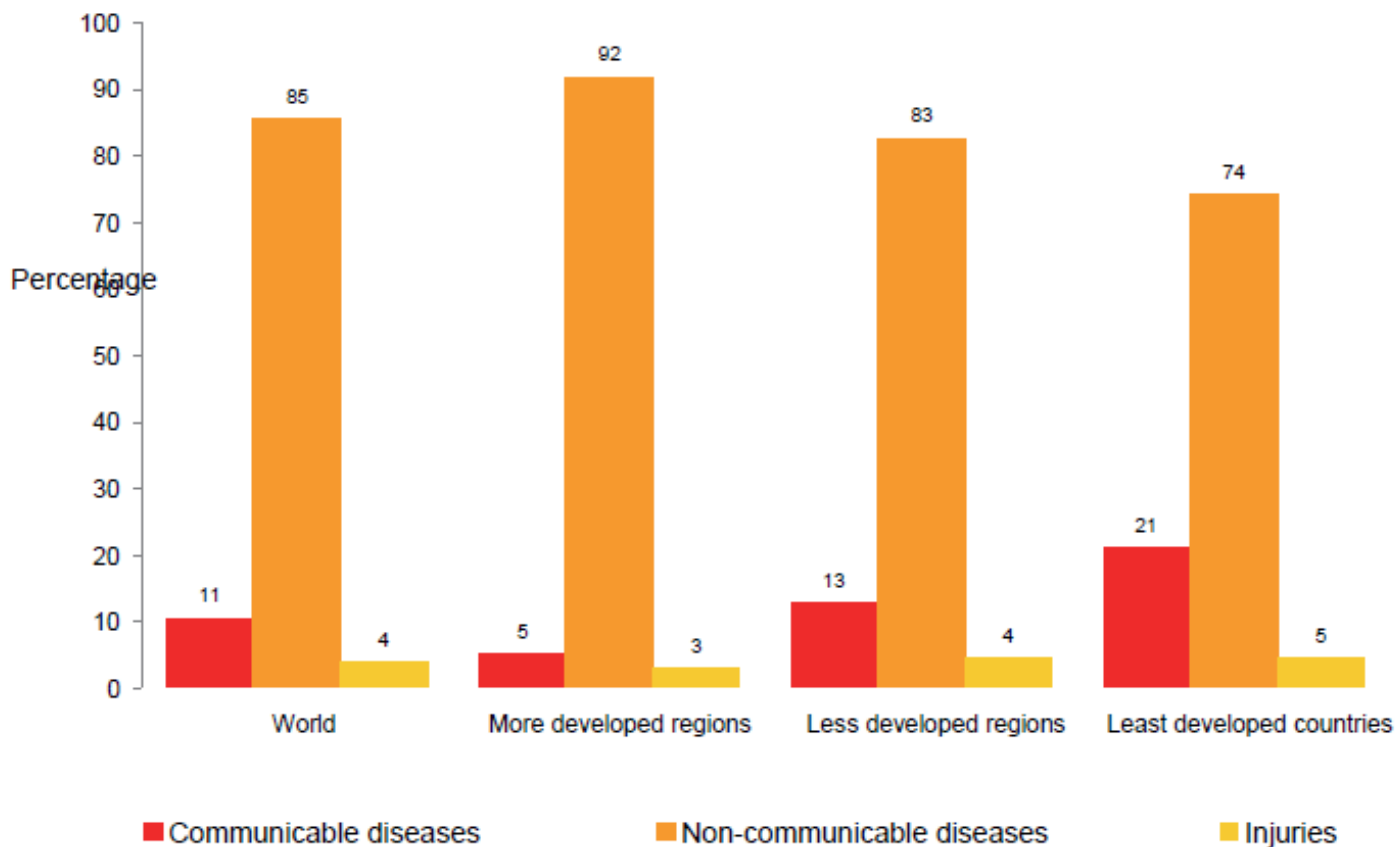
A Global Challenge



NOTE: The old-age support ratio is the number of working-age persons (aged 15-64 years) per older person (aged 65 years or over).

Old-age support ratio by major area 1950, 2013 and 2050 (UN report on Ageing – 2013)

A Global Challenge



Source: Computed from table 1 (persons aged 60 years or over) in World Health Organization (2011).



Distribution of deaths among person ages 60 years or over by cause, 2008 (UN report on Ageing – 2013)

A Global Challenge



- **Deaths due to chronic diseases are now higher in LMIC than HIC**
- **Ageing population also in LMIC**
- **Chronicity: life-lasting disease**
- **High treatment costs**

International cooperation: how?

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- **Identify and define shared strategic goals**
 - **Agree to approach jointly and share tasks (and costs)**
 - **Let each agency use its own funding mechanisms/timing**
 - **Agree to share data / standard Expertise / analysis**
- 

Alignment – Flexibility – Commitment

Example: Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD)



GACD Mission



- **Facilitate joint research on non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries and vulnerable communities in high-income countries**
- **Enable research findings to serve as the evidence base for policymakers**
- **Focus on innovative collaborations and partnerships**

GACD Members



National Health and Medical Research Council



Canadian Institutes of Health Research



Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences &
Chinese Academy of Sciences



Indian Council of Medical Research



South African Medical Research Council



Medical Research Council



National Institutes of Health



European Commission, Health
Directorate at Research & Innovation DG



*National Institute of Medical Sciences
and Nutrition Salvador Zubirán*

Timeline



2007

- **Nature article on the Grand Challenges in Global Health**

2008

- **Grand Challenges Global Partnership holds its first meeting**

2009

- **GACD re-brands at HIROs Meeting, defines research priorities**

2010

- **Development of Hypertension Call for Proposals begins**

2011

- **UCL is chosen as host institution and Celina Gorre is Executive Director**

2012

- **Fifteen grants are awarded in GACD Hypertension Programme**
- **European Commission becomes the newest GACD member**

2013

- **Development of second GACD Call for Proposals on type 2 diabetes**

To fund research projects that will:

- **generate new knowledge on interventions**
- **support their implementation for the primary prevention**
- **and help prevention & treatment of CD in:**
 - Low and middle income countries (LMIC), as defined by The World Bank; or
 - Vulnerable Populations in HIC

Implementation Research Focus

“Further research is needed to adapt existing approaches to produce meaningful advice that accounts **for the complexity of health systems, political systems, and contexts.**”

(Lewin, Bosch-Capblanch, Oliver et al., PLoS Medicine, 2012)

- The focus of the funding programme will be on **implementation research**, to examine what works, for whom and **under what contextual circumstances**, and how interventions can be adapted and **scaled up** in ways that are accessible and equitable
- It aims to develop a **global network of researchers** who work towards understanding how socio-economic, cultural, geopolitical and policy contexts have influenced results and how findings **might be adapted and applied in different settings**

Joint Technical Steering Committee



- Funded researchers will form part of a Joint Technical Steering Committee (JTSC)
- The JTSC meets annually to discuss research, work on joint projects and share information
- Joint projects includes developing approaches to standardise data collection
- Aim is to create a global network of researchers that **can enhance the cumulative learning across the individual projects**



GACD Researchers at the Joint Technical Steering Committee Meeting in Cape Town

Engagement of Policymakers

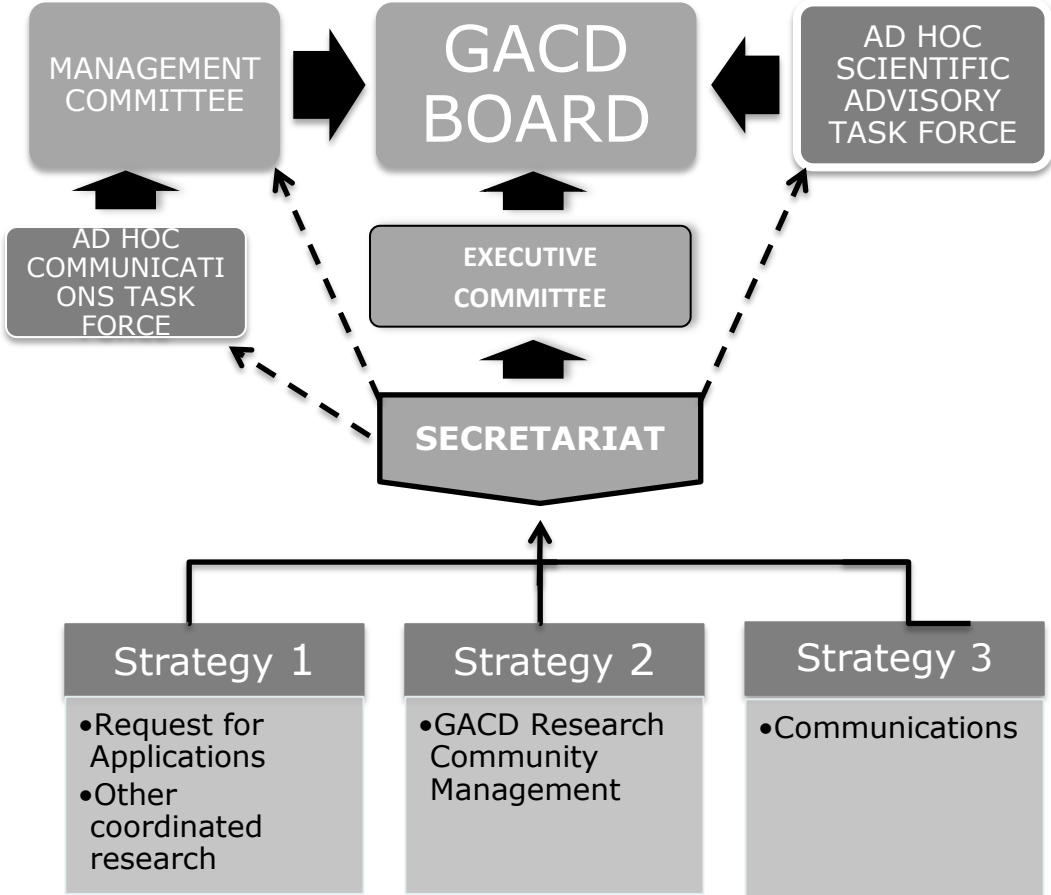


- **GACD** research programmes aim to provide **evidence to inform health service providers, policymakers**
- All funded research projects **must engage policymakers** and other knowledge users
- The **GACD** also **facilitates policymaker engagement** through the Joint Technical Steering Committee, e.g. by inviting policymakers to annual meetings or by enabling the sharing of experiences and resources on successful engagement strategies



Sandhya Singh, South African Department of Health

GACD structure

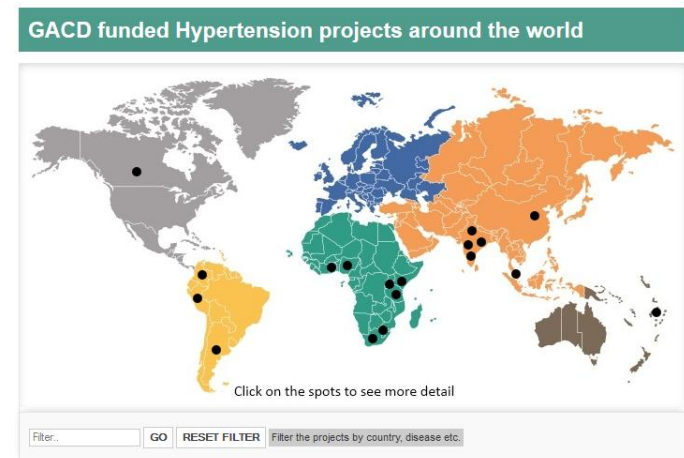


Hypertension Programme



- Hypertension affects an estimated **1 billion people worldwide**
- **15 community-based research projects that focus on implementing effective approaches to control high blood pressure**
- The projects represent an investment of more than **US\$23 million over three to five years**
- Research in **15 different low- and middle-income countries:**

- **Argentina**
- **China**
- **Colombia**
- **Fiji**
- **Ghana**
- **India**
- **Kenya**
- **Malaysia**
- **Nigeria**
- **Peru**
- **Rwanda**
- **Samoa**
- **South Africa**
- **Tanzania**
- **Uganda**



GACD projects

GACD ANNUAL REPORT 2012

HYPERTENSION PROGRAMME LOCATIONS

HYPERTENSION PROGRAMME LOCATIONS

'Approximately 60% of deaths are attributed to hypertension and other cardiovascular conditions.'

WHO Peru NCD Country Profile 2011

PERU

Launching a salt substitute to reduce blood pressure at the population level in Peru

Funding Organisations:

National Institute of Health/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, United States

US\$2,029,249



'NCDs are estimated to account for approximately 66% of all deaths in Colombia.'

WHO NCD Country Profile Colombia 2011

COLOMBIA AND MALAYSIA

Developing an innovative strategy for hypertension detection, treatment and control in two middle income countries (Hypertension Outcomes Prevention and Evaluation: HOPE-4)

Funding Organisations:

Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Grand Challenges Canada, International Development Research Centre, Canadian Stroke Network

US\$1,431,012

ARGENTINA

Comprehensive Approach for Hypertension Prevention and Control in Argentina

Funding Organisations:

National Institute of Health/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, United States

US\$2,083,675



'In a 2009 report, the highest rate of untreated hypertension in Canada is amongst Aboriginal communities in the northern regions at 29.2%. This is compared to 12.7% in the overall Canadian population.'

DREAM-GLOBAL

CANADA AND TANZANIA

DREAM-GLOBAL: Diagnosing hypertension - Engaging Action and Management in Getting Lower BP in Aboriginal and LMIC.

Funding Organisations:

Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Grand Challenges Canada, International Development Research Centre

US\$1,915,265

'In 2010 NCDs accounted for 83% of all deaths in China.'

WHO



CHINA

A school-based education programme to reduce salt intake in children and their families

Funding Organisation:

Medical Research Council, UK

US\$1,187,014

'Approximately 40% of 9.7 million Pacific Island citizens including Fiji and Samoa have been diagnosed with a non-communicable disease notably cardiovascular disease, diabetes and hypertension.'

WHO Bulletin 2010

FIJI AND SAMOA

Cost effectiveness of salt reduction interventions in Pacific Islands

Funding Organisation: National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia

US\$1,008,474



'Our studies in rural India have found that 1 in 4 adults have hypertension.'

Dr D Praveen, The George Institute India

INDIA

Randomised Controlled Trial of early use of a simplified treatment regimen incorporating a half-dose, three-in-one blood pressure lowering pill vs. usual care for improving hypertension control in India.

Funding Organisation: National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia

US\$1,029,660



INDIA

Improving the control of hypertension in rural India: Overcoming the barriers to diagnosis and effective treatment

Funding Organisation: National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia

US\$997,105

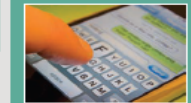


INDIA

A Smartphone-based clinical decision support system for primary health care workers in rural India.

Funding Organisation: National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia

US\$897,234



'Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and the strain on healthcare resources has become most apparent with the increase in hypertension incidence.'

WHO World Global Report on Non Communicable Diseases 2010



NIGERIA

Tailored Hospital-based Risk Reduction to Impede Vascular Events after Stroke (THRIVES)

Funding Organisations: National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, United States

US\$2,216,772

Globally, the NCD burden will increase by 17% in the next ten years and in Africa by 27%.

WHO World Global Report on Non Communicable Diseases 2010

GHANA

Task Shifting and Blood Pressure Control in Ghana: A Cluster-Randomized Trial

Funding Organisations:

National Institute of Health/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, United States

US\$2,117,296



SOUTH AFRICA, UGANDA AND RWANDA

Utilizing HIV/AIDS infrastructure as a gateway to chronic care of hypertension in Africa

Funding Organisations:

Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Grand Challenges Canada, Canadian Stroke Network, International Development Research Centre

US\$1,887,409

KENYA

Optimizing linkage and retention to hypertension care in rural Kenya

Funding Organisations:

National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, United States of America

US\$2,104,519

SOUTH AFRICA

Treating hypertension in rural South Africa: Strengthening community-based outreach services for integrated chronic care

Funding Organisation:

Medical Research Council, UK

US\$1,408,457

Diabetes Call



- **GACD members had deadlines for applications during 2013-2014 and funding is expected to commence at the end of 2014**
- **More than US\$40M of funding will be available across all GACD members**
- **The EC has just finalised the evaluation**
- **Information about the call, including deadlines, FAQs and background information, can be found on the <http://www.gacd.org/projects/funding-opportunities/calls-for-proposals/diabetes/index>**

The next GACD Call with the EC

- **Call publication: July 2014**
- **Deadline: *first semester 2015***
- **Notification of Decision: *indicatively mid 2015***
- **Project expected to start *around Oct-Nov 2015***