



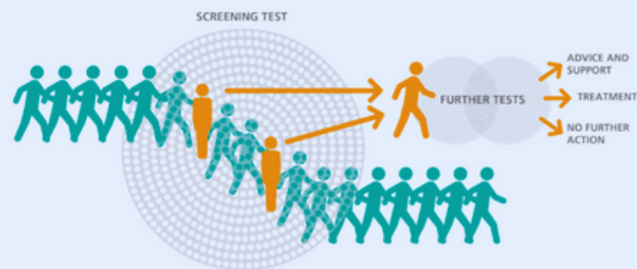
COMMUNITY LEAD CANCER PREVENTION PROGRAMME

**3rd Team Meeting
Summary Report**

19.02.2024

Community lead cancer prevention programme Interim Feasibility Report

Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.



The meeting discussing the ongoing feasibility study of the Community-Led Cancer Prevention Programme took place on the 19th of February 2024 at 12:30 PM in the Boardroom, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.



Key participants included Professor Thavam Thambipillai, General Surgeon in Sioux Falls & South Dakota, and a Professor at the University of South Dakota. The meeting was presided over by Professor R. Surenthirakumaran, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and coordinated by Dr. B. Balagobi, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Surgery & Consultant Urological Surgeon at Teaching Hospital, Jaffna.

Other participants were Dr. S. Kumaran, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Community and Family Medicine and Coordinator, Centre for Digital Epidemiology (CoDE); Dr. S. Gobishangar, Head & Senior Lecturer in the Department of Surgery and Consultant Surgeon at Teaching Hospital, Jaffna; Dr. S. Raguraman, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology & Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Teaching Hospital Jaffna; Dr. G. Sritharan, Consultant Onco Surgeon (Acting), Teaching Hospital Jaffna; and Dr. M. Thanuja, Consultant Gynecologic Oncologist, Teaching Hospital Jaffna. Additionally, Mr. K. Thivakar, overall program coordinator (CPP), Mr. Thuvaragan, Ms. M. Jency, Ms. K. Uthayatharani, Ms. Karththiga, Mr. K. Kabilan, Ms. Nishanthini, and Ms. Lavanya (Healthcare Assistant) attended the meeting.





Dr. B. Balagobi delivered a brief welcome speech, followed by Dr. Kumaran's comprehensive overview of the interim feasibility work conducted in the Nallur MOH area. The presentation covered various aspects, including the study setting, methodology, organizational plan, screening programs, data collection, a preview of the form in the KoboCollect toolbox, quality checking, and the process of referring participants.

Dr. Kumaran highlighted the benefits of community visits in service delivery, data collection, and medical student training during Family Health appointments and community center visits. Integration of various projects, such as the Community-Led Cancer Prevention Programme, reproductive health, and geriatric programs, was also emphasized.

Dr. B. Balagobi then described the workshop on cancer screening conducted on December 12th, 2023, for team members and midwives of Nallur MOH.

During the discussion, Prof. Surenthirakumaran suggested collecting details on the number of participants invited to and attending the cancer screening. He proposed following up on referrals from community and family health centers to the Early Cancer Prevention Centre at Teaching Hospital, Jaffna, using data indicators.

Subsequently, Prof. Thavam Thambipillai and team members discussed existing cancer screening facilities for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers, including mammograms, colposcopy, and FIT tests. Dr. M. Thanuja explained the steps for cervical cancer screening.





Dr. G. Sritharan shared his experience regarding limitations found during their existing village-wise awareness program in the Northern province. He expressed concerns about poor awareness in village setups, stating that community participants are not mentally prepared for cancer screening. Dr. G. Sritharan highlighted the significance of awareness programs in bringing about sustainable changes in cancer screening knowledge within communities. He emphasized the importance of making communities aware of available surgeons, the significance of early detection, and how it aids in curing cancer.

Prof. R. Surenthirakumaran explained the importance of a systematic approach and utilizing existing resources in cancer screening.



Building on Dr. G. Sritharan's insights, Prof. Thavam Thambipillai suggested anticipating future results of the feasibility study and existing cancer awareness programs, emphasizing their synergy. This, he believed, would pave the way for appropriate screening in the future, particularly in the MOH area.

Eventually, the team took group photographs to commemorate the day in their memories, and the lunch continued.

