
Mental Illness in Lower-income Countries: Burden and Response

Presented by:

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Theo Vos, University of Washington



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Priorities

economic evaluation for health

THE LANCET

www.thelancet.com

Global health 2035: a world converging within a generation

The Lancet Commission on Investing in Health

*Dean T. Jamison, Lawrence H. Summers, et al
December 3, 2013*

“The basic mental health and neurological package contains a core set of highly cost-effective interventions that can be delivered in resource-poor settings, which have been identified by WHO. These are first-line and anti-epileptic drugs; generic anti-depressants and brief psychotherapy for depression; and older antipsychotic drugs, lithium, and psychosocial support for psychosis. Ethiopia recently launched a National Mental Health Strategy that aims to scale-up these best buy interventions in the next 5 years.” - page 42

I. Burden

- In Global Burden of Disease (Theo Vos and colleagues at University of Queensland); Vikram Patel
- Economic Burden (Dan Chisholm)

Even by the most conservative estimates, about **400 MILLION people on our planet suffer from these illnesses**

Mental disorders account for **7% of the global burden of disease**

Depression is one of the **LEADING CAUSES of the global burden of disease**

Suicide is a **LEADING CAUSE of death in young people**

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DALYS

Global Rankings (2010)

YLDs

YLLs

Ischemic heart disease	1
Lower respiratory infections	2
Stroke	3
Diarrheal diseases	4
HIV/AIDS	5
Malaria	6
Low back pain	7
Preterm birth complications	8
COPD	9
Road injury	10
Major depressive disorder	11
Neonatal encephalopathy	12
Tuberculosis	13
Diabetes	14
Iron-deficiency anemia	15
Neonatal sepsis	16
Congenital anomalies	17
Self-harm	18
Falls	19
Protein-energy malnutrition	20
Neck pain	21
Lung cancer	22
Other musculoskeletal	23
Cirrhosis	24
Meningitis	25

Low back pain	1
Major depressive disorder	2
Iron-deficiency anemia	3
Neck pain	4
COPD	5
Other musculoskeletal	6
Anxiety disorders	7
Migraine	8
Diabetes	9
Falls	10
Osteoarthritis	11
Drug use disorders	12
Other hearing loss	13
Asthma	14
Alcohol use disorders	15
Road injury	16
Bipolar disorder	17
Schizophrenia	18
Dysthymia	19
Epilepsy	20
Ischemic heart disease	21
Eczema	22
Diarrheal diseases	23
Alzheimer's disease	24
Tuberculosis	25

Ischemic heart disease	1
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Protein-energy malnutrition	15
Lung cancer	16
Cirrhosis	17
Meningitis	18
Diabetes	19
Interpersonal violence	20
Drowning	21
Liver cancer	22
Fire	23
Chronic kidney disease	24
Stomach cancer	25

Mortality and Mental Disorders

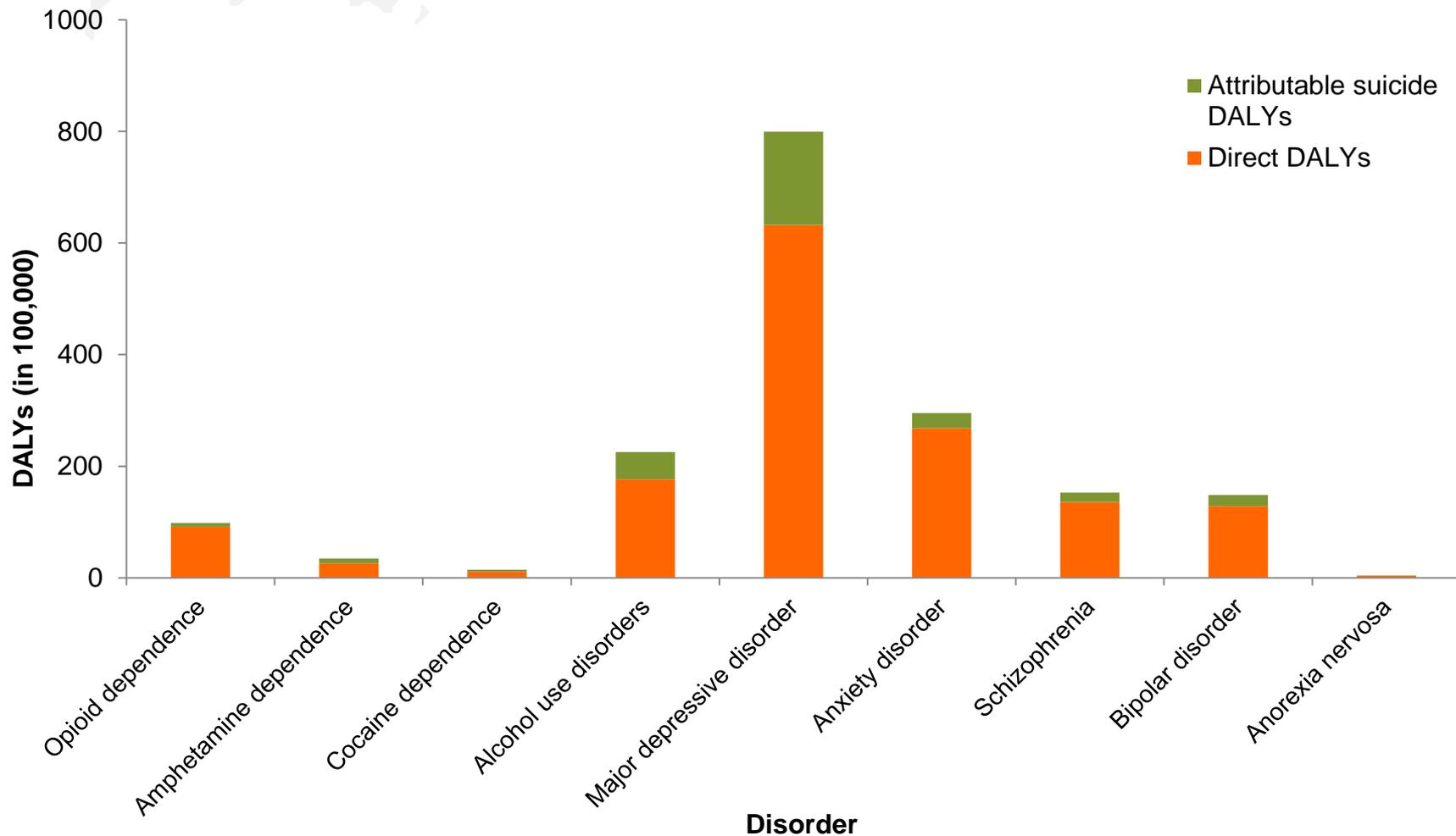
GBD 2010 YLLs were attributed to the direct cause of death e.g. suicide was attributed to injuries.

In our counterfactual re-analysis:

- **60%** of suicide burden globally could be re-attributed to mental and substance use disorders.
- This would have increased global DALY ranking of mental and substance use disorders **from 5th to 3rd**.
- **3%** of ischemic heart disease burden could be re-attributed to depression.

Attributable suicide burden by disorder (2010)

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Why assess the economic burden or impact of MNS disorders?

- Because the consequences of MNS disorders extend beyond purely health considerations (e.g. lost income and productivity)
- Because economic impact studies can lead to a better understanding of what is driving costs now, who is most effected (e.g. the poor), and how these costs can be reduced in the future
- Because results can be used to argue for more resources (advocacy)

What are the economic impacts of mental ill-health? Who do the costs fall on?

	Care costs	Productivity costs	Other costs
Patient	Treatment & service payments	Work disability Lost earnings	Pain & suffering Side-effects
Family	Informal caregiving	Time off work	Carer burden
Employers	Contributions to treatment & care	Reduced productivity	-
Society	Health / welfare services (tax / insurance)	Reduced productivity	Stigma?

Economic burden of mental disorders

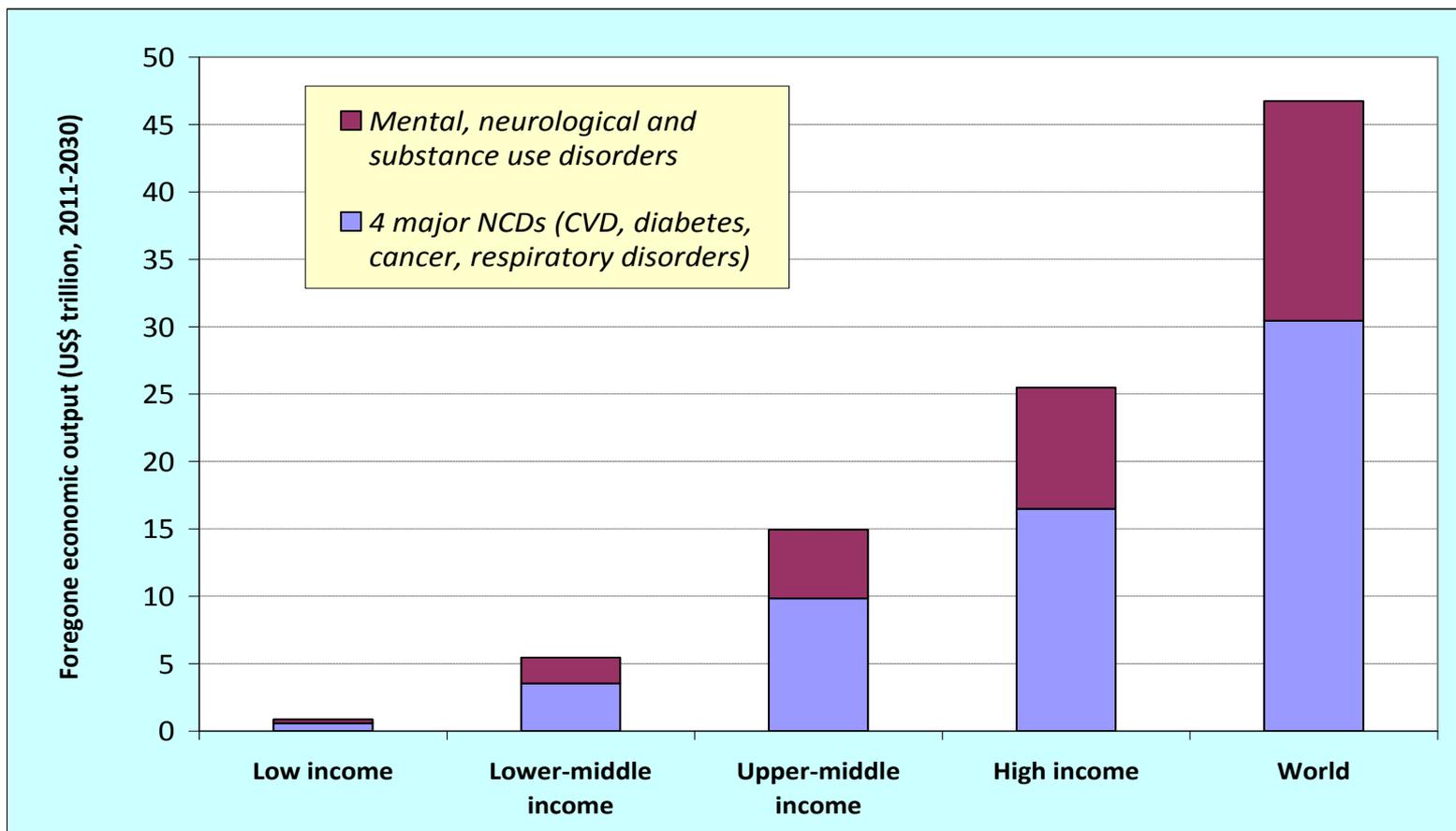
(Source: WEF, 2011 – *The Global Economic burden of NCDs*)

- New estimates by the World Economic Forum for the global economic impact of mental, neurological and substance use disorders, using 3 different (and non-comparable) approaches:
 - **Cost of illness**
(health care + lost productivity)
 - **Value of lost output**
(reduced economic growth)
 - **Value of statistical life**
(monetary cost of lost lives)
- Whichever way you look at it, the amounts are enormous

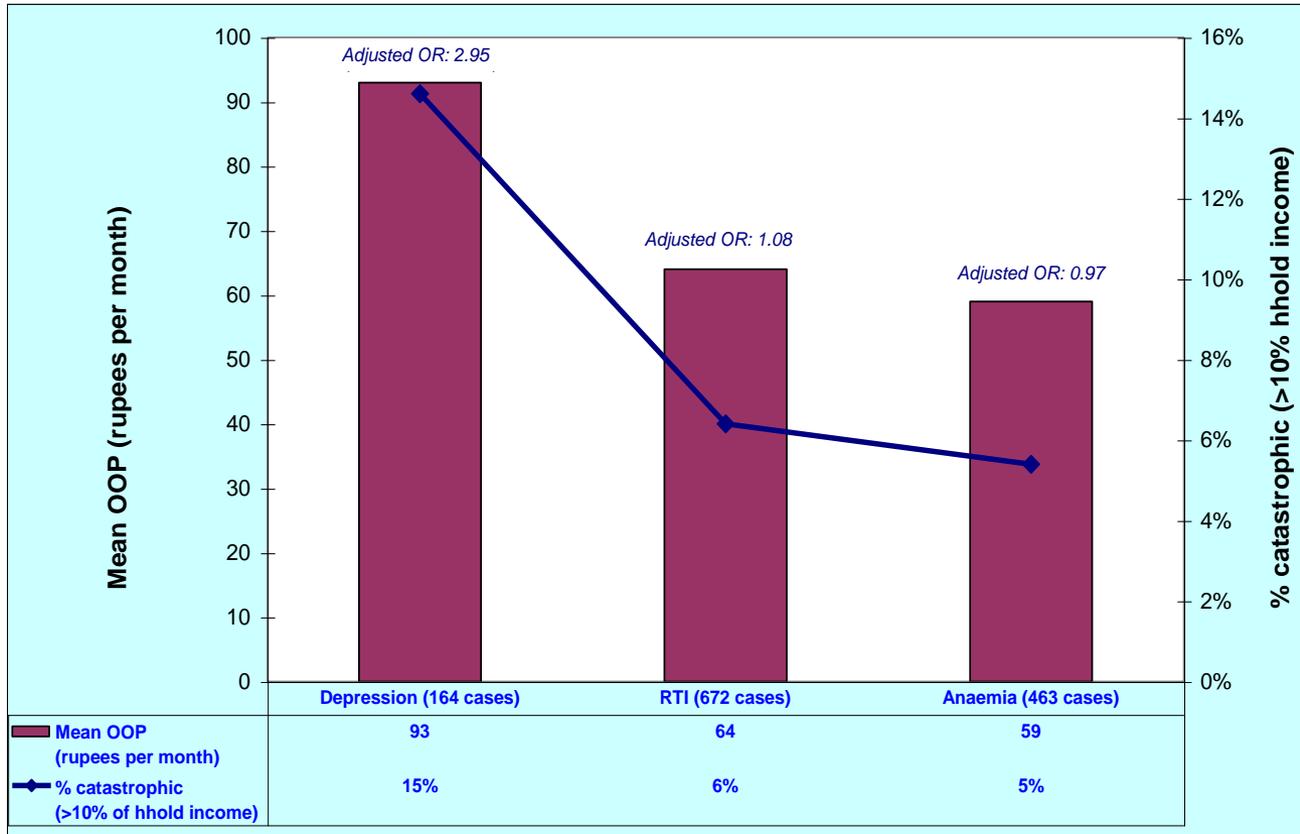
	2010	2030
Cost of illness	US\$ 2.5 trillion	US\$ 6 trillion
Value of future lost output	N/A	US\$ 16.3 trillion <i>(cumulative)</i>
Value of lost lives	US\$ 8.5 trillion	US\$ 16.1 trillion

Economic burden of NCDs and mental disorders GLOBALLY

(Source: WEF, 2011 – The Global Economic burden of NCDs)



Out of pocket spending /catastrophic payments among women in Goa, India



Source: Patel, Chisholm, Kirkwood, Mabey (2006)

II. Response

Scaling up priority interventions
(Dan Hisholm)

Implementation in practice
(Vikram Patel)

Identifying intervention 'best buys'

Disease / risk factor	Interventions / actions (* core set of 'best buys')	Cost-effectiveness (I\$ per DALY averted) [Very = < GDP per person; Quite = < 3* GDP per person]	Affordability (US\$ per capita) [Very = < US\$0.50; Quite = < US\$ 1 Less = > US\$1]	Feasibility (logistical or other constraints)
Alcohol use (as risk factor)	Restrict access to retailed alcohol *	Very cost-effective	Very affordable	Highly feasible
	Enforce bans on alcohol advertising *			
	Raise taxes on alcohol *			
	Enforce drink driving laws (breath-testing)	Quite cost-effective	Quite affordable	Feasible in primary care
	Offer counselling to drinkers			
Depression	Treat cases with anti-depressant drugs (generic TCAs or SSRIs) plus brief psychotherapy as required*	Very cost-effective	Quite affordable	Feasible in primary care
Psychosis	Treat cases with older anti-psychotic drugs plus psychosocial support	Quite cost-effective	Less affordable	Feasible (some referral needed)
Epilepsy	Treat cases with anti-epileptic drugs *	Very cost-effective	Very affordable	Feasible in primary care

Scaling up action for priority conditions

- Depression
- Schizophrenia
- Epilepsy
- Child mental disorders
- Dementia
- Suicide prevention
- Disorders due to use of alcohol
- Disorders due to illicit drug use

Criteria

- *High burden (mortality, morbidity, disability)*
- *Large economic cost*
- *Effective intervention available*
- *Affecting vulnerable populations*

Economic evidence for mental health policy – conclusions and country implications –

- 1. Economic burden** (*the size of the problem*):
 - Consequences of inaction are enormous
 - In LMIC settings, households bear the brunt of the costs
- 2. Priorities for investment** (*potential solutions*):
 - Cost-effective and feasible strategies exist
- 3. Costs of scaled up action** (*financial 'price tag'*):
 - Bringing these strategies to scale need not cost the earth
 - All countries can do something

Implementation in Practice

The vast majority of people with mental disorders do not receive care which can greatly improve the quality of their lives

If we consider psychosocial interventions in particular, the ‘treatment gap’ exceeds 90%

Barriers to care

Differing concepts about mental disorders

Stigma related to mental disorders

Lack of affordable skilled human resources

Vikram Patel's hypothesis

- Lack of access is because of the growing remoteness of psychiatry and its allied professions from the communities they serve:
 - interventions are heavily medicalized
 - do not engage sufficiently with harnessing personal and community resources
 - are delivered in highly specialized and expensive settings
 - and use language and concepts which alienate ordinary people.
- In all these respects, innovations to improve access to mental health care in the developing world might be instructive to rethinking the way in which rich countries provide care.

The effectiveness of non-specialist health workers in delivering mental health care in developing countries

Van Ginneken et al, 2013



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SUNDAR

Simplify the message

UNpack the treatment

Deliver it where people are

Affordable and available human resources

Reallocation of specialists to train and supervise



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Why task-sharing for mental health care is **SUNDAR**

Affordable

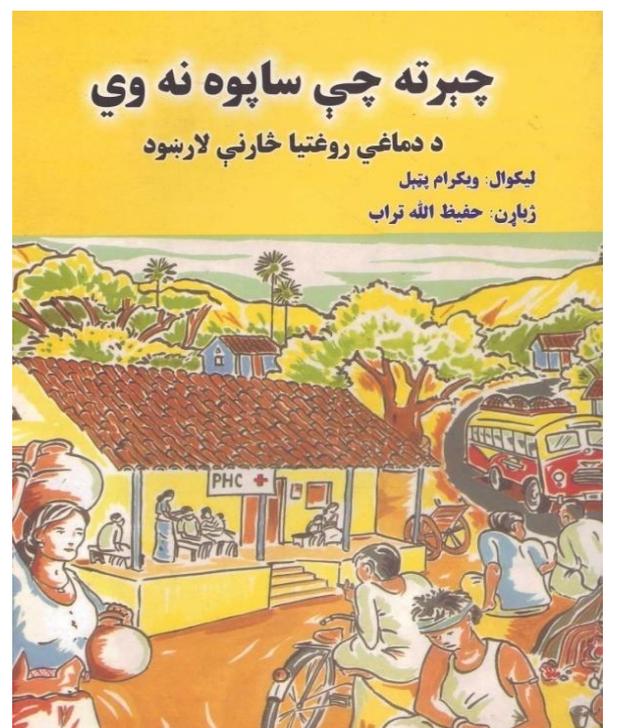
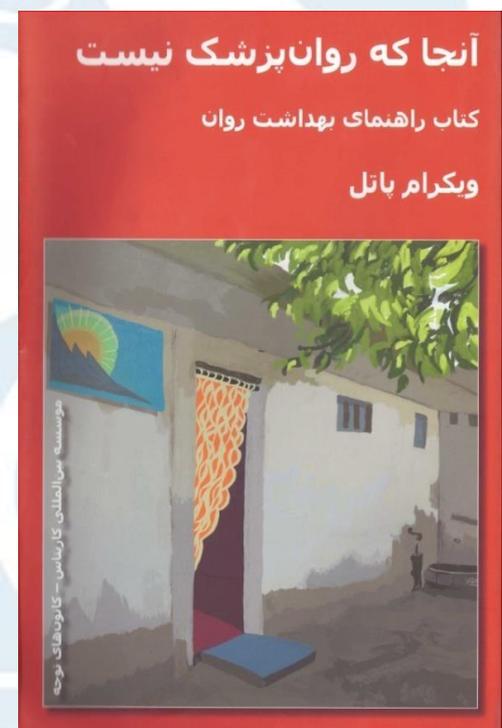
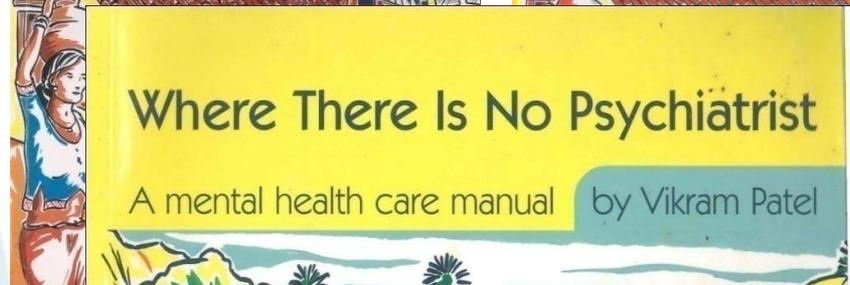
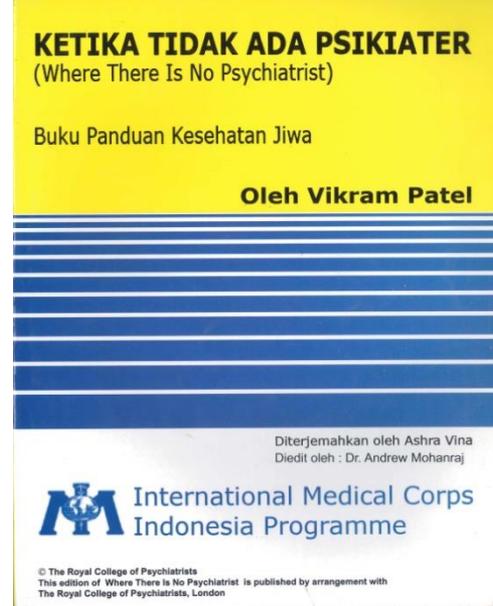
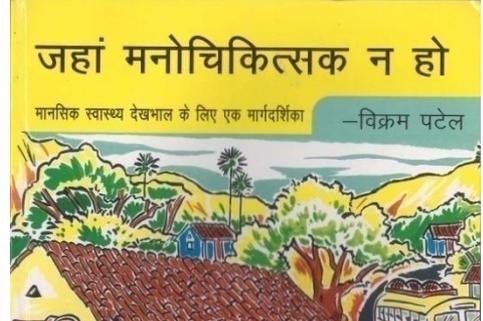
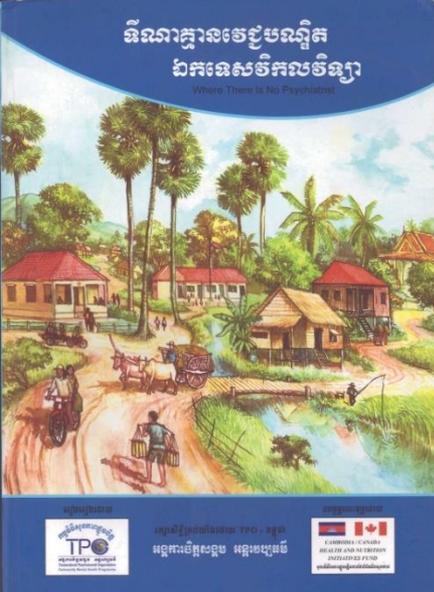
Equitable

Acceptable

Empowering

The evidence base

- Randomised controlled trials
 - 17 RCTs
- 2 Non randomised controlled trials
- 9 Controlled before and after studies





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Developing the Response Agenda:

DISEASE CONTROL PRIORITIES

(D.T. Jamison et al, editors)

First edition, 1993: Oxford University Press and the World Bank. One Chapter.

2nd edition 2006: Oxford University Press and the World Bank. Three Chapters.

3rd edition, forthcoming, 2014-15. DCP3 will appear in 9 volumes one of which is on mental, substance abuse and neurological disorders (volume 8).

* * *

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“Public Policy can more easily remove misery than augment happiness...In the West the most miserable group of people are the mentally ill. We know how to help most of them, but only about a quarter are currently in treatment. We owe them better.” (page 231.)

Lord Richard Layard
Happiness, 2005



Thank you

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