Pan-American Alliance on Nutrition and Development for the Achievement of the MDGs

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Outline

• The context

• The health and nutrition situation in the Americas

• The Alliance

• The way forward
The context

“This will be the century of networks, connectivity and interdependency, which will allow us to overcome barriers of space and time and will open possibilities that were unimaginable to humankind. If we encourage those networks to exponentially multiply ... we will have taken a fundamental step towards eliciting knowledge and experience ... for sustainable human development”.

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago’s Inauguration Speech as Pan American Health Organization Director, Regional Director for the Americas, January 31st, 2003
Health and nutrition situation in the Americas
The Americas

The Region with the largest disparities between rich and poor
Social exclusion in health

- 230 million people (46%) do not have health insurance
- 125 million people (25%) do not have access to basic health services
- 17% of births without care of qualified health workers
- 680,000 children do not complete their vaccination program
- 152 million people do not have access to drinking water and basic sanitation
- More than 400,000 annual deaths in children < five years
Unsolved public health issues in the Americas: Communicable diseases

- Poverty & income inequalities (poor living conditions)
- Access to water & sanitation
- Education
- Nutrition
- Access to health care
- Quality of health care
- Communicable diseases (ARI, ADD, malaria, TB)
- Morbidity, mortality & life expectancy changes
- Iatrogenic problems (maternal death, nosocomial infections)
Nutrition situation in the Americas

- 55 million food insecure
- ¼ children undernourished / stunted
- 47.4 million iodine deficient
- 3/5 children < 5 ID anemia
- 1/10 children sub-clinical Vitamin A deficiency
- 3.3 million HIV infection
- 2-6/10 adults overweight or obese
The cost of the problem in the Americas

1. Increased health costs for neonates, infants and children
2. Productivity losses from stunting
3. Intergenerational transmission
4. Losses due to chronic diseases
5. Infant & child mortality

Productivity losses alone justify nutrition investments
Percentage contribution of determinant factors to malnutrition

- **Female Education**: 43.0%
- **Food**: 26.1%
- **Health**: 19.3%
- **Status of Women**: 11.6%

The cost of hunger & malnutrition

A decrease of 1% in malnutrition rates achieves a 4% decrease in poverty

An efficient way of fighting poverty is to address hunger and malnutrition
Global Financial Crisis

- Spillover from developed economies into emerging economies
- Risk of becoming a social crisis and threat of global recession
- Consequences in terms of poverty, malnutrition, and impact on the most vulnerable groups
- Triple Fs: “fuel, food, and finances”—financial crisis, fuel and food prices, plus combined and mutually reinforced environmental alerts
- Cutbacks in domestic investment and international development assistance
- Threat to the real achievement, not only statistically, of the MDGs
Substantially lower economic growth
The Pan-American Alliance
The Pan-American Alliance for Nutrition and Development for the Achievement of the MDGs

Malnutrition and general health are the result of the interaction of multiple factors, many of which are directly related to the socioeconomic status in which we live.
The Pan-American Alliance for Nutrition and Development was approved by the Regional Directors of the UN agencies.

Regional Directors’ Workshop
PAHO, 24-25 July 2008
Objective

To propose and implement comprehensive, intersectoral, and coordinated programs that are sustained over time, and within the framework of human rights, a gender sensitive approach, and the interculturalism that contributes to solving the problem of malnutrition in our Region and accelerating attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.
Intergenerational transmission of damage and risks

Low Height

Diminished:
- Functional capability
- Work capacity
- Mental and intellectual development
- Growth and development
- Individual and social productivity

Greater risk of:
- Death
- Infections
- Chronic disease
- Vulnerability to disasters
- Delay in intrauterine growth
Poverty: determinants and effects

- Illiteracy and poor education
- Discrimination
- Inadequate physical environment
- Lack of access to safe water and basic sanitation
- Deficient access to Health Services
- Unemployment and underemployment
- Food insecurity

Poverty, social deprivation, and lack of well-being

- Greater risk of getting sick
- Premature death
- Malnutrition
- Reduction of functional capacity
- Impact on intellectual development
- Low labor productivity
Nutrition, poverty and well-being

Nutritional interventions

Malnutrition

- Reduced capacity for learning and development
- Low productivity
- Poverty and lack of individual and social well-being

Necessary but not sufficient

Integrated interventions based on determinants

Necessary and sufficient

- Illiteracy and poor instruction
- Discrimination
- Inadequate physical environment
- Lack of access to safe water and basic sanitation
- Deficient access to Health Services
- Unemployment and underemployment
- Food insecurity
Conceptual premises

- Develop approaches that place fundamental emphasis on modifying determinants, not only dealing with their effects, and targeting actions not only towards individuals, but also towards physical and social environments and geo-demographic scenarios.

- Replace the uni-sectoral approach with a multi-sectoral focus centered on social determinants and addressing inequalities.
Conceptual premises

• Construct an institutional framework to coordinate joint activities in local, national, transnational, and regional spheres.

• Identify integrated and sustainable interventions based on the existing evidence in the different areas of work, and develop, monitor, and evaluate them in a unified and non-fragmentary way.

• Identify scenarios and geo-demographic spaces for the development of such interventions.
“WHAT TO DO…”

- Adult Literacy
- Basic Sanitation and Waste Management (Households)
- Safe drinking water (households)
- Improved kitchens
- Nutrition and food security

- Young People
  - Delivery and Newborn care
  - Empowerment
  - Hygiene education
  - Adult Literacy
  - Consumption of iodized salt
  - Nutrition and food security
  - Vector control
  - Improved kitchens
  - Basic Sanitation and Waste Management (Households)

- Pregnant Women
  - 2 to 6 m
  - 6 to 24 m
  - 2 to 5 years
  - School Age

- 6 to 24 m

- School Age
Determinants of health

Young People
Pregnant women
Delivery and newborn care

Infants (6 to 12 mo)

Preschool children

School children

Inadequate Basic Sanitation
Inadequate access to safe water
In-house pollution (smoke)
Food and Nutrition Insecurity (Quality/Quantity)
Vector-borne diseases
Illiteracy

Economic, Environmental & Social Determinants
Basic Interventions

**Pregnancy**
- Skilled birth attendance
- Delayed umbilical cord clamping
- Immediate skin-to-skin contact and breastfeeding initiation
- Neonatal IMCI
- Domiciliary visits to high risk newborns
- Human milk banks
- Adequate prenatal care
- Iron, folic acid, iodine, and vitamin A Supplementation
- Prevention / treatment of pre-eclampsia, infections
- Tetanus vaccination
- Maternal household for high risk pregnant women
- Prevention of alcohol and tobacco consumption
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Iron and folic acid supplementation
- Pregnancy prevention in adolescents

**Children de 2 a 5 y**
- Promotion and counseling on adequate breastfeeding practices
- Micronutrients supplementation
- Monitoring growth and development
- Prevention of ARI and Diarrhea
- Immunizations
- IMCI
- Infant care

**Children 6 a 24 m**
- Monitoring growth and development
- Comprehensive education
- Food fortification
- Promotion of physical activity
- Breastfeeding and complementary feeding
- Monitoring growth and development
- Immunization
- Micronutrients supplementation
- IMCI
- Child care

**Adolescents**
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Iron and folic acid supplementation
- Pregnancy prevention in adolescents

**School age Children**
- Skilled birth attendance
- Delayed umbilical cord clamping
- Immediate skin-to-skin contact and breastfeeding initiation
- Neonatal IMCI
- Domiciliary visits to high risk newborns
- Human milk banks
- Adequate prenatal care
- Iron, folic acid, iodine, and vitamin A Supplementation
- Prevention / treatment of pre-eclampsia, infections
- Tetanus vaccination
- Maternal household for high risk pregnant women
- Prevention of alcohol and tobacco consumption
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- IMCI
- Child care

**PAHO**
**WFP**
**UNFPA**
**UNICEF**
Evidence

“Of the 130 million babies born every year, about 4 million die in the first 4 weeks of life—the neonatal period. A similar number of babies are stillborn.”

“Sexual and reproductive health is fundamental to the social and economic development of communities and nations, and a key component of an equitable society.”

“The next 12–18 months will be critical for safe motherhood advocacy, offering an unprecedented chance to redress errors of the past and take advantage of new opportunities.”
Human capital, income and productivity

- Improvement of nutrition early in life
- Improvement of human capital in adults
- Improvement of income and productivity
Challenges

- Move towards *Action* – *HOW to do it?*
- Political will translated into national investment
- Guarantee sustainable approaches
- Target to interventions at local level
- Guarantee human resources to provide skilled care
- Reorient health services as part of a renewed Primary Health Care
- Social Protection in Health
- Monitor coverage and measure cost–and-effect
The way forward
Family and home
Church of Latter-Day Saints

• Basic health care, promotion and disease prevention in the home.

• Physical health. The prepared family practices sound preventive health principles relating to nutrition, sanitation, accident prevention, dental health, and first aid. Special attention should be given to the promises made by the Lord in the Doctrine and Covenants, section 89, regarding the health of the Saints.

• Family home evening is a special time set aside each week that brings family members together and strengthens their love for each other, helps them draw closer to Heavenly Father, and encourages them to live righteously.
Our rationale for the Alliance

• The determinants of GOOD NUTRITION are very broad and no single sector can tackle it alone.

• Bring all actors together:
  Universities, NGOs, Faith-based organizations, UN Agencies,
  Government Ministries, Civil Society, Bi-Laterals, Local
  Governments, etc

• Specific threats (food insecurity, obesity) are so formidable that single sectors are unlikely to have the necessary resources (political, technical and scientific) to fully address them.

• Identify areas for intervention and develop operational plans in collaboration with local/national/regional authorities.
The problem to be confronted is larger and more complex than that of the mandates and possibilities of the individual agencies.
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Countdown to 2015

Priority Countries

MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger
MDG 2: Achieve universal education
MDG 3: Gender Equality and Empower Women
MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality
MDG 5: Reduce Maternal Mortality
MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria & other Diseases
La Renovación de la Atención Primaria de Salud en las Américas

Documento de Posición de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud/Organización Mundial de la Salud (OPS/OMS)
Thank you very much !!!!