

MINISTERIE VAN VOLKSGEZONDHEID
(MINISTRY OF HEALTH)
IN
SURINAME

No: CIB/SN-011

Betreft (subject): Comments on the Draft Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, to the WHO.

Bijlage (enclosure):

Paramaribo, February 29, 2004

To: The Executive Board of the
World Health Organization (WHO)
Email: dietphysicalactivity@who.int

The Ministry of Health Suriname strongly supports the idea of a Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Because she agrees that non-communicable diseases can be prevented and controlled through integrated policy and action. However this action can only be successful, if it is based on a multi-sectoral approach of all stakeholders, private and civil society, ngo`s and international partners. It requires an intensive cooperation on national, regional and multilateral level. This Global Strategy should be part of Government policy to ensure successful implementation.

In view of abovementioned the Ministry of Health Suriname agrees with the goals, objectives, strategies, etc. of the Global Strategy, also because these are for great deal already part of Government policy in Suriname. Within this context can be mentioned the following policies/draft policies/plans:

- Within the Ministry of Health there is a special unit non-communicable diseases since 2001.
- A Policy Plan on Non-communicable diseases was developed by this unit in 2002, in which 3 priority areas have been identified: diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.
- Based on an SWOT analysis an action plan for diabetes was developed in 2003.
- This strategy will be followed to come to an action plan for non-communicable diseases (the stakeholders have already been identified).
- Basic Life Skills is now being incorporated in school curricula.
- In 2003 a draft National Nutrition Policy and Plan of Action was formulated (will be finalized this year).
- In 2002 a draft MCH Policy and Plan of Action were developed (will also be finalized this year).
- In 2003 a draft National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2004-2008 was developed (is currently in final phase).
- Suriname is currently working on the signing of the WHO Framework on Tobacco Control.

These points are some of the actions already taken with regard to the prevention of non-communicable diseases, however the greatest weakness of Suriname with regard to implementation is lack of human as well financial resources.

So, for Suriname it is essential that we get technical and financial support from technical partners in order to succeed, because the will is there.

The Ministry of Health would also like to stress the fact that the demarche on the WHO Global Strategy was faxed to her on February 18, 2004, which did not give us sufficient time to consult other partners on this matter.

If there is an opportunity for us to do so, we would very much appreciate this information well in time, because this matter does not only concern the Ministry of Health, and to be successful it is important to involve other stakeholders as well.

Looking forward to our continued collaboration,

Sincerely,

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