

Partnership for Education of Health Professionals (PEP)

WHAT IS PEP?

The Novo Nordisk Foundation is committed to fight global inequities in health. The Partnership for Education of Health Professionals (PEP) aims to improve access to CMD prevention and care for people living in vulnerable positions in India and East Africa by building capacity among health professionals and promoting equal opportunities for women in the health workforce.

- **Our vision:** People living in vulnerable positions in rural India and East Africa have equitable access to quality prevention of and care for cardiometabolic diseases.
- **Our mission:** Health professionals are equipped to provide quality prevention of and care for cardiometabolic diseases for people living in vulnerable positions, and female health professionals are empowered to prosper in their profession.

The target group is future and current nurses, midwives, medical doctors, and public health professionals. PEP is carried out in partnership with education-, health- and research institutions as well as government entities in India and East Africa in addition to international organizations.

WHY IS PEP NEEDED?

Cardiometabolic diseases (CMDs) and other non-communicable diseases are the number-one cause of death globally, and the prevalence of CMDs is increasing rapidly in low- and middle-income countries. At the same time, half of the world's population lack access to essential health services, and according to the World Health Organization (WHO), an additional 10 million health professionals will be needed globally by 2030. This requires a doubling of the global health workforce along with the development and adaptation of new skills, knowledge, and innovation among health professionals.

17% of the world's diabetes cases are found in India, and countries in East Africa are likewise facing rapid increases of CMDs. At the same time, qualified health professionals are unevenly distributed within the countries, leaving particularly rural populations in vulnerable positions without access to quality prevention of and care for CMDs.

HOW IS PEP CARRIED OUT?

PEP is organised around a series of partnership projects within two overall intervention areas:

1. Institutional capacity building for the education of health professionals
2. Educational research and operational research on health professionals serving people in vulnerable positions

The partnership projects are developed and implemented with multiple partners at different geographical locations in India and East Africa with consideration of local needs and priorities. The partnership projects and interventions are supported by a partnership network to facilitate knowledge-sharing and scaling of innovative approaches and best practice.

PEP applies an approach to gender mainstreaming across interventions and research activities to address gender-based inequalities in health education and the health workforce by making gender an integral part of the problem understanding, design, implementation, and evaluation.