



National and International Seminar for the transformation of the health system with intercultural relevance in Guatemala

Chimaltenango, Guatemala 19, 20 and 21 July 2023

TOWARDS THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM WITH INTERCULTURAL RELEVANCE IN GUATEMALA!

With the energies of the Nawal Iq that symbolizes the wind, the air and the breath of all living beings, of human beings, of animals, of the visible and invisible, of mother earth, of the cosmos, begins the seminar "Towards the transformation of the health system with intercultural relevance in Guatemala" with the participation of different peoples, territories, communities and leaderships of all Guatemala and the presence of Central America and the Caribbean through the Regional Committee of Community Health Promotion, which is the Mesoamerican region of the People's Health Movement PHM.

Objectives of the Seminar:

1. Analysis of the context and the social, political, economic and cultural situation to make transformation processes viable in Guatemala and the region.
2. To learn about and analyze the campaign for the re-foundation and transformation of the health systems, in order to appropriate and promote it in the communities.
3. To promote strategic alliances at local, national and international levels in favor of health with intercultural relevance.

This seminar is part of the campaign "Towards the transformation of health systems" promoted by the People's Health Movement PHM and from Guatemala we join in contributing to the community, cosmogonic and ancestral approach of a multicultural and multilingual country. These principles and approaches are essential for any process of transformation of health systems together with the transformation of colonial, discriminatory and neoliberal states. We do this intercultural approach in a critical, analytical and proactive way. Critical because it is surely not our language, it is a western and hegemonic language that seeks "inclusion" "assimilation" and possibly "extermination". Analytical because we know that this state and health system is colonial, mercantilist and racist; we use then the language of the "enemy" to be understood and understood, but we will always bet on an approach of emancipation and autonomy. Propositive because from the cosmovision of the native peoples our vision will always be for a plurinational state and towards the good living; on the basis of an ancestral health system of the native peoples, from the integral health of the human being with the cosmos, with mother earth and the universe.

Content

1. Analysis of the political and electoral context in Guatemala.
2. Analysis of the regional and global context (CRRPSC).
3. Campaign on the Transformation of Health Systems (People's Health Movement).
4. Towards a health transformation with cultural relevance in Guatemala (Health Forum).
5. The role of community health actors: (promoters, midwives, therapists).

Regional/territorial representatives.

6. The role of the social, indigenous and popular movement in the defense of the right to health and life (Social and indigenous movement).

Previous Activities

- Maua Ceremony
- Meeting of the Mesoamerican PHM or Regional Committee for the Promotion of Community Health.

Summary of Content

About the Context:

The current Guatemalan context has its roots of coaptation since the invasion and colonization. In the last 40 years we come from democracy as an oligarchic military project (1986-1996); Peace building and neoliberal "democracy" (1997-2011); Authoritarian reconfiguration, co-optation of the State and political crisis (2012-2017); Consolidation of State co-optation (2017-2023).

In Guatemala we are now facing an electoral juncture of tensions and struggle in the correlation of forces Cooptation of the State and the possibility of confronting co-optation and initiating socio-political/structural changes.

For the first round of elections, a center-left movement is a surprise, remaining for the second round ballot, a situation that makes the sectors of power uncomfortable. The second round is

expected to have many tensions, but also hope for change. There is no protagonism of the indigenous peoples in this electoral juncture but it can be an opening of possibilities of greater advances in the vindication of rights.

The Regional context of Central America and the Caribbean is characterized by the following characteristics

Mexico an opposition government of mixtures of other parties of two thoughts without ideas or approaches, but that gave rise to the situation of the country, at present the mafias of power are currently its advisory team. In relation to migration is a commodity, trafficking, as a big business, as well as violence and the disappearance of missing persons in clandestinity.

In El Salvador there is a consolidation of the regime, and the macabre of the technologies that distort the information to the population, the cooptation of a State arises, to go favoring the oligarchy, not to lose the guarantee of power, and not to favor anything to the country. With the regime/state of exception El Salvador has one of the largest prisons, with judicial deaths, persecution of the population, especially the youth.

In Honduras, President Xiomara installed a state of exception, highlighting her relationship with China, supported by acts and decisions for an authoritarian and militaristic regime, exercising fear, power and hegemony over the population.

Nicaragua is going through complex social situations, which affect health, the increase in the price of medication, with a model of family and community health, such as the vaccination process, for different diseases and not only for health care.

On the Campaign for the Transformation of Health Systems

There is talk of transformation of reconstitution now in the recognition of the health systems from the peoples, the countries have a country's health system, as well as indigenous peoples' own systems. The health agendas are in the hands of the health businessmen, such as the vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, the hospital resources that were not made visible to the population and that safeguarded the health of the populations during the pandemic. Also the international health organizations WHO, PAHO, THE WORLD BANK that promote a policy of reform of health systems that are debatable between countries and implemented by mandate.

The health business towards the privatization of primary health care, being PHC an organized community health. These views come from the view of hegemonic power and other ways in which they assume privatization. The ways in which the forms of health are developed and implemented from community spaces must be from another way to defend it and not allow these to disappear from the ways of health implemented by privatization.

It is sought that the ways of health be integrated, the pandemic experienced, climate change, social inequality, neoliberalism. And the exploitation of the patent monopoly business of large

pharmaceutical corporations, and how to transform and strengthen the ability to provide health from health systems, health system must be comprehensive, from the worldviews of the peoples, which should be on the agenda for change,

It is important that young people are also considered in the recovery of health systems, recover food sovereignty, recover ancestral knowledge, and the system of life that we have in the cosmos in the life and health of human beings and how this situation transcends our ways of life, and how to move towards the transformation of health systems.

On the health system with cultural relevance

From the Unit of Intercultural Health Care and Indigenous Peoples of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance: to promote and recognize the rights of indigenous peoples in the 4 peoples that to achieve the interculturality of indigenous peoples. And that they are adequate to provide the service without affecting their culture.

The Health Forum of Guatemala supports the tenacious work done by grandmothers, midwives, health promoters and therapists as actors who contribute to community health, all related to the first and second level of care provided in health centers and hospitals. It emphasizes that the State of Guatemala has the obligation to guarantee the Right to Health to all Guatemalan citizens, and is governed by the Political Constitution of the Republic.

PAHO promotes the effective enjoyment of health by recognizing the general rights of citizenship; the entire population has the right to address health from its own health system. An intercultural ancestral health model and the conceptualization of wellbeing, health and life are promoted.

About Health from the community

With different testimonies it is analyzed that the role of community health actors for the transformation of the health system from the community is key and they are; health promoters, brigadistas, midwives, healers, traditional therapists. They are the basis of primary health care, they are the center of the possibility of health in the hands of the people.

On the role of the Indigenous and Popular Social Movement in the defense of the health of the mother earth and the territory

A tribute is paid to criminalized leaders, women leaders defending the health of mother earth who are examples of struggle and resistance.

The movement of Grandmothers Midwives Nim Alaxik has played a leading role in the defense of the rights of the midwives: Before the constitutional court a great advance was achieved, what we want is that they let the midwives work with the ancestral system and not be

discriminated against and violated in their rights as such. With the Ministry of Health, progress is being made on the implementation plan of the national midwives' policy and progress is being made on the unification of the midwives' card. In the legislature with two legislative initiatives that have not been achieved due to political interests.

The Health Forum of El Salvador works for the transformation of the health systems, health promotion actions within the communities, to learn first hand about the needs, cases of violence against women, and activities to raise awareness of women's rights that are invisible. Sexual and reproductive health to raise awareness among young people.