

Get involved !

Radical changes are needed to achieve better health and equitable development for everyone. A concerted political mobilization is thus needed to put people first in the development process.

PHA 2000, The People's Health Assembly 2000 is working for just that. We are a growing coalition of grassroots organizations dedicated to changing the prevailing health care delivery system which is considered to be failing to serve the deteriorating health of most of the world's poor.

Preparatory work for the PHA is under way. Pre-assembly meetings, workshops, consultations, discussions are mushrooming in different parts of the world, each echoing other groups' and communities' concerns and visions for health and equitable development. Stories and case-studies are being produced in the form of written stories/case-studies, video/slides presentation, skits, street dramas, poster presentations, and various other creative forms. If you are not already involved in some of these activities, contact your respective regional coordinators or the PHA Secretariat and get more information from us.

In December this year, PHA 2000 is planning a global assembly! The Assembly will cover a wide range of issues, taking an intersectoral and global approach to health. A series of relevant, lively and interesting workshops, roundtables and plenaries as well as cultural and artistic events are being organised. The Assembly seeks the wide endorsement of the People's Charter for Health and the formulation of the PHA Action Plans. We are expecting about 600 participants coming from community-based and grassroots organisations, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, academia, international agencies and governments from over 100 countries around the world, ensuring that there will be a strong representation of women as well as participants from developing countries.



The challenges we face require shared strategies and interaction by likeminded individuals and organizations worldwide. We are calling upon you to join us in this process. Networking is the beginning of a process that we envision carrying out through launching a concerted lasting global campaign seeking the political changes needed to make universal access to basic human needs a priority. We particularly focus on primary health care, aiming at re-establishing health and equitable development as top priorities in local, national and international policy-making.

How to get involved?

- Contact your respective regional coordinators. Find out how you and your organisation can be a part of the PHA process at the country/regional levels;
- Get on to the website at www.pha2000.org Download updated information from there for pre-assembly activities and/or the assembly. If you do not have access to the internet, write to the PHA Secretariat;
- Send us stories and/or case studies on health and health-related issues that you and your community feel is important input into the process;
- Send us your input on the draft outline of the People's Charter for Health. Distribute the Charter widely and share it with your network/partner organisations;
- Share information about the PHA process with your networks and/or during relevant conferences/meetings that you attend;
- Network with groups that have already come on board the PHA process. The PHA network database will be made available on our website soon.

AFRICA

Information on the PHA has been widely shared in different parts of Africa. Groups that PHA has linked up with or vice versa include ASDEC (for clean environment), Senegal; TARSC (Training and Resource Support Centre), Zimbabwe; Church related hospital organisations in Malawi; Community Development Initiative and Child Health Organisation, Nigeria; Women's Organisation Mali; Steno (community based programme), Uganda; HAI-Africa; Afri-Can, Kangemi Women Empowerment Centre, Health Care Group, Kenya; Disabled Women's Network and Resource Organisation, Youth/Children Project, Buluba Leprosy Centre, Uganda.

Upcoming events

- A meeting of African Regulatory Authorities, AFDRAN was organised in March. Contacts have been made with them to see how best they can be involved in the process.
- There was a regional meeting in March on Essential Drugs in Cape Town. The background framework paper has been sent to the participants of this meeting.

ARAB COUNTRIES

The first brochure and second information folder have been translated to Arabic by Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committee (UPMRC). Palestinian groups have been briefed and are working together on the PHA. They are also working on a case study on the World Bank and Palestine and stories are being produced.

Arab partners have been contacted and

are planning to organise a meeting in Jordan. A proposed workshop on Iraq is being planned for the Assembly in Dhaka. (Ghassan Hanani at UPMRC, PO Box 514483, Jerusalem, Israel. fax: 972-2-583 0679; email: mrs@baraka.org/ghada@upmrc.org)

ASIA

Chennai Meeting

A national consultation was coordinated by All India People's Science Network (AIPSN) from 10-12 January at Chennai to evolve a plan of action and national coordinating mechanism for the PHA. The national coordinating committee comprises of AIPSN; Community Health Cell, Bangalore; ACHAN; Forum for Crèche and Child Care Services (FORCES); Medicos Friends Circle; CEHAT; Foundation for Research in Community Health; National Alliance of People's Movements; Anveshi; Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI); Consumer action Group; and Indian Academy of Pediatrics. Groups were encouraged to organise activities relevant to

the process. Activities for the national health assembly, policy dialogues and national workshops have been identified and mapped out as coordinated activities.

Hyderabad Meeting

Another national meeting was held in Hyderabad, India on 6 April. The composition of the national networks has been expanded to include AIPSN, AIDAN, AIDWA, ACHAN, BGVS, CHAI, CMAI, FORCES, FMRAI, MFC, NAPM, NFIW, NOWA, SOCHARA, VHAI. Keynote address and papers were presented centering around the theme of globalisation and structural adjustment and its impact on health. A report of the two above meetings can be obtained through AIPSN (cerd@satyam.net.in).

An ad-hoc committee was formed in Nepal in preparation for the PHA, comprising of Resource Centre for Primary Health Care (RECPHEC), People's Health Concern Trust, Women's Rehabilitation centre, Rural Reconstruction Nepal, ABC Nepal

Who to contact?

The **Regional Coordinators** at your respective regions/countries to get into the PHA loop!

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and United Mission to Nepal. The first meeting of the committee was held on 5 March. Some of the preparatory tasks identified include the publication of the PHA brochure in Nepali, wider circulation of the brochure, public announcement of the PHA through different channels, convening a meeting to include the larger civil society. In the Philippines, information on the PHA has been widely distributed to network groups. Groups are involved in various activities viz. research on nutrition, immunisation, corporatisation of health care, HIV/AIDS; photo exhibits; producing video on the effects of IMF, World Bank; etc.

A Pre-assembly event is being planned in rural Sindh, Pakistan by Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS). For more information, please contact Tanveer Ahmed at hands@digicom.net.pk or 254 Purbalok, Kalikapur, P.O., Calcutta - 700 078, India.

Elsewhere, meetings and activities have been discussed and/or initiated in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, China, Maldives, Pakistan (Zafar Mirza, TheNetwork at netcp@isb.apollo.net.pk or House #60-A, Street 39, Sector F-10/4, Islamabad).

EUROPE

An ad-hoc committee was formed and focal points appointed during the International People's Health Council Meeting in Amsterdam on 7 February 2000 to work with the PHA process. These organisations include Medact and One World Action for Europe; IPHC for UK; Wemos for The Netherlands; Medical Aid for the Third World for Belgium; Physicians for Social Responsibility for Finland; and Dag Hammarskjold Foundation for Sweden. Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Pam Zinkin. Others are invited to join the committee!

Contacts needed in Hungary and Poland. If you know of any groups interested in the PHA process, please contact Pam Zinkin (pamzinkin@gn.apc.org)

Meeting in St. Petersburg

Representatives from about 30 local health NGOs participated in a PHA meeting in St. Petersburg on 17 March. The meeting was good and achieved its objectives of planning for Russia's

contribution to the PHA process along the theme of "Building bridges for better health policies in Russia". Coordinated efforts are being made for further contributions to the PHA process via writing/producing stories, testimonies as well as finding effective means to get involved in the analytical process. Information about this meeting can be obtained from WEMOS at info@wemos.nl or PO Box 1693, 1000 BR Amsterdam, The Netherlands, fax: 31-20-4686 008



The Death of Primary Health Care

Upcoming meetings

- World Health Assembly, 15-20 May 2000 in Geneva: MEDACT and WEMOS are planning a meeting on the PHA for Geneva on 18 May at 1300-1500. The meeting will be held in the NGO Lounge in Palais de Nations. We will be working with Asha Williams, the focal point appointed by WHO to work with the PHA. (For more information, contact Ellen Verheul at ellen.verheul@wemos.nl or postal address as above)
- MEDACT is organising a meeting for the PHA entitled "Global problems, Local Solutions" on 13 May. This is a national meeting for groups in UK involving doctors and other health workers, community groups and unions. (Contact Mike Rowson at medact@gn.apc.org or MEDACT, 601 Holloway Rd, London N19 4DJ, United Kingdom. fax: 44-171-2815717)

- Kilen is planning a meeting on 31 September - 1 October 2000 in Sweden on Consumer reports on Medicine. For more information, please contact Pam Zinkin at pamzinkin@gn.apc.org

LATIN AMERICA

Information on the PHA has been widely distributed to leaders, decision makers, representatives of ethnic groups, trade unions and women's groups, requesting that these groups participate in the PHA process and share the information with their network groups.

More contacts needed in Brazil! Groups working on health and health-related issues interested to join in the PHA process, please contact Maria Hamlin-Zuniga (iphc@cisas.org.ni) and/or Arturo Quizphe (aquizhpe@yahoo.com).

Among some of the pre-assembly activities include:

- A local meeting was held in Trinidad/Tobago;
- A group called INCUPO from the Chaco in Argentina is preparing stories and testimonies;
- Women's groups have been sharing information on the PHA process and putting it on their bulletins and magazines.

Upcoming events

- The Regional Committee for the Promotion of Community Health is planning meetings in the Mexican and Central American region over the next few months. Each Central American country will hold local and/or national meetings.
- A regional meeting will be held to consolidate these meetings in October where testimonies, stories, cultural expressions will be part of the agenda. This is in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary celebrations.
- Collaboration between PHA and the Civil Society Forum has been made and activities are being initiated.

Upcoming meetings

- A Regional Forum for Populat (People's) Health will be held in Cuenca from 25-29 September 2000. (Contact Arturo Quizphe at aquizhpe@yahoo.com)



NORTH AMERICA

Network partners in Canada are looking into the possibility of organising an event among community health centres. More information later.

More contacts are needed in USA. Please contact the PHA Secretariat.

THE PACIFIC

Groups are being contacted in the Pacific. If you are in linked to any groups in the Pacific working on similar issues as we are, please link us up with them! Contact Mary Murray at memhnh@ozemail.com.au or Kenneth Harvey at k.harvey@latrobe.edu.au

**Join in the PHA process
and let your voices be heard!**
**Contact your respective regional coordinators
and be a part of the regional activities.**
**We encourage all people's movements
to come on board.**
**Let's work together towards re-establishing
health and equitable development for all.**

If undelivered return to
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By Air Mail