**Introduction**

- Emerging communicable and non-communicable diseases are public health burdens and they have socioeconomic impacts worldwide especially in developing countries like Rwanda.
- This makes these diseases a priority for prevention and control.

**Purpose**

- To present the activities involved in a School of Nursing and a District community partnership for prevention and control of emerging communicable and non-communicable diseases in Rwanda.
- To demonstrate the importance of a nursing school's partnership with the local community leaders in the prevention and control of those diseases in a district in Rwanda.

**Methods**

- A community in Gicumbi district of Rwanda was the setting for the project.
- The school of nursing had signed a memorandum of understanding with the district administration to provide expertise from the School for disease prevention and management.
- The district authorities met with all community local leaders under their management to make them buy into the partnership with the school.

**Setting Priorities**

- A systematic approach was used to prioritize the activities.
- The most affected community and most serious communicable and non-communicable diseases were identified and addressed by screening for diabetes and hypertension.
- Conducting health education on transmission and prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases
- This included education on the early screening and surveillance, methods of controlling vectors, as well as their reservoirs.

**Methods con’d**

- Information was provided on the role of the partnership and what was required to make the partnership a success.
- Nurse Educators and students from the school of nursing, University of Rwanda thereafter, approached recognized selected District local leaders to address emerging communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Six activities negotiated and agreed on were:
  - diseases prevention,
  - health promotion,
  - prevention of malnutrition,
  - promotion of hygiene,
  - increase adherence to health insurance
  - good customer Care.

**Methods con’d**

- How to undertake personal protection, immunization, use of purified water and environmental sanitation.
- All activities were conducted at the community level.
- Nurse educators and students worked closely with local community leaders as they mobilized the population for better outcomes.
- Observation, reports, group discussions and informal interviews methods were used to collect data about the effectiveness of involving local community leaders for the prevention and control of diseases.

**Results**

- 25 latrines were constructed to prevent fecal oral diseases,
- different screening activities on diabetes and hypertension have been conducted,
- community based health insurance was given to 21 patients to promote early access to health care.

**Conclusion**

- The project succeeded due to good communication and mutual collaboration between academic and community leaders which contributed a lot in the activities towards the prevention and control of emerging communicable and non-communicable diseases among community members.
- Community leaders have knowledge about local community conditions which can be useful to put in place targeted interventions to reduce their burden.
- This can be done by identifying priority areas that require attention and mobilizing community members to action.

**Recommendations**

- There is a need to continuously strengthen the academic and community local leaders partnership for prevention and control of emerging communicable and non-communicable diseases which eventually will help in the achievement of sustainable development goals.