

Supplementary Text 3 – PANT Characteristics of each social support network type

1. Family dependent social support network

Participants mostly stayed at the same home/ within 1.6km from the nearest relative (82.4%) or their child (89.2%). Contact with friends varied from “daily” to “less often” (15.7-23.7%). 37.1% of the participants in this network had no contact or very infrequent contact (24.1%) with the neighbors. Majority of the participants (76.6%) attended religious activities but were not involved in social or community activities (83.2%).

2. Locally- integrated social support network

Most participants either stayed at the same home/within 1.6km (46.8%) or 1.6km-9.6km (38.8%) from their nearest relative. They also stayed at the same home/within 1.6km from their child (69.3%). Contact with friends and neighbors ranged from daily (39.3% and 36.4%) to 2-3 times per week (37.1% and 35.7%). Majority of the participants (88.2%) attended religious activities but were not involved in social or community activities (53.6%).

3. Locally self-contained social support network

Participants in this network mostly stayed 9.7km -25.7km away from their nearest relative (50.4%) or their child (36.1%). Contact with friends was on daily (30.2%) or monthly (33.3%) basis. Contact with neighbors was more frequent, on either daily (23.6%) or weekly (22.4%) basis. While they attended religious activities (51.6%), they were not involved in social or community activities (83.4%).

4. Wider community-focused social support network

More than half of the participants in this network stayed further than 80.5km away from their nearest relative (59.0%) or their child (82.4%) and had the highest percentage of

participants who reported having no relatives (23.4%). They contacted their friends and neighbours at least weekly (57.4% and 38.5%). Majority of the participants (76.1%) attended religious activities regularly and slightly more than half (58.9%) attended social or community activities. There were no reported cases of dementia in this network.

5. Private social support network

This network comprised more participants aged more than 85 years. 31.9% and 66.1% of the participants stayed in the same home/within 1.6km; 23.0% and 20.7% of them stayed more than 80.5km away from their nearest relative and child respectively. Most of them contacted their friends on a daily basis (48.9%) but reported that they have no contact (42.3%) or infrequent contact (35.1%) with their neighbours. A vast majority of them (93.1%) did not attend any religious activities and none of them was involved in social or community activities. Disability was highest in this network (mean WHODAS 2.0 score = 32.3).

6. Non-conclusive network

Participants in this network were either borderline between two network types, or were unclassified. A quarter of the participants aged more than 85 years were in this network. There were no distinct characteristics among the participants in this network.