

The 1st Global Kidney Policy Forum *April 21st, 2017 Mexico City*

Summation of Conclusions: The Road to Global Kidney Health

I

The High Burden of Kidney Disease

Kidney disease is increasingly being recognized as an important contributor to the global non-communicable disease (NCD) burden.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) affects up to 1 in 10 people globally. In 2013, 1.2 million deaths were directly attributable to CKD and 7% of cardiovascular deaths were associated with reduced kidney function. ***In Latin America, CKD is the 8th most common cause of death overall, and is among the top 5 causes of death in 9 countries.*** CKD is an important risk multiplier of cardiovascular disease and diabetes burden and complications. The prevalence of CKD in many low-income countries remains unknown because of lack of access to diagnosis and poor awareness in the community and therefore the true global burden may be underestimated. In the last 25 years, CKD has moved from the 30th to 20th leading cause of global Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) and is currently the 10th leading cause of global DALYs in Latin America, being among the top 3 causes in 3 countries.

Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) has thus far not been tracked by the global burden of disease study, but is estimated that over 13 million people are affected each year, 85% of whom reside in low and middle-income countries. Over 1.7 million people die annually from AKI. AKI is a known risk factor for CKD.

CKDu (CKD of un-known origin) has been a focus of attention in Latin America and other locations around the globe. This form of CKD has been linked to heat stress exposure, climate change, and other environmental/labor-related factors, and disproportionately impacts younger individuals, from low socioeconomic sectors, and has emerged as a major contributor to the burden of disease in the Mesoamerican region.

In 2010, 2.6 million people with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) received dialysis or transplantation world-wide, a number projected to increase to 5.4 million in 2030. The greatest growth in demand is expected in developing countries. It has been estimated that at least 2.3 million people and as many as 7.1 million died prematurely in 2010 because of lack of access to dialysis and transplantation in countries where resources are insufficient and out of pocket costs are too high. ESKD can be prevented or delayed by screening high-risk populations to enable early diagnosis and treatment of CKD.

Both AKI and CKD share common risk factors, including poverty, lack of education, malnutrition, poor sanitation, poor working conditions, environmental exposures, infectious diseases, and natural disasters as well as poor access to maternal and child health, public health interventions, and universal health coverage. The holistic approach highlighted by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals promises to have an impact on kidney disease. Acute and chronic kidney diseases are also intricately

linked to, and increase morbidity from other diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, as well as infections such as HIV and hepatitis, making it a clear imperative that kidney disease should be considered as an important component in national non-communicable disease and infection control strategies.

Kidney disease is a global public health priority. Given the high costs of dialysis and transplantation once kidneys fail in many world regions, prevention and early detection are the only sustainable solutions to address this growing global burden.

Stakeholders interested in addressing the growing burden of kidney disease to the global community gathered to describe, discuss and develop a set of recommendations to guide future efforts to reduce the burden of kidney disease worldwide, with a specific emphasis on Latin America. The following points constitute a commitment from all the stakeholders to address the increasing burden.

The Road to Global Kidney Health: Focus on Latin America

1. Work within current frameworks promoted by the World Health Organization and the United Nations such the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Universal Health Coverage, and Life Course approach in the context of Health 2020 to develop and implement policies to ensure integration and synergies for kidney disease prevention and treatment within existing initiatives.
2. Develop and implement public health policies to prevent or reduce risk factors for chronic kidney disease in adults and children, including strategies to promote maternal and child health and nutrition, to reduce the burdens of diabetes, hypertension, obesity and tobacco consumption, to promote safe work environments and prevent infectious diseases.
3. Implement and support ongoing surveillance mechanisms to better understand and quantitate the burdens of acute and chronic kidney disease within and outside the context of non-communicable diseases, specifically by developing robust national and regional registries for AKI, CKD and ESKD.
4. Educate the public and people at risk about kidney disease within non-communicable disease education campaigns.
5. Improve awareness of kidney disease among health care workers at all levels and ensure appropriate access to essential tools and medications required for diagnosis and treatment.
6. Work towards universal health coverage to permit sustainable access to effective and affordable medication (for hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease) to treat risk factors for kidney disease and delay kidney disease progression.
7. Support education for a skilled nephrology workforce to implement prevention and treatment of kidney disease at all stages.
8. Implement early detection, preventive and treatment strategies for AKI.
9. Integrate early evidence-based treatment for CKD acknowledging the important synergies with diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease.
10. Develop and implement transparent policies governing just and equitable access to kidney disease care including dialysis and transplantation, according to international standards, and to support, safe, ethical, affordable and sustainable programs.
11. Promote and expand kidney transplantation programs within countries and across the region.
12. Support local, regional and transnational research on kidney disease to further understanding of prevention and treatment strategies.