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PHM Makes Voice Heard in Rio

Rio de Janeiro, Brasil—PHM was visible and vocally present at the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 10-21 October 2011. The conference was organized jointly by the government of Brazil and the World Health Organisation.

At the Conference, the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health was adopted; however, this failed to address the structural determinants and, rather, focused to greater extent on inter-sectoral cooperation on the country level. In response, PHM led the process for an alternative declaration, Protecting the Right to Health through Action on Social Determinants. This Declaration is currently endorsed by over 30 civil society networks and social movements in addition to a large

number of individuals. It has also gained attention in international news.

PHM also held side events during the two days preceding the Conference. The first event covered the **theme, “Protecting the Right to Health through the Social Determinants of Health”**. Organized in association with Asociación Latinoamericana de Medicina Social (ALAMES), World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), Medico International (MI), International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), Medicus Mundi International (MMI), Wemos and Health Poverty Action, the event was attended by more than 100 people. Additionally, PHM officially launched Global Health Watch 3 where speakers included those who had contributed to the book as well as commentators.

Several PHM members spoke, moderated or were rapporteurs at sessions. Notably, David Sanders, who opened the final plenary, received a standing ovation for his remarks which included highlighting omissions the official Declaration.

According to PHM friend Fran Baum, the conference was “important in that there was broad acceptance that improving population health equitably requires changes in policies and environments that shape people’s opportunities for health.” She further notes that with the “increasing impatience around the world at the existence of gross inequities,” she left the conference “wondering if it is time for an Occupy WHO movement.”

PHA3 Organising Moves Forward

South Africa—Organising for the **Third People’s Health Assembly (PHA3)** continues in South Africa, and dates have been set. The event will be held from 6 through 11 July 2012 at the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa.

PHA3 will consist of sub-plenary and self-organized workshops. Major themes that will drive sessions and workshops at PHA3 are the

global political economic and social context of health; promoting universal coverage and equity in health systems, environments that destroy or promote health; and institutions and processes that impact on health (or alternatively--politics, power and process: institutions that impact on health or changing power relations for the right to health. A call for proposals for self-organized workshops

will be announced in the coming months.

Case studies and testimonies are currently being requested and can be submitted to the Program Committee.

The PHA3 website is now live and a direct link to it is on the PHM homepage. Donations can be made through the website and information will be updated as further plans are finalized.

PHM-USA Supports the Occupy Movement

Contributed by Laura Turiano

Mic check! PHM-USA supports the Occupy movement! (Here in Oakland, California, we often say the Occupy/Decolonize movement.)

Many people in PHM have participated as individuals in their local camps and actions in places like New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Houston, and Boston. Health care workers from PHM have staffed the first aid tents at the camps and served as street medics during demonstrations and police actions.

At the recent American Public Health Association meeting, PHM members organized a last minute resolution expressing solidarity with Occupy Wall Street that was voted on by the Governing Council. Last minute resolutions rarely make it to a full vote and rarely pass. This resolution passed with 74%. Public health workers and students have a resource website on public health support for the movement at <https://sites.google.com/site/resourcesforoccupypublichealth/>

Oakland has been the scene of the worst police attacks and the greatest public

support. On November 2nd, tens of thousands of people came out for a general strike that shut down banks and other businesses in the center of the city and closed the Port of Oakland. Oakland and its neighbor, Berkeley, have a long history of radical activism and community organizing. Many activists I talked to that day said the strike made them feel that all their years of work had not been in vain.

PHM Steering Council Member Collaborates Globally

Claudio Schuftan was in Rome in September and attended two back to back meetings representing PHM. The meeting was called by PHM partners FIAN and Via Campesina which publish the annual Right to Food and Nutrition Watch.

The first meeting was a consultation to develop on a common civil society position for the upcoming Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition being prepared by FAO in the next 12 months. A draft statement is now being circulated among civil society organizations to get a consensus. Claudio was asked to join the core group that will follow up this process from now till November 2012 when the Framework is expected to enter into effect.

The second meeting was to set the bases for the launching of a Global Right to Food Network that will bring together all the progressive organizations fighting for food security and food sovereignty to speak with one voice. Claudio presented the experience of PHM as a global network and thus contributed to setting the bases of this new network.

Seeking Endorsements on WHO Reform Statement

Following the May 2011 special session of the WHO Executive Board (EBSS), PHM along with the Democratising Global Health constituency has developed a comment on the Decisions of the EBSS to reflect concerns of civil society. The statement highlights issues which have not been sufficiently addressed by the Decisions including the WHO financial crisis, WHO accountability, and the global health crisis. The statement further takes issue with the proposed formalized priority setting and WHO governance and management reform honing in on areas where cautious action must be taken and which impedes the voice of civil society. PHM encourages all to [read and endorse the statement](#).

Right to Food and Nutrition Watch Launches

Contributed by Léa Winter

On Tuesday 11th October, *The Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2011: "Claiming Human Rights: The Accountability Challenge"* was launched in Geneva and will be presented in 20 countries around the world during this month by the Consortium members. PHM, a valuable member of the Consortium that publishes the Watch, presented it during the Global Health Watch launch in Rio de Janeiro during the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health. The *Right to Food and Nutrition Watch* monitors food security and nutrition policies from a human rights perspective. Thanks to its partners on four continents, the *Watch 2011* provides 15 national and regional reports on the right to food and nutrition accountability including on

Guatemala, Haiti, Germany, Switzerland, Cameroon, Uganda, China, and Pakistan. Violations mentioned in the publication include the forced



Léa Winter displays *Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2011*.

eviction of communities from their lands, the pollution of water supplies and food export dumping. Carried out with impunity by the senior executives of transnational corporations in distant wealthy countries, these acts go unpunished while the vic-

tims are left without recourse.

"The Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2011 denounces the flagrant lack of accountability of both government and private actors that gives rise to daily violations of the right to food. This publication is a fundamental tool to give voice to the victims and to draw public attention to situations of intolerable injustice," said Jean Ziegler, Vice-President of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee, panelist at the Geneva's launch.

For more information and to download the report, please visit: www.rtfn-watch.org Léa Winter, Right to Food and Nutrition Watch Coordinator - win-ter@fian.org

Global Health Watch 3 Available Worldwide

Global Health Watch 3 (GHW3) was officially launched across the globe during events during October and November.

The global launch of GHW3 took place in October in Rio de Janeiro Brasil as a PHM side event to the World Conference on the Social Determinants of Health. PHM country circles have held regional meetings as well. PHM-USA launched the GHW3 at the American Public Health Association Meeting in Washington, D.C. In London, the public was invited to an event held by PHM-UK where speakers discussed issues concerning

the right to health raised in GHW3. PHM-Zimbabwe launched GHW3 and hosted a guest speaker from PHM Australia to share experiences and information on the topic *Global Health Governance and Public Health Legislation*. PHM-India has launched GHW3, and events will also be held in the Philippines and Brussels, Belgium.

This current edition of *Global Health Watch* provides analysis of contemporary issues that impact health and health care in a range of human activities in the health sector and beyond. It is a tool for analysis and action for activists, academics, agen-

cies and policy-makers alike.

GHW3 is a call for action to those who believe that a change is necessary and seeks to inspire such change through contemporary stories of people and their actions to change their situation in diverse settings.

For more information about GHW3, visit www.ghwatch.org.



PHM Around the World

Sierra Leone

Currently PHM Sierra Leone is working with 23 Civil Society Organisations to monitor free health care and train patient activists to become empowered advocates. This project is funded through Civil Society Health Partnership Action Fund (CSHPAF) by DFID and World Health Organization. The circle was active in campaigning for the release of a mother who was detained by police for three days and charged in court after resisting a nurse who asked for informal fees for treating her two-year old daughter. PHM Sierra Leone was contacted and made a presentation to the police and provided lawyers in court for the defense of the mother. Contact PHM Sierra Leone, Gabriel Madiye: shepherdshospice@yahoo.coluk



Health for All Now!
People's Health Movement

South Africa

PHM-SA has taken lead of a national civil society campaign to call for a National Health Insurance. The South African government released a first draft of the new health system financing scheme in August 2011, and has given until the end of 2011 for public comments.

The proposed National Health Insurance is a unique opportunity to reform the South African health system, which is among the most unequal in the world. South Africa will need to significantly strengthen its public health sector, and fight the powerful interests of medical insurance schemes.

PHM-SA organised a national meeting of organisa-

tions to coordinate and ensure that civil society is strongly represented in the consultation process. PHM-SA also organised public meetings, panel discussions and community consultations, and started an online and cell-phone based public consultation that will reach millions of South Africans, encouraging them to give their opinions on the proposed NHI. PHM-SA will present the outcomes of these consultations to the Department of Health to ensure that the health of the South African people is not subject to the vested interests of private insurance companies.

United States

PHM-USA was present at the American Public Health Association meeting held in Washington, D.C. The circle had a booth from which they shared information about PHM and PHA3 in addition to holding a launch of Global Health Watch 3. The circle is also busy mobilizing for PHA3. A mobilisation committee has been formed and is developing a strategy for mobilization toward PHA3. For more information, contact PHM-USA at p hm@hesperian.org.

Kenya

Along with ACV, PHM Kenya received a grant from **Medico for drought relief work**. PHM's role will be to conduct a participatory, rights-based community needs assessment, use local and national advocacy to support communities in realizing their health rights and develop a long-term engagement with the supported communities. The activity will be used to develop a Right to Health Campaign.

Indonesia

Indonesia AIDS Coalition (IAC), a friend of PHM, is using a social media as a campaign tool. They manage eight Facebook pages and four Twitter accounts which connect more than 6000 people from around Indonesia. Through social media, IAC shares the message **of the People's Charter for Health**, posting a few sentences from the charter each day. In addition, they are developing a process to use social networking to monitor the Anti Retro Viral stock in hospital as well the other AIDS related services and program. IAC also has two websites, one of which is a user-generated content website which is used as campaign tool for PLHIV treatment access (www.odhaberhaksehat.org).

Get Involved with PHM

There are many ways to become involved with PHM:

- Read, endorse and sign the Peoples Charter for Health at <http://tinyurl.com/peoplescharterforhealth>.
- Contribute photos, short news stories, announcements or other information to the newsletter.
- **Keep up with what's happening in PHM Africa** at www.phmafrica.blogspot.com.
- Connect with us on facebook!

Organise toward PHA3! Regional events can be used for mobilisation towards the Assembly. Consider some of these ideas...

- Develop action plans to campaign toward **a shared agenda for people's health**
- Plan actions around the Right to Health
- Use events to develop testimonies, case studies and discussion papers
- Join our facebook group: **Third People's Health Assembly 3—PHA3**

Newsletter Submissions

You are welcome to make submissions to be included in the next edition of PHM Global News.

News can include (but is not limited to) the following:

- Brief news of your activity as a PHM representative or news of special interest to PHM (200-250 words)
- Announcements of research, book releases, conferences, or other important activities or dates
- Reports on country circle or regional activities (150-200 words)

Submissions should be made by 5 March 2012 to leigh.kamore@gmail.com

Health for All Now!
People's Health Movement



People's Health Movement promotes Health for All Now as a human rights issue and calls for changes in international and domestic policy which negatively impacts health status and systems. Please feel free to visit our website or contact us with any questions or for information about PHM in your area.

Contact us:

globalsecretariat@phmovement.org

Visit our website:

www.phmovement.org