

Evaluation of the National Diabetes Prevention Program in Palestine: Implementation, achievements, outcomes and lessons learned

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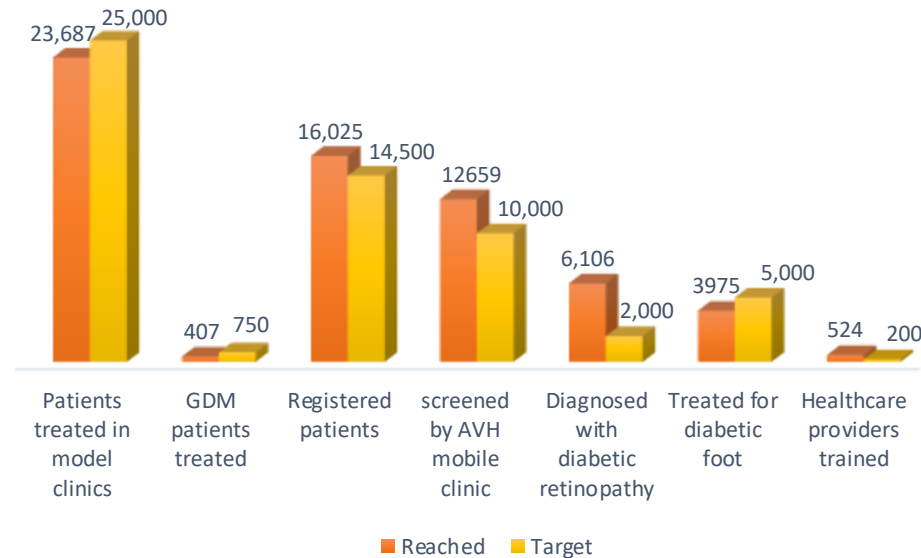
BACKGROUND

- Diabetes is a growing health challenge in Palestine with rising prevalence and limited resources.
- The Palestinian National Diabetes Program (PNDP) was launched in 2017 as a multi-stakeholder platform to strengthen diabetes prevention, early detection, and comprehensive care, with a particular focus on women and marginalized populations.

METHODS

- A final evaluation of Phase I (2017–2020) was conducted through document review, key informant interviews, and patient interviews, guided by OECD evaluation criteria.
- Interviews were conducted with 18 stakeholders and 10 patients
- Focus on indicators – Outputs, outcomes, process measures, M&E alignment, alignment with national plans.
- Evaluation framework – Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability (OECD Criteria)

MAIN TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



RESULTS

- ✓ 1.5 Million people reached with awareness
- ✓ 30,000 refugees received awareness sessions
- ✓ 150 women with pre-diabetes educated
- ✓ 7000 school students reached
- ✓ 9 clinics upgraded

IMPROVED OUTCOMES

- ✓ Earlier detection of complications
- ✓ Reduced amputations through timely care
- ✓ Better access in remote & marginalized communities

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The PNDP proved that integrated, multi-stakeholder approaches can achieve tangible improvements in diabetes prevention and care even in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The program reduced diabetes-related complications, expanded equitable access to services through model centers, mobile clinics, and community outreach, and strengthened national health system capacity. Importantly, it placed diabetes high on the Palestinian health agenda, ensuring alignment with national NCD strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Institutionalize PNDP and secure national funding.
- Scale up model/intermediate clinics, prioritizing underserved areas.
- Strengthen school- and community-based prevention programs.
- Integrate diabetes care with broader NCD and maternal health services.
- Leverage digital health tools for patient tracking and follow-up.
- Continue training health professionals and expand partnerships for sustainability.
- Invest in long-term programs for NCDs in fragile settings
- Strengthen local systems through shared governance
- Engage multiple stakeholders for greater reach & sustainability