National Workshop to promote Gender Analysis of Health Statistics

- Analysis of data from a gender perspective is essential to inform intersectoral actions that will promote equality between women and men in health systems.
- The objective of the workshop is to strengthen national capacities to produce, analyze, and use gender and health information for decision-making.

Paramaribo, 7 December 2011. - The United Nations through its Theme Group on Gender in collaboration with the Ministry of Health is organizing today and tomorrow a national workshop on “Gender and Ethnic Analysis of Health Statistics” at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Around 40 participants from different ministries, academia, national and international institutions and NGOs are attending this training in an effort to strengthen national capacity to analyze health statistics applying gender and ethnic equality principles.

“Disaggregating health statistics by sex, age, geographic region, ethnicity, socio economic status and other variables, enables the analysis of gender inequalities”, said Thomas Gittens, UNDP Country Director, in his opening remarks at the workshop. “This analysis is essential to define inclusive health sector responses that promote equity, efficiency and effectiveness”.

Various studies have highlighted that Suriname’s social statistics have room for improvement. Within this framework, the workshop on “Gender and Ethnic Analysis of Health Statistics” will seek to advance the capacity from different national key institutions to look at the data from a gender lens.

Participants will examine the basic elements and steps for gender analysis of health statistics; learn the elements for a Gender and Health Profile; and will identify future activities to conduct and promote gender based analysis.

From a national perspective, the workshop is part of the Ministry of Health agenda to promote equity in health through disaggregated data collection, analysis and use. It is also part of a UN effort to contribute reaching MDG 3, which aims the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The workshop is framed within the PAHO Gender Equality Policy that aims to reduce gender-based health inequities for all groups of women and men. The workshop has been coordinated and organized by the UN Gender Theme Group, under the technical leadership of PAHO/Suriname. Supporting the PAHO country office in this role is Shelly N. Abdool, Gender Mainstreaming Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean and Catharina Cuéllar, Gender and Health Advisor. Both work within the Regional Gender, Diversity and Human Rights office in PAHO.

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