INTERSECTORAL ACTION ON HEALTH

WHO Centre for Health Development - Kobe Centre - Japan

PROCESS LEADING TO “10 STEPS”

- Several analyses of international experiences on ISA
- Series of expert consultations hosted by WHO:
  > Kobe, June 2009
  > Helsinki, June 2010
  > Global Forum on Urbanization and Health in Kobe, November 2010

WHO: 10 STEPS TO POLICY-MAKERS

- Published in 2011 by WHO
- Based on a series of Case-Studies, published evidence, and expert’s advice.
- Presents a series of steps which policy-makers can take to promote multi-sector health initiatives in national level
- Aims to share lessons and encourage policy-makers to move towards intersectoral action on health
- Relevant to both an issue-centred approach to implementing ISA, and to a general strategy of achieving health in all policies at national level

STEP 1: SELF-ASSESSMENT

- Assess the health sector’s capabilities, readiness, existing relationships, and participation. E.g.:
  > Previous projects in the area?
  > Expertise?
  > Contacts?

- Strengthen the institution by improving staff capacity to interact with other sectors, to address and communicate potential co-benefits, and to contribute the debate with other sectors

Liverpool: the analysis of the local health profile before initiating intersectoral programme to increase levels of physical activity
**STEP 2: ASSESSMENT AND ENGAGEMENT OF OTHER SECTORS**

- Achieve a better understanding of other sectors. E.g.:
  - Goals?
  - Language
  - Restraints
- Establish links and means of communication with them

*Example:* Establishment of “health networks” (focal points under each sector) for information distribution.

**STEP 2: ASSESSMENT AND ENGAGEMENT OF OTHER SECTORS**

- Conduct a stakeholder and sector analysis
  - Influence?
  - Interest?
  - Conflicts?
- Use Health Impact Assessment
- Establish a common information system
  - Surveillance
  - Surveys
  - Census

**STEP 2: ASSESSMENT AND ENGAGEMENT OF OTHER SECTORS**

- Identify existing intersectoral bodies, mandates and instruments
  - Cabinet
  - Tobacco control
  - Task forces
- Participate in activities led by other sectors

**STEP 2: ASSESSMENT AND ENGAGEMENT OF OTHER SECTORS**

- Define the area and the intervention needed
- Present sector-specific disaggregated data focusing on the impact of other sectors
- Analyse the feasibility of the intervention

**STEP 3: ANALYSE THE AREA OF CONCERN**

- Analyse the context regards to available mechanisms
- Build your case using disaggregated data

*Example:* Viet Nam: the analysis of statistics illustrating that road traffic injury is a leading cause of death and injury in Viet Nam, and that 60% of the accidents happened with motorcycles.
STEP 4: SELECT AN ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

- Gauge the intensity of engagement with other sectors in terms of health impact, health priorities, public policy priorities etc.
- Select the approach:
  1) Issue approach
  2) Sector approach
  3) Opportunistic

Framework
Convention on Tobacco Control: Address relations between tobacco, agriculture, taxation, and health.

STEP 5: DEVELOP AN ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY AND POLICY

- Develop a strategy to involve the relevant sectors.
  Consider:
  1) Long-term commitment
  2) Time allocation
  3) Supporting champions with tools and guidance

Abha City, Saudi Arabia: The Prince of Abha as a supporting champion to promote intersectoral activities

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STEP 6: FOSTER COMMON UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SECTORS

- Identify a common understanding of the key issues and required actions
- Use a common framework to facilitate a shared understanding of the pathways and key interventions

Abha City, Saudi Arabia: The Prince of Abha as a supporting champion to promote intersectoral activities

Figure 1. Poverty contributes to NCDs and NCDs contribute to poverty


October 2012 - AFHC - Brisbane
STEP 7: STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES, POLITICAL WILL AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

- Assess the political route required to adopt the policy
- Use new or existing governance structures (Establishment of New York City Obesity Task Force)
- Develop accountability mechanisms. E.g.:
  - Health Impact Assessment
  - Compulsory reporting

STEP 7: STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES, POLITICAL WILL AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

- Take advantage of the treaties and reporting mechanisms mandated by international agreements to integrate health determinants across sectors

STEP 8: ENHANCE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Enhance participation in the policy development and implementation through:
  1) Public consultations and hearings
  2) Facilitating the involvement of NGO’s from different sectors (Varde: Web-based consultation and a public dialogue meeting organized at policy formulation stage)

STEP 8: ENHANCE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- 3) Disseminating information using mass media
- 4) Web-based tools (Liverpool: the cooperation between the Liverpool Strategic Partnership and community-sector organizations)

STEP 9: CHOOSE OTHER GOOD PRACTICES TO FOSTER INTERSECTORAL ACTION

- Join other sectors in establishing common policies, programmes or initiatives
- Be an agent in other sectors’ policies, and invite them to be agent in yours
- Provide required expertise
- Provide tools and techniques to include health in the policies of other sectors
- Allocate available resources to contribute to other sectors’ policy implementation
- Share lessons (South Africa: the establishment of a Mental Health Directorate based on the recommendations from the South Africa Mental Health and Poverty Project)

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STEP 10: MONITOR AND EVALUATE

- Follow closely the implementation of intersectoral action through monitoring and evaluation processes
- Report regularly on the development of policies that protect and promote health

Liverpool: the verification of the positive effects of the Liverpool Active City programme by two national surveys
Several studies: partner with research institutes and universities for evaluation support

THANK YOU!