HIH
InterAmerican Network

Health in Housing Workshop,
Georgetown, November 13th, 2003
“Human beings, and to a lesser extent other species, move between different environments and then select and accommodate one of them to some specific needs. This then constitutes the basic family environment or the location for performing certain essential biological functions (rest, sleep, eating, reproduction), psychological and social functions (protection, privacy, affection, information, reflection, esthetic pleasures, education, and the enjoyment of life within the personal and/or family framework). In some cases, functions related to making a living are part of this family environment. This particular environment is called housing, and it constitutes the basic point of convergence of life in society through a community”.

According to data provided by UU NN Economic Commission, 39% of housing in Latin America and the Caribbean stay under conditions of poverty, 18% in conditions of poverty and 37% of housings is non adequate to be inhabited. Of these, 21% can only become in inhabitable with renovations.
Substandard housing causes multiple illnesses in public health, among them dengue fever, malaria, Chagas disease, acute breathing infections (ARD), allergies, domestic accidents and until the violence.
Healthy Housing

- It is an appropriate housing that offers protection against avoidable lesions, poisonings and thermal expositions and of another type that can contribute to generate illnesses or chronic sufferings.
- It helps to the social and psychological development of people and minimizes the psychological and social stressors related to the housing environments.
- It provides access to the work places, education, services and neighborhoods that foment good state of health.
HOUSING PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH IS A HEALTHY HOUSING.

Its aim is improve life quality in health.
The Inter-American Network: implementation of the healthy housing initiative

Basis
1986: Ottawa letter: Health Promotion
1993: Paho Statement, XIV: Healthy Spaces

MAIN FEATURES
1987: WHO establishes principles and lines of action
1995: PAHO promotes the creation of the Network
1997: Basic Document
1995 - 2002: Lessons learned advises readjusting guidelines and structure
2002: Programmatic Document
Events in the development of the Inter-American Healthy Housing Network (1)

1982 - Establishment of the Healthy Housing Center in Buffalo, NY
1992 - PAHO initiated joint activities with the Center in Buffalo. Identified participants in the LAC.
1994 - PAHO worked jointly with the Buffalo Center to develop centers in university institutions in the LAC
1995 – The Inter-American Healthy Housing Centers Network is constituted
1996 - I Meeting of the Healthy Housing Centers Network Secretariat in Taxco, Mexico
Events in the development of the Inter-American Healthy Housing Network (2)

1997 - II Meeting of the Network in Havana Cuba: basic document formulated.
1998 - II Meeting of the Network Secretariat: Managua, Nicaragua
1999 - III Meeting of the Network in Mérida, Venezuela
2000 - IV Meeting of the Network in Buffalo, USA
2001 - III Secretariat Meeting and Interagency Workshop and Symposium, Washington D. C.
2002 - V Meeting of the Network. Havana, Cuba: Change of name and new programming document
2003 - IV Secretariat Meeting, Buenos Aires
Tool kit available for the Initiative

- Inter American Network for Healthy Housing: Biennial plan
- Tasks of National Networks: diagnosis, projects
- Reference Document
- Regional Diagnostic
- Network WEB site
- Discussion List (VIVSALUD)
- Virtual Forum (HIHFORUM)
- REPINDEX on healthy housing
- Distance Learning Courses
- “Healthy Housing”, video
- Multicenter Project: Communicable diseases, Non communicable and Disasters
Vivienda y Vectores

Cooperación Interprogramática
División de Prevención y Control de Enfermedades (HCP)
Programa de Enfermedades Transmisibles (HCT) y División de
Salud y Ambiente
Programa de Calidad Ambiental (HEC)-OPS, con apoyo del
Instituto Nacional de
Higiene Epidemiología y Microbiología (INHEM) de Cuba y de
la Red Interamericana de Vivienda Saludable.


http://www.paho.org/
Connections to other Initiatives and PAHO Programs

• Healthy cities
  • Agreement with UN Habitat ROLAC
• Healthy municipalities
• Primary Environmental Care and citizen participation
  • Agreements with IEN and IASE
• Prevention and control for communicable and non-communicable diseases
• Health Promotion and Protection
• Preparatory and Disaster Mitigation
• Mass Communication
• Others
Lessons Learned

The consolidation of the centers’ activity and that of the Network was reached in a more expeditious way to the extent that tasks and activities incorporated:

- Inter-sectoral focus,
- Multi-disciplinary,
- Alliance in networks,
- Community participation
Refinement of the Network

Generalizing experience led to a rethinking and readjustment of objectives and means for the created structure, to guide the development of the healthy housing initiative in the countries of America.

A new Programmatic Document was stated and rules the whole Network since August 2002 through:

*National Healthy Housing Networks*

and under the four action principles.
Practical Aspects: National Network Structure

National Administrative Council (NAC)

National Coordination Group (NCG)

- Representatives of the LCGs and local representatives of Initiative partners

National Secretariat

- National Network Coordinator
- Secretary of finances and mobilization of resources
- Secretary of projects
- 3 to 6 vocal members

Local Coordination Groups (LCGs)
Functions of the National Networks

- Among other things:
  - Improve quality of life in health
  - Expand offer of healthy housing
  - Promote community participation
  - Emphasize disease prevention
  - Human Resources Development
  - Better utilization of existing resources
Practical Aspects:
Inter-American Network Structure

Regional Administrative Council (RAC)

Regional Coordination Group (RCG)
- Representatives of the Initiative Partners

Regional Secretariat (*)
- Executive Secretariat of the VIVSALUD Network
- Secretary of finances and mobilization of resources
- Secretary of projects
- 3 vocal members

National Healthy Housing Networks
Principal Functions of the Inter-American Network

– Provide, sustain, and rectify mechanisms for efficient interconnections and feedback among National Networks at different levels for the purpose of complementing and strengthening national abilities to face local and regional Healthy Housing problems

– Promote cooperation for research, education, dissemination, experience sharing, transfer of technologies, technical and scientific services and health promotion

– Endorse the work of the National Networks as recognition for its effort and trajectory
Integration of Actions

• Based on the comprehensive nature of health formed on different action scales
• Proposes a consensus-building of actions and collaboration within the framework of healthy spaces:
  • healthy municipalities
  • healthy cities
  • healthy communities
    – healthy housing
    – healthy schools
    – healthy work places
PROCEDURES FOR THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL HEALTHY HOUSING NETWORK

Central Objectives:

• Stimulate a reflection among potential stakeholders to intensify healthy housing knowledge.

• Assess the state, dynamic, conditions, and circumstances of the problems at the national level on behalf of Healthy Housing and debate possible alternatives for facing the issues.

• Propose possibilities for "better practices" to introduce a Healthy Housing Initiative into the country; constituting a National Network; proposing strategies and means based on the specific definition of objectives, structure, functions, guidelines, and policies.

• Identify possible actors and establish a consensus of formation for a National Healthy Housing Network on the basis of the proposal for the Programmatic Document.

• Arrange for affiliation to the Inter-American Network as it is proposed in the Programmatic Document.
Countries connected to the Inter American Network for Healthy Housing

- Argentina
- Chile
- Paraguay
- Brasil
- Bolivia
- Perú
- Ecuador
- Venezuela
- Costa Rica
- Nicaragua
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- México
- Cuba
- Haití
- Estados Unidos
End