Political Management of Health Determinants

Civil Society engagement in CSDH: An opportunity not a project?

Addressing Unhealthy Policies

People’s Health Movement
Health Crisis

• “Illness and death every day anger us. Not because there are people who get sick or because there are people who die. We are angry because many illnesses and deaths have their roots in the economic and social policies that are imposed on us.”

(A voice from Central America)
What is Civil Society
Types of CS actors included
country and regional and Global Levels

Academic institutions
Women
Community Development
Trade Unions
Environment
Social movements
Coalitions
NGOs Networks
Education
Human Rights
Health
Child Rights
Anti-Globalization

C.S
People’s Health Movement

• In the year 2000, around 1500 people representing CS organizations from 92 countries met to discuss the causes of ill-health.
• In their Charter for Health People stated that:
  – Health is a social, economic and political issue and above all a fundamental human right.
  – Inequality, poverty, exploitation, violence and injustice are at the root of ill-health and the deaths of poor and marginalized people.
  – Health for all means that powerful interests have to be challenged, that globalization has to be opposed, and that political and economic priorities have to be drastically changed.
What is the role of Civil Society?

- Advocate and lobby for change built on the principals of equity, democracy and participation and right to health as a basic human rights.

- Develop or be a partner in the development and implementations of interventions and programs to address the social determinants of health.

- Empower communities and marginalized groups

- Combine knowledge generation with action and engage local communities in the process
Addressing Social Determinants of Health Why now?

- Increasing inequity gap in health between nations and between people within nations
- Apparent failure of the selective, vertical programs in addressing the inequity gap
- Rising role of Civil Society Organizations both as advocates and partners in development
Which issues do we need to address?

Poverty/hunger

- Occupation, Sanctions Violence and War
- Neo-liberal, free market and profit oriented global policies (putting profit before people)
- Lack of good governance and democracy, spread of corruption...etc
- Social exclusion

Unemployment

Low status of women

Increased inequity in health indicators

Restrictions of movement

Poor quality of care

Increasing inaccessibility of services
Occupation, War, Sanctions, Conflicts, . . . Palestine!

Sept 29th 2000 – April 29th, 2005

▪ 855 children were killed (411 with live ammunition / 200 shot in the head)

▪ ~10,000 children were injured (516 disabled)

▪ 250 died due to prevention of treatment (30 children, 3 newborns)

▪ 66 Palestinian women gave birth at the check point or before reaching the Hospital
CSDH an opportunity for comprehensive – inter-sectorial – participatory strategy

• For Civil Society
  – Learning, documenting and providing evidence
  – Engaging and empowering communities and reaching new ones
  – Widening and strengthening alliances and new partnerships
  – Stronger impact on change processes

• For (WHO)
  – New partners reflecting a wide variety of realities and capacities
  – Better access to ensure reaching communities and engaging them (CBI)

• For Governments
  – Outreach and community engagement
  – Susinability
  – Ensuring impact and continuity
1st scenario
Supportive govt and policies

- Govt’ commitment is stronger reflected in development policies genuinely addressing root causes
- Comprehensive development programs are in action
- Civil society is a total partner in action and interventions
- Communities and public more aware, more engaged and empowered in actions addressing SDH
2nd scenario
Govt not supportive

• Negative policies are weakened and some obstructed
• Govt bodies are more aware of peoples needs and strengths, some are lobbied
• Civil society is more aware of priority SDH issues and causes of inequities
• C.S is stronger/wider better strategically placed and stronger impact
• Communities and public more aware and better organized and empowered
• On Ground community based models are instituted and functioning
Global Health Watch
alternative World Health Report

- Counter-balances the prevailing orthodoxy around market-based health care reforms; shrinking public sectors; smaller and weaker governments; and the commercialisation and commodification of health and health care

- Shift from technocratic, disease-based approaches towards approaches that recognise the importance of comprehensive health care and multi-sectoral action

- Monitors the performance of key global health and health-related institutions

- Challenges commercial / corporate interests
Campaigns

• “Health for All” campaign
• Right To Health Campaign
• Trade and Health Campaign
International People’s Health University

- 61 activists from more than 20 countries participated in the short course on Political Economy of Health
PHM Envision that:

- Equity, ecologically-sustainable development and peace are at the heart of our vision of a better world –
  - a world in which a healthy life for all is a reality;
  - a world that respects, appreciates and celebrates all life and diversity;
  - a world that enables the flowering of people's talents and abilities to enrich each other;
  - a world in which people's voices guide the decisions that shape our lives.

There are more than enough resources to achieve this vision.
Modes of engagement with civil society

**Informing**
To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

**Consulting**
To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

**Involving**
To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

**Collaborating**
To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

**Empowering**
To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.