

Concept note for Establishment of a Global Network for Health In all Policies (GNHiAP)

Background

Health in All Policies (HiAP) is an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts in order to improve population health and health equity. It improves accountability of policymakers for health impacts at all levels of policy-making. It includes an emphasis on the consequences of public policies on health systems, determinants of health and well-being.¹

Countries worldwide were struggling to reach the MDG and are now still struggling to achieve the SDGs. SDGs differ from the MDGs in that they clearly address and take into account the social determinants of health in a more evident manner. Unfortunately, the Ministry of health cannot work alone to address health inequities. Social determinants of health require an intersectoral approach of work. Unless there is commitment, coordination, collaboration and partnerships between the different Ministries with Ministry of health, it will be difficult to close the equity gap and move towards SDG and universal health coverage.

The Global network for Health in All Policies (GNHiAP) is an initiative embarked by five countries that will work to strengthen and institutionalize HiAP and facilitate its implementation. The network will help countries achieve SDGs and move towards Universal health coverage.

What is the aim of the GNHiAP?

The Global Network for Health In all Policies will work with countries to strengthen the HiAP approach with the aim of speeding up movement towards SDGs and hence Universal health coverage.

¹Eighth Global Conference on Health promotion, Finland, 2013

Why is a network needed?

- Absence of a platform for a global knowledge sharing and a mechanism to facilitate and advance Health in All Policies approach at global level.
- Difficulty to achieve SDG targets if HiAP is not institutionalized and “committed to”
- Very few scattered country experiences worldwide in health in all policies implementation
- There is a need to provide evidences and implementation practices to support moving from intersectoral cooperation (Alma-Ata and Ottawa Declarations) to the Whole Government Whole Society approach in support to UHC.

What are the objectives of the GNHiAP?

1. To lead, provide and facilitate health in policies implementation in Countries to support the implementation of the SDG agenda
2. To strengthen and institutionalize HiAP
3. To facilitate the development of tools, guidelines to support step by step HiAP implementation *“from theory to practice”* in collaboration with WHO and other partners.
4. To enable knowledge sharing and learning from country experiences through South to South and Triangular Cooperation.
5. *To enhance the research and evidence generation on the effectiveness of HiAPs approach in the progress towards UHC and SDGs implementation.*
6. To create an online platform where countries can have rich interactive discussions and share experiences
7. To build capacity and skills to enable implementation of health in all policies

How will GNHiAP work?

- Annual or mid-annual forums/meetings **and policy dialogues at bilateral, regional and global levels**
- Online Platform
- Strong presence and active involvement and participation in different regional and global conferences and events to advocate for HiAPs approach
- Websites

Network Country Membership

The membership of the GNHiAPs will be open to all countries, initiatives, networks, partners, private sector and CSOs both in developed and developing countries. There are currently five countries agreed to be involved in the network, and the network is aiming to expand to include more countries. Country experiences will be available in the network website (open access) for all countries to benefit from even if not members of the network.

- Finland
- Thailand
- South Australia
- New Zealand
- Sudan

Next steps

- Contact WHO and other potential countries and stakeholders to explore their interest to join the network.
- Organize a side event during the World Health Assembly 2017 to launch the network.
- Develop the structures, rules and regulations and the plan of action of the network.