

Sub-Regional Meeting on Integration of Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health

The Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ Health



During the last United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, 191 countries approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 targets. Building upon the lessons learned during the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era, this new agenda aims to complete the unfinished agenda of the MDGs and make transformative changes through the implementation of an integrated agenda on the social, economic and environmental components of development.

In this meeting, the UN Secretary General launched the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health 2016-2030¹. The Global Strategy applies to all countries – regardless of their level of development- and place emphasis on countries’ leadership and ownership, inter-sectorial work and accountability. It considers adolescents, children and women as key actors playing a central role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Strategy targets. The objectives of the 2016-2030 Global Strategy are three: (1) eliminate preventable deaths, (2) achieve health and wellbeing, and (3) create the conditions for women, children and adolescents to grow and develop.

The SDGs and the Global Strategy are very ambitious and challenging. As countries decide on their contributions to the global agenda, it is expected that changes will also occur on the demand, modalities and content of PAHO technical cooperation. There is a need to critically analyze both documents and their implications, and the present meeting intends to create opportunities for such analysis.

¹ The short term *Global Strategy* will be used throughout the document to refer to the *Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ health 2016-2030*.

Non-communicable diseases are prevalent in the Caribbean and countries have made significant progress on the formulation of policies and plans of action. The primary prevention of NCDs includes a wide variety of interventions that cluster around the early stages of life (pregnancy through childhood, adolescence, and youth) while the interventions around secondary prevention cluster around adulthood and older years. Improving the integration of women's, children's and adolescents' health into current NCD multisectoral action plans and policies has the potential to improve the overall response to NCDs prevention and control and risk factors reduction such as obesity, harmful use of alcohol, tobacco smoking, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity.

The present meeting intends to examine the SDG and Global Strategy commitments, means of implementations and indicators. Based on the results of this analysis, participants will provide concrete recommendations to improve NCDs plans. During the discussions, it is expected to identify challenges and opportunities for PAHO technical cooperation.

Objectives:

1. Analyze the scope, principles and means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health 2016-2030;
2. Analyze the effects of the 2030 agenda on the demand, modalities and content of PAHO technical cooperation;
3. Analyze the intersections between the 2030 agenda and the Universal Health Access and Coverage Strategy; and
4. Analyze and develop the options for better integrated approaches for improving health for women, children and adolescents including early detection, screening, health promotion, prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases.

Expected Results:

1. Identify the adaptations needed on the modalities and content of PAHO technical cooperation.
2. Identify the options for integration of SDGs and Global Strategy into the national NCDs action plans
3. Identify options for better integration of women's, children's and adolescents' health

Participants:

Representatives of Ministry of Health, other Ministries and NGOs in the Eastern Caribbean

Venue and dates: May 30-31, 2016. Bay Garden Resorts Hotel in St Lucia

Annotated Agenda

Day 1: 30 May, 2016

08:00 Registration

08:30 Opening Remarks & Group Photos

09:00 Outline of the Meeting, Introduction of participants

09:30 **Session 1: Analysis of the 2030 agenda and the SDGs:**

(Moderator: Ms Mignon Rolle-Shillingford, Ministry of Health, Dominica)

- The agenda 2030: Principles, monitoring and means of implementation: role of countries and the implications for PAHO technical cooperation
Ms. Valerie Beach-Horne (15 minutes): PAHO Country Programme Specialist, St Lucia

Key document to read:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

Description: this presentation intends to critically analyze the expected role of the countries in terms of the SDG implementation and the implications for PAHO in terms of the way we provide technical cooperation, the actors with which we interact and the potential demand of technical support. This is a concise presentation and the presenter is expected to read and analyze the Agenda 2030 document having the context of the East Caribbean in mind and referring to NCDs whenever possible. Valerie is expected to engage the participants. Participants will be invited to read the agenda 2030 before the meeting but we know that most of them will not be able to do so. This presentation is, therefore, essential for informing on the critical aspects of the agenda and the expected role of the countries and PAHO.

- Health in the 2030 agenda: What is the concept of Health as conceptualized in the 2030 agenda? and where is Health located? What are the implications for countries and PAHO?
Ms Anneke Wilson (15 minutes): PAHO Country Programme Specialist, St Vincent and the Grenadines

Key document to read:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

Description: this presentation intends to critically analyze the concept of health included in the agenda 2030 and the implications for PAHO's and countries' work. In the analysis of the implications, it is expected to contrast today's reality vs the commitments made by countries when they signed the agenda 2030. This is a concise presentation. The presenter is expected to read and analyze the Agenda 2030 document having the context of the East Caribbean in mind and referring to NCDs whenever possible. Anneke is expected to engage the participants.

Plenary discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

11:20 Session 2: The Reactions to the SDGs: Debate of pros and cons

(Moderator: Ms Valarie Williams, Ministry of Health, Antigua and Barbuda)

- One presentation in favor: *the 2030 agenda will trigger enthusiasm, commitment and real and effective actions. It will bring about a transformative change in the way we do business.* (15 minutes) Representative of Minister of Health in St Lucia:

Description: Presenter is expected to present arguments that support the statement in favor that is described above. Examples or cases could be used as a way to illustrate the argument.

Key document to read:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

- One presentation against: *The 2030 agenda is another government commitment and based on past experience, things will pretty much remain the same. Small changes are expected in the way we do business.* (15 minutes) Ms Eulynis Brown, Minister of Health in St Kitts and Nevis

Description: Presenter is expected to present arguments that support the statement against that is described above. Examples or cases could be used as a way to illustrate the argument.

Key document to read:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

Plenary discussion - Moderator will facilitate the debate discussions. The debate should be constructive and productive based on country's current capacity, needs, challenges and potential for integration of national efforts to achieve the SDGs. We expect some will be in favor, others will be against, and others undecided or with mixed opinions. The discussion should be able to bring all these different position to the table. It is not the intention to reach a consensus but to make all different opinions explicit.

12:20 Group Work 1: Brainstorm Exercise on the Key Elements of the SDGs:

The SDGs was built based on several principles. Three of them are selected for the discussions of the groups: (1) country leadership and ownership, (2) partnership and engagement of local authorities and communities for multisector actions. (Moderator: Betzabe Butron)

Three groups will be organized. Each group will receive a written statement describing a situation that is relevant for the ECC. All situations will be related to NCDs prevention and/or control. Groups will be requested to analyze the statement and provide concrete recommendations to improve the described situation.

(PAHO Country Programme Specialist and Advisors to support discussions if necessary)

- 1) Country Leadership and Ownership for multisector actions on development and successful implementation of Policy and Multisectoral Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases through life course approach.
 - Based on the scenario provided, identify who should play the “leaderships” and how to share and strengthen “ownership” by all concerned stakeholders;
 - Identify a sustainable mechanism for better “coordination” which will enhance resource mobilization for successful implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the action plan

- 2) Partnership and engagement of local authorities and communities for multisector actions on the prevention and control of childhood obesity

The prevalence of obesity and overweight among school-aged children and adolescents in the Eastern Caribbean countries is higher than their peers in the Latin American and Caribbean Region.

- Review the global school health fact sheet provided by the facilitator and respond: what factors may explain overweight/obesity in children and adolescents
- For each factor, identify who (institution, organization, etc.) has direct influence on one or more factors.
- For each identified actor, describe how they influence the prevalence of overweight/obesity.
- Finally, identified select those who are the key actors to get involved in the implementation of NCD plan.

See the attached matrix for this group work.

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 Continue Brainstorm Exercise

15:20 Plenary Session

Each group will present the outcome of the brainstorm exercise

Objective: During discussions the intention is to identify the specificity and linkages among women, children and adolescents taking into consideration gender relations.

- Country leadership expressed by willingness to act, the provision of necessary resources to develop a policy document and plan of action, and the creation/strengthening of a mechanism for monitoring, review and action.
- Partnership and engagement of local authorities and communities for multisector actions: Explicit recognition of the need to engage private sector, civil society, faith-based organizations, local authorities, academia, researchers, communities, those affected, and public in general to change social norms and create a favorable environment to support NCD prevention. Explicit recognition of the key role of the participation of women, children and adolescents.

16:30 Closure of Day 1
Announcement for Day 2

Day 2: 31 May, 2016

08:30 Recap from Day 1

08:45 Session 3: The synergies between the SDGs and other related strategies (Moderator: Dr Sonia Nixon, Ministry of Health, Grenada)

- The intersections of the 2030 agenda and the Universal access and universal health coverage strategy.
Ms Valerie Beach-Horne (20 minutes)

Key documents to read:

[http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download
&gid=27312&Itemid=270&lang=en](http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=27312&Itemid=270&lang=en)

and http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

Description: There are commonalities between UHC and SDGs. UHC is one of the ways to make progress in health within the health sector and therefore is a means towards the attainment of SDGs. The presentation will analyze these commonalities in an effort to make clear the contribution of UHC to the SDGs, linking those two efforts, making the synergies and connections explicit, and providing some guidance on concrete ways to make progress on UHC as a way to make progress on SDG. Reference to NCD prevention will be made whenever possible. These references are intended to provide concrete examples on UHC implementation making a contribution to SDG implementation.

- The Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health: The main objectives, principles and actions.

B Butron (15 minutes)

Key document to read:

http://globalstrategy.everywomaneverychild.org/pdf/EWEC_globalstrategyreport_200915_FINAL_WEB.pdf

Q&A

10:00 Group Work 2:

(Moderator: Dr Sonia Nixon, Ministry of Health, Grenada)

Participants divided in three groups will use the section of the Global Strategy that describes the key interventions through the life course and the strategic lines of the PAHO UHC document.

The task is to define concrete examples showing an integrated approach to women's, children's, and adolescents' health as part of a NCDs prevention plan. Concrete example means to be Specific (who will be responsible, who is involved or what action is to be implemented); Measurable; Achievable; Relevant; and Time-bound.

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 Discussion of group work results (Moderator: Ms Anneke Wilson)

11:30 Session 4: Country NCD action plans: Improving integration of women's, children's and adolescents' health

(Moderator: Dr Tomo Kanda)

St Vincent and the Grenadines (15 min): Experience in implementation of multisectoral NCD action plan: Gaps, challenges, successes and opportunities for integration.

(A guide/template will be prepared to ensure the content is relevant to the meeting)

Barbados: (15 min): Presentation on country programme of Childhood Obesity Prevention and Control (B-CHOPP): Gaps, challenges, successes and opportunities for integration.

Q&A

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Group Work 3: Working Groups on Integrating Women's, Children and Adolescents' Health: Making strategies, recommendations and plans to maximize national efforts

This exercise is to be done by each country (2 persons from each country to make a pair). Each country will revise the country NCD plan and come up with specific

recommendations to improve the plan based on the commitments of the SDGs and the Global Strategy. All discussions and exercises done in the meeting are expected to be reflected into the recommendations for improving the plan. Each pair may consider using the results of previous group work as inputs. Participants from Ministry of Health will bring their national NCD action plan for Group Work. So far, all Eastern Caribbean Countries have their National NCD Action Plan. (a matrix or template to be provide for Group Work)

15:00 Coffee Break

15:15 **Plenary Session**

Presentation of summary of their plans and open for discussions

16:30 Next steps: Regional and Eastern Caribbean Countries perspective

17:00 Closure of the meeting