



Suriname:

Quarterly Report on CNCD-Related Activities

(January–March 2009)



- **National Strategic Plans:** PAHO hired Ms. Esha MARHE as a short-term consultant to assist the MoH in the development of framework of a *National Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases* (CNCDs), with an initial focus on diabetes.
- **Alcohol**
- PAHO—in collaboration with NHIS, UBN, and PCS—has completed the **WHO questionnaire** entitled "*Atlas on Resources for Treatment and Prevention of Substance Use Disorders*" The data was submitted to the WHO on 13 October 2008.
 - PAHO—in collaboration with NHIS and UBN—has completed the WHO questionnaire entitled *Global Survey on Alcohol and Health*. The data was submitted to WHO in August 2008.
 - The *National Household Drug Prevalence Survey 2007 (Quantitative)* was conducted by the executive office of the National Anti-Drug Council (UBN) in collaboration with the OAS. Figures were published in November 2008.
- **Caribbean Wellness Day (CWD) Activities**
- The CWD Commission and Working Group organized on 14 September 2008 a whole day of events (aerobics, street-dancing, walking, etc.); and on 1 February, half-day events (warmup, 5-kilometer walk, dancing). The plan is to stage these events every month.
- **Cervical Cancer**
- A draft for the **introduction of Human Papilloma Virus** vaccine into the National Immunization Program of the Ministry of Health (MoH) was developed in April 2008.
 - PAHO showed its support for the preparation of a **national cervical cancer screening program** by participating in a Cervical Cancer working group established by the Bureau of Public Health (BOG). This working group serves as a counterpart for the consultants currently working on the “development of a national plan for prevention and control of cervical cancer”.
 - After national consultation on the **draft Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control in Latin America and the Caribbean 2008–2015**, PAHO monitors the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level.



→ Diabetes

- **World Diabetes Day:** WDD was celebrated in collaboration with the Suriname Diabetes Education Foundation (SDES). The international WDD posters used during a symposium in Paramaribo on 14 November were translated into Surinamese, Dutch, and Saramaccans and distributed to the Medical Mission clinics in the interior, to Regional Health Services (RGD) clinics in the districts and city, and to all schools. Radio spots, jingle, and advertisements were appeared in newspaper advertisements, radio jingles, and on TV.
- PAHO is assisting the St. Vincentius Hospital in Paramaribo to establish a **“One-Stop Centre” for the management of diabetes patients** where dietary advice, weight regulation, glucose and blood pressure monitoring, foot care, and retinal photography will be provided under one roof. The facility will be staffed by a general practitioner, a diabetes nurse, a fundoscopic camera, lab technicians, and a podiatrist. A Peace Corps nutritionist attached to PAHO will work with the diabetes nurses in managing the clinic to expand its capacity in dietary counseling.
- PAHO completed a **survey on direct and indirect costs incurred by diabetic patients on hemodialysis and their families** according to different types of insurance coverage and nature of the dialysis facility used.
- The Government of Suriname donated USD \$215,000 to create a **National Dialysis Centre** that will be able to accommodate all current dialysis patients plus the additional 200 patients currently on the waiting list for treatment.
- **Caribbean Diabetes Project (Guiding and Supporting National Quality Improvement Initiatives for Diabetes in Less Well Served Parts of the World):** A national team participated in the first learning session in December 2008 in Grenada and will take part in the second learning session to be held in March 2009.

→ Diet and Physical Activity

At the end of February, a draft was prepared on **teaching school children** about:

- **Nutrition** (nutritional value and safety) to establish healthy eating from childhood onwards, which—if maintained as a lifelong habit—could reduce the incidence of such CNCs as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes in Suriname.
- **Physical activity:** at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily to insure healthy development.

→ Mental Health

A *report of the assessment of the mental health system* in Suriname using the World Health Organization’s *Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems* (WHO-AIMS) was prepared in March 2009.

→ Road Safety

- The Government of Suriname organized a congress on road safety in March 2008, which resulted in the establishment of the **Road Safety Steering Committee**.
 - In preparation for the *Global Road Safety Report*, one member of this Steering Committee was trained in April 2008 in Panama in the WHO methodology on how to carry out a baseline survey on road safety.
 - The **road safety assessment** was carried out and data was approved by the director of health (DoH) and the Minister of Justice and Police and then

submitted to the Suriname Road Safety Steering Committee and also to WHO in August 2008.

- A **follow-up meeting** on road safety is scheduled for 23–25 March 2009 in Ecuador.

→ Tobacco Control

- *Tobacco Legislation*
 - Suriname ratified the *Framework Convention on Tobacco Control* (FCTC) on 16 December 2008.
 - PAHO has provided financial and technical input to assist legal advisors from the MoH in developing national tobacco legislation.
 - The first draft of the *National Tobacco Law* was submitted to the MoH at the end of February 2009.
- *Tobacco Surveillance*
 - *Global Tobacco Control Report, Year 2* (GTCR 2)
 - Technical and financial support has been made available to assess the implementation of effective control measures in Suriname. The first draft report was submitted to WHO in mid-February 2009. The validation process is scheduled for April 2009.
 - Three staff members from the Ministry of Health received *training* (between September and December 2008) in how to strengthen tobacco surveillance in Suriname. The specific surveillance tools are:
 1. *Global Youth Tobacco Survey* (GYTS) targeting 13–15-year-olds is scheduled for April to May 2009, together with the *Global School Health Survey*, which targets the same age group.
 2. *Global School Personnel Survey* (GSPS) targeting teachers, scheduled for April-May 2009.
 3. *Global Health Professional School Survey* (GHPSS) targeting third-year medical students and nursing students, scheduled for February to March 2009.
 - *Funding* has been allocated for implementation of the above-mentioned surveillance tools. A Letter of agreement (LoA) to implement the GYTS, GSHS, and GSPS is being prepared for signature by the PAHO/WHO Representative in Suriname and by the MoH at the end March 2009.

→ Violence and Injury Prevention

- The Government of Suriname (focal points from the MoH) participated in the *World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion* held from 15–18 March 2008 in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, during which the *Ministerial Declaration on Violence and Injury Prevention in the Americas* was adopted.
- PAHO also supported the participation of the above-mentioned MoH focal points in the *Second Global Meeting of Ministries of Health* held on March 13-14 2008 in Mérida.
 - PAHO has requested the establishment of a MoH focal point on violence and injury prevention (VIP).