



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



**Organización
Panamericana
de la Salud**

*Oficina Regional de la
Organización Mundial de la Salud*

*Dr. Socorro Gross-Galiano
PAHO Assistant Director*

**BYU International MCH Conference
March 20, 2009**



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



Health in the Americas – *The unfinished agenda*

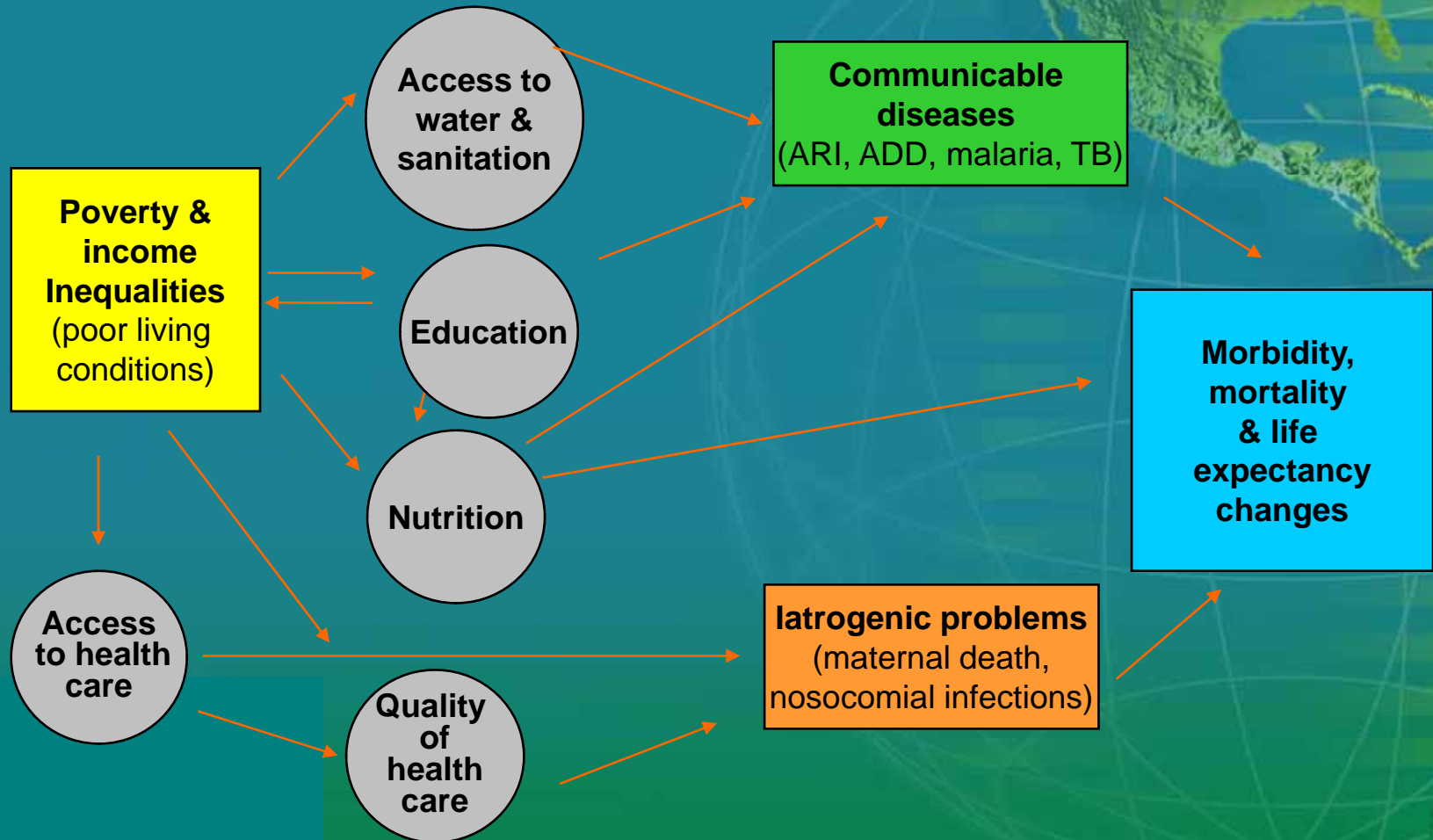


Social exclusion in health

- 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





Nutrition situation in the Americas

- 55 million food insecure
- 1/4 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





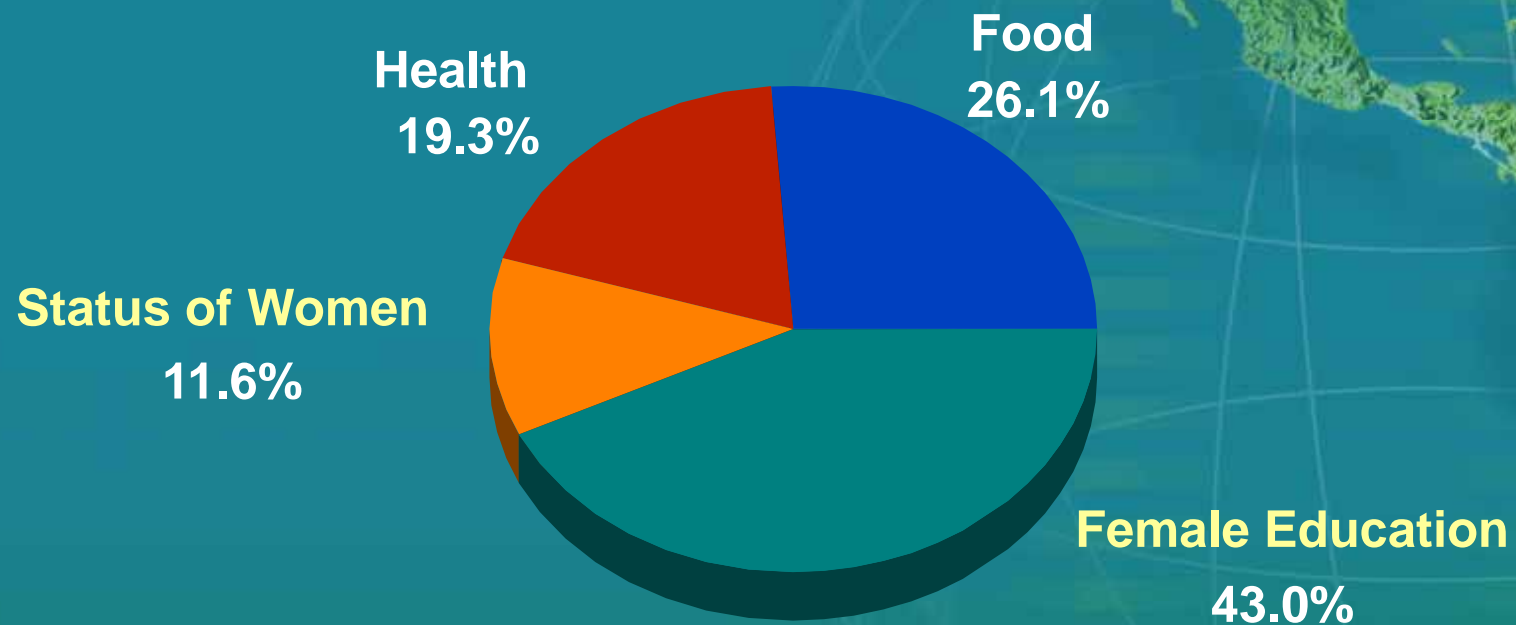
The cost of the problem in the Americas

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



Source: Smith L. and Haddad L. Overcoming child malnutrition in developing countries, past achievements and future choices. International Food Policy Research Institute. Washington DC. 2000.



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





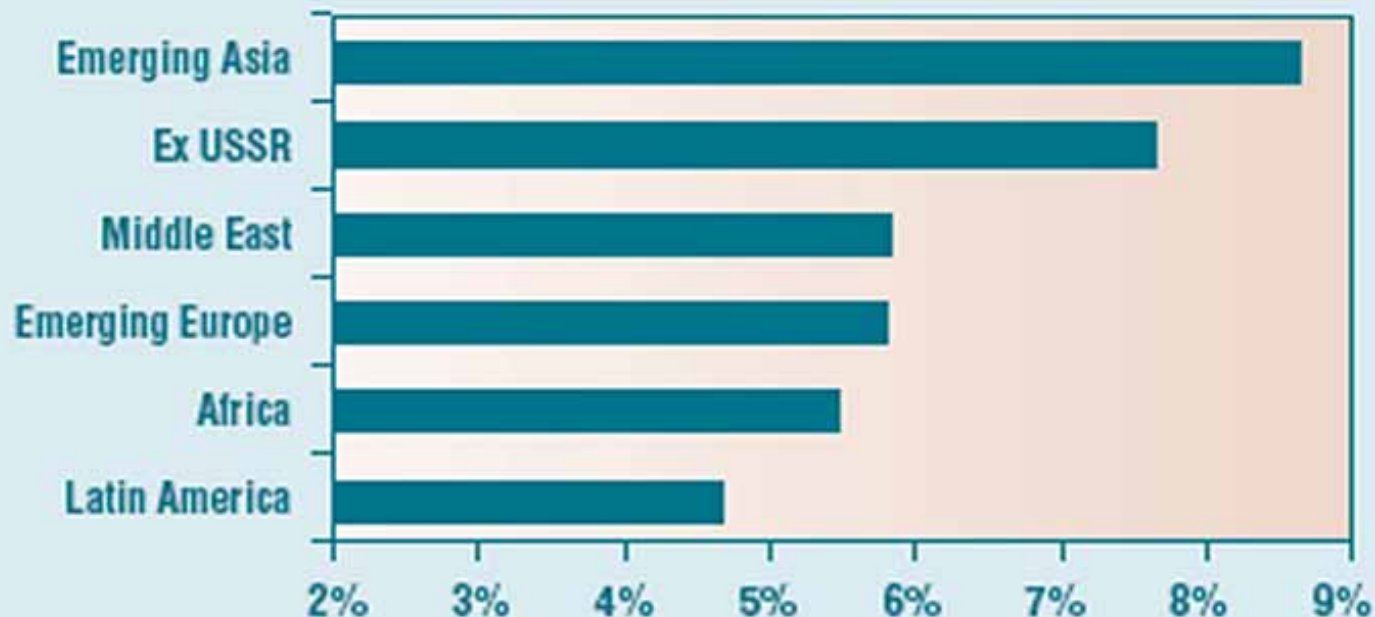
Global Financial Crisis

- 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

Figure 2. Growth in Emerging Markets: A Comparative Perspective
(Real GDP, 2003–2007 annual growth)



Sources: WEO.



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.**

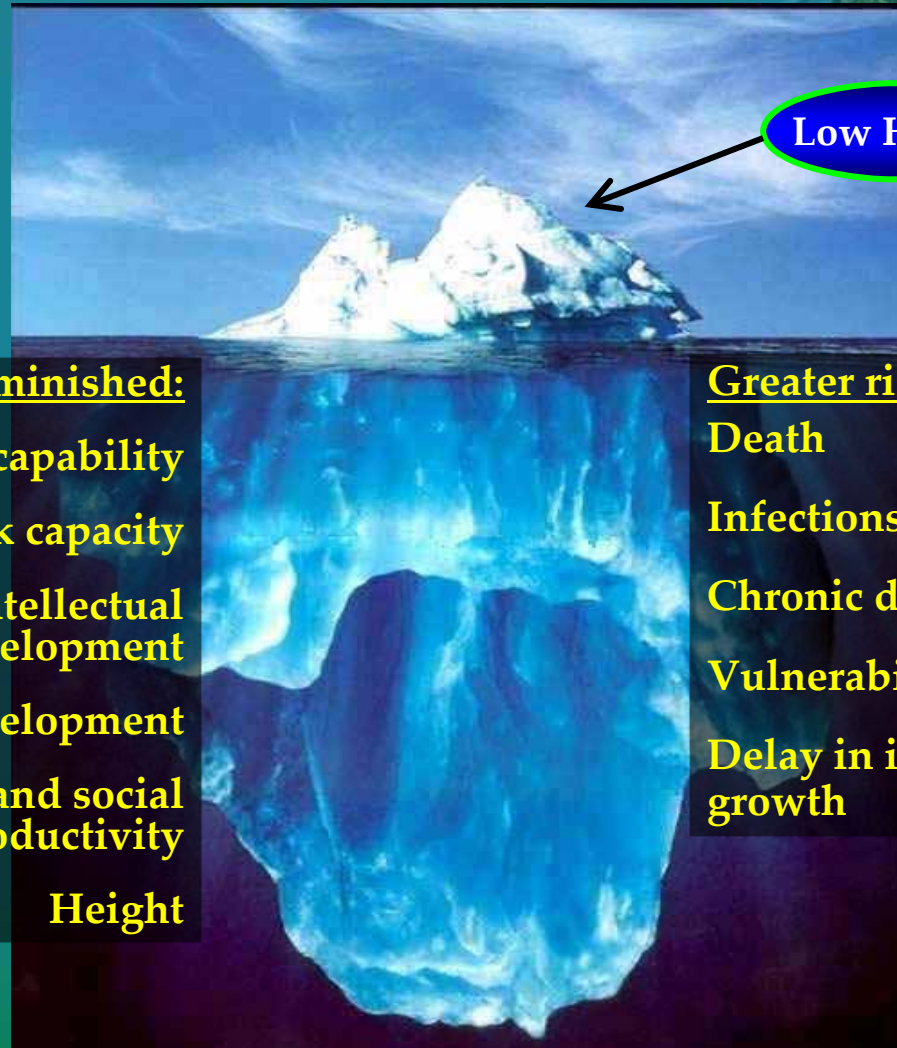


**Regional Directors' Workshop
PAHO, 24-25 July 2008**



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.



Low Height

Diminished:

Functional capability
Work capacity
Mental and intellectual
development
Growth and development
Individual and social
productivity
Height

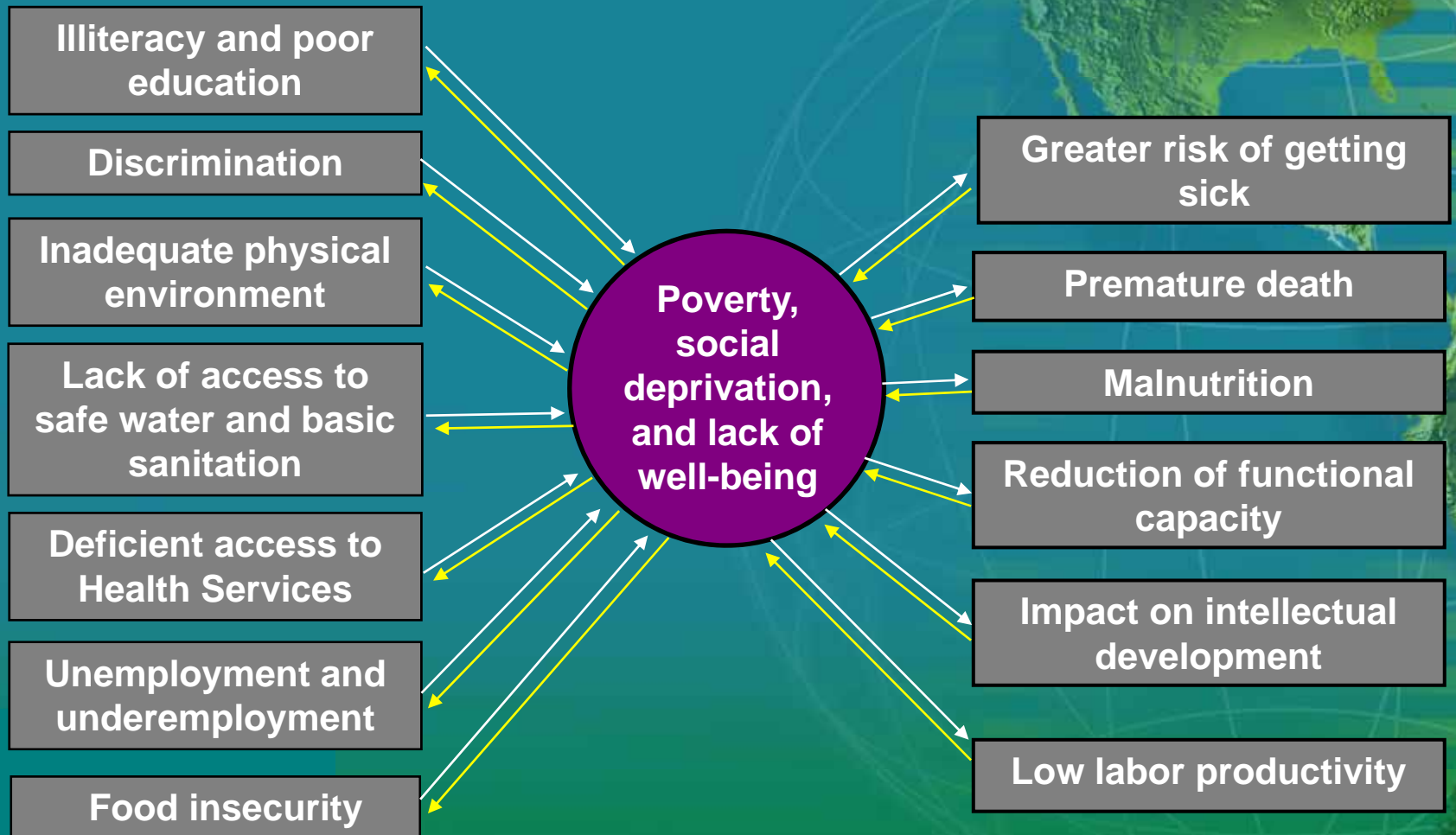
Greater risk of:

Death
Infections
Chronic disease
Vulnerability to disasters
Delay in intrauterine
growth

Intergenerational transmission of damage and risks

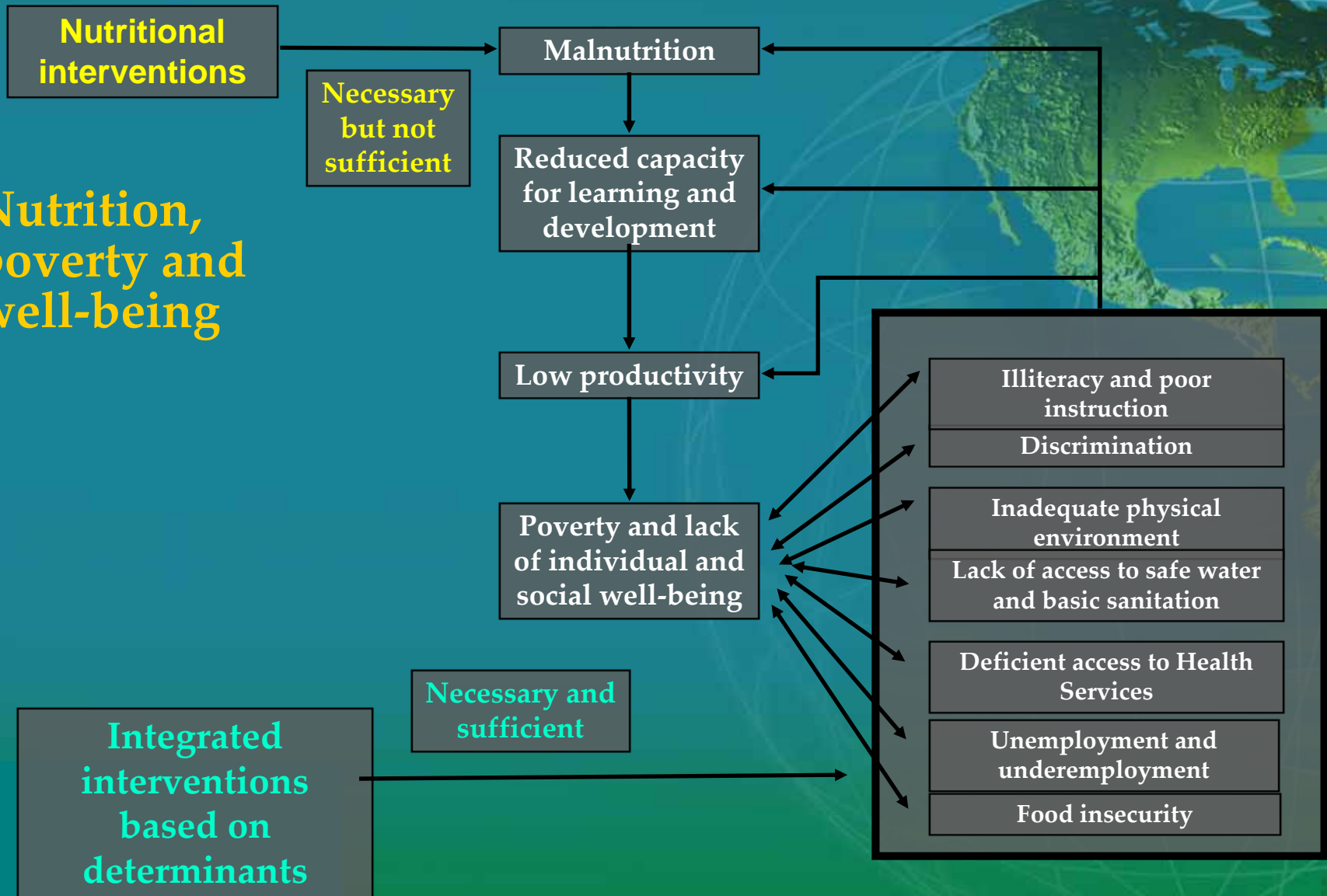


Poverty: determinants and effects





Nutrition, poverty and well-being





Conceptual premises

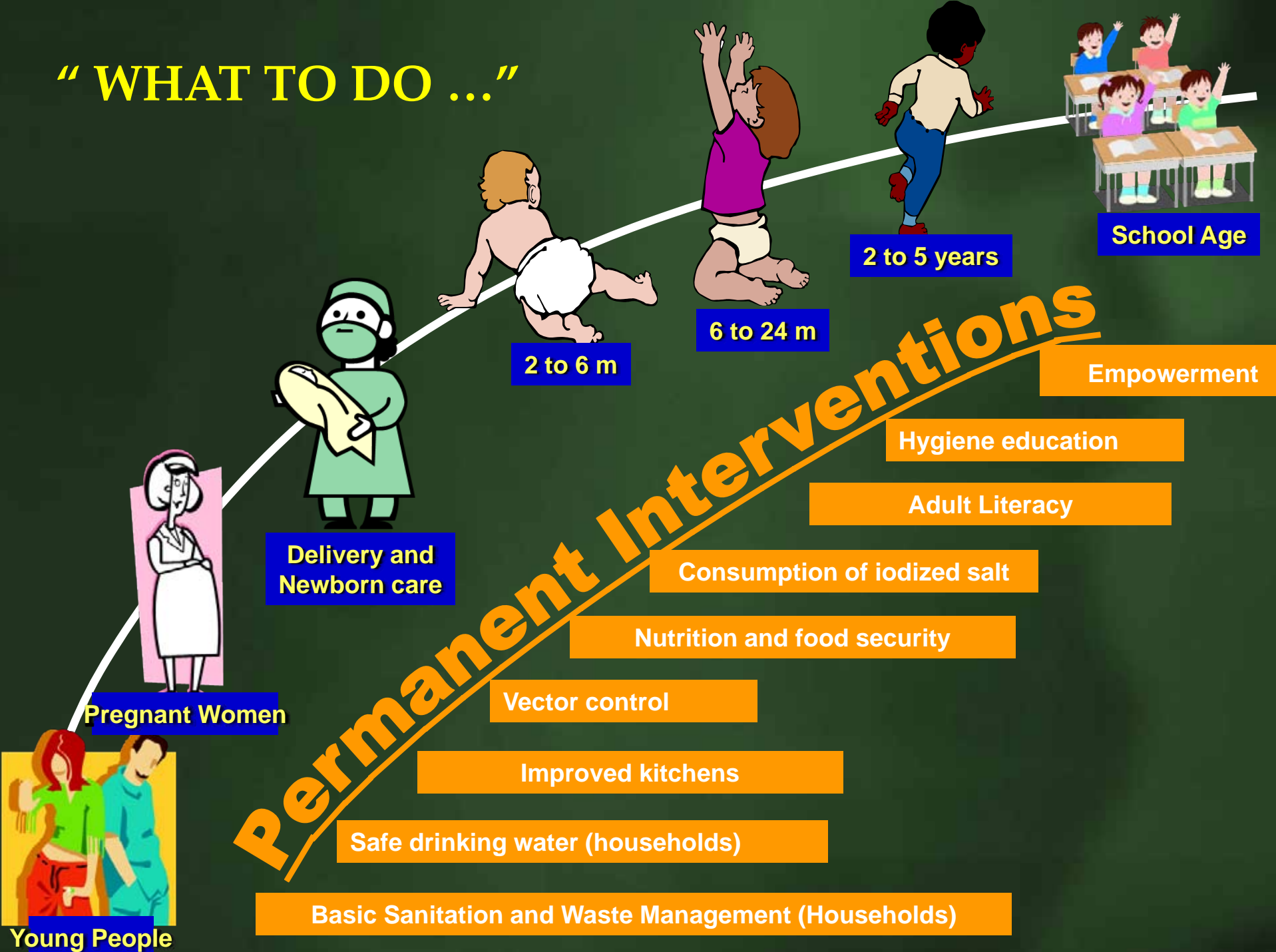
- Develop approaches that place fundamental emphasis on modifying determinants, not only dealing with their effects, and targeting actions not only towards individuals, but also towards physical and social environments and geo-demographic scenarios.
- Replace the uni-sectoral approach with a multi-sectoral focus centered on social determinants and addressing inequalities.



Conceptual premises

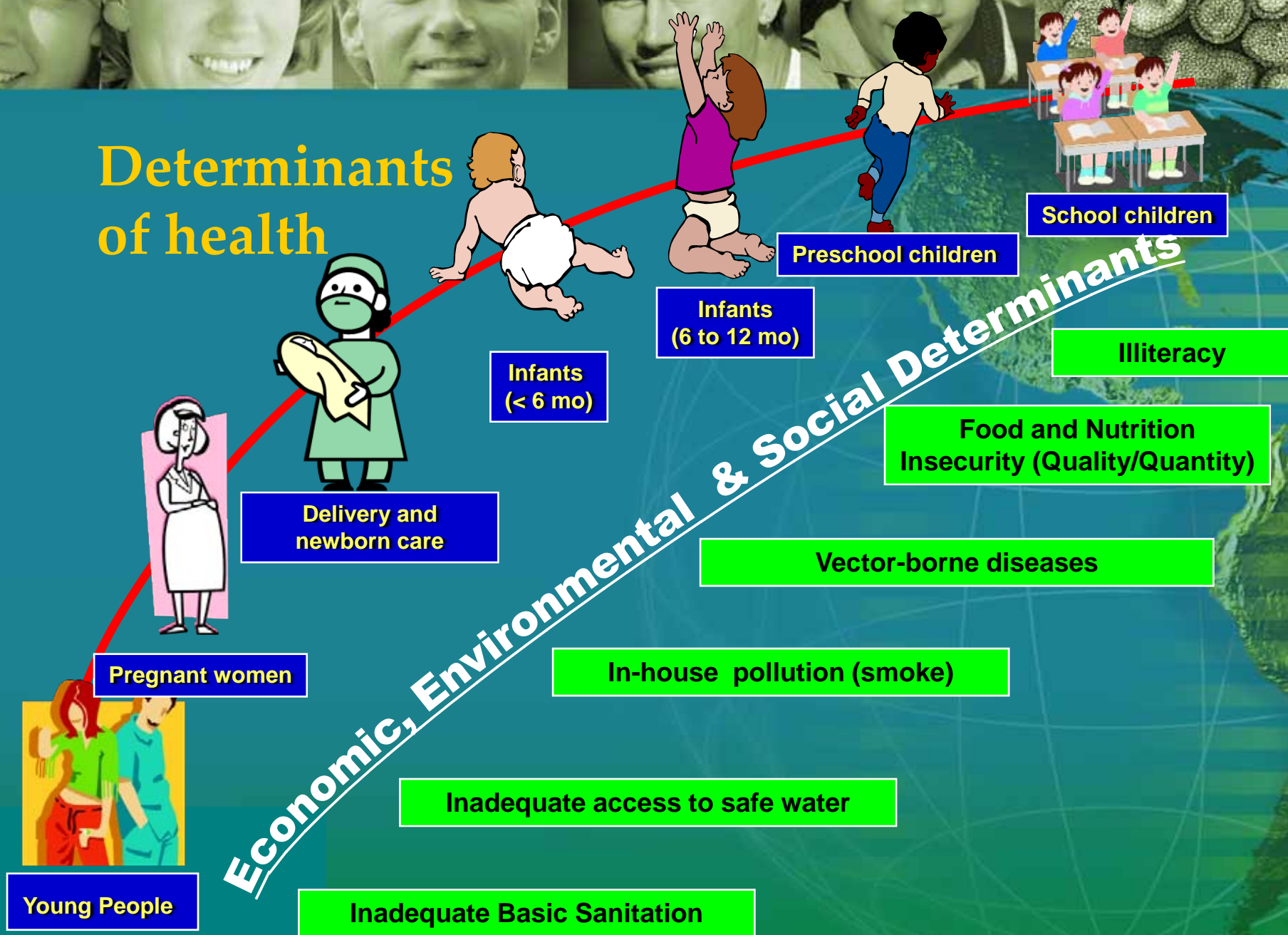
- Construct an institutional framework to coordinate joint activities in local, national, transnational, and regional spheres.
- Identify integrated and sustainable interventions based on the existing evidence in the different areas of work, and develop, monitor, and evaluate them in a unified and non-fragmentary way.
- Identify scenarios and geo-demographic spaces for the development of such interventions.

"WHAT TO DO ..."

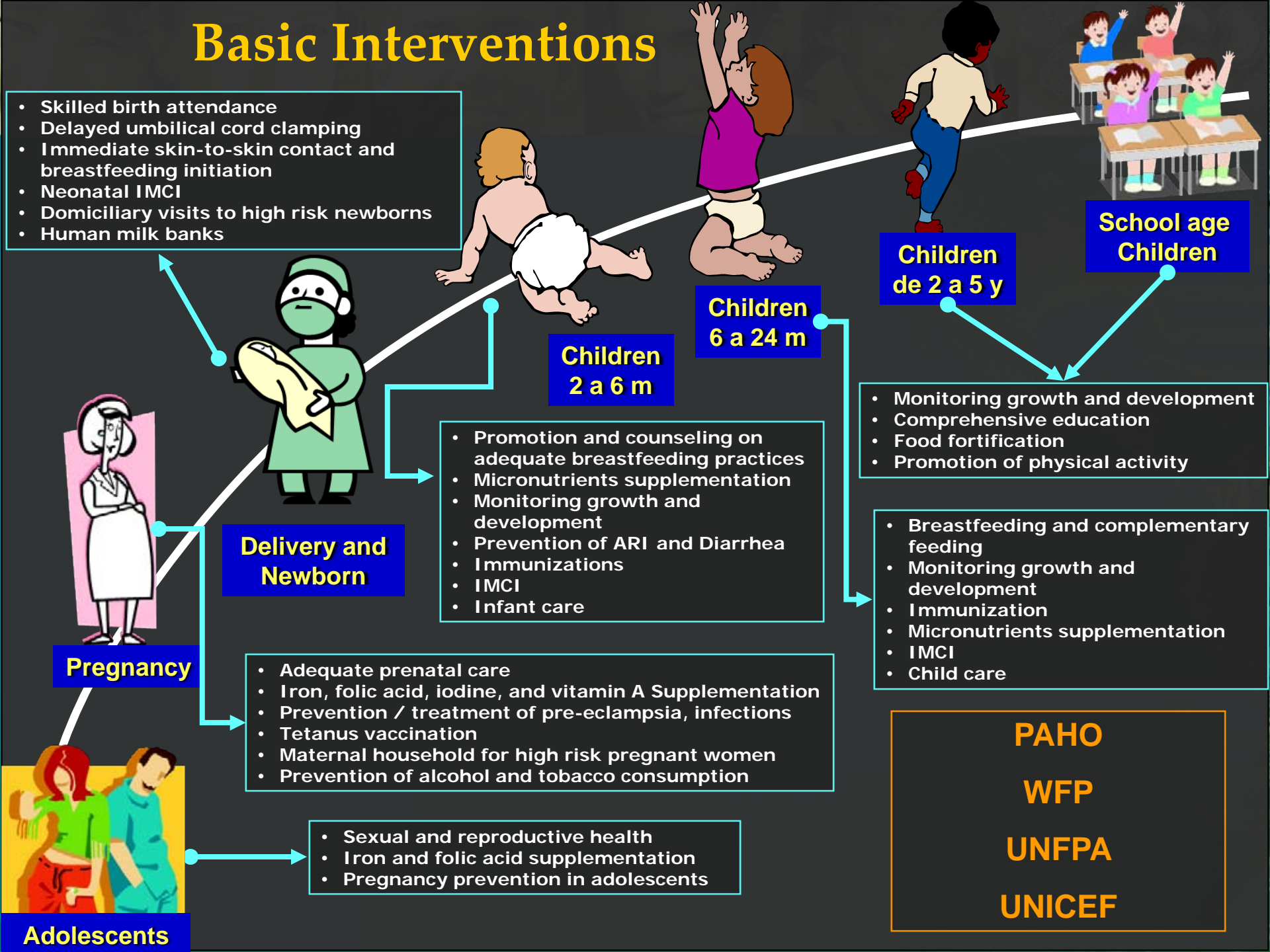




Determinants of health

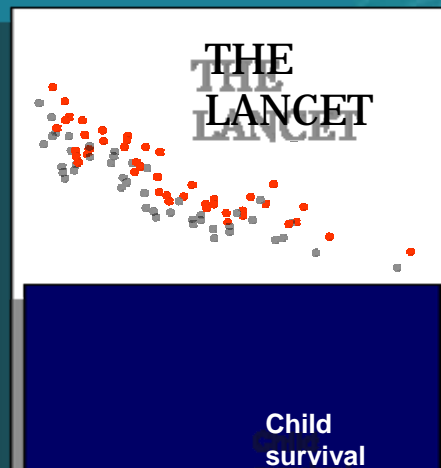
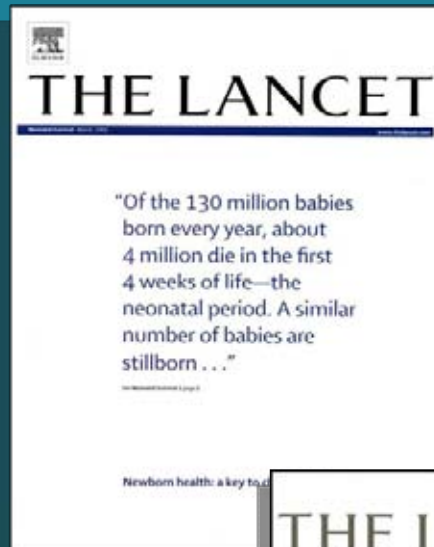


Basic Interventions

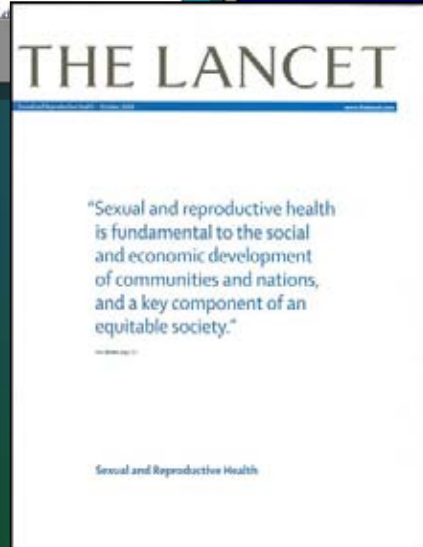




Evidence

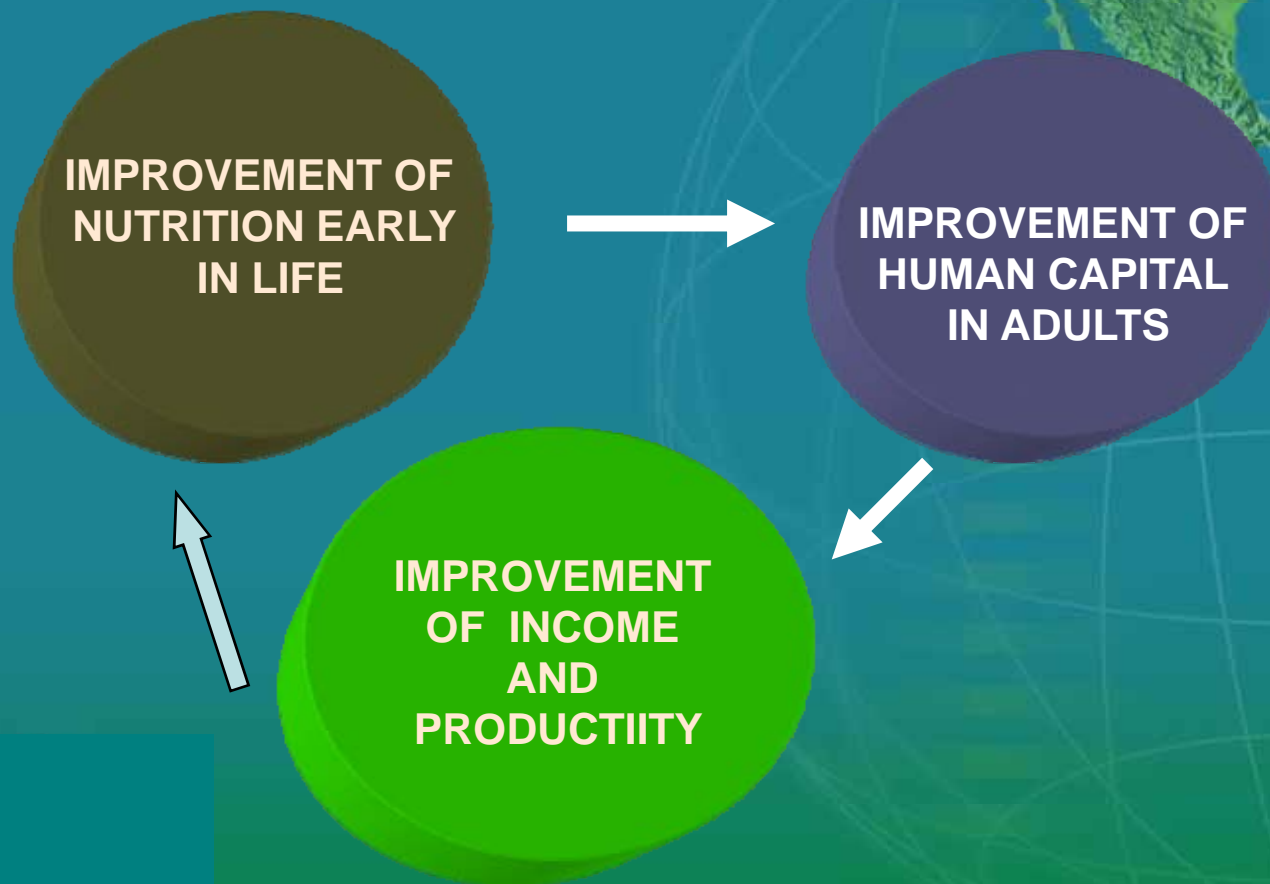


Child survival





Human capital, 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.



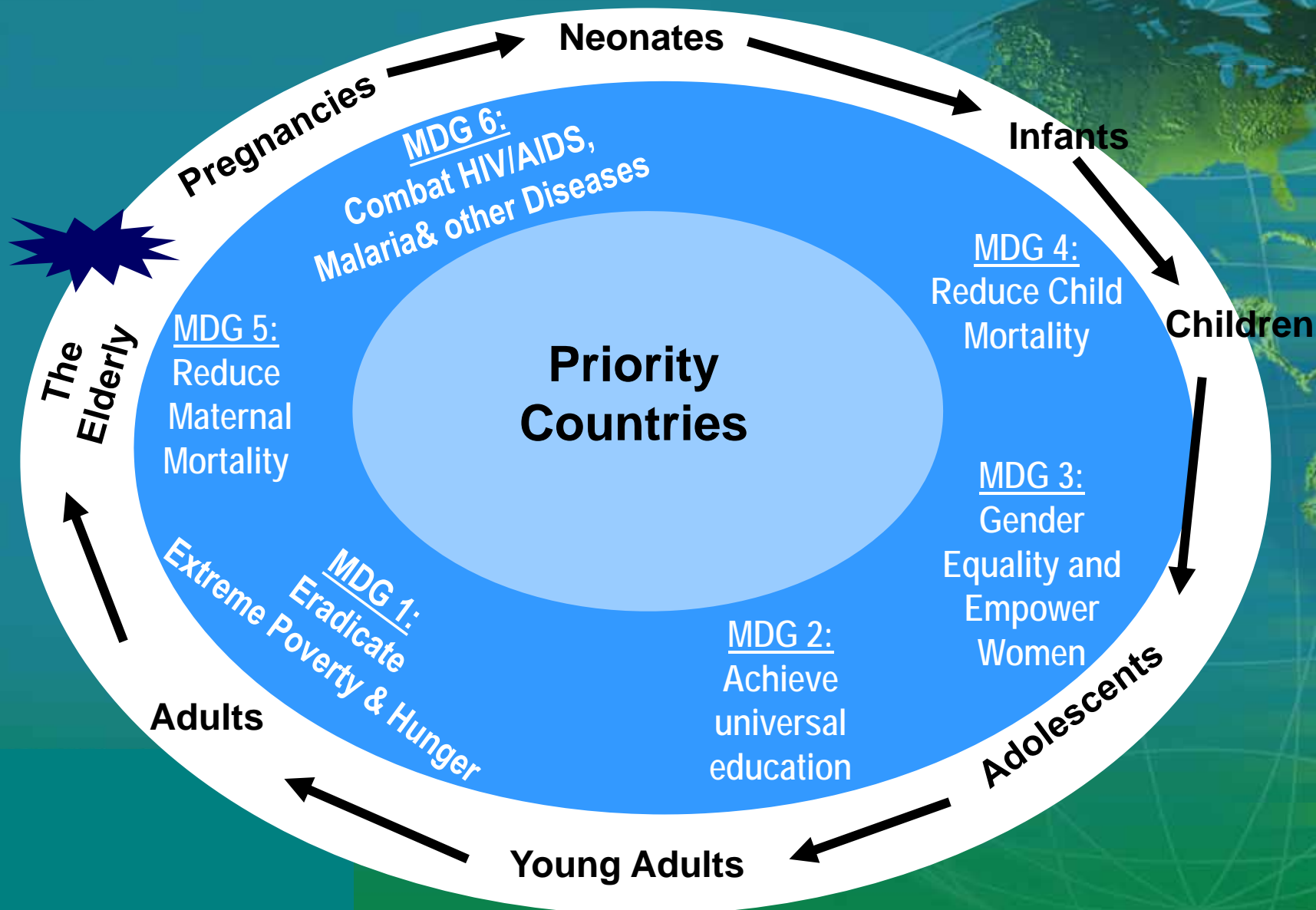
Our rationale for the Alliance

- 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*





www.ops-oms.org



**Organización
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Oficina Regional de la
Organización Mundial de la Salud

525 23rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-2099



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)*



**Organización
Panamericana
de la Salud**

Oficina Regional de la
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Thank you very much !!!!

