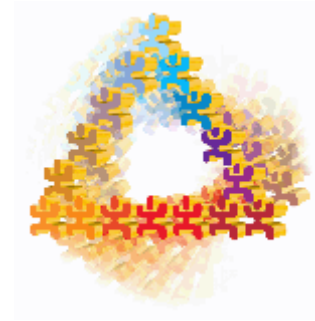




## CARMEN Country Profiles: Bolivia



In 2002, based on the 2002 WHO Global Burden of Disease data<sup>1</sup>, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) accounted for 67.4% of the total number of 73,085 deaths in Bolivia. The leading cause of death among the noncommunicable diseases was cardiovascular disease, with an Age Standardized Mortality Rate (ASMR) of 260 per 100,000 (31.6%). Malignant neoplasms followed, with a minimal difference and an ASMR of 256 per 100,000 (31.1%). Chronic respiratory diseases were responsible for an ASMR of 58 per 100,000 cases (7.1%); and diabetes, for an ASMR of 35 per 100,000 (4.3%). The remainder was due to other non-specified conditions.

Based on national and international scientific evidence, Bolivia decided to develop and implement an integrated action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, which would serve the health of the entire Bolivian population. The *National Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and their Risk Factors* was designed by the Ministry of Health and Sports for the period 2005–2009.

Some isolated studies and research conducted in Bolivia with the support of PAHO and other agencies, including international cooperation, came to the conclusion that the prevalence of some risk factors and diabetes mellitus is much higher compared to other countries of the Region. This was one of the motivations behind the effort to strengthen the surveillance system and emphasize research conducted on NCDs and their determinants.

At the same time, the Plan tries to establish mechanisms and means to carry out direct actions against the attitudes and behaviors of the population in order to avoid or eliminate the

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. *WHO Global InfoBase Online. Country Profiles*. 2006.

know risk factors. Special attention is placed on developing intersectoral ties, in order to create practical measures, regulations and even legislations.

An important component of the Plan is strengthening health policies with respect to the comprehensive management of the diseases diagnosed, emphasizing early detection and timely treatment. In this regard, the Plan states a set of standards, based on primary health care, that permits medical professionals, nurses and another health workers at the local level to apply the methods and the most up-to-date procedures for the effective management of these problems. In addition, it also elaborates on the mechanisms needed to achieve an adequate interrelationship among the secondary and tertiary healthcare levels.

In conclusion, this Plan intends to contribute to improving the health of the Bolivian population and to facing the impact of noncommunicable diseases over the next five years. The target audience of these actions is primarily the various institutional actors and the community as a whole.