



MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has begun to stabilize in Latin America and the Caribbean, while rates of antiretroviral treatment coverage are higher than any other developing region. PAHO/WHO continued in 2010-2011 to provide technical cooperation to help its member countries fight HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases through advancements in surveillance, control and treatment regimens as well as improvements in access to and quality of health care.

MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

Latin America and the Caribbean have the lowest child mortality rates of any developing region, but with major differences between and within countries. PAHO/WHO worked in 2010-2011 to reduce child mortality by focusing on newborn mortality—which accounts for 60 percent of infant mortality—as well as expanded immunization, child nutrition and improvements in primary health care.



The Millennium Development Goals are the most ambitious endeavor ever pursued against human deprivation and the first to place health at the center of development. They give us an unparalleled opportunity to improve health and equity by mobilizing coordinated multisectoral action to fight disease and improve the social determinants of health.

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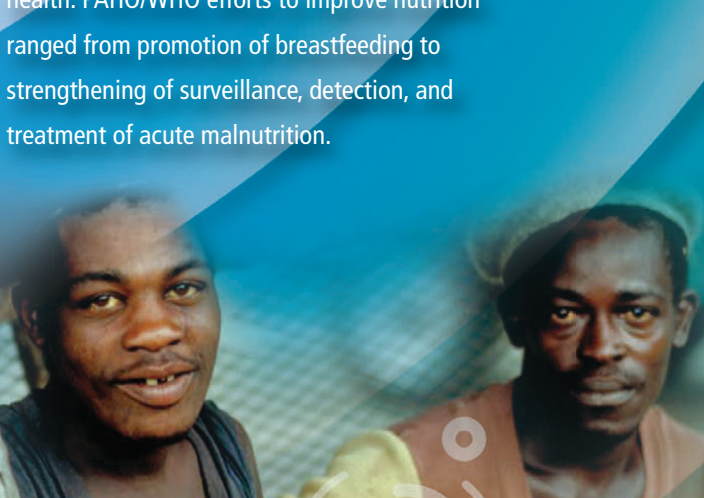
Health and the Millennium Development Goals: From Commitment to Action

Annual Report of the Director – 2011

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were endorsed by 189 heads of state at the U.N. Millennium Summit in 2000 and represent a global commitment to making the right to development a reality for everyone. Human health is at the core of the MDG vision, reflecting a consensus that health is both an outcome of and an input to development. The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) has been working with its Member States over the past decade to advance the

MDGs, especially those related to health. This year's Annual Report of the Director highlights PAHO/WHO technical cooperation in 2010-2011 aimed at accelerating progress toward the MDGs in the Region of the Americas.



MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

As a group, the countries of the Americas have made great strides in reducing poverty and malnutrition, yet the Region remains the most unequal in the world, with many countries and population groups left behind. During 2010-2011, PAHO/WHO's technical cooperation supported poverty reduction by promoting universal health care and addressing the social determinants of health. PAHO/WHO efforts to improve nutrition ranged from promotion of breastfeeding to strengthening of surveillance, detection, and treatment of acute malnutrition.

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Women have made many gains in Latin America and the Caribbean, and girls have achieved parity with boys in primary education at the regional level. However, gender differences remain significant in the workforce, in levels of household poverty, and access to social protection. In 2010-2011, PAHO/WHO worked to reduce health inequalities based on gender, ethnicity and other forms of social exclusion and promoted health planning and programming that address the differences between women's and men's health status and needs.



MDG 5: Improve maternal health

Maternal mortality has declined some 40 percent in the Region of the Americas since 1990, but some 10,000 mothers continue to die due to childbirth-related causes each year. In 2010-2011, PAHO/WHO worked to expand health coverage for girls and women, including access to sexual and reproductive health services, prevent domestic violence and improve care for mothers, in hospitals and health centers as well as to the family and community.



MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

More than nine in 10 people in the Americas have access to improved sources of drinking water and eight in 10 have access to basic sanitation services. However, coverage is lower in rural areas and quality remains a challenge overall. In 2010-2011, PAHO/WHO provided technical cooperation in its member countries to improve quality and management of water and sanitation services, with an emphasis on quality, access and environmental impact.



MDG 8: Develop partnerships for development

PAHO/WHO is a participant in and a catalyst for partnerships among its member countries, other U.N. agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations working to advance the MDGs. Examples include the Safe Motherhood Initiative, through which U.N. agencies, bilateral and multilateral organizations, professional networks and civil society groups work to reduce maternal mortality, and the PAHO Revolving Fund, which helps PAHO/WHO member countries obtain more affordable prices on essential medicines and vaccines.