

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

Nutrition and Sustainable Development

Expected date of initiation: October 2002

Expected date of completion: to be defined

Partners Involved:

Governments: South Africa, USA

[others, pending: Brazil, Kenya]

Intergovernmental organizations:

World Health Organisation,

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation

Stakeholder groups: Academics, international nutrition experts, NGOs and Media.

Such as the UK National Heart Forum, the University of the Orange Free State, University of Westminster, University of Western Cape, Potchefstroom University, South African Nutrition Society, Wellness Info-net Association of Country Women of the World, and HelpAge.

Other: Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future

Leading Partners: WHO and FAO

Name of the contact person/focal point: Derek Yach, Executive Director, Division for Noncommunicable diseases and Mental Health, WHO

Address: Avenue Appia 20,

CH-1211 Geneva 27

Switzerland

Phone: +41 22791 2111

Fax: +41 22 791 31 11

E-mail: yachd@who.int

Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Please provide a brief description:

This partnership aims to contribute to the implementation of recommendations developed in the joint WHO/FAO expert consultation on diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases (Geneva, Switzerland, 28 January – 1 February 2002; draft report available via lfriberg@earthsummit2002.org).

“Obesity prevention policies must go hand in hand with strategies to prevent undernutrition.” (WHO).

Nutrition is a major determinant of health. Unhealthy diet (and a sedentary lifestyle) effectively handicap people and contribute to premature deaths from cancer, cardiovascular disease (CVD) and obesity related illnesses (particularly Type 2 diabetes). The shift to diets high in saturated fats, sugar and refined foods (the ‘nutrition transition’) has contributed to worsening nutrition and significant growth of obesity in children

and adults in developed and developing countries.

The links between good health and economic improvement have been well documented. Good nutrition contributes to development of human capital, increased productivity, reduced poverty, etc. The delivery of nutritious food to every household, at all levels of income, is an achievable aim.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

Draft Plan of Implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (12 June 2002):

III. 14.

(c) Develop production and consumption policies [using a life-cycle approach] to

improve the products and services provided, while reducing environmental and health impacts;

(e) Develop and adopt, on a voluntary basis [where appropriate], effective, transparent, verifiable, non-misleading and non-discriminatory consumer information tools to provide information relating to sustainable consumption and production, including human health and safety aspects. These tools should not be used as disguised trade barriers. [In addition, eco-labelling should be developed and implemented in an open and participatory manner [and should be voluntary.]/[in accordance with the WTO rules].]

[Action should be taken to assess and improve such tools in order to minimise adverse effects they may have on the sustainable development of other countries, especially developing countries.]

VI. Health and sustainable development

46. [Agreed] The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development, and that they are entitled to a healthy and productive life, in harmony with nature. The goals of sustainable development can only be achieved in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating diseases, while health gains for the whole population requires poverty eradication. There is an urgent need to address the causes of ill health, including environmental, and their impact on development, with particular emphasis on women and children, as well as vulnerable groups of society, such as people with disabilities, elderly persons and indigenous people.

47. [Agreed] Strengthen the capacity of health care systems to deliver basic health services to all in an efficient, accessible and affordable manner aimed at preventing, controlling and treating diseases and to reduce environmental health threats and, taking into account the reports of recent United Nations conferences, summits, and special sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, consistent with national laws and cultural and religious values. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) [Agreed] Integrate the health concerns including those of the most vulnerable populations into strategies, policies and programmes for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

(b) [Agreed] Promote equitable and improved access to affordable and efficient health care services, including prevention, at all levels of the health system, to essential and safe drugs at affordable prices, immunization services and safe vaccines, and medical technology;

(c) [Agreed] Provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition to implement the Health for All Strategy, including health information systems and integrated databases on development hazards;

(d) [Agreed] Improve the development and management of human resources in health care services;

(e) [Agreed] Promote and develop partnerships to enhance health education with the objective of achieving improved health literacy on a global basis by 2010, with the involvement of United Nations Agencies, as appropriate;

(g) [Agreed] Target research efforts and apply research results to priority public health issues, in particular those affecting susceptible and vulnerable populations, through the development of new vaccines, reducing exposures to health risks, building on equal access to health care services, education, training and medical treatment and technology, as well as addressing the secondary effects of poor health;

(j) [Agreed] Address effectively, for all individuals of appropriate age, the promotion of their healthy lives, including their reproductive and sexual health, consistent with the commitments and outcomes of recent United Nations conferences and summits, including the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference of Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women, and their respective reviews and reports;

(n) [Agreed] Improve availability and access for all to sufficient, safe, culturally acceptable and nutritionally adequate food, increase consumer health protection, address issues of micronutrient deficiency, and implement existing internationally agreed commitments, and relevant standards and guidelines;

(o) [Agreed] Develop or strengthen, where applicable, preventive, promotive and curative programmes to address non-communicable diseases and conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, injuries, violence and mental health disorders and associated risk factors including alcohol, tobacco, unhealthy diets and lack of physical activity.

Expected results:

Please provide a brief description:

- Increased awareness of the links between diet, nutrition, health and sustainable development among citizens, relevant professional groups, and governments
- Improvement of ongoing programmes on diet / nutrition and health

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

A work programme for the partnership is being developed at this point (mid-August 2002), and will be available after Stakeholder Forum's Implementation Conference (26 August 2002). The work programme will focus on 1) activities in South Africa, and 2) elsewhere / globally. Components under discussion include:

- A global Fruit and Vegetable Initiative, including awareness raising (campaigns, etc...) of health benefits, engagement of producers and consumers, relevance to 'food miles' campaigns (local production), educators, community groups
- Raising the 'status' of nutrition in the media (reduce scare-mongering, provide informative balanced reports) and within government (importance to public health)
- Addressing the gaps in provision of a balanced, broad ranging (national to household level) nutrition policy, including:
 - An audit of existing programmes (successful and failed), at each level;
 - Particular focus on community to community exchange of best practice; and
 - A programme of conferences and database of people/ expertise.
 - Holistic delivery of nutrition to the community/ household.
- Creating 'nutrition toolkits' for use by:
 - nurses, doctors, health professionals
 - teachers (formal, informal), community workers and leaders at the workplace
 - shopkeepers, providers of cooked and uncooked food
 - mothers with young children

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

- The partnership will be implemented by the lead organisations and various partners from academia and the NGO and media communities.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

- Funds are available as components of the partnership's work programme are part of the partners' work programme.
- Additional funds will be raised, primarily from governments and foundations.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

- Awareness raising and public education activities will build the capacities of relevant professional groups (e.g. nurses, doctors, health professionals, teachers, etc) and citizens (e.g. mothers).

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Please provide a brief description:

- The partnership links with ongoing activities by the all partners, particularly WHO's and FAO's activities to implement the recommendations of their joint work on diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases.

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:

(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)

- The partnership will develop its own, internal monitoring mechanism.
- Reporting will be included in the annual reporting mechanisms of the partners involved.
- Reporting to CSD

Other relevant information:

Web-site (if available): This partnership is part of Stakeholder Forums Implementation Conference process; more information at www.earthsummit2002.org/ic

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

Name: Minu Hemmati, Gordon Baker, and Lars Friberg, Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future

Position: Implementation Conference Coordinator & Issue Coordinators Health / Nutrition

Address: 7 Holyrood Street, London SE1 2EL, UK

Phone: +44 20 7089 4300

Fax +44 20 7089 4310

E-mail: gbaker@earthsummit2002.org; lfriberg@earthsummit2002.org