

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES 2013
THE 8TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH PROMOTION (8GCHP)
CONCEPT NOTE - DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSE

What:

The 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion will be co-organized by WHO and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland. The Conference will assess achievements and aims for health promotion globally from Ottawa to Nairobi. It aims to address what works and how, identifying options for action, available processes, mechanisms and tools.

Where and when:

- Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, Finland, from 10 to 14 June 2013

Why:

- To implement the intersectoral action for health and health in all policies approaches at the country level
- To exchange experiences in implementing Health in All Policies including the identification of effective tools and other prerequisites for country action
- To highlight the value of health promotion activities for health, their relevance for overall societal development and for development policies
- To inform about economic aspects of health promotion
- To highlight the important role of primary health care in health promotion
- To review progress, impact and achievements of health promotion since the Ottawa Conference

Linked to:

- Sustainability of health systems
- Implementation of recommendations on social determinants for health
- UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases
- Review of the Millennium Development Goals
- Sustainable development agenda

Who:

- 800 invited participants representing different levels of Member State governments, UN and international organizations, civil society and international financial institutions and foundations
- Representatives from health and other sectors relevant for health determinants, such as education, environment, employment, agriculture, trade, transportation, housing, finance, foreign and development policy

Format:

- Plenary sessions
- Parallel tracks in working groups
- European Day

An opportunity for collaboration

To support the preparations for the Conference, WHO and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland are seeking partners for collaboration who have an interest in health and its promotion and/or in related critical issues for health such as education, environment, employment, agriculture, transportation, housing, trade, finance, and foreign and development policy. Partners with practical implementation experience on intersectoral action for health will have the opportunity to collaborate in organizing a landmark event that aims to develop concrete guidance on what works to promote health through public policies.

ENHANCING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING THROUGH HEALTH CONDUCTIVE INTERSECTORAL POLICIES

The 8GCHP will examine the historical and scientific context of health promotion since the Alma Ata Declaration of 1978 and the Ottawa Conference on Health Promotion in 1986. It will review how the public agenda for health is set, how public policy is formulated, which activities have been found effective in promoting health and health equity, how the health impact of policy is assessed, how actors are held accountable and how intersectoral action is set up and governed at international, regional, national and local levels. The Conference will review the experiences in engaging in the "Health in All Policies" approach and establish guidance for concrete action in countries at all levels of development.

Health is vital to overall societal development

More than a quarter century before, the Ottawa Conference on Health Promotion called for "building healthy public policy" and the "creation of supportive environments" for health. Today it is widely acknowledged that health is vital to overall societal performance and development, including the economy. Strategies that engage other sectors in achieving health are being recognized as a central pillar of contemporary public health. Finland championed such an approach during its Presidency of the European Union in 2006 leading to the European Council Conclusions on "Health in All Policies".

The 2010 Adelaide Statement on Health in All Policies outlines the need for a new alliance between all sectors to advance human development, sustainability and equity, as well as to improve health outcomes. According to the statement, this requires a new approach in policy-making and governance where there is joined-up leadership within governments, across all sectors and between levels of government. The Statement also highlights the potential of the health sector "in resolving complex problems across government."

Solutions to health concerns are essentially intersectoral

Increased risks of ill-health are largely determined by forces outside the scope of the health sector; from the use of transportation in a rapidly urbanizing world to housing and environmental hazards and to changing patterns of lifestyles and consumption and nutrition as a result of the globalizing economy and culture.

While global changes in health arise from interconnected causes, the mandate and competency of the health sector itself to bring about change will remain limited. The way forward must lie in new modes of developing and governing public policy that cuts across sectoral interests and mandates. Investing in sustainable social development, with emphasis on equity, education and health, is important to countries at all stages of economic development. Recognizing the complementary aspirations of societal actions opens the way to meaningful cooperation and effective responses, including innovations and new solutions. Striving for the achievement of

the Millennium Development Goals has underlined the need for concerted multidimensional efforts.

More equitable distribution of health and its determinants is necessary for improving overall health and for good societal development

In its report in 2008, the Commission on Social Determinants and Health stated that "social injustice is killing people on a grand scale". The Commission established that social gradients are themselves a cause of ill-health and there are structural links between the experience of social disadvantage and the consequences for health and well-being. These inequities are amenable to action. A global conference will consider these issues in Brazil in 2011 and its outcome will feed into Helsinki 2013.

The "Health in All Policies" approach is needed at the global, national, regional and local levels

Global health challenges require global solutions. Important experience has been gained through the development of instruments such as the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the International Health Regulations. WHO works together with many other international organizations and other international partners on health promotion.

Many countries have implemented structures, processes and tools for incorporating health in all policies in various settings and population groups. These experiences will be gathered, analyzed and shared.

Decades of experience have accumulated, with work being done in healthy settings, from workplaces to schools and to cities and communities. The issue of urban health and the Healthy Cities movement deserve attention. The local government, community, civil society, and other local interests provide fora where stakeholders can decide on actions to protect and promote health.

Global burden of noncommunicable diseases is increasing

The World Health Assembly is joined by the United Nations in recognizing the link between the burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and development. NCDs are both caused by, and the cause of, poverty, but neither the developed nor the developing countries are immune to these diseases. Nevertheless, NCDs are a particular challenge for the developing countries. Sustainable solutions require broad national commitment and should be taken into account in development decisions taken by governments and donors .

Creating supportive environments and options for healthy choices, essential components of health promotion, require a whole of society approach. At the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2010, it was stated that "Addressing risk factors, however, requires the commitment and active involvement of non-health sectors like planning, agriculture, industry, trade, finance and education. It also requires action by the private sector and civil society."

The United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in September 2011 will, among other things, draw attention to

and increase our understanding on how the work of UN agencies is linked to the determinants of noncommunicable diseases.

Primary Health Care is a key player

WHO has called for the renewal of primary health care and made this renewal central to its current programme of work. In addition to curative and rehabilitative activities, health promotion and disease prevention are essential activities of the health systems. Reducing the burden of disease through health promotion will help to alleviate the pressure on health care delivery. The 8GCHP will look into the economic aspects of health promotion and assess how it can help to ensure the sustainability of health systems.

The global conference series

The 8GCHP will pause to examine the impact of this milestone series of global conferences and examine their impact on the development of health policy and public health. The WHO Global Health Promotion Conferences have established the concepts, principles, and action areas, and located health promotion within the wider context of globalization (Ottawa and Bangkok). They have examined healthy public policy making (Adelaide) and the creation of supportive environments (Sundsvall). They have considered capacity building for health promotion and its role in addressing the determinants of health (Mexico and Jakarta). They have called for action to close the implementation gap between evidence and its concrete application in health development (Nairobi). The 8GCHP will continue to address the implementation gap, especially of the intersectoral actions at the various levels of governance.

What works and how? - Concrete options for action, processes, mechanisms and tools

The Conference will review and present models and experience for sustainable, long-term action that embeds health considerations in the policy-making processes of all sectors. It will review effective tools for health promotion. It will explore concrete ways in which the health sector itself can improve its commitment and skills to work with other sectors, as well as ensure health promotion in its own work. It will share the experience gained in implementing intersectoral policies relevant to countries at different levels of development.

The European Day brings the European flavour

A special European Day will be organized to bring forward European settings and experiences in the health in all policies approach. The WHO European Region is working on the development of a European Health Policy (Health2020) and the elements of this policy will be presented to the Regional Committee in Baku in September 2011. The Health in All Policies approach is identified as one of the key domains of shared governance for health in the 21st century. The day will highlight the application of health in all policies and shared governance to the response to noncommunicable diseases in the WHO European Region.