



Press release



WORLD **DIABETES** FOUNDATION

DIABETES AND CHRONIC NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, NOW CONSIDERED AS A BIGGER THREAT TO LATIN AMERICA AS COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 30 June 2010

– Leading global health experts, national health authorities, health care providers, State Health Secretaries and regional media will convene at the Diabetes Summit for Latin America that takes place in Salvador to discuss the growing epidemic of diabetes and chronic non communicable diseases. By gathering all major stakeholders the summit aims to encourage governments, policy-makers, bilateral and multilateral donors to prioritise the prevention and care of diabetes and other chronic non communicable diseases in this region.

The summit is organised by the World Diabetes Foundation and co-sponsored by the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization.

Globally there are an estimated 285 million cases of diabetes, which is expected to increase to 438 million by 2030.¹ These alarming numbers represents over 10 times the number of people that were living with HIV/AIDS globally in 2008.² Brazil have a diabetes prevalence of 6.4%.³

“In Brazil we are witnessing the rise in rates of diabetes and other chronic non communicable diseases. The rapid economic growth and increasing urbanisation while improving the general standards of living is also bringing in its wake of undesirable lifestyle behaviors, such as unhealthy diets, reduced physical activity, consumption of tobacco and harmful use of alcohol all of which contribute to the risk of chronic non communicable diseases,” comments His Excellency Mr. José Gomes Temporão, Minister of Health, Brazil.

REFERENCES

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2. http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2009/2009_epidemic_update_en.pdf.
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“The impact of this to the Latin American Region cannot be underestimated both from the public health perspective as well as financial costs of treatment and lost productivity due to disability and premature deaths; the threat to economic prosperity is serious and will deepen creating substantial losses in national incomes, marginalizing families and children into a downward spiral of poverty. Together we must explore strategies for the early detection, prevention and management of diabetes and other chronic non communicable diseases and develop health systems which are able to tackle the problem.” elaborates Minister Temporão.

The Growing Impact of Diabetes and Chronic Non Communicable Diseases

Diabetes is a growing issue in the Latin American and Caribbean Region. In 2010, there will be an estimated 18 million people (6.3% of adults) in the Region living with diabetes³ and this is expected to rise by 65%, to almost 30 million in the next 20 years. Diabetes accounts for 9% of all deaths in the Region, with approximately 330,000 people living with diabetes expected to die from diabetes related complications.³

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic diseases are currently the cause of 35 million deaths each year – or 60% of all deaths worldwide – of which 80% occur in low and middle-income countries.⁴ By 2015, the WHO estimates net losses in national income from diabetes and cardiovascular disease to increase dramatically in Brazil to an estimated 49.2 billion expressed in International Dollars.³

“The growing epidemic of diabetes and chronic non communicable diseases in the Latin American & Caribbean Region must be tackled head on with tangible, cost effective and preventable solutions. Effective prevention and treatment strategies for diabetes are not costly and can effectively bring down costs related to other related chronic non communicable diseases. It is time for all partners and governments to recognize chronic non communicable diseases as closely linked to global social and economic development. Development that does not take into account health consequences may prove expensive and also perpetuate chronic poverty,” comments Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director of the Pan American Health Organization. “I am delighted to welcome this prestigious gathering of stakeholders to the summit.”

No other common non communicable diseases have as many associated complications and co-morbidities as diabetes, and indeed it is, itself a risk factor for several others. Expenditure on diabetes and its complications is estimated to reach US\$ 8.1 billion in Latin America, and in Brazil, the total costs (both indirect and direct) attributed to diabetes is an estimated annual US\$ 23 million. This equates to a health expenditure of approximately US\$ 870 per person.⁵

Statistics such as these have prompted the World Economic Forum to rank non communicable diseases among the top five global risks in its Global Risks Report, now two years in a row 2009 and 2010.⁶ The World Bank has also called for immediate action on non communicable diseases targeted at the international society and governments throughout the developing world.⁷ However, evidence shows that more than 80% of premature heart diseases, strokes and type 2 diabetes and over 40% of cancers can be prevented by adopting healthy lifestyles, encouraged by the implementation of wise public policy.⁴

Despite these facts, international aid and development agencies are “missing in action” in relation to prevention and control of chronic non communicable diseases. They are virtually absent in terms of providing technical assistance to developing countries in this area. The greatest burden of preventable death and disability, in both rich and poor countries, is being caused by the very conditions that are receiving least development support. Out of US\$ 20.6 billion in Official Development Assistance in 2006 provided by 24 OECD/DAC countries and

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4. WHO 2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases- http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241597418_eng.pdf
5. Barcelo A., Aedo c., Rajpathak S. et al. The cost of diabetes in Latin America and the Caribbean. (2003) Bull WHO 81: 19-27.
6. World Economic Forum, Global Health Risks 2009. p 5. and the Global Risks 2010 - A Global Risk Network Report
7. World Bank, (2007), Public Policy and the Challenge of Chronic Non-communicable Diseases.





the EC, only US\$ 0.1 billion went to basic nutrition and there was no specific investment in the prevention and control of chronic non communicable diseases.⁸

Latest research - documenting the link between communicable and non-communicable diseases

Public health experts and reputed research institutions will present new knowledge at the summit and discuss ways forward to address the link between communicable diseases and non communicable diseases, now considered one of the world's leading public health challenges.

Recent systematic reviews documents that communicable and non communicable diseases mutually affect each other in a negative spiral. Diabetes more than triples the risk of developing tuberculosis.⁹ On top of this, malnutrition and infections during pregnancy cause low birth weight which paradoxically, is associated with a high risk of developing metabolic syndrome, including diabetes in the offspring. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that the risks to which women and their offspring are exposed during pregnancy increase manifold when pregnancy is associated with diabetes - and by the fact that a child born to a woman with diabetes has eight times greater risk of developing diabetes itself.¹⁰

“The summit offers a unique window of opportunity for governments, donors, policy planners and public health experts to address the double disease burden and to take an integrated approach by targeting both communicable and non communicable diseases and to explore joint strategies for detection, prevention and management of the diseases, by building on the same infrastructure and health care capacity,” explains Dr. Anil Kapur, Managing Director of the World Diabetes Foundation. “Unless this opportunity is seized by the donor community, local governments and other relevant partners, the current progress on the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals* will be undermined and countries will face unbearable costs to their economies and health systems.”, explains Dr. Kapur.

Besides the Government of Brazil, the Pan American Organization and the World Diabetes Foundation, the summit in Salvador, Bahia is supported by a wide range of organisations, notably the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), the World Bank, the Latin American Diabetes Association (ALAD), the National Association of Diabetes Care (ANAD), the National Federation of Organizations for Diabetics (FENAD); the Juvenile Diabetes Association (ADJ); the Cuban Society of Diabetes, the National Institute of Endocrinology and Ministry of Health, Cuba, the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), the Ibero-American Development Programme for Science and Technology (CYTE,) and the Spanish Diabetes Foundation.

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8. Kaiser Family Foundation. Health ODA Commitments by Major Sub-Sector, 2006. Analysis of data obtained via online query of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).
9. European Endocrinology, volume 5, Issue 1, Extract – Diabetes and Tuberculosis – old associates posing a renewed public health challenge by Dr. Anil Kapur, Dr. Anthony Harries, Dr. Knut Lönnroth, Prof. Ib Bygbjerg and Prof. Lefebvre, 2009.
10. International Journal of Gynaecology & Obstetrics, volume 104, Diabetes, Women and Development. Meeting summary, expert recommendations for policy action, conclusion, and follow up action, 2008.





Notes to the editor

World Diabetes Foundation

The World Diabetes Foundation (WDF) was established in 2002 through a commitment of 1.2 billion Danish kroner (US\$ 255 Million) to be allocated over a period of 17 years by Novo Nordisk A/S as part of the company's corporate social responsibility.

The World Diabetes Foundation is dedicated to supporting the prevention and treatment of diabetes in the developing world and strives to educate and advocate globally in an effort to create awareness, care and relief to those impacted by the disease.

During its eight years of existence, the Foundation has established project-related partnerships and collaboration with organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (AFRO), the World Health Organization Regional Office for South East Asia (SEARO), the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), the Danish International Development Assistance Agency (Danida), the World Bank, the United Nations Office for Partnerships; various non-governmental organisations (NGO) including DanChurchAid . In addition the World Diabetes Foundation partners with local Ministries of Health in developing countries as well as with local diabetes associations.

The Foundation is registered as an independent and legal trust, governed by a board of six experts in the field of diabetes, access to health and development assistance.

Since its inception, the World Diabetes Foundation has funded 236 projects in 90 countries to date focusing on diabetes awareness, education and capacity building at local, regional and global levels. The value of funding to the current projects is US\$ 223.7 million of which the Foundation contributes about US\$ 76.6 million.

The projects funded by the World Diabetes Foundation will directly influence the diabetes treatment, advocacy and awareness efforts of potentially 75.9 million people in the developing countries.

For more information, please visit; www.worlddiabetesfoundation.org

*Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.

There are eight MDGs (see below) but Goals 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 specifically incorporate action required to address non communicable diseases in developing countries.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education





Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
Goal 5: Improve maternal health
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

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