Policy and Implementation on RHD Control – What Can We Learn from other Countries?

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Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease Are Preventable
A History of Rheumatic Fever

FIG 2. A schematic historical perspective of the changes in the incidence of rheumatic fever in industrializing and industrialized countries showing the relation between the changes in standard of living and delivery of primary health care, and also the introduction of antibiotics into clinical medicine.
Figure 1. Classification of Countries as Having an Endemic or Nonendemic Pattern of Rheumatic Heart Disease.
Costa Rica
Costa Rica

Primary Prevention: A success story? At what cost?

Rheumatic Fever Admissions and Use of Benz. Penicillin G

Costa Rica

No. of Cases Active Rheumatic Fever
No. Vials Benz. Penicillin G Used

Courtesy: E Kaplan, 2007
Martinique and Guadeloupe
10-year educational programme aimed at rheumatic fever in two French Caribbean islands

Figure 2: Rheumatic fever cases in Martinique from 1982 to 1992

Bach JF et al. Lancet 1996;347:644
Cuba
New Zealand
Baseline 2009/11 3.9 per 100,000

Target 2017 1.4 per 100,000

*RFPP: Rheumatic Fever Prevention Program
A.S.A.P. Programme for the Control of RHD in Africa: Focus areas for action

• Awareness raising: public, healthcare workers
• Surveillance: incidence, prevalence, temporal trends
• Advocacy: appropriate funding of the treatment and prevention programmes
• Prevention: application of existing knowledge in primary & secondary prevention

Cardiovascular Topics

Seven key actions to eradicate rheumatic heart disease in Africa: the Addis Ababa communiqué

Implement the 7 Key Actions of Addis Ababa

1. Establish prospective RHD registers at sentinel sites to measure 25x25.
2. Ensure adequate supplies of high-quality benzathine penicillin.
3. Guarantee universal access to reproductive health services for women with RHD and other NCDs.
4. Decentralize appropriate technical expertise, diagnostic and care facilities at primary care.
5. Established centres of excellence for cardiac surgery.
6. Foster multi-sectoral and integrated national RHD control programmes.
7. Cultivate partnership through AUC, WHO-AFRO, WHO-EMRO, MoHs and relevant stakeholders to ensure implementation of these key actions.
Cardio News

National Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Control of Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease in Namibia
WHO Resolution on RHD: The End Game?

• On 01 June 2017, the Executive Board of the WHO recommended a Resolution on ‘Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease’ for adoption at the World Health Assembly in May 2018.

• The Resolution will become the first global policy on RHD endorsed by all governments.

• Global policy instrument to eliminate ARF and RHD in our own lifetime