



**COHESION-I: Implementation of the Community Health System  
Innovation project in low- and middle-income countries – May 2024**



**The George Institute  
for Global Health**

## **Facts:**

- Nearly 63% of total deaths in India are due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
- With a prevalence of 24%, hypertension is the most important risk factor for NCDs in India, leading to more than 1.6 million deaths and 33.9 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs).
- India is home to the second-highest number of diabetes patients, with a prevalence of 16%, and DALYs have increased two-fold since 1990.
- Lymphatic filariasis, a neglected tropical disease (NTD), with about 600 million people at risk in India, is associated with permanent physical disability and social stigma.

## **Project Cycle:** 2022–2026

### **Partners:**

*The George Institute, India*

*Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique*

*B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal*

*Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru*

*CRONICAS Center of Excellence in Chronic*

*Diseases, Universidad Peruana Cayetano*

*Heredia, Peru*

### **Supporters:**

*National Institute for Health Research*

### **Principal Investigator:**

*Dr Devarsetty Praveen*

## **Background:**

- COHESION-I is a collaborative research project implemented in Peru, Mozambique, Nepal, and India that focuses on understanding the responsiveness of health systems.
- This part of the project engages rural communities in the co-design and implementation of strategies to improve access to and utilisation of primary health care provided by the public health system in the Indian states of Telangana and Chhattisgarh, focusing on tracer conditions such as hypertension and diabetes mellitus for NCDs and lymphatic filariasis for NTDs.

## **Aims:**

- To conduct formative research at the policy, health system and community levels to understand health system responsiveness and user satisfaction in the provision of health care for hypertension, diabetes mellitus and lymphatic filariasis.
- To identify interventions to improve the responsiveness of primary health care, patient satisfaction and health care provision for these chronic conditions through a participatory approach with communities, primary health care workers and regional authorities.
- To pilot-test and evaluate co-designed interventions for feasibility, acceptability and preliminary effectiveness.

## **Methods:**

- COHESION-I is a participatory action research project involving quantitative and qualitative approaches.
- Three work packages will focus on formative research; co-creation of interventions to improve healthcare provision for hypertension, diabetes mellitus and lymphatic filariasis; and piloting and evaluating the prioritised interventions.

## **Impact:**

- The project will identify barriers, enablers and strategies for improving the management of hypertension, diabetes mellitus and lymphatic filariasis from the policy, health system, community, and individual perspectives.
- Scalable, sustainable, gender- and context-appropriate interventions will be designed, implemented and evaluated to support primary healthcare responses for hypertension, diabetes mellitus and lymphatic filariasis.
- Effective, feasible and acceptable strategies will be documented for scale-up and replication.

## **Contact:**

To find out more about this project and its principal investigators or The George Institute please contact Tina Wall +61 410 411 983 or [twall@georgeinstitute.org.au](mailto:twall@georgeinstitute.org.au)

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