Country action in the Commission on Social Determinants of Health

Christine Brown, WHO Venice Office
OVERAL GOALS OF COUNTRY ACTION

To position health as a cross government priority integral to a country's overall development agenda.

Build understanding of how social determinants can be tackled in practice, drawing on experiences across countries.
• Although half of health arises through socially determined pathways (Source: Canadian Institute for Advanced Research),

• less than 2% of governments globally have a coherent, robust approach to address the social determinants of health, and

• annually, the health system is the cause of about 1% of families globally experiencing catastrophic expenditures (and up to 5% in some countries)

There is a need to reorientate investments upstream into actions which create the conditions for good health
COMMON DRIVERS OF CURRENT INVESTMENT DECISIONS

FINANCIAL e.g. balance of payments & cost containment
EFFICIENCY e.g. demand management
POLITICAL e.g. quick wins, health as a private/individual concern

Within this context, ‘health’ is commonly viewed as a cost & ‘public health’ is often seen as peripheral to delivering the mainstream development agenda.
**World Health Organization**

**Social Structure**
- Labor Market
- Education System
- Welfare State

**Individual's Social Status**
- Socioeconomic position
  - Gender
  - Ethnicity
  - Cohesion social

**Intermediary Factors**
- Living condition
- Working condition
- Behaviour
- Health and social care

**Health and Wellbeing**

**Disproportionate % of investments in downstream factors**

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*World Health Organization*
OVERAL GOALS OF COUNTRY ACTION

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Build understanding of how social determinants can be tackled in practice, drawing on experiences across countries.
Key Focus of work in countries

Draw out the critical success factors for moving investments upstream – *synthesis of learning about what works to shape and influence political and policy processes to reflect a social determinants perspective.*

e.g. Guatemala, Brazil, Mexico, Chile

Spotlight on Know–How which strengthens the Policy Bargaining Process & generates political support across key ministries. *Articulating health as a central resource for achieving a country’s overall development goals & also in a way which supports targets of other sectors*

PRODUCTS: TACTICS, EXAMPLES AND ARGUMENTATION
Creating understanding of the problem in a specific context and generating political will and opportunity

Implementing, adapting, or scaling up circumscribed programmes

Developing a corporate government policy for health

Spectrum of options for action

Lighter in terms of range of social determinants Impacted upon

Heavier

World Health Organization
Creating Dialogue

• Dialogue and in-country mechanisms for debate. Focus on highlighting the relevance of Social determinants to the broad development agenda

• "demonstration" projects

Documentating & Sharing:

• Decision making processes, incentives and opportunities

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World Health Organization
Facilitate & support technical consultations (planning, option appraisal and scenario testing)

‘Social Determinants Footprint‘ - across Government and Society. What are the entry point and priorities for sustainable action?

Existing and potential capacities (institutional, regulatory, human resource, knowledge)

Develop an inclusive communication strategy (inform and sustain interest and understanding)

b. Strengthen ownership and prioritize options for action
1. Strengthen systems and capacities to mainstream action on social determinants (financial sustainability, technical, institutional e.g. legal frameworks, budgeting protocols)

2. Develop, test and innovative interventions

3. Monitor and fine-tune to ensure compliance

4. Document process of learning and change
## Products at country level

1. Information and knowledge on pathways and actions

2. Mechanisms for policy integration & partnership within government, across levels and with the private sector

3. Development of specific health policies & strategies that address the most important determinants (multisectoral)

4. Mechanisms to assure civil society, public and community participation and ownership
Support from the Commission and other actors

- **TECHNICAL SUPPORT:**
  - sharing of experiences, know-how, innovations & ideas *twinning, intercountry exchanges, regional forums for dialogue & support to problem solving*
  - Development of Tools & technologies to support action

- **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

- **POLITICAL AND MORAL SUPPORT**
Relating national and international action

**National action**
- Partnership and synergy between sectors, with civil society within countries

**International cooperation**
- Partnership and sharing experiences among countries

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**Alliance for strengthening the evidence-base and capacities on health equity and social determinants**
The Commission's time frame

**TIME**
- Jan 05 - Dec 06
- Jan 07 - Dec 07
- Jan 08 – May 08
- 2008+

Engagement of countries

Implementation and evaluation

Scaling-up (across countries), leadership, and sustainability

Contributing to the development of a future mechanism to sustain action on social determinants