



BRA-56

PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Policies



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How this Collaborating Centre is contributing to the achievement of the SDGs

The PAHO / WHO CC BRA-56 got its first designation as a collaboration centre in 1996. Since then, it has been operating with the aim of strengthening comprehensive and quality pharmaceutical services in health systems in Brazil and other Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Africa Portuguese Speaking Countries. Its current activities support mainly the SG goal 3.8 and include:

- 1 – Support to Pharmaceutical Policies Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation at country and subnational levels.
 - a) Support to the formulation of Cape Verde National Pharmaceutical Policy and Implementation Plan (Dec/2017 – May/2018). http://ofcv.cv/images/Documentos-PDFs/Legislacao/BO-16-08-2018_55.pdf
 - b) Support for updating Mozambique National List of Essential Medicines (2019-2020)
 - c) Support for Mozambique National Pharmaceutical Policy formulation and development of the corresponding implementation plans (2021)
- 2 – Support to Edmundo Granda Ugalde Leaders in International Health Program (LIHP-PAHO), “Access to medicines, trade and international agreements” – course offered since 2008 and Training on implementation of National Pharmaceutical Policy
- 4 – Development/improvement of pharmaceutical situation monitoring and evaluation tools/methods in order to track progress regarding appropriate/rational use of medicines and Contribution on development of pharmaceutical situation monitoring and evaluation tools in order to track progress regarding medicines related SDGs.
 - a) a member of CC takes part of the PAHO Regional Working Group on Pharmaceutical Services at PHC level, National PAHO Working group on Pharmaceutical Services at PHC level and National Committee on Rational Use of Medicines. In all these WG, this person is in charge of developing indicators related to pharmaceutical services at PHC.
- 5 – Strengthening pharmaceutical services in public health emergencies
- 6 – Training on patent opposition and training on the use of competition law to promote access to medicines

Deliverables

1. The workshop “Access to Health Technologies, Patents and Prices: Capacity Strengthening Consultation on the Use of Competition Law to Promote Affordable Access” was performed 5-7 December 2017, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Participants include representatives from public procurement country authorities, national competition authorities, patent offices and health authorities from the 12 UNASUR member countries, together with global leading experts on the use of competition law in the context of promoting access to medicines.
2. Publication of PAHO/WHOCBRA-56's 20th anniversary as a CC (2018) http://naf.ensp.fiocruz.br/sites/default/files/livreto_naf_20anos_final_web.pdf
3. Support the Pharmaceutical Country Profile of Cape Verde - <http://www.minsaude.gov.cv/index.php/documentosite/direcao-geral-de-farmacia/478-perfil-farmacutico-nacional/file>
4. Chapter publication in the E-book: Report 30 years of SUS, which SUS for 2030? (publication in Portuguese) - Organização Pan-Americana da Saúde. Relatório 30 anos de SUS, que SUS para 2030? Brasília: OPAS; 2018 <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/49663>
5. The BRA56 has turned its activities on this time to the Covid19 pandemia response. Several unplanned activities were held by members of the PAHO/WHO CC, below, some activities carried out by this time
 - a) Chaves, LA, Osorio-de-Castro, CGS, Caetano, MC, Silva, RA da, Luiza, VL. Shortages: a global public health issue. (Technical note). Rio de Janeiro: COVID-19 Observatory. Oswaldo Cruz Foundation. 2020 (Publication in Portuguese). https://portal.fiocruz.br/sites/portal.fiocruz.br/files/documentos/nota_tecnica_-_observatorio_covid-19_desabastecimento_ago2020_rev.pdf
 - b) Webinar: The Search for a cure: uncertainties regarding medicines for COVID-19.
 - c) Chapter publication in the E-book: Rio de Janeiro: Health Diplomacy and Covid-19: reflections halfway. Fiocruz COVID-19 Observatory. Publisher Fiocruz, 2020

Recommendations

1. Support and cooperation activities are carried out in a participative and capacity building process for partners
2. Training on components of a National Pharmaceutical Policy is important for the strengthening of pharmaceutical assistance and access to medicines.
3. Health managers from all levels (national, regional) must pay attention to shortages of medicines. The definition of medicines shortages and monitoring, communication / dissemination and regulation actions to curb commercial practices that may harm public health must be carried out.
4. Monitoring the implications of the TRIPS agreement and training human resources to manage intellectual property rights should be part of a National Pharmaceutical Policy and strengthen access to medicines

Terms of Reference

1. Under WHO leadership, provide expertise for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of WHO pharmaceutical policies and country pharmaceutical profiles, with special emphasis on national programs in the Region of the Americas and in Portuguese speaking countries
2. At the request of WHO, support capacity building and development of human resources in areas related to pharmaceutical policies and innovation (includes selection, rational use, procurement)
3. In consultation with WHO, strengthen promotion and exchange of information and research studies for pharmaceutical services programs
4. When requested by WHO, provide guidance and support to countries to increase access to locally manufactured, quality-assured medicines and to advise for the implementation of TRIPS flexibilities and monitoring of health consequences from Trade-Related Agreements.

