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Special Secretariat for Indigenous Health (SESAI)

Ministry of Health (MoH) – Brazil

Dear Madam Chair,

In Brazil, there is a specific health system, appropriate for the indigenous context, designed to deliver primary health services within the indigenous lands. These primary health care services are provided by the Special Secretariat for Indigenous Health, in the Ministry of Health. Secondary and tertiary care are provided by municipalities and regional states. The access to health is universal and publicly funded. //

In Brazil, we are the only institution that reaches out to every indigenous community in every indigenous land, despite remoteness. Our range of work goes from delivering health services to indigenous peoples living near big cities to delivering health services to recently contacted or isolated indigenous peoples. //

There is around 1 million indigenous persons in Brazil and more than 760 thousand live in indigenous lands.

As for data collection, in Brazil we have disaggregation on indigenous peoples.

In 2017, more than 4 million primary health-care services were delivered to these indigenous peoples who live in indigenous lands. These services are provided by more

than 800 health teams, inside indigenous lands. Around 50% of this workforce are indigenous themselves. There are indigenous health agents working in each one of these health teams. They provide health services and work as translators or interpreters as well as advisors. Accordingly, communication and cultural issues are facilitated. //

As regards to women and children health, special projects are designed to improve health care quality and to reduce maternal and child mortality.

In addition, one of the key principles of the Brazilian National Indigenous Health Policy is the respect for indigenous traditional knowledge.

The Secretariat has been able to work with communities, traditional healers and national organizations, including the Pan American Health Organization, which has been a long term successful partner. //

The Secretariat is ready and willing to establish collaboration with government officials, intergovernmental organizations and bodies, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and indigenous organizations.

Thank you, Madam Chair!

OPPORTUNITY