

Instituto de Nutrición de Centro América y Panamá -INCAP-



Current capacities and needs to counter chronic diseases in Mesoamerica and Dominican Republic.

Manuel Ramirez-Zea, MD, PhD

INCAP Comprehensive Center for the Prevention of
Chronic Diseases - CIIPEC

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Objective of the Study

The purpose of this study was to assess current capacity, efforts, and infrastructure available in Mesoamerica and Dominican Republic, and the main needs these countries have to counter chronic diseases, as a way to set priorities and lead to specific and realistic goals for intervention strategies and actions.



Methods

Needs Assessment

- Delphi Method – structured and sequential inquiring to a group of experts, until achievement of consensus
- First National Consultation (2007-08): Needs assessed on 4 different areas: public policies and evaluation, surveillance, health promotion and clinical care
- Systematization of Information
- Second National Consultation(2008-09): Validation and prioritization of needs
- Regular and interactive communication with key stakeholders



Methods

Capacity assessment

- World survey on country progress assessment on prevention and control of chronic diseases from the World Health Organization (2008-09)
- 5 general areas included: infrastructure and resources, surveillance, pilot programs, resources and national plan for chronic diseases
- Informants: Focal point for Chronic Diseases at the MOH



RESULTS: Consultations

Country	Date	Central Government	Public Entities	Private	Universities	Cooperation Agencies	TOTAL
Belize	6/11/2007	12	3	-	-	2	17
	15/10/2008	1	-	-	-	3	4
Costa Rica	29/10/2007	24	7	1	4	4	40
	9/12/2008	8	2	3	2	5	20
El Salvador	26/10/2007	12	1	3	2	4	22
	18/02/2008	5	1	1	1	5	13
Honduras	22/10/2007	10	0	1	1	2	14
	24/11/2008	3	1	1	1	4	10
Guatemala	7/11/2007	9	2	2	6	3	22
	8/10/2008	6	5	5	3	5	24
Mexico	17/01/2008	10	7	1	2	2	22
	15/12/2008	5	-	-	1	3	9
Nicaragua	26/10/2007	6	-	-	2	2	10
	14/07/2010	12	24	-	20	2	58
Panama	15/01/2008	13	3	3	3	2	24
	27/01/2009	6	3	-	3	3	15
Dominican Rep*	24/10/2008	13	1	2	1	3	20
TOTAL		155	60	23	52	52	344



ISSUES TO BE IMPROVED ON INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES	PRIORITY
PUBLIC POLICIES AND EVALUATION	
Training on intersectorial work and elaboration and implementation of public policies related to Chronic diseases.	VERY HIGH
SURVEILLANCE	
Strengthen human resources on surveillance and monitoring (epidemiology and clinical care) and analysis of information.	VERY HIGH
Improve sources of information and systematize current information available (create a national epidemiologic surveillance subsystem) taking into account quality and specific indicators.	HIGH
HEALTH PROMOTION	
Train health staff (including health promoters) on health promotion and prevention of chronic diseases (management and technical skills, methodologies for changing behavior, values, knowledge and practices).	VERY HIGH
CLINICAL CARE	
Develop, review and update guides, protocols, and care norms for chronic diseases, including simple indicators, and joining protocols among institutions.	HIGH
COMMUNICATION	
Develop mechanisms and strategies for social communication and promotion of healthy lifestyles and for the prevention and clinical care of chronic diseases (online bulletins; web pages; on line scientific journals, educative campaigns; development , validation and distribution of educative material) with intersectorial work at local level.	HIGH



ISSUES TO BE IMPROVED ON INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES	PRIORITY
PUBLIC POLICIES AND EVALUATION	
Create and strengthen the Chronic Disease Unit and the National Committee of Chronic Diseases and other sub-committees (nutrition, tobacco, physical activity, etc) in implementation of policies .	VERY HIGH
Strengthen the system for monitoring and evaluation of programs and projects related to Chronic diseases and the publication of reports.	HIGH
SURVEILLANCE	
Promote a proper and effective communication system for decision making , including funds allocation for chronic diseases.	HIGH
HEALTH PROMOTION AND CLINICAL CARE	
Develop an integral care system that includes health promotion, prevention, management and rehabilitation ; along with quality assessment of services and its control; emphasizing on supervision and monitoring in order to evaluate the fulfillment of care norms, with investment on minimum infrastructure and support services; and develop performance evaluations; that include communication, education and information at every level and sustainability of the staff available.	HIGH
COMMUNICATION	
Create/Strengthen the National Committee of Chronic diseases on health communication and education, social marketing, community participation and effective advertisement of activities .	HIGH



Current capacities

AREAS ESPECÍFICAS	COR	PAN	GUA	NIC	BEL	HON	DOR	ELS	MEX
INFRAESTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES									
Is/are there a focal point(s) for overall prevention and control of chronic diseases in the Ministry of Health and /or in your Organization?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	ND
Is there a unit (or department) for prevention and control of chronic diseases in the Ministry of Health?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	ND
Does your country have national integrated advisory group or committee for NCD prevention and control which cover all main chronic diseases?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	ND
SURVEILLANCE									
Does your country have a routine or regular surveillance system for chronic diseases/risk factors?	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	ND
Has the PAHO/WHO Stepwise approach to surveillance for risk factors been implemented in your country?	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	ND



SPECIFIC AREAS	COR	PAN	GUA	NIC	BEL	HON	DOR	ELS	MEX
PILOT PROGRAMS									
Does your country have health promotion and chronic disease prevention and control demonstration site(s) for integrated chronic disease prevention and control?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	ND
Does your country have health promotion and chronic disease prevention and control demonstration site(s) for tackling individual risk factors?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	ND
How many age groups does your demonstration site(s) include?	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	ND
On how many individual settings does your demonstration site(s) include?	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	ND
RESOURCES									
Has your country allocated specific resources or a dedicated budget for implementation of a national policy or strategy for the prevention and control of chronic diseases?	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	ND
How many sources of financial support for the prevention and control of chronic diseases the country has?	4	3	2	2	0	1	0	3	ND
NATIONAL PLAN TO APPROACH CHRONIC DISEASES									
Does your country have a national strategy or action plan relevant to prevention and control of chronic diseases?	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	ND



Conclusions

- Human resource skills to counter Chronic Diseases should be improved in policy implementation, surveillance, clinical prevention and control, and social marketing and communication.
- National Committees on Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases should be created/strengthened, particularly in policy implementation, evidence-based decision making, and communication and education.
- An integral care system that includes health promotion, prevention, management and rehabilitation is needed.
- Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala, and Nicaragua have a better capacity to support strategies for preventing and controlling Chronic Diseases than the other countries in the region.



CIIEPC response and support to countries' needs

- Research
- Human research training
- Communication and dissemination of information
- Institutional capacity building



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Harvard
School of Public Health



University of Michigan School of Public Health

Department of Health and Human Services • National Institutes of Health

National Heart Lung and Blood Institute
People Science Health



RESEARCH: Core studies

- **CS1**: Dietary factors associated with cardiovascular diseases in children and adults (**9 countries**)
- **CS2**: Testing a multilevel-based intervention for the improvement of cardiovascular health in elementary school children living in poor urban areas of **Guatemala**
- **CS3**: Primary health care/community-based model for the prevention and control of cardiovascular disease in high-risk individuals living in urban areas of **Costa Rica** and Southern **Mexico**.



TRAINING: Continuum education

- The objective is to bring knowledge and skills to strength capacities of **primary health care staff**
- Distance learning
 - Potential topics:
 - Clinical prevention of chronic diseases (Certificate course)
 - Elaboration and implementation of public policies (Course)
 - Physical exercise for health (Certificate course)
 - Surveillance, monitoring and analysis of information (Course)



TRAINING: Capacity building on research

- Tutorial program for **researchers**
 - Involvement in Core Studies
 - Workshops on research topics (8)
 - Club of literature review
 - Periodic lectures of PIs
- Promote applications to ***Doctoral training*** in US.
- Promote and sponsor ***lectures*** on chronic diseases in regional scientific meetings.
- **12 *dissertation awards*** for outstanding MSc/PhD students



COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

- *Web-site*

www.ciipec-incap.org

- *Bi-monthly e-newsletters*



INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

- Promote a ***Regional Network of the Health Sector*** on Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases (Started March 2010)
- ***Transfer knowledge*** for evidence-based decision making
- Create and support a ***Regional Network of researchers*** (Started February 2010)
- Promote areas of emphasis on Chronic Diseases in ***Master programs***
- Promote ***National Intersectoral Committees***



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