TRANSLATING GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS INTO LOCAL ACTION FOR BETTER HEART HEALTH

Known as the number one killer, cardiovascular diseases (CVD) claim the lives of 17.9 people every year; this represents 31% of all global deaths. However, CVD and related conditions can be detected early and treated cost-effectively if coordinated national policy and health systems responses are built around evidence-based strategies. With limited health resources, cost-effective interventions for the prevention, detection and management of CVD must be prioritized in order to plan effective health systems responses.

ROUNDTABLES: FROM GLOBAL WHF ROADMAPS TO NATIONAL ROUNDTABLES

The WHF Roadmaps offer a global framework, tools and solutions that are then used and adapted, through Roundtables, to meet the specific needs of individual regions and nations in fighting cardiovascular diseases. WHF Roadmaps empower WHF’s Members, including CVD foundations, societies and patient associations, to convene country-specific and action-oriented Roundtables.

WHF Roundtables provide a national meeting forum for stakeholders in cardiovascular health to identify barriers to and solutions for secondary and primary prevention of cardiovascular diseases and then develop a national plan of action to be implemented in partnership with:

- Governments and policy makers
- Healthcare professionals
- Academic and research institutions
- NGOs, health activists and advocates
- Corporate entities

WHF acts as the global facilitator of the Roundtables. We empower and support our country Members to take a leading role in convening national Roundtables and in taking forward the Action Plans coming out of these stakeholder meetings.

Since 2016, WHF and its members have organized 7 roundtables in Brazil, Colombia, Spain, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Kenya and Mexico, on cholesterol and hypertension.
USING WHF ROUNDTABLES TO DRIVE ACTION AGAINST CHOLESTEROL IN SPAIN

In Spain, WHF joined forces with the Spanish Heart Foundation and the Foundation for Familial Hypercholesterolemia to convene a series of roundtables for a multi-stakeholder group of experts representing different scientific bodies and patient associations, and the Deusto Business School Health (DBS Health), to brainstorm how to address the urgent situation of cholesterol in Spain. DBS Health facilitated the design thinking methodology at the meetings and also conducted a situational analysis on cholesterol in Spain, which informed discussions on developing a roadmap for the country to tackle cholesterol.

The meetings culminated in a press conference in Madrid advocating for the need to improve the approach to hypercholesterolemia by positioning it as a first-level cardiovascular risk factor in Spain and in a Joint Declaration on Cholesterol Roadmap in Spain.

The press conference had a good media coverage, with headlines capturing the impact of FH and the need for urgent actions, such as “Cardiologists demand a national plan to combat hypercholesterolemia,” “More than 20% of deaths attributable to cardiovascular diseases are caused by hypercholesterolemia,” and “Experts advice on the gravity of hypercholesterolemia and its neglect in Spain.”

OUTPUTS

- Situational analysis of hypercholesterolemia in Spain, Deusto Business School Health:

- Joint Declaration on Cholesterol Roadmap in Spain. Signatories: World Heart Federation, Spanish Society of Cardiology, Spanish Heart Foundation, Foundation for Familial Hypercholesterolemia, Spanish Society for Atherosclerosis, Spanish Society of Primary Care Doctors

Timeline of the WHF roundtables in Spain

1. Pre-meeting preceded by situational analysis on cholesterol
2. First Dialogue on Cholesterol
3. Second Dialogue on Cholesterol
4. Proposal for 2 initiatives: communications campaign and registry of premature deaths caused by FH
5. Press conferences to raise FH on the public health and policy agenda
ELEVATING FAMILIAL HYPERCHOLESTEROLEMIA (FH) ON THE GLOBAL HEALTH AGENDA THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON FH

In December 2018, WHF and the FH Foundation convened an International Roundtable on Familial Hypercholesterolemia to elevate FH on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) agenda and to advocate for the condition to be prioritized within WHO’s prevention framework to reduce deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The new and diverse group of FH stakeholders from more than 18 countries that the roundtable convened provided insightful comments and perspectives on the following issues in the management of FH:

1. Role of government
2. Awareness raising
3. Diagnosis & screening
4. Treatment
5. HoFH Management
6. Family-based care
7. Advocacy
8. FH registries
9. Research
10. FH-specific Health-Economic Model

In 2019, the World Heart Federation will actively engage with the World Health Organization and convene a writing group on FH.