Health in All Policies approaches

*Working together for equity and healthier populations*
- sustainable multisectoral action based on Health in All Policies approaches

Dr Nicole Valentine, Technical Officer, Equity and Health, Social Determinants of Health Department, World Health Organization, Geneva
Why work inter/multi-sectorally? What is holding people back from good health?

IMPACT: 45-50% OR MORE

**Mc Giniss et al (2002)**
- Health care (up to 15%)
- Social circumstances & environmental exposure (45%)
- Health behaviour patterns (40%)

**Canadian Institute of Advanced Research (2012)**
- Health care (up to 25%)
- Socioeconomic (50%)
- Environmental (10%)
- Genetics (15%)

*Figure: Estimates of the contribution of the main drivers of health status.*

Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age.

These conditions influence a wide range of risks and exposures, and behaviours and therefore greatly impact upon health outcomes and health equity.
What does it mean to use a HiAP approach?

“... an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, supports synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts in order to improve population health and health equity.

It is an approach that improves accountability of policy-makers for health impacts at all levels of policy-making. It includes an emphasis on the consequences of public policies on health systems, determinants of health and well-being.”

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241506908
Good practice in multisectoral collaboration

Rationale for HiAP approach and links to equity

- Problems are increasingly interconnected
- Need interconnected solutions
- Exploring co-benefits of solutions will not develop “naturally”
- Inequalities are more visible and becoming an issue of good governance
4 pillars tool for embedding HiAP in administrations
1. Governance and Accountability

- An **authorizing environment and mandate** legitimizes multisectoral work
- **Layered cross-government committees** and utilizing existing structures and mechanisms
- **Whole-of-government plan** for policy action (development, climate, SDG) provides policy goals across sectors and entry points for **developing indicators related to social determinants of health, equity and well-being**
- Support for **collaboration and joint projects/policy** proposals
MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

Provides the political authorizing environment

MINISTRY / AGENCY HEAD

Provides the bureaucratic and administrative authorizing environment (supports and endorses the collaborative action within their portfolio boundary)

CROSS-GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT

Fostering a culture of collaboration and providing the authorizing environment for HIAP action

CROSS-GOVERNMENT WORKING / TECHNICAL GROUP

Developing policy/project proposals, including evidence gathering and implementation

Policy priorities of government
dIndividual agency decision-making structures

Central government
dIndividual agencies

dCross-agency collaboration
2. Leadership at all Levels

- **Advocating for** collaborative multisectoral approaches
- Leaders can connect across agencies to foster a **culture of collaboration**
- A **network of champions**
- **Building the capacity** to work intersectorally to act on social determinants of health equity
3. Ways of Working for HiAP Action

- The **attitudes**, mind-sets, behaviour and practices used to collaborate with partners.
- Using co-design
- Trusting, respectful relationships.
4. Resources, Financing and Capabilities

- Dedicated HiAP human resource roles are important.
- HiAP budget linked to policy area functioning rather than solely organizational structure or inputs.
- Solutions do not necessarily require removing budget from a particular agency but rather improving coordination based on a common impact theory grounded in the SDH evidence.
Using data and evidence in Health in All Policies

Domain 1: Economic Security
Domain 2: Education
Domain 3: Physical Environment
Domain 4: Social and Community Context
Domain 5: Health Behaviours
Domain 6: Health Care

Source: Operational Framework for Monitoring Social Determinants of Health Equity (WHO 2024)
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088320
Defining successful HiAP

- **Effectiveness of the collaboration mechanism, often measured by inputs**
  - Does the process meet the expectations of all agencies and actors?

- **Policy processes**
  - Have governance decision-making processes and institutions themselves been impacted to consider equity and health?

- **Policy impacts**
  - Have the policy goals of other agencies and actors have been met?
  - Have social determinants / health impacts been positive?
Roles – central government

- Create a shared whole-of-government vision and goals
- Foster a culture of collaboration in government agencies
- Establish reporting and accountability processes to monitor cross-government collaboration and policy outcomes and impacts.
Roles – health authorities

- Understand other sectors’ priorities and decision-making
- Facilitate joint policy development to deliver co-benefits
- Initiate regular, continuous dialogue with other sectors
- Identify health and health equity impacts
- Build knowledge and generate an evidence base.
Thank you

People will experience fewer barriers to health if we work together