

Community Burn Prevention Action Research:

Nepal, Ethiopia and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)

2017-2020

The Centre for Global Burn Injury Policy and Research (CGBIPR) and Interburns ran a three year project in Ethiopia, Nepal and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) to **research and implement interventions to improve burn care and prevention in LMICs.**

In each partner country, a community survey collected data on the incidence and severity of burns, as well as Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices surrounding burns in the target areas. The results of these surveys were used to create context-specific burn prevention and burn care activities.

The project facilitated uptake of these interventions, and supported additional **prevention** and **first aid training programmes** such as Basic Burn Care (BBC) for health workers to improve burn care in communities.



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NIHR

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Interburns

International Network for Training
Education and Research in Burns

A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

- ❖ 8.7% of the population estimated to have been injured or killed by burns (Ethiopia Demographic Health Service Report 2016).
- ❖ Poverty and low levels of awareness are leading risk factors.
- ❖ The country lacks organised and responsive burn care with few trained professionals.
- ❖ Burn services lack minimum standards.
- ❖ No community-based burn prevention services.



Through this project an integrated comprehensive approach was proposed:

- **Community-level research** to understand the epidemiology, etiology and knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) of the community around burn injuries.
- Development and delivery of a **Participatory Prevention Toolkit**.
- **Basic Burn Care (BBC)** training.
- **Community burn prevention initiatives**.
- **Essential Burn Care (EBC)** and **Advanced Burn Care (ABC)** Nursing and Surgery.
- Annual **DAT assessment** in 4 hospitals.

A **Technical Working Group on Burns** was set up with plastic and reconstructive surgeons, Ministry of Health (MoH) officials at national and local level and local partners AMREF Health Africa (Ethiopia). This group met every few months.

Other project partners included:

- Regional and zonal health bureau
- National and regional hospitals
- Health post staff and volunteers


COMMUNITY LEVEL RESEARCH

AIM ONE

Aim 1: Research the extent, causes and knowledge, attitudes and practices around burns.

AIM TWO

Aim 2: Develop methods of burn prevention and first aid, and initiate Basic Burn Care (BBC) training.



Community survey across 658 households in 3 districts: Dembiya; Limu Genet, and Tula.

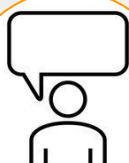


Summary of findings:

- 3.5% of households and 0.7% of the population surveyed had suffered a burn injury in 12 months leading up to the survey.
- Women and children under five were most at risk
- Flames and hot liquids were leading causes.
- General lack of knowledge about burn prevention and treatment.
- Traditional practices such as using dough, oil, butter or animal dung to treat burns, were found.
- Health facilities and health extension workers did not have capacity to manage and treat burn injuries.
- Frontline community health workers, Health Extension Workers (HEWs), do not have adequate knowledge about burn prevention or treatment.

Quote from a Kebele chairman:

“Even if people take the injured family to health facilities, they do not get enough treatment so the community tries to use cultural medicine like oil, soil, animal dung, dough and leaf called ‘Estat Abrid’.”



KNOWLEDGE INFORMING PREVENTION AND TRAINING

Recommendations: -

- ❖ Sensitize community members about burn prevention and treatment.
- ❖ Build the capacity of Health Extension Workers (HEWs) through training.
- ❖ Establish and strengthen burn units in referral university hospitals.



BBC training delivered to 143 Health Extension workers (HEWs).



Not a one off intervention - HEWs are 'trained and sustained'.



- BBC training focused on prevention, first aid, burn assessment and referral.
- Survey results highlighted priority and at risk areas in the community.
- Knowledge enabled meaningful discussion of local practices.

The survey highlighted at risk groups and local practices.

Results were also used to develop activities to help reduce burns in the community.



BURN PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Burn prevention toolkit: The visual toolkit (example below) was developed for HEWs to use in discussion with households to spread burn awareness and prevention messages.



Piloted in Limu Genet District, Oromia region.

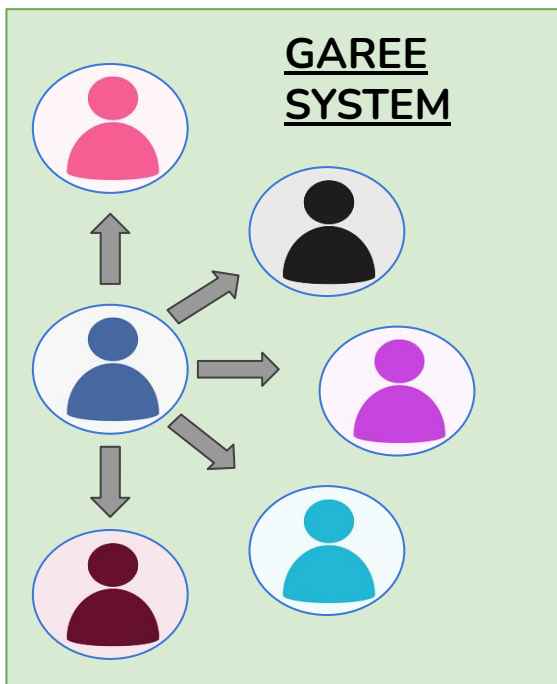
- House to house in each kebele.
- Using the 'garee' system – 1 family member communicates with 5 others - like a 'community development army'.
- Through health posts.

- ❖ 43 of 44 kebeles reached.
- ❖ 33,148 households - 70% of the total number in the district.
- ❖ 157,795 individuals potentially exposed to burn prevention messages.

LESSON LEARNT



Delivering burn prevention messages through HEWs, who are local to the community and use the local language, led to good communication and trust between them and individual households. This increased support and uptake of the burn prevention messages.



LESSONS LEARNT



Government involvement has a positive impact on sustainability.

The involvement of the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) increased the project's impact and has resulted in a 'road map' for improving burn care in the country. The FMoH has taken steps to integrate Basic Burn Care into their regular training package.



Evidence based initiatives and interventions bring about real change.

The community survey helped to orientate national and local government leaders, health post and volunteer staff, on priority risk factors for burns, local practices and gaps in understanding. This ensured the prevention toolkit was focussed and meaningful.



Being part of an international project broadened the vision and experience of partners.

Knowledge was shared between all partners in Ethiopia, Nepal and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This led to an understanding of different approaches dependent on context, and the importance of evidence-based initiatives to inform practice.

Sustainability.



- There is continued demand for Interburns trainings.
- The Technical Working Group on Burns is now a permanent structure with an FMoH focal point.
- The survey will be used as a key reference and planning tool, to provide evidence for government policy documents and burn-related research.
- The project will inform and guide burn care planning for the FMoH.
- Interburns comprehensive approach has been adopted by the government and other NGOs working in this area, and formally embedded in the working document for burns.



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