

Global Burden of NCDs and Mental Health Conditions

The human toll of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental illness is unacceptable-- together these conditions are the leading cause of death worldwide, and disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations in low- and middle-income countries. The links between mental health conditions and major NCDs are well established; they share underlying determinants, have similar consequences, and frequently co-occur. However, mental health conditions in patients with NCDs as well as NCDs in patients with mental health conditions are often overlooked in clinical settings. If countries adopt innovative strategies for these conditions that recognize their common comorbidities and integrate care accordingly, health systems can improve efficiency and accessibility, reduce the global burden of disability, and save lives.

What PIH Is Doing

Partners In Health (PIH) is alleviating the burden of NCDs and mental health conditions by integrating care across the lifespan for people in need. Our programs in Malawi, Rwanda, Haiti, and Liberia target patient needs at both the community and facility level. Our approach is rooted in the 5 S's of Partners In Health: staff, stuff, space, systems, and social support. More information about PIH's synergistic approach to NCD care can be found [here](#).



Highlight: Integrated Chronic Care Clinic (IC³) in Neno District, Malawi

The Integrated Chronic Care Clinic (IC³) model, developed in 2015 through a collaboration with PIH and the Malawi Ministry of Health, uses a robust HIV program as a platform to provide long-term care via a combination of resources for screening, treatment, and follow-up. This allows for patients with a range of chronic diseases, including HIV and common NCDs, to be checked in a single visit. In 2016, APZU began to integrate mental health care into IC³ as well as depression case-finding and treatment into HIV services, primary care, and maternal care. This integrated model of care has led to almost 90% of mental health clients and 80% of epilepsy clients that return for a follow-up visit in the next 3 months.

[Click here to access the IC3 toolkit.](#)