Advancing the Development of National Childhood Cancer Care Strategies: Key Findings from a Policy Dialogue

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PAHO, Washington DC
Feb 2 2017
Brocher Foundation Dialogue
Purpose of a Deliberative Dialogue

- Serves as a bridge between evidence and policy
- Incorporates and integrates various types of evidence (scientific, colloquial) for policy decision-making
- Empowers various stakeholders to take actions to effect policy change
Stakeholder Dialogues
General Approach - Logic Model

**INPUTS**
- Resources (partners/sponsors)
- Forum planning team
- Dialogue steering committee

**ACTIVITIES**
- Pre-dialogue consultation with steering committee members and key informants to develop the terms of reference for the evidence brief, list of dialogue invitees, and event plan
- Pre-dialogue preparation and circulation of an evidence brief
- Stakeholder dialogue
- Evaluation of the key features of the evidence brief and stakeholder dialogue
  - Post-dialogue preparation of a dialogue summary
  - Personalized briefing to partners

**OUTPUTS**
- Topic overview*
- Evidence brief*
- Dialogue summary*
- Video interviews (posted on YouTube)*
- Audio and video podcasts (posted in iTunesU)*
- Year-long evidence service*
- Evidence brief and stakeholder dialogue evaluation report

**OUTCOMES**
- Participants, partners and key stakeholders are well positioned to champion efforts to address the challenge
- Improved health and well-being

**HEALTHCARE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES**

*Publicly available

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Key Messages: The Problem

1. **Burden**: Heavy (but inconsistently measured) childhood cancer burden
2. **Access**: Regional variations in outcomes resulting from inequities in access to care
3. **System**: Need for better-coordinated system-wide practices and policies
4. **Politics**: Limited attention from policymakers
Key Messages: Elements of a Solution

1. **Pan-regional task force**
   - Clarity on challenges and solutions
   - Opportunities for supra-national collaboration
   - Regional priority setting and action plans

2. **Health system guidance**
   - Knowledge hub
   - Stakeholder engagement in policy/program development

3. **Monitoring and evaluation**
   - High-quality cancer registries
   - Indicators for common benchmarking
## From Challenges to Solutions: Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health System Dimensions</th>
<th>Elements of a Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Key Barriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Detection and Referral</td>
<td>Poor integration of referral mechanisms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment and Care</td>
<td>Unreliable drug procurement and access</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survivorship</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Notes:**
- **Early Detection and Referral:**
  - Develop and share training programs on presentation, diagnosis, and referral for PHC facilities.
  - Implement accountability measures to reduce referral delays; develop referral procedures and checklists.
  - Chile: Legislation on and incentives for timely referral.
  - Mexico, Paraguay: Public campaigns on early warning signs.

- **Treatment and Care:**
  - Regional approach to drug price negotiation, procurement, and supply.
  - Implementation of PAHO procedures for national procurement and supply management.
  - Strengthening regional cancer registries.

- **Regional Exemplars:**
  - Chile: Legislation on and incentives for timely referral.
  - Mexico, Paraguay: Public campaigns on early warning signs.

- **PAHO:**
  - WHO: EMLc
  - PAHO: SF
Key Messages: Priority Actions

Priority Actions
1. Advocacy
2. Data and evidence
3. Stakeholder engagement
4. Pan-regional task force

Task Force Considerations
• Legitimacy/impact hinge on:
  – Coherent statement of purpose
  – Clearly articulated foundational values
  – Strong governance
  – Focus on activities with pan-regional scope
Integration: Elements and Actions

Task Force
- HS Guidance
- M&E
- Advocacy

Evidence
Engagement
Embedding
Dialogue Reflections: Key Themes

• Broad societal engagement
  — Francis Contreras (Vice Minister of Health, MOH, Honduras)

• Regional collaboration
  — Carlos Rodriguez Galindo (Chair, Department of Global Pediatric Medicine, SJCRH)
Guidance and Policy Development: Tiered Links

- **Level**
- **Guidance development**
- **Policy development**

- **Global**
  - Guidance panel develops health systems guidance
  - Global organization makes a decision supported by health systems guidance

- **National**
  - EVIPNet or guidance panel develops a policy brief and convenes a policy dialogue (supported by health systems guidance)
  - National (or sub-national) government makes a decision supported by health systems guidance, a policy brief (and dialogue) and/or policy proposal

Lavis et al. 2012
Next Steps: PAHO Working Group

• Identification of barriers, challenges and needs to improve childhood cancer outcomes:
  – **Gaps** in health policies and services?
  – **Barriers** to improvements?
  – **Opportunities** to strengthen the system/improve care?

• National / Regional interface