



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas



CARMEN



What is CARMEN?

CARMEN is a network of noncommunicable disease (NCD) program managers from Ministries of Health in the Region of the Americas, coordinated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The participants of the CARMEN network share a common goal of reducing the burden of NCDs and their risk factors.

It is a collaborative forum where the NCD program managers from Ministries of Health can interact, share information, experiences, best practices, and resources on NCD prevention and control.



Who is involved?

Health authorities and professionals working in national NCD programs from throughout the Americas are involved in the **CARMEN** network. They are persons responsible for policies, programs and services for NCD risk factor reduction, NCD management, and surveillance.

What is the objective of CARMEN?

CARMEN stimulates the development and implementation of comprehensive NCD prevention and control policies, programs and services in the Americas, in support of the Regional NCD Plan of Action.



The ultimate goal is for countries in the Americas to reduce premature mortality from NCDs, by strengthening multi-sector policies, reducing risk factors, improving health systems and services for integrated NCD management, and improving NCD and risk factor surveillance, monitoring and reporting.

How does the network function?

CARMEN operates as a formal collaboration with Ministry of Health designated personnel participating in periodic meetings and joint projects. The network is coordinated by PAHO, which convenes the meetings, manages a web-based interactive virtual forum, and maintains the **CARMEN** website.

Why is an NCD network necessary?

Networking achieves what individual countries may not be able to do alone.

- It facilitates sharing of experiences and knowledge on innovative and effective NCD strategies.
- It offers an arena to disseminate available tools and resources for improving policies, programs and services for NCD prevention and control.
- It encourages the development of new approaches and activities to tackle NCDs and their risk factors.
- It enhances the work done by individual countries and connects isolated initiatives to the sub-regional and regional levels.
- It provides an opportunity for country initiatives to gain peer recognition and international credibility.



How do the CARMEN network members communicate?

In addition to periodic meetings, a virtual communication platform is available for the **CARMEN** network participants. This platform facilitates information sharing on a continuous basis. It allows users to exchange knowledge on resources and strategies related to multi-sector NCD policies, risk factors, NCD management, and surveillance.

The **CARMEN** network stimulates regional collaboration and knowledge sharing to improve NCD prevention and control in the Americas.

For more information about **CARMEN**, please contact us by email: carmenet@paho.org

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www.paho.org/carmen/foro

