Accelerating the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda through Research in the Americas

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The Shift from MDGs to SDGs
SDGs: A Universal and Transformative Framework

Five essential elements for delivering the SDGs agenda, namely:

- **PEOPLE**
  - End poverty and hunger in all forms and ensure dignity and equality

- **PLANET**
  - Protect our planet’s natural resources and climate for future generations

- **PEACE**
  - Foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies

- **PROSPERITY**
  - Ensure prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature

- **PARTNERSHIP**
  - Implement the agenda through a solid global partnership

Three other “Ps” also important

1. Policy
2. Power relations
3. Purpose

*Key approach*: influence and collaborate with other SDG areas in order to protect and promote health
“Health is a precondition, outcome, and indicator of a sustainable society, and should be adopted as a universal value and shared social goal and political objective for all.”
(Rio 2012)
New Landscapes of Inequality

• Individuals living in poverty in wealthy countries account for majority of the world’s poverty-related illnesses.

• There are many factors that contribute to health inequalities. Migration, gender, weak systems, occupation, and environmental settings all play a role in health outcomes.

Regional Messages emerging from Post-2015 Consultations:

• The Region has changed – this must be taken into account
• Equity should be “hardwired” into the Post-2015 goals
• Call for a new development model based on structural change for equality and environmental sustainability
• Need to measure better
• Good Governance and promotion of South-South cooperation
• Strengthening of social participation mechanisms
Public Health Challenges

“The challenges facing public health, and the broader world context in which we struggle, have become too numerous and too complex for a business-as-usual approach”

Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization

- As we transition into the SDG era, public health must be prepared to address pressing new challenges.
- The long-standing need to build national capacities and improve monitoring systems must be met.
- Public health must shift its focus away from controlling infectious diseases towards a more comprehensive approach.
The SDGs present a unique and exciting opportunity to:

“strengthen governance for health – the underlying assumption of which is that deliberate action is needed to influence governance in other policy arenas to protect and promote health”  World Health Organization (WHO)

• Achieving the health targets set by the SDGs will require cross-cutting approaches

• This implies that major advancements of the SDGs for health will occur under the purview of sectors outside of health
Rethinking Health Leadership

• Health must be positioned in the arenas where decisions are made by heads of government, political leaders, and in other sectors

• Transformational approaches to global development
Enablers in achieving the SDGs

- Quality research
- Evidence-based policies
- Intersectoral approaches
- Monitoring systems to track progress and support accountability
- Collaboration and collective action

Knowledge generation

Inform and track systems and policies

Engage in national and global policy debates
Role of Researchers

- Be a powerful voice for governance of the SDGs
- Ensure accountability for the implementation of the SDGs agenda
- Engage stakeholders in SDGs implementation
- Ensure knowledge sharing and joint learning
- Identify the research that already exists as well as the gaps
- Build a stronger evidence base on the intersections between equity and health in the Region
Role of Researchers (continued)

- Create innovative strategies to achieve better health
- Ensure that the SDG Agenda becomes everyone’s agenda
  
  I. Where are the most vulnerable populations?
  II. How can they best be reached?
  III. How will we measure impact?
Windows of Opportunity

Policy Research

- Engage with the SDGs Indicator Framework
- Measure outcomes of policies, especially Regional inequities
- Contribute to ensuring political accountability
- Provide direct input to high-level processes

Regional Opportunities

- Health in the Americas, Health Agenda of the Americas and the Equity Commission
- Habitat III, COP and 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion
- Collaborating Centers: Upcoming meeting with a core focus on the SDGs
In Conclusion

- Cannot achieve health-related targets using only the tools we have today;

- There is a need to go beyond the targets to ensure that we do not get lost in averages;

- The SDGs agenda cannot be treated as merely a ‘technical agenda’;

- We must address the political and commercial determinants of health if we want to ensure that no one is left behind;

- Researchers play a key role in the implementation of the SDGs agenda and could capitalize on their close links with the community;
Thank you