



**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**

Regional Office of the  
World Health Organization

**Celebrating 100 years of Health**



**Inter-American  
Development Bank**

## **Senior Policy Seminar on Health, Human Capital and Economic Growth: Theory, Evidence and Policies**

**3 – 4 October 2002**

**PAHO Headquarters  
525 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-2895  
Room B (Second Floor)**

### **Seminar Objectives**

The main objective of this Seminar is to examine the relationship between investments in human capital (nutrition, health and education) and long-term economic growth and social development: reduction of poverty and inequalities. Questions to be addressed during the seminar will include:

- Does the rate of investment in human capital (nutrition, health and education) affect long-term economic growth and social development?
- What do new theories of endogenous economic growth tell us about the likely impact of improvements in the quality and longevity of human capital on long-term economic growth?
- What are the transmission mechanisms by which changes in nutrition and health status of the population will affect the rates of returns to investments in education, labor productivity, adaptability to change and economic growth?
- What do we know about the rate of investments in human capital (health and education) in the Americas? What are the criteria to define an optimal balance between the rate of investments in human capital and the rate of savings and investments?

The Seminar will highlight the incorporation of human capital variables into endogenous economic growth models, as well as recent empirical evidence about the links between the nutritional and health status of a population, the quality and longevity of human capital and

countries performance in terms of long term economic growth and social development: income growth, reduction of poverty and inequality.

The Seminar also will feature discussions of analytical models and empirical evidence that examine the health of a population as a possible explanation for the persistence of poverty and inequality in countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean region (LAC).

## **Participants**

Leading economists in the field of economic growth and social welfare issues, including a Nobel-prize winner, will conduct discussions on the role of nutritional, health status and other human capital variables in explaining long-term economic performance.

Other discussions will feature research scholars, policy makers and government officials working in the fields of social investments, economic growth and social developments. Professionals involved in designing and/or implementing Millennium Development Goals strategies and staff from sponsoring institutions will also attend. Because of the participatory nature of the event, this Seminar is limited to 35 participants, by invitation only.

## **Contact Persons:**

Inter-American Development Bank  
Alfredo Solari  
Senior Health Specialist  
Department of Sustainable Development  
Tel: (202) 623-1345  
Fax: (202) 623-1463  
E-mail: [Alfredos@iadb.org](mailto:Alfredos@iadb.org)

Pan American Health Organization  
Rubén Suárez  
Regional Economic Advisor  
Health and Human Development  
Program of Public Policies and Health  
Tel: (202) 974-3482  
Fax: (202) 974-3675  
E-mail: [suarezru@paho.org](mailto:suarezru@paho.org)