

Caries Free Communities Initiative

(CFCI/ICLC)



Dynamic and persistent challenges are included in the oral health strategy and plan of action of PAHO for the new century. The principal actors of dentistry in the 'Region of the Americas' met with a view of facilitating the collaboration among the leaders of oral health, both in the public and private sectors in order to identify sustainable solutions and to recommend activities destined to achieve Caries Free Communities.

The **Caries Free Communities Initiative (CFCI)** is an eight year plan that represents a widely sustained effort to combat the great burden of caries throughout the Americas. The principal goal of the strategy is to reduce the burden of oral disease by the year **2015** by reducing the number of infections and increasing the coverage of services in the most vulnerable populations in the 'Region of the Americas'. Vulnerable populations are identified as low socio-economic groups such as marginalized and geographically isolated populations, women, children, and people infected with AIDS.

GOALS:

- ▶ **Goal #1: Ensure** a degree of access of essential and basic oral health for all through opportunities directed towards the 'care and treatment' of the most vulnerable groups.
- ▶ **Goal #2: Integrate** the oral health component in the services of Primary Health Care (PHC).
- ▶ **Goal #3: Increase verified Cost-Effective interventions:** plan of several years of fluoridation programs in the Americas and expansion of coverage in oral health with simple technologies.

ACTION PLAN:

- ▶ **Phase I: Form partnerships** with the public and private sectors that support the initiative and ensure their sustainability by identifying the most vulnerable communities in every country.
- ▶ **Phase II: Oral health interventions** implemented to reduce caries by 80% among targeted communities by the year **2014**.
- ▶ **Phase III: Empowering** the national and local health authorities, members of the academic community and local associations, and the organization of educational activities for oral health promotion. **Training** of oral health professionals throughout the Region, measuring the progress, and disseminating the results.

If you would like to participate in this momentous initiative that has the backing of Ministries of Health, public health associations, and dental schools, but needs your support and involvement to succeed, please contact ----via email-----

For more information concerning the Workshop of Oral Health for the Americas to go to:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1651&Itemid=675

