

Regional Dissemination Webinar

Lancet Series on "Optimizing Child and Adolescent Health and Development"

17 November 2023

Healthy Life Course Unit – HSS Department

Concept Note

Despite significant progress in child survival rates, we are still a long way from achieving the SGD 3 for 2030 goal of ensuring healthy lives for all at all ages and promoting well-being for all. During the first 20 years individuals undergo critical and sensitive periods that offer significant opportunities to shape their health trajectories and impact society's overall prosperity. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the complexities and nuances of this formative period. Essential if we are to ensure a positive outcome for individuals today and the well-being of future generations.

An expanded perspective on child health and development is presented in the Lancet Series, "Optimizing Child and Adolescent Health and Development." The series builds upon earlier efforts focused on child survival and incorporates a more comprehensive range of concerns from preconception to adolescence, in addition to mental health, non-communicable diseases, injuries, trauma, disabilities, and sexual and reproductive rights.

This series introduces a life-course approach to health and human development. It is built on evidence-based interventions and delivery strategies to support health and human development from conception until adulthood. It presents a conceptual framework of risk factors and opportunities for intervention throughout the life span.

In this effort, primary health care (PHC) is a pillar of Universal Health and a guarantor of quality health care for all. The optimization of health trajectories at PHC is a feasible objective that requires the concerted efforts of individuals, families, and communities; the health sector, and other sectors such as education, labor, and social whose actions impact the health trajectories of the population.

The webinar aims to engage a variety of audiences, including representatives from member states' ministries of health, education, child and youth services, civil society, and international organizations.

Main goals

1. Disseminate and discuss the findings and recommendations presented in the 2022 Lancet Series, focusing on optimizing child and adolescent health and development.
2. To emphasize the significance of adopting a life course approach in shaping health trajectories during the critical first 20 years of life, aiming for improved health outcomes and overall well-being.
3. To discuss opportunities for integrating the life course approach into primary healthcare systems, ensuring comprehensive and holistic care for children and adolescents.

Speakers

- Dr. Jarbas Barbosa da Silva Jr., Director, PAHO/WHO
- Dr. James Fitzgerald, Director, Health Systems and Services (HSS), PAHO/WHO
- Dr. Robert E Black, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- Dr. Cesar G Victora, International Center for Equity in Health, Federal University of Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil
- Dr. Margaret E Kruk, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health
- Dr. Tyler Vaivada, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON, Canada
- Dr. Pablo Durán, Regional Advisor on Perinatal Health, PAHO/WHO
- Dr. Zulfiqar A Bhutta, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON, Canada

Length and dates

- 17 November 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (EST)
- Online - Streaming with simultaneous translation in English, Spanish, and Portuguese

Agenda

Time	Session	Presenter
11:00–11:05	Opening	Dr. Jarbas Barbosa da Silva Jr., Director
11:05–11:10	Session presentation	Dr. Sonja Caffè, Regional Advisor on Adolescent Health
11:10–11:15	Context of the Lancet series	Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, Centre for Global Child Health, Toronto, Canada and Institute for Global Health & Development, Aga Khan University, South-Central Asia & East Africa, and Lancet 2022 Series Coordinator
Papers Discussion- Optimizing Child and Adolescent Health and Development		
11:15–11:20	Presentation of the speakers	Dr. Sonja Caffè, Regional Advisor on Adolescent Health
11:20–11:30	Paper 1: Health and development from preconception to 20 years of age and human capital	Dr. Robert Black, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA
11:30–11:40	Paper 2: Effects of early-life poverty on health and human capital in children and adolescents: analyses of national surveys and birth cohort studies in LMICs	Dr. Cesar G. Victora, International Center for Equity in Health, Federal University of Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil
11:40–11:50	Paper 3: What can work and how? An overview of evidence-based interventions and delivery strategies to support health and human development from before conception to 20 years	Dr Tyler Vaivada, Centre for Global Child Health, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada
11:50–12:00	Paper 4: Making health and social systems work for all children: structural innovations to deliver high-quality services	Dr. Margaret Kruk, Department of Global Health, Harvard T Chan School of Public Health, Harvard T Chan School of Public Health, Boston, USA
12:00–12:15	Way Forward: Optimizing child and adolescent health and development in the post-pandemic world	Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta

Optimizing Child and Adolescent Health and Development in the Americas		
12:15–12:25	Regional perspective from the Americas	Dr. Pablo Durán, Advisor on Perinatal Health, CLAP
12:25–12:30	Closing Remarks	Dr. James Fitzgerald, Director, Health Systems and Services (HSS)