



“The Role of National Institutes of (Public) Health in Monitoring and Research of Social Determinants of Health – SDH”.

Itaboraí Fórum / Fiocruz. Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro, May, 07 – 09, 2014

SUMMARY REPORT

1. OBJECTIVE

Develop a joint proposal by the National Institutes of Public Health and similar institutions at UNASUR and CPLP for the establishment and implementation of projects generating evidence on social determination and health inequities – SDH-HI.

2. AGENDA

a) Opening Session

- Paulo Buss, Presidency of Fiocruz
- Manuel Lapão, Director of Cooperation, CPLP
- Henri Jouval, Technical Coordinator, ISAGS/UNASUR
- Felix Rosenberg, Secretary, RINS/UNASUR and RINSP/CPLP

b) Session 1 – Introduction to the Workshop

- Background and Objectives of the Workshop. Felix Rosenberg.
- Proposals and Actions in SDH and inequities at the UNASUL Health commission. Alessandra Ninis, ISAGS / UNASUR.

c) Session 2 – Conceptual Framework

- Health in the Post- 2015 Development Agenda. Paulo Buss
- Social Classes and Health Inequities in Brazil: A conceptual framework. José Alcides Figueiredo (UFJF)

d) Session 3 – Function of SDH and health inequities monitoring

- Portal and Observatory of Health Inequities in Brazil: The experience of FIOCRUZ. A. Pellegrini, CEPI/ENSP/Fiocruz
- Health Inequities in the EU – Final Report. M. Marmot (by video)
- The National Health Observatory in Colombia (NIH Colombia). Carlos Castañeda.
- Building a System for the Surveillance of Health Inequities in Uruguay. Alejandra Toledo. MoH, Uruguay
- Challenges for the international answer to global Health in 2020. Juan Garay
- Debates: Country interventions



e) Session 4 - The role of NIHS in field research on SDH-HI: Possibilities and case reports

- Critical epidemiology of waste in Ecuador. Fernanda Soliz (Ecuador)
- Health in mineworkers in Austral Africa. Barry Kistnasamy (South Africa)
- A new approach to SDH research at the border of Argentina and Brazil. Daniel Salomón (INMeT, Argentina)
- Vertical Quotas and Health in a community in Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro. Daniel Miranda (PIT/Fiocruz)
- Health Inequities: The role of the NIH-Peru in research and dissemination. Cesar Cabezas – INS/Peru.

- Debates: Country interventions

f) Working Groups with discussion guides

GROUP 1: Institutionalizing monitoring and continuous evaluation of data on health inequities at the NIHS

GROUP 2: Elaboration and implementation of field research protocols on the relationships between social, economic and environmental determinants and Health indicators at the NIHS.

g) Session 5 – Presentation of the Working Groups and Debates

h) Session 6 – Strategic Alternatives for the implementation of the proposals. Proposals for a RINS/UNASUR e RINSP/CPLP Strategic Plan for the strengthening of monitoring and research on SDH-HI at the NIHS.

3. PARTICIPANTS

Thirty-two participants, including directors or their representatives of the National Institutes of Public Health or equivalent institutions of the following countries:

Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries - CPLP

- Angola (NIH)
- Brasil (Fiocruz)
- Guiné-Bissau (National Institute of Health - INASA)
- São Tomé e Príncipe (NIH Installing Commission)
- CPLP - Executive Secretariat – Directorate of Cooperation.

UNASUR:

- Argentina (National Institute of Tropical Medicine - INMET)
- Bolivia (National Institute of Health Laboratories - INLASA)
- Brasil (Fiocruz)
- Colombia (National Institute of Health - INS)
- Peru (National Institute of Health - INS)
- Suriname (Bureau of Public Health)
- Uruguay (National Integrated Health System)
- UNASUR – South American Institute of Government in Health – ISAGS/UNASUR

Other Countries / Institutions:



CPLP



- Brasil (Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais – UFJF)
- Ecuador (Simon Bolivar Andean University – UASB)
- El Salvador (National Institute of Health - INS)
- South Africa (National Institute of Occupational Health - NIOH)
- European Union, Mexico Delegation

4. MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A) Strengthening National Health Observatories focusing on SDH and Health Inequities

- The National Institutes of Public Health must get actively involved in systematic monitoring and evaluation of the Social Determination / Determinants of Health – SDH. For that purpose, NIPHs may either have this goal incorporated as a major national responsibility, as is the case of the NIH in Colombia, or actively share information, activities and responsibilities with other national institutions normally placed at the MoH headquarters.
- A situation analysis should be done, at each country level, aiming at the identification of available sources of data and information on SDH-HI and the existing mechanisms allowing for their handling, processing and analysis.
- Despite the high relative weight of NTD and other factors impairing general “wellbeing” high attention should be given in all of South American and CPLP countries to the burden of disease caused by transmissible diseases, with particular reference to their social determination.
- NIPH must develop institutional strategies allowing for incorporating SDH into health monitoring and evaluation at the country levels and share the experiences of those countries that are already in the process of doing so.
- When discussing their strategic and action plans, NIPHs should give priority to the development of programs and projects that overcome the traditional biomedical vision, still prevailing in many of them, through monitoring, evaluating and researching social, economic and environmental associated variables.
- There is a general need to build indicators that integrate and articulate the MDGs with other variables including socio-economic, occupational, public policies and minimal income programs data, aiming at creating and / or strengthening Integrated Information Systems.
- The RINS web site could be a very strong clearinghouse and dissemination instrument, but there is a need for stronger involvement of the member institutes. <http://www.ins.gob.pe/rpmesp/Articulos sobre DSS solicitadas>

B) Strengthening field research on SDH and Health Inequities

- Existing research aimed at supporting evidence-based policymaking is in general weak, traditionally oriented and with weak analysis, hindering decision making. Available socio-economic information at the NIPHs is weak.
- There is a need for mapping of all actors involved in SDH research at the NIPHs or equivalent institutions in order to promote synergies in relation to generating evidence and monitoring SDH-HI.
- According to the research results presented at the seminar, a need arose to validate a model of Social Determination of Health using as a major analytic category the relation between social classes and territory. From the methodological point of view, it would be interesting to develop a basic protocol in order to validate different “paradigmatic health territories”, at the local levels.



- A virtual space should be created where research experiences could be shared, multicentric protocols developed and joint papers prepared for publication.
- It is suggested that a multicentric project be developed, integrating concrete local experiences on SDH research. This project could be a basis for mobilizing research funds.
- It is very important that NIPHs do not only develop SDH- HI research but that they find means to policy brief decision makers at their national and sub-national levels.
- The NIPHs, as national strategic leader institutions within the health sector, are very strongly recommended not to reproduce common errors such as arbitrary selecting traditional research objects based on individual or donor driven decisions. New theoretical and methodological approaches are necessary; different dissemination mechanisms are needed; collaborating spaces (formal and informal networks) among various national and international actors should be created; dialogue with Health managers; decision makers and the population must be fostered
- Active synergic action with community participation should be promoted when building new knowledge on SDH and Health inequities.

C) SOME STRATEGIC ALTERNATIVES TO IMPLEMENT THE SEMINAR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strategic Planning

- To build a model proposal of a Strategic Plan aiming at the strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation of SDH-HI at the NIPH networks.
- The Observatories should hold relative autonomy / Independence for their work. For that purpose, alliances with the Academy (Universities) might be virtuous
- It is also necessary to strengthen formal links of the NIPHs with the national institutes of Statistics in order to jointly work on data and indicators to be collected and analyzed
- National Authorities should find means to institutionalize Observatory activities at the NIPH levels

2. Database and Dissemination

- Build database on DSH studies and research at the NIPH networks, feeding the NIPH portals with that information.
- Develop strategies to disseminate information to decision makers, social movements and population in general, through the construction of fora organized by the NIPHs where dialogue spaces would be opened to present research results and define policies and strategies accordingly
- CPLP should develop a specific site on SDH / HI at their Portal where experiences and research results and protocols would be placed. This site should interface with its similar at the RINS/UNASUR web portal.
- Both sites at the RINS/UNASUR and RINSP/CPLP web portals should include information on "Grey Literature" on SDH / HI and disseminate it through the social networks. It is requested that CEPI-DSS/ ENSP/Fiocruz contributes to this effort
- The Executive Secretariat shall stimulate member NIPHs to feed the database at the network portals
- The Executive Secretariat is requested to develop a form in order to obtain updated information on all activities, research projects and experiences on SDH / HI at the NIPHs, including information on existing portals and proposing links among them.
- It is requested that the Executive Secretariat explores means to obtain foreign financial support to create SDH/HI portals at the NIPHs, both at UNASUR and CPLP

3. Cooperation Strategies



CPLP



- Build cooperation synergies between both NIPH networks (UNASUR and CPLP) generating a virtuous cycle of improvements of institutional capacities and performances
- Work together with other instances of the regional fora. Thus, it is recommended that ISAGS formally approaches the UNASUR Social Development Council and the Working Group on SDH and Health Promotion generating joint work such as the harmonization of indicators

4. **Development of Human Resources**

- By request of the UNASUR Health Council, ISAGS is offering a training activity on SDH / HI for Health managers during the second semester, 2014. ISAGS will open one vacant position at the course for those NIPHS willing to establish SDH/HI National Observatory linked activities.
- Similarly, negotiations are in course in order that ISAGS open similar vacant places for CPLP NIPHS, financed with CPLP funds.
- Students participating at the ISAGs course should be stimulated to become multipliers, reproducing it at the national levels
- The course should emphasize on the evaluation of the impact of national policies on Health inequities.

Petrópolis, May 9th, 2014