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**GLOBAL CONSULTATION
PROMOTING THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF
NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS
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REDACS: A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY



- REDACS is a collaborative community of knowledge on the field of health accounts
- Promotes sound comparative and high quality research based on a standardized methodological approach
- Open to all interested researchers, promoting collaboration among persons and institutions from public, private and academic environments



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ORIGINS



- Initial activities on health accounts in the LAC region were conducted in Mexico, through Funsalud, around 1995 (LAC Health Accounts Network)
- The LAC network was launched in 1997 (initiated by USAID project Partners for Health Reform (PHR) with support from PAHO and technical assistance by Harvard Public Health School and Funsalud, from Mexico).
- Countries with an ongoing process of health sector reform: Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru.

EVALUATION OF THE INITIAL RESULTS

- The regional network approach enlarged the horizons of the national researchers and health authorities.
- Permitted contact with experts around the world and with different approaches and points of view.
- Fostered inter-country collaboration in learning how to implement NHA, solve common methodological issues and draw from different country experiences.
- Adaptation of NHA to particular regional socio-economic context.
- Building regional expertise

THE NETWORK DID NOT OPERATE FROM 2000-2008

- Several training courses in those years (HSPH; WHO; USAID/PHRplus)
- Harmonization meetings by PAHO and introduction of the satellite approach
- Publication of SHA in 2000 by OECD
- Publication of the Guide for the Production of Health Accounts in 2004 (WB, USAID and WHO).
- Initiation of the process of revision of SHA in 2008 (WHO, OECD, Eurostat)



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Birth of REDACS



- The LAC network was reactivated as an initiative of Fundacion Plenitud and the Ministry of Health of the Dominican Republic: meeting in Bayahibe, with the slogan: the LAC network – 10 years afterwards.
- This same year, in Mexico, the LAC Health Observatory was launched by Fundacion Mexicana de la Salud (Funsalud) and the Carlos Slim Institute for Health (in agreement with the Health Metrics Institute to develop health metric networks – health accounts was one of them). It works also with Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Global Equity Initiative.
- REDACS is now one of the LAC Observatory networks.



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REDACS



- It has the purpose of providing to the researchers of the region with a well of resources, such as:
 - ✦ methodological tools
 - ✦ publications
 - ✦ training
 - ✦ opportunity to share experiences
 - ✦ disseminate the results of their work
 - ✦ bank of updated, public and available information (data and documents) by country.
- It intends to produce and make available sound information for use at the country level and to offer the opportunity to share experiences among participants as well as to disseminate their work
- We believe that those activities will foster institutionalization and use of data for policy purposes.

- REDACS is not an international organization, is knowledge community.
- Its members are not “country representatives”. In some countries there are Government officials in charge of the production of health accounts and at the same time, academic researchers with a more “user” profile.
- There is not an official representation and participation depends on individual interest and voluntary collaboration.
- Members now belong to Spanish speaking countries but there is the intention to invite countries of other language (Caribbean, Suriname, Guyana, Belize and also Canada and USA, to include all the Americas).



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Two years of REDACS



- Methodological standardization: The REDACS has facilitated the discussion of the SHA V.2 in the LAC region:
 - México, January 2009
 - Cuernavaca, June 2009
 - Punta Cana, September 2010
- State of the Arts of Health Accounts – book (first draft in December 2010)
- Webpage



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Work Plan for 2011



- Implementing the SHA V2 in the countries of the network, starting with the HP board – Products
- Editing and publication of State of the Art Paper on Health Accounts REDACS countries
- Develop a current flow of the countries (Cobweb) of REDACS, based on the health map
- Manage individual funding to participate in the International Conference Toronto, and during this event organizing sessions REDACS
- Develop a training proposal in the form of e-learning, including topics, audiences and resources



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Work Plan for 2011



- Fortalecer la red, mediante la incorporación de nuevos países (BZ, TT, Venezuela, UY, HN, NI, CU, Haití, PA, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Estados Unidos, Canadá, Barbados, Guyana, Surinam)
- Develop and update the Web site of Network
- Accompanying the institutionalization of health accounts
 - a) Systematization of country experiences
 - b) Handbook of institutionalization
 - c) Exercise in a first group of countries



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How can REDACS support the institutionalization process at the country level?



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Strengthening the environment



- The original LAC network had a key role in creating a political demand, as there were no NHA and most countries today have them.
- REDACS is now much stronger than in its origins, as the network has been reactivated as an initiative of the countries and has searched for funding, and not the contrary. The original LAC network was donor driven.
- The same can be said for the future. In fact, most of the participants in the last REDACS meeting were decided to work in this direction on their respective countries.



Building financial, human and institutional capacity



- REDACS can train the new generation of health accountants and can be a well of resources both for producers and users.

- **Data collection:** REDACS can offer training on techniques for this procedure.
- **Data management:** In this area there is an opportunity for the network to support countries, as there is a clear need of automatic data management techniques, for example, easy to use software for the tables processing which would reduce the possibilities of errors. This could shorten the time of the production of health accounts and would improve the quality of the data.
- **Estimation and analysis:** There is an important need in the countries of better analysis. Training is required and, most importantly, to promote comparative research which, by itself, will improve analytical capacities. The REDACS aspires to have an important role in this area.

- **Data quality:** REDACS can help in the revision of data to improve quality. One of the ways could be to organize a group of experts who could be contacted through the webpage (this would require funding for the network) or through the building of a professional data bank. The countries could then hire technical assistance directly and the network just would provide the service of information.
- Presently, we answer some methodological requests and discuss aspects with WHO assistance.

Supporting dissemination, analysis for policy use and policy use of health accounts information

- **Dissemination:** REDACS can play an important part in the dissemination of information, through: publications, comparative research, policy briefs, newsletters, conferences, meetings to share experiences and other dissemination activities.
- **Analysis for policy use:** This area – analysis for policy use – is where REDACS can play the most important role. As has been expressed before, production is more a government role but analysis for policy use requires of different expertise. The participation of academic and research persons and institutions in the network, the promotion of comparative research, as well as data users and experts in health financing can ensure high quality analysis. Another important activity could be the use of communication techniques to make the data understandable for policy makers.

- **Policy use:** Once more, policy use itself is a government function. However, the network can promote this through information.

OVERALL

- REDACS can play a very important role in the region to promote the production and use of NHA, which in turn will certainly promote institutionalization at the country level. In order to so, the network itself requires financial resources to become institutionalized itself.

How does the network view/plan working closely with the different stakeholders at the country level?

- a) Focus on policy makers in Parliaments and Executive Branch
- b) Fostering links with different entities in national and sub national governments who have a role in production and use of health accounts information
- c) Linking with private sector, civil society, academic institutions, research and policy institutions in the region and also work with other regional institutions
- d) Communicating effectively with all stakeholders

The members of the network at the country level are the ones who have to communicate effectively with all stakeholders. The network itself does not plan to work closely with any national stakeholder. It can indirectly influence them by sending newsletters, information on activities, publications' references, and other means of dissemination of information.



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How does the network propose to change shift to supporting sustained production and sustained use of NHA?



- The focus will be to sustained use, as the sustained production is mostly a government activity at the country level. REDACS intends to help in this process too by facilitating access to new methodologies, technical assistance and training. But the most important activity we think is comparative research, training, publications and dissemination of information.

Improving network governance, structure and network finances

- There is not perceived weakness in governance, as the network is already part of a network of networks, which is the LAC Health Observatory. However, there is a strategic planning process which will address all these aspects.
- The REDACS intends to be a network of the Americas. In that connection, all countries will be invited to participate. At the moment, only Spanish speaking countries are active, but with little more resources we would have a well maintained website with new content in several languages. The last three meetings already had simultaneous translation, as they were financed by WHO to support the discussions on the SHA revision. Of course, the expansion of the network would require funding for this kind of activities, which we expect we can organize every two years.

Improving network governance, structure and network finances

- At the moment there is no established process. Any person interested to participate can be a member.
- REDACS operates with a low budget and we rise funding for specific projects (the SHA revision, as an example, with WHO funding). We are working on a strategic plan now and one of the issues is financial sustainability. There is a group of very committed people who presently volunteer their time.



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Communication



- REDACS has a new webpage that has to be updated (see fundacionplenitud.org/redacs). We believe this is going to be the most important mean of communication, as well as newsletters, video and teleconferences, webseminars and e-training.
- The GSAP was presented in the meeting of REDACS in September and all the members are very interested on it. We believe that the multilateral and bilateral organizations support to GSAP will have an enormous impact in the process of institutionalization of the production and use of NHA in the region.



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Communication



- In the LAC region we have had in the past some confusion with the separation among some health accounts producers because of lack of understanding on different methodological approaches. I'm referring specifically to the satellite and the NHA approaches.
- The REDACS has overcome this separation, by uniting in the same network researches who work on both methodologies. Most of the basic data and information sources are the same, and the health accounts producers (mostly government units) in each country can decide which methodology to use. And the researches in the countries that presently produce satellite accounts (Brazil and Chile) are willing to work also with the new version of SHA, which intends to be the international standard methodology.



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Communication



- In that connection, this GSAP is a great opportunity to expand the use of SHA in the region, in order to have comparative statistics, each time with greater data quality, which will be the basis of better analysis and consequently, better evidence to support policy making.



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THANKS



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