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World Health Organization

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Making Mental Health a Global Development Priority

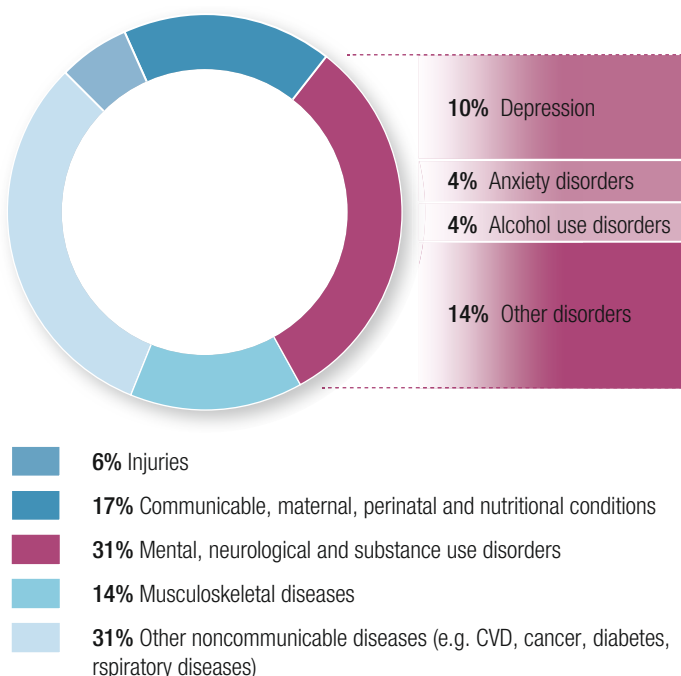
*To coincide with the World Bank Group/IMF Spring Meeting
April 2016, Washington D.C.*

Mental disorders impose an enormous disease burden on societies throughout the world. Depression alone affects 400 million persons and is the single largest contributor to years lived with disability globally. Worsened by low levels of investment and effective treatment coverage, mental disorders also have serious economic consequences: depression was estimated to cost at least US\$ 800 billion in 2010 in lost economic output, a sum expected to more than double by 2030. The foregone economic output because of mental, neurological and substance use disorders globally, is in trillions of dollars.

The burden of depression, anxiety and other mental disorders calls for a concerted, intersectoral response that not only raises public awareness and political commitment about this often overlooked and stigmatized issue, but also puts in place an array of treatment and prevention strategies capable of reducing the large and growing health and economic losses attributable to them.

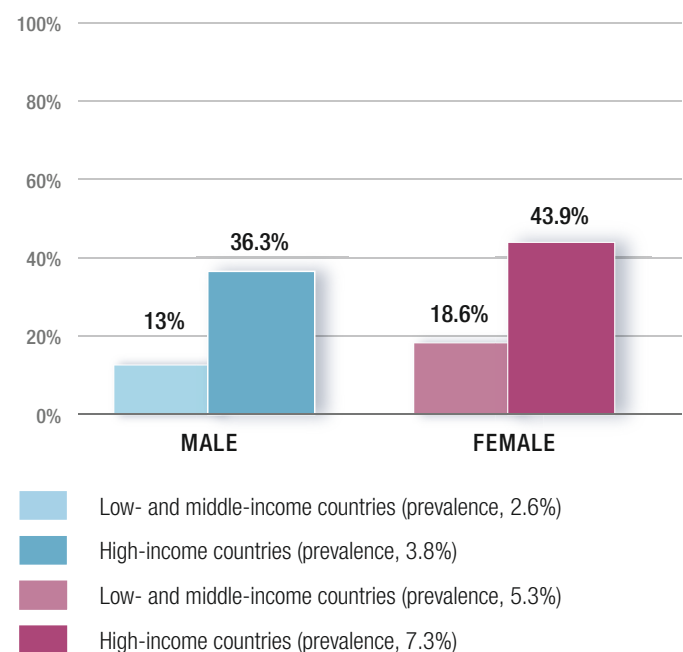
In April 2016, the World Bank Group and the World Health Organization will co-host a high-level meeting on global mental health, with a focus on depression and anxiety, to coincide with the 2016 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group.

Distribution of years lived with disability at the global level in 2012



Source: WHO (2014) - Global Health Estimates

Treatment coverage for major depressive disorder



Source: WHO World Mental Health Surveys, 2001-2012

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The meeting's aim is to move mental health from the margins to the mainstream of the global health agenda by raising its profile before Ministers of Finance, Ministers of Health, other high level government officials, international development aid agencies, foundations and private sector partners, and civil society.

The meeting will be co-hosted by the World Bank Group and the World Health Organization.

Objectives of the meeting include:

- To present the case for investing in mental health, including identification of cost-effective, affordable and feasible interventions, their integration into primary care and community settings as part of the progressive realization of universal health coverage, and the expected returns on investment in terms of health, social and economic benefits.
- To identify entry points for renewed action and investment at the country, regional and global levels, including consideration of financing mechanisms for enhanced financial and social protection as well as expanded service access.
- To mobilize a global coalition for action for scaled up implementation of mental health services for depression and anxiety in primary care and community settings.

Working Group's Chair:

Professor Arthur Kleinman, Harvard University

Enquiries and pre-registration:

Patricio Marquez, Lead Health Specialist, World Bank Group pmarquez@worldbank.org

WHO Focal Point:

Shekhar Saxena, Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, WHO saxenas@who.int