Non Communicable Diseases:
Global Health and Women

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What are NCDs?

- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancers
- Diabetes
- Lung disease
- Others…
Myths about NCDs

- Much less common than infectious diseases (HIV, TB, malaria, diarrhea)
- Unrelated to infectious diseases
- Diseases of the rich and aged
- Too Expensive and complex to treat
- Takes focus away from infectious diseases
Context

• Non communicable diseases (NCDs) are responsible for 60 percent of all deaths globally.

• 18 million women per year.

• Leading NCDs among women: cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease (non infectious), injuries and diabetes.
Not Just For the Rich “North”

• 80 percent of NCDs in low and moderate income countries (WHO)
• Increase by 17 percent in the next decade
• Highest growth: Africa, Eastern Mediterranean
• Most deaths: Western Pacific, S. Asia
What Causes NCDs?

- Genetics
- Environment
- Lifestyles
Public Policy Implications

- Premature death
- Disability
- Loss of productivity
- Cost of treatment and care
Issues Specific to Women

- Cancers, including breast and cervical
- Cardiovascular diseases – not just for men
- Chronic respiratory disease and asthma
- Diabetes
- Enlarged spleen
Some of PHI’s work on NCDs

- Regional Asthma Management Program
- Partnership for Public’s Health
- California Cancer Registry
- Tobacco use in China and Indonesia
- Clean Cookstoves Initiative
United Nations High Level Session on NCDs

• First High Level Session at the UN General Assembly on a health issue since the Special Session on AIDS (2004)

• September 19-20, 2011 New York, NY
What can be done?

• Integrate NCD prevention and treatment into existing maternal and other women’s health programs
• Protect women and girls from aggressive tobacco advertising
• Collect gender disaggregated NCD data
• Studies on gendered diagnosis, health seeking behaviors and impact of NCDs
• Partnerships for affordable gender-sensitive treatments for NCDs
Thank You!