



CARMEN Biennial Meeting:



Sharing, Learning, Imagining, Planning and Partnering to Implement the
Chronic Disease Regional Strategy within the CARMEN Network

(Nassau, Bahamas, 4–8 November 2007)

Overview:

CARMEN

An Initiative for
Integrated Noncommunicable Disease Prevention
in the Americas

Vision

A Region supported by a network of countries/territories and organizations that share experiences and coordinate actions to minimize preventable chronic noncommunicable diseases.

Mission

To provide a forum for sharing, learning and collaborating among countries/territories of the Americas and partner organizations in order to reduce the burden of chronic noncommunicable diseases, their risk factors and underlying determinants by supporting the development, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive, integrated prevention and control interventions.

Objectives

General Objective

The CARMEN Initiative aims to promote and establish comprehensive, integrated NCD prevention and policies and programs at the national and sub-regional levels in the Americas, in support of the achievement of the Regional Strategy on Chronic Disease Prevention and Control.

Specific Objectives

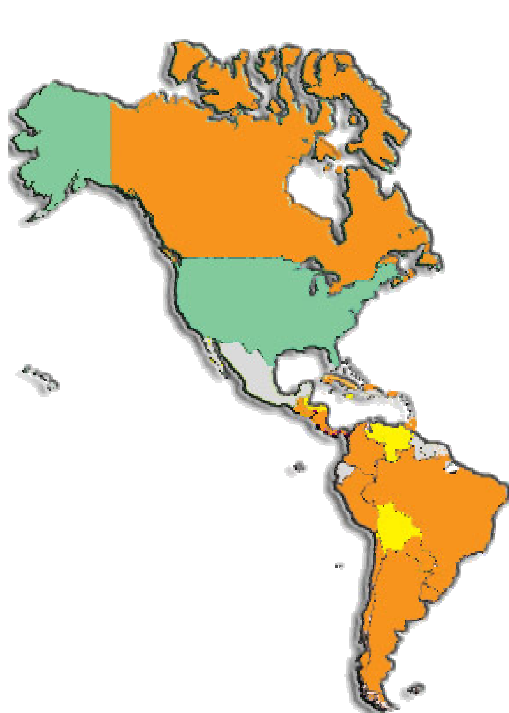
At the *regional and subregional levels*, the CARMEN initiative aims to:

- ➔ support the implementation of the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases;
- ➔ serve as the principal agent to collect, analyze and disseminate information and share knowledge about the chronic disease problem and successful strategies for the formulation, execution, and evaluation of NCD policies and programs;

- ➔ promote best practices in health promotion and integrated prevention and control of chronic non communicable diseases;
- ➔ promote and support community participation in chronic disease prevention and control;
- ➔ stimulate and facilitate collaboration and networking among PAHO Member States, organizations, and institutions;
- ➔ coordinate actions with related WHO and PAHO initiatives and networks such as Healthy Municipalities, Healthy Schools, WHO Global Forum and similar initiatives in other regions (e.g. IMAN, MOANA, CINDI, SEANET);
- ➔ integrate the initiative with related resolutions from the PAHO Directing Council and the WHO World Health Assembly.

At the **country level**, the CARMEN Initiative aims to:

- raise political support and demonstrate commitment for the prevention of NCDs, their risk factors and determinants as a national public health priority;
- foster inter-institutional and intersectoral actions and create multidisciplinary teams to carry out the strategies for health promotion and integrated prevention and control of chronic non communicable diseases;
- conduct a situation analysis of NCDs and their risk factors and periodic monitoring, according to the abilities of each country;
- establish demonstration sites for interventions for the prevention and control of chronic diseases;
- implement the recommendations for Member States contained in the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases;
- support the establishment of various networks (such as nutrition, physical activity, diabetes, etc) for sharing experiences and collaboration within countries.



CARMEN Network Members

Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Bolivia,
 Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia,
 Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao,
 Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala,
 Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico,
 St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay

Collaborating Organizations & Networks

- ➔ *Ciclovías* Initiative of the Americas
- ➔ 5-a-day Latin America
- ➔ RAFA Network
- ➔ Inter American Heart Foundation
- ➔ International Fruit and Vegetable Alliance
- ➔ *PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers on:*
 Chronic Disease Policy, Physical Activity,
 Evidence-Based Public Health, and
 Cardiovascular Health