7th Global Forum on Health Promotion

OUR PLANET, OUR HEALTH

Organized by the Alliance for Health Promotion in collaboration with WHO and the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute in Geneva

Geneva, 14 November 2017
Key Messages

1. Health Promotion has a key role to play in addressing health, environment and climate change by using the global health approach.

2. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda provides a concrete opportunity for those working on health promotion to take up action at a more political level.

3. Youth involvement will bring new perspective and more reach in health promotion.

4. Social determinants should be a focus in message delivery and strengthening health systems.

5. The health of the planet and the health of the people are closely linked and inter-dependent.
In his opening remarks, President of the Alliance for Health Promotion (A4HP) Bernard Kadasia, thanked the participants for taking the time and interest to attend the forum. He also thanked the World Health Organization, the Graduate Institute and Life University for their continued support. The Global Forum for Health Promotion was originally initiated to generate individual and organizational interest in health promotion, particularly among people and organizations who would normally not consider themselves as a health organization or health entity. This Forum is an opportunity to bring together players from various areas of work to discuss health promotion. The environment and its impact on human health is a timely conversation and the rationale for the topic of “Our Planet, Our Health.” There have been a number of major developments and initiatives related to health and the environment, including the Climate Change Conference of the Parties two years ago (COP21) and the publication by The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health in October 2017. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a framework that can be used to prioritize work relevant to health promotion. More discussion is needed in the area of socio-economic determinants of health and how, from a health promotion approach, we can help people take control of those determinants. World Health Organization (WHO) Director Dr. Edward Kelley introduced the four areas of work relevant to health promotion: Service Delivery and Safety; Health Promotion; Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health and Nutrition for Health and Development. Dr. Kelley gave the opening speech on behalf of WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who much regretted that he could not attend.

It is my pleasure to open the 7th Global Forum on Health Promotion, organized by the Alliance in collaboration with WHO and the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute in Geneva. It has been more than 30 years since the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion articulated that health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over their health and promote a wide range of social and environmental interventions, which remains true and relevant today as we grab hold of unprecedented barriers to health and wellbeing.

Overconsumption and unmitigated exploitation of natural resources have fundamentally changed the planet and now threaten our very survival. Ecological changes, ease of travel and gaps and weaknesses in health systems enable infectious diseases to spread at alarming rates, which is disrupting health security. Industry is the main factor on health commodities, such as tobacco and other harmful substances, that have contributed to a highly commercialized world where marketing, especially for children, increases the risk of noncommunicable diseases. Enormous social inequities deny many people from accessing even the most basic health care and medicine. These and other challenges provide a new context and a new urgency for health promotion.

The theme of this year’s forum (Our Planet, Our Health) is therefore timely and appropriate as we struggle to find solutions for these pressing issues. At the same time, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are providing a unique political opportunity to promote health and advocate for action at the highest levels of political leadership. The Shanghai Declaration on promoting health in the 2030 agenda recognizes health and wellbeing as essential to achieving sustainable development and provides transformative pathways for promoting health mainly through good governance, healthy cities and communities, health literacy and social mobilization.

As you know, SDG 3 refers to promoting health and wellbeing for all of us. Healthy lives and increased wellbeing of people at all ages can only be achieved by promoting health through all these stages, and this will require a massive mobilization. The agenda of the forum this year focusing on the evidence and impact of the environment on human health and healthy environments of the key determinants of public health provides a good platform for sharing information and discussing opportunities for action and collaboration. It is encouraging to see a wide range of disciplines and stakeholders represented in the programme, from public health to clinical medicine to community organizations. Promoting health through the SDGs is a shared responsibility, across government and the whole of society, including NGO networks and alliances. NGO alliances play a critical role in mobilizing communities, raising resources and building capacity for action at the grass roots level, ensuring accountability for the government. Together we must move to counteract interest detrimental to health and remove barriers. WHO will continue to engage with you and our partners in support of the vision for WHO to “Keep the World Safe, Improve Health, Serve the Vulnerable.” Wishes for a very productive meeting.

FOREWORD
Introduction

The 7th Global Forum on Health Promotion “Our Planet, Our Health” was organized by the Alliance for Health Promotion (A4HP), in collaboration with the Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute, the Health Promotion Unit and the Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health Department of World Health Organization (WHO) on 14 November 2017. With the Lancet Report on the impact of pollution on health published just before the forum in October 2017, and with the COP23 running parallel with the forum, it was the perfect time to discuss the adverse effects of environmental pollution on human health.

The top 10 causes of death are due to non-communicable diseases, for which some of the risk factors are linked to environmental pollution such as air pollution, inadequate water, chemicals, radiation and climate change. Diseases caused by pollution were responsible for an estimated 9 million premature deaths in 2015—16% of all deaths worldwide—three times more deaths than from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. The forum hoped to bring together different actors to address the adverse effects of environmental pollution on global health.

More than 80 participants from United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia and technical expert speakers attended the forum. The plenary sessions were moderated by Mihály Kókény, former Hungarian Minister of Health, representing the Global Health Centre, and Hussein Elsangak, board member of the Alliance and senior lecturer at Life University. In his opening address, Mihály Kókény discussed the key points from the Ottawa Charter, Prince Edward Island Declaration and the 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion held in Shanghai in 2016. Dr. Kókény reiterated that health is a political choice: the environment is a human right; the control of pollution is strictly related to SDGs; cities are the first place in which actions can be taken; and better cooperation is needed between governments, civil society and the private sector.

The first plenary session explored the evidence and impact of the environment on human health. From a global health perspective, Dr. Nathalie Röbbel of WHO spoke on how health promotion should play a key role in the global approach to addressing health, environment and climate, stating that it is no longer just a prevention approach issue; it is an approach that requires social delivery and health systems strengthening with a focus on the social determinants. With her presentation, Dr. Röbbel hoped to provide an insight on the effectiveness of this global approach to all professionals from different sectors with an interest in health, the environment and climate change. Today, air pollution is a Public...
Health emergency. Air pollution is not only outdoor pollution, but also indoor pollution such as exposure to indoor smoke from cooking fuels. Ninety-two percent of people worldwide do not breathe safe air.

Speakers from the scientific community presented evidence of the detrimental impact that pollution and climate change is having on human health in relation to genetics, pulmonary diseases, chronic respiratory diseases and fetal health. Professor Anupam Sachdeva highlighted research on fetal exposure to environmental pollution and the impact it has on the health of children. Prenatal exposure to air pollution, heavy metal and pesticides increases the risk of some conditions such as miscarriage, intrauterine growth restriction, low birth weight, preterm birth and others. Other studies also demonstrated a significant association between prenatal exposure to air pollutants and respiratory disease. Professor Matteo Bertelli, a geneticist from MAGI Group, also shared study results related to negative effects that air pollution has on the health of children in utero. Human homeostasis perturbation at a genetic, epigenetic and cell signaling level, causing mutations (heritable and somatic), endocrine disrupting chemical effects and epigenetics effects, have all been significantly correlated with exposure to air pollution.

Air pollution and climate change are closely linked. Dr. H. Paramesh explained that the industrialization of the last few years has led to the highest level of CO2 in the atmosphere ever registered so far. These major changes in the air have a negative impact on human health, especially in respiratory functions. Dr. Paramesh suggested that more than 50% of respiratory diseases can be attributed to climate change. Dr. Peter Hellings, founder of European Forum for Research and Education in Allergy and Airway Diseases (EUFOREA), believes health promotion can assist with the treatment and prevention of chronic respiratory diseases with advocacy, education and research. Another ever-present issue is the toxicity of chemical use. The whole community is impacted, as chemical use is related to agriculture, mines, home cleaning products and soil toxicity. Professor Matteo Bertelli presented study results showing that ceasing exposure to chemicals in the first two weeks of pregnancy removed their teratogenic risk.

To conclude the first session, Dr. Francesco Branco, Director of the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development at WHO, highlighted issues related to food insecurity and the growing concern of worldwide malnutrition. He spoke about the alarming nutrition situation presented in the Global Nutrition Report 2017, which indicated that the last two years has seen an upward trend of undernourished populations when compared to the preceding years, opposite to the previous trend. There has been an increase in the rate of overweight children under five, regardless of the geography. Unhealthy diet and malnutrition are in the top ten risk factors for the Global Disease Burden both in terms of number of deaths and loss of quality of life or disability (QALY). Health Promotion can help to achieve the nutrition related aspect of SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture) and is linked with SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages). In conclusion, Dr. Francesco Branco emphasized that we need to work with all organizations, governments, private sector, civil societies and communities. The way food is produced and consumed needs to change so radically that there needs to be a food revolution.
The second plenary session was focused on some actions aimed at promoting health that had been taken around the world. The speakers shared their experiences to underscore the importance of the leaders’ commitment to health promotion, as well as the engagement of local communities, in order to achieve results and improvement in the health status of people. While Dr. Gerry Clum, Director of The Octagon at Life University, spoke about the interconnections between the health of the planet and the health of people, Dr. Christina Murray, Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Prince Edward Island, attributed the successes of the 6th Global Forum on Health Promotion (6GFHP) held in Prince Edward Island in 2016 to collaboration, connection, commitment and communication. She used the 6GFHP as an example of the benefits of civic society working well together with a shared desire to advance health promotion and calls for stronger Health Promotion partnerships and networking.

Two projects were presented as successful examples of health promotion initiatives. Laura Foschi presented on behalf of Professor Elizabeth Cherian Paramesh, Lakeside Centre for Health Promotion, sharing her experience of community engagement to promote health and protect the environment in Bangalore where children, students, teachers and parents were provided with health education on the importance of sanitation and promoting hygiene in schools. Swiss Development Cooperation Health Advisor Erika Placella presented another community-level example from Kyrgyzstan, which was aimed at improving health literacy among healthcare staff and community. This community literacy project was implemented through a partnership between national health institutions and Village Health Committees (VHCs).
Geneva, 14 November 2017

Geneva, 14 November 2017

climate change by sharing ideas, meeting and organizing events and forums.

Foschi, presenting on behalf of Veronica Shiroya, showcased aspects of education, mobilization, intergenerational dialogue and advocacy that have already been used to drive the promotion of improved health. The contribution of youth can be crucial, as they can harness their talents and utilize meaningful and creative ways to inspire global change and stimulate action from different platforms.

In closing, Dr. Benoit Varenne from WHO’s Health Promotion Unit, representing the Coordinator Dr. Faten Ben Abdelaziz, reaffirmed the importance of health promotion in the SDGs agenda, stating that it provides a concrete opportunity for those working on health promotion to take up action at a more political level. As highlighted in the Shanghai Declaration, health is a political choice in fundamental ways, so Health Promotion needs to be part of an agenda for change in the areas of finance, trade and investment policy that promote responsible business practices and sustainable production and consumption. This new approach means that all sectors, beyond the health sector, are required to take action. Further, it calls for shared values that support an economy of wellbeing, such as human value, community engagement, fair trade and exchange, value creation economy and usage of technology and digital approaches that bring greater benefits to more people and transform the present disease-focused system of care.

The youth perspective was conveyed by students committed to health promotion, depicting themselves as the students of today and the professionals of tomorrow. Their presentation included a video message from a student, Ms. Sanne De Wit, member of the International Federation of Medical Students’ Association (IFMSA) attending the COP23 in Bonn. Agata Gorska, International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF), highlighted the profound effects on local environments and climate, especially on waters due to mismanagement of medicines disposal. The commitment and advocacy of young future pharmaceutical professionals is focused on the increase in clean energy production, safeguarding clean waters and improvement of living conditions in human settlements. Laura Foschi suggested that empowering, informing and involving the young generation is key to promoting health. Young people’s use of Twitter, Facebook, blogs and other tools create discussion forums for the public to tackle issues surrounding climate change by sharing ideas, meeting and organizing events and forums.

Foschi, presenting on behalf of Veronica Shiroya, showcased aspects of education, mobilization, intergenerational dialogue and advocacy that have already been used to drive the promotion of improved health. The contribution of youth can be crucial, as they can harness their talents and utilize meaningful and creative ways to inspire global change and stimulate action from different platforms.

The youth perspective was conveyed by students committed to health promotion, depicting themselves as the students of today and the professionals of tomorrow. Their presentation included a video message from a student, Ms. Sanne De Wit, member of the International Federation of Medical Students’ Association (IFMSA) attending the COP23 in Bonn. Agata Gorska, International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF), highlighted the profound effects on local environments and climate, especially on waters due to mismanagement of medicines disposal. The commitment and advocacy of young future pharmaceutical professionals is focused on the increase in clean energy production, safeguarding clean waters and improvement of living conditions in human settlements. Laura Foschi suggested that empowering, informing and involving the young generation is key to promoting health. Young people’s use of Twitter, Facebook, blogs and other tools create discussion forums for the public to tackle issues surrounding climate change by sharing ideas, meeting and organizing events and forums.

Editorial Team:
Mr. Bernard Kadasia
Ms. Lana Raspail
Ms. Clélia Romy
Ms. Anna-Chiara De Leva
Ms. Gabriella Sozanski

Design and printing:
Life University

“Overconsumption and unmitigated exploitation of natural resources have fundamentally changed the planet and now threaten our very survival.”

– Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30–09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00–09:30</td>
<td><strong>OPENING SESSION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00–09:30</td>
<td>Opening remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30–09:40</td>
<td>Plenary Session 1 – Evidence and Impact of the Environment on Human Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30–09:40</td>
<td>Keynote speaker:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:40–10:10</td>
<td>Health, environment and climate: a global health approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10–11:40</td>
<td>Human biology and the impact of environmental change, air pollution and epigenetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10–11:40</td>
<td>Global warming and pulmonary disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10–11:40</td>
<td>Chronic respiratory diseases – a health promotion approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10–11:40</td>
<td>Fetal exposure of environmental pollution and impact on children health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10–11:40</td>
<td>Food security, an issue beyond national boundaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40–12:00</td>
<td>Open forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00–13:00</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00–14:30</td>
<td>Plenary Session 2 – Healthy Environments as a Key Determinant of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00–14:30</td>
<td>A new paradigm for advocacy: interconnections between the health of the planet and the health of people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00–14:30</td>
<td>A call for stronger health promotion partnerships and networking - the new leadership of health promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00–14:30</td>
<td>Engaging communities to promote health and protect the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00–14:30</td>
<td>Community literacy: a critical tool for community empowerment - the example of Kyrgyzstan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00–14:30</td>
<td>Video message from COP23, Bonn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00–14:30</td>
<td>Making use of new tools and approaches to trigger action - the youth perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00–14:30</td>
<td>Keynote speaker:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30–15:00</td>
<td>Open forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00–15:15</td>
<td>SDGs and the political opportunity for health promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00–15:15</td>
<td>Keynote speaker:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:15–15:30</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00–17:30</td>
<td>Cocktail (sponsored by Life University)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>