

Special Initiative for Multi-country Action on the Social Determinants of Health Equity (SIMASHE) – Theory of change



GOAL By **2028**, ensure health equity is integrated into social, economic and development policies, to improve the social determinants of health for at least **20 million** disadvantaged people in at least **eight countries**.



Barriers to equity

Inadequate technical knowledge about co-benefits to inform integration of human development approaches and health equity.

Insufficient financing, data, capabilities, and intersectoral mechanisms for addressing the social determinants of health equity in the conventional practice and operations of organizations dealing with health care, public health and public policy.

Political reluctance to address equity policy as a priority through universal measures such as social protection, addressing commercial determinants and adjusting governance to include community engagement and to promote health equity.



Activities and resources

Country and local action

Ground-level action is pivotal. Local activities in pioneer areas, combined with national policies, are fundamental to gaining traction and changing minds, to show what is possible in implementing the *World report on social determinants of health equity* recommendations (*World report*). Primary health care is an important vehicle for such action.

Regional roles in facilitating success

Regional cooperation, both in support of countries and between regions, is instrumental in facilitating translation of knowledge into practice. Activities include conducting regional assessments and collecting data on social determinants and health equity; supporting country action and scale-up of successful interventions; and fostering coalitions for advocacy and communities of practice for sharing experience, evidence, and trainings.

Capabilities for implementation

At the global level, WHO and partners invest in and shape the on-going building of learning materials and practice evidence that are essential for enhancing people's capabilities to act and to support action by others.

Global uptake through increased knowledge translation, data, and advocacy

Addressing structural factors – the social determinants of health equity – is crucial for improving health outcomes and equity globally. The *WHO World Report* focuses on 14 recommendations and four areas for action. The fourth area, new governance, is crucial to strategies for uptake across all action areas. Global uptake focuses on dissemination and dialogue on these recommendations and the investment case, and the development of operational models and policy guidance for supporting national and subnational action.



Outputs – building on the WHO *World report on social determinants of health equity* (SDHE)

- 1 In-depth country strategies and models for implementation of actions advanced and scaled up.
- 2 Experiences and evaluations documented and shared with other countries.
- 3 Regional evidence, data and assessments of the social determinants of health equity enhanced, along with related social and public policies, and guidance for action, fostering competencies, and intersectoral and civil society collaboration.
- 4 Augmented regional solutions platforms convened, to share best practices and innovations for taking action on the social determinants of health equity, and fostering cross-country communities of practice.
- 5 Mechanisms developed for coalition building, advocacy and broader scale-up of action across each region and beyond, including through regional education, research, resources and mechanisms.
- 6 Improved education and training resources on the social determinants of health equity available and used by health, social and economic policy and development organizations and professionals.
- 7 Improved training resources developed for engagement of civil society organizations on the right to development and action on the social determinants of health equity.
- 8 Evidence, and guidance on the social determinants of health equity translated into practice, promoting a common understanding and narrative among health, social, economic, development and technical programmes and leaders.
- 9 Increased global discussions and higher uptake of monitoring to increase visibility of the social determinants of health equity.



Outcomes for SDHE

1
Country Pathfinders and regional champions have implemented actions addressing SDHE.

2
Organizational and professional capabilities on SDHE are scaled up globally.

3
Policies supportive to SDHE in multilateral environments are advanced.



Re-enforced human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals

WHO 14th General Programme of Work

Outcome 2.1: Health inequities reduced by acting on social, economic, environmental and other determinants of health.

Sustainable Development Goals and Indicators



Tracer indicator: SDG1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by at least one social protection benefit.

SIMASHE Mission

Strengthen capacities for intersectoral strategies, policies, models and practices to address the social determinants of health equity successfully.

Vision

A world where health equity is a shared societal value, ensuring all social groups enjoy healthy living and working conditions.