



WHO Strategic Meeting on Social Determinants of Health

12-13 September 2019, Geneva, WHO Headquarters, Salle A

Background

The global Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2005-2008) drew unprecedented attention to the importance of addressing the social determinants of health, in particular for health inequities. In 2008 the Commission submitted recommendations for action in the report *Closing the Gap in a Generation*. In 2012, WHO Member States approved an action agenda through adoption of the *Rio Political Declaration* around a set of key functions. As follow-up, several WHO initiatives have supported implementation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also underlines the importance of addressing social determinants.

Since 2018, a renewed WHO organization-wide commitment to acting on determinants of health, and therein, broader social determinants and health equity, has emerged, including as reflected in WHO's 13th General Programme of Work 2019-2023. A new Department of Social Determinants of Health was created recently to lead this effort. This provides an opportunity to strengthen the global narrative on the social determinants of health and re-define the scope of WHO's work in this area.

Strategic meeting

The Strategic Meeting on Social Determinants of Health will take place on 12-13 September 2019 at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- review progress and challenges in addressing social determinants of health
- identify the next steps for action at the global level
- inform the strategic vision, objectives and activities of the new Department
- propose key areas and products that WHO should prioritize for action in the next 3-5 years

The outcomes of the meeting will also serve to initiate the development of a WHO strategy on social determinants of health.

Participants in the meeting will include 30-40 global experts from government and academia, including heads of WHO Collaborating Centres, and WHO staff.