



THE 7TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH PROMOTION

The second day of the conference was devoted to group work on the chosen five thematic areas. This is an important aspect that facilitates exchange of experiences and knowledge in these specific areas. This edition of the bulletin provides a summary of the outcomes from the groups.

Health promotion: social determinants of health and primary health care.



The major focus of this session was on clarifying the concepts of primary care and primary health care. It was emphasized that primary care is more concerned with curative services while primary health care focuses on prevention of disease and the involvement of communities.

As such, primary health care uses the approaches and methods of health promotion to address the challenges and problems relating to the social determinants of health.

In relation to the social determinants of health the questions focused on the ownership and the appropriate structures for addressing them. The consensus was that in order to properly address these determinants and contribute to improving the health of individuals, the interventions and approaches of health promotion need to focus on the concrete problems faced by communities.

We should recognize that social determinants of health go beyond the boundaries of the health sector and therefore require intersectoral collaboration.

Building capacity for health promotion

The importance of strengthening health systems in order to improve the health of populations was emphasized. The working group stressed the importance of reinforcing systems in terms of human resources, institutional structures, infrastructure and financial resources.

Participants called for the strengthening of health promotion capacity to provide a favourable foundation for the implementation of interventions.

The need for capacity building to address challenges such as climate change and the need for more resources to be devoted to health promotion was noted as was the potential contributions of non-governmental organizations at the community level.

Additional specific areas for health system strengthening were recommended for example dealing with issues such as waste management, prevention of road accidents, environmental protection and prevention of epidemics.

These actions will contribute significantly to reducing the negative effects of social determinants of health at individual and community levels.



Strengthening health systems



The conference participants defined a health system as the ensemble of all public and private organizations, institutions and resources mandated to improve, maintain and restore health.

Health systems encompass both personal and population services as well as activities designed to influence the policies and actions of other sectors to address the social and environmental determinants of health.

In closing the implementation gap the key functions of health systems which include service delivery, financing, resource generation and stewardship have been recognized. To strengthen health systems the priorities for focus include improved health, responsiveness and fairness in resource distribution.

The four key messages arising from the discussions include; health systems should aim to keep people healthy, be responsive to needs and should be equitable; health systems should play a key role in advocacy for health equity; health systems should provide a balanced portfolio of services and optimize the mix between preventive health promotion and curative health care; health systems should tackle inequalities through advocacy for authorities to include health equity in all policies.

Closing the implementation gap will also entail improving access to health care in terms of availability and affordability of services and utilization should be increased by building public confidence in services.

The concrete recommendations for the **Nairobi Call to Action** will be filtered from the issues raised and will form the basis for action at the country level.

Forthcoming events

Field visits

Wednesday 28 October: Ten different health promotion initiatives have been identified and participants will visit these projects.

Africa Day

Thursday 29 October: Exhibitions on health promotion to be held within the KICC



Notice

Thursday 29 October: A presentation on health promotion in the WHO African Region will be made by Dr. A J Diarra



Nama, Director of the Division for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases at the WHO Regional Office for Africa.

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