The UN as an indispensable partner in promoting the Global Agenda on Social Determinants of Health

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The "causes of the causes" of ill-health
"global action on social determinants will need increased capacity and knowledge within the World Health Organization and other multilateral organizations for the development and sharing of norms, standards and good practices," and called upon "the World Health Organization, United Nations agencies and other international organizations to advocate for, coordinate and collaborate with [Member States] in the implementation of these actions."
UN Platform on the Social Determinants of Health

ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO have agreed to work together on social determinants of health to reduce health inequities and promote development, supporting countries to implement the Rio Political Declaration.
The agencies agreed to work on the four themes, which are interlinked: Advocacy; Capacity strengthening; Monitoring; and, Country work. An action plan was drafted with activities identified in each of these themes, with a lead agency and support agencies.
The Agencies took an opportunistic approach to agree on a pragmatic work plan for the next two years.
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- Those activities which will be done by the lead agency anyway (funding entirely secured), but would like to get some input from others in the UN system.

- Those activities which are already in the work plan of the lead agency, but would like to closely collaborate with others in the UN system; and,

- Those activities which are not yet in any work plan, but which would be instrumental to do together if funding can be secured.
The plan underwent another “prioritization of the priorities”, to ensure that it be implemented. It is currently with each of the organizations to have it approved. We believe that this will be a matter of a few weeks at the most, so that we can start implementing the workplan.
Some concrete examples of the Joint UN work on SDH

- **Advocacy:** Social determinants of health in post 2015: Using agreed position among UN agencies to advocate for inclusion of SDH in post MDG action plans

- **Capacity Strengthening:** Joint tool to work with health programmes to integrate SDH in order to achieve health equity; Prepare economic rationale to work on SDH

- **Monitoring:** Review of methodologies, evidence, on effective equity and access to health care.

- **Country work:** Support SDH mainstreaming at the country level – potentially through “one UN countries”; Share lessons in assessing potential entry points in the UNCT and theme groups