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

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**
  Limited integration of the SDH in the internal work and regular functioning of the health system, with few interventions in health strategies that explicitly address the SDH and their role in causing inequitable access to the health system and well-being
- **Insufficient financing, data, capabilities and intersectoral mechanisms**
  Low sustainability of intersectoral work and insufficient integration of structural SDH, resulting in little inclusion of health equity as the main objective of intersectoral work.
- **Political reluctance to address equity as a policy priority**
  Inadequate interventions on structural determinants of health, hindering effectiveness in reducing health inequities
- **Limited participation and engagement of community and civil society actors**
  Absence or limited incorporation of the voice of social and community organizations in the health sector and intersectoral work

Activities and resources

Country and local action

- Capacity building on SDHE, intersectorality and monitoring for professionals and policy-makers from the health sector and other sectors
- Development of local SDHE strategies, participatory action models and implementation audits in municipalities
- Enhancement of civil society participation and intersectoral coordination between PHC, local governments and communities
- Integration of SDHE into PHC practices and programmes at the local level
- Redesign of public health programmes to include SDH and equity perspectives

Regional roles in facilitating success

- Creation and dissemination of regional training tools and guidance on SDHE integration in health systems and public policies at national and local levels
- Mapping of national SDHE policies and community organizations, to identify gaps and opportunities
- Development of online courses and a regional action framework for intersectoral approaches to address SDHE
- Creation of regional communities of practice, fostering knowledge exchange between countries
- Development of regional intersectoral action indicators and SDH data systems to inform decision-making at national and local levels

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

1–2 Country/local strategies, models and experiences documented

- Policies and programmes focusing on structural determinants of health mapped in five countries
- Theory of change developed to address SDH with the community and across sectors at various local levels
- PHC–SDH integration models developed
- Cross-sectoral monitoring systems for SDH co-developed with communities and related policies established
- SDH training courses delivered in SIMASHE Countries
- Repertoire of actions by social organizations at regional and national levels mapped
- Perceptions of health equity and SDH among policy-makers, providers in the health sector and other sectors, and communities gathered in 5 countries
- Case studies on social participation and SDH documented

3 Enhanced regional evidence and guidance for action

- Regional guidance, briefs and tools produced, based on country experiences and intersectional evidence
- SDH data systems and local maps guiding implementation and monitoring developed
- Systematic reviews conducted on policies and health equity linking migration, unemployment, informal work, informal settlements and social cohesion

4 Action and innovation platforms

- Regional participatory research models and alliances established, promoting local empowerment and SDH integration
- Platforms created for technical exchange and implementation support between countries and communities

5 Mechanisms for coalition building, advocacy, and broader scale-up of action

- Regional networks, civil society alliances and academic partnerships created to expand training and advocacy (e.g. CONALACTHRO Alliance, TIPSESA Network, EPSI.V Americas)
- SDH campaign launched across platforms and countries, linked with global training and learning opportunities

Outcomes for social determinants of health equity

National and local

- National and local governments institutionalize multisectoral SDH strategies with the involvement of health ministries
- PHC practices are redesigned to integrate SDH and equity-based service delivery models
- Local governance structures are reinforced to enable coordinated and effective action on the SDH and equity
- Community and civil society groups co-lead the planning, implementation and monitoring of local SDH actions
- Disaggregated data and monitoring systems are used to guide and evaluate interventions at national and local levels

Regional

- Regional intersectorality and SDH frameworks, monitoring systems and tools support country implementation and policy development
- Shared regional monitoring and knowledge systems track equity progress and promote local and inter-country learning
- Regional alliances increase visibility and enhance influence in global SDHE dialogues and the scale-up of effective approaches

Re-enforced human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals

Regional and national indicators
Extent of social determinants of health equity considerations included in major social, economic or development strategies.

Number of countries and territories (national, sub-national or local) developing strategies, models and practices that can be adopted by the health sector, other government sectors, local authorities and community organizations to successfully address SDHE

Regional goal

Contribute to the integration of health equity into the development of health, social and economic policies to improve the state of SDH, especially determinants of a structural nature

Sustainable Development Goals and indicators

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY | 2 ZERO HUNGER | 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Vision

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

Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization Americas

PAHO

SIMASHE
Special Initiative for Multi-country Action on the Social Determinants of Health Equity