

COUNTRY UPDATES ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (PHE)

Strengthening equity and social determinants in health programmes in Morocco and Nepal

The World Health Organization (WHO) and national multidisciplinary review teams in Morocco and Nepal are undertaking a review process to improve health programme results, close coverage gaps and better meet population needs. Morocco is focusing on diabetes and noncommunicable diseases programme, while Nepal is focusing on the national adolescent sexual and reproductive health programme.

The review process will result in recommendations for making programme adjustments and activities to address priority equity issues identified, thereby contributing to Universal Health Coverage. To kick off this work, two-day meetings took place in Fès and Kathmandu in September respectively, during which the teams learnt about the step-wise methodology being developed by WHO to assess the nature and source of inequities, and to identify potential solutions. This methodology draws from the fields of equity, social determinants, gender and human rights. Review teams will be working to complete a diagnostic checklist on their selected programme, which will be followed by a five-day training and review workshops in October and November 2015.



Health in All Policies in Suriname: from training towards implementation

After hosting the sub-region's first Health in All Policies (HiAP) training in early May this year, the government of Suriname has immediately moved towards implementation of the HiAP approach for addressing the social determinants of health. Over the past four months, a dedicated team has worked under the leadership of the Ministry of Health on the sub-region's first Quick Assessment of Social Determinants of Health to understand the underlying causes of major health problems and associated health inequities.

The assessment made use of information on the burden of disease in Suriname and scanned available data and evidence on the related social determinants of health and health inequities. Throughout the process, input from a variety of stakeholders was obtained and incorporated into the assessment work. The final assessment reports were used during the National Consensus Workshop on 25th of August, 2015 to draft policy options. The Workshop was concluded by adopting two statements, one on the importance of using the Health in All Policies as a whole of government approach to implement key policies to address health inequities, and one on the need to develop a monitoring framework that will be presented at the International Conference on Health Equity, Social Determinants and Health in All Policies. The Conference will be held in Suriname on 21st and 22nd October 2015 and Sir Michael Marmot will give a keynote speech.

The team working on Health in All Policies implementation consisted of Suriname Ministry of Health Director Dr. Maureen Wijngaarde-van Dijk and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director Ms. Ellen Naarendorp, consultants Dr. Erik Blas and Ms. Annette Tjon Sie Fat, PAHO/Suriname focal point Mr. Pierre Pratley in close coordination with Dr. Guillermo Troya - PAHO/WHO Suriname Representative, WHO and PAHO headquarters and the Suriname's UN Country Team.

