

Special Initiative for Action on the Social Determinants of Health: Country Pathfinders meeting

Programme

19 to 21 March 2024

Crowne Plaza Hotel (Londres room), Av. Louis-Casaï 75-77, 1216, Geneva, Switzerland

The Special Initiative for Action on the Social Determinants of Health (SDH Initiative) work in countries aims for:

- National policies and community development programmes, including for health emergencies, to build on social determinants of health equity assessments, to identify and implement concrete multisectoral actions associated with the SDH and to address barriers to health service access.

To do this, the SDH Initiative is **a unique multicountry initiative**:

- Accompanying government national and local and community partners to implement strategies to address the social determinants of health equity (SDHE) in countries, supporting eight countries and three regions.
- Building capacities for implementation in the health workforce, and broader government including through improving the organizational capacities, and leveraging the knowledge of, its Core Partners (WHO all levels, Institute of Health Equity/University College London (UCL/IHE), University of Lausanne (UNIL)/UNISANTE, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)).
- Emphasising documentation and evaluation of strategies and the development of models of Primary Health Care, greater integration with Social Protection and social and health care, community participation, and intersectoral action/Health in All Policies, to promote a common operational understanding of how to scale-up effectively the implementation of policies and actions recommended by the WHO Executive Board as part of the WHO World Report on SDHE.

The purpose of the SDH Initiative Country Pathfinders meeting is to:

- Provide a forum to share country experiences from the SDH Initiative Phase I (2020-2024) and to familiarize people from countries working on the SDH Initiative with one another;
- Discuss Phase I lessons learnt regarding SDHE strategies and their implementation;
- Inform the finalization and dissemination of the World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity (SDHE); and
- Share plans for the SDH Initiative Phase II (2025-2028).

Day 1: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 9.00-17.00

Facilitator for day 1: Nicole Valentine, Technical Officer / SDH Initiative Global Programme Lead, Equity and Health (EQH), Department of Social Determinants of Health (SDH), WHO, Geneva, Switzerland

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Objective:

- To review Country Pathfinder experiences from Phase I of the SDH Special Initiative

Time	Session
09.00 – 09.45	<p>Session 1. Welcome, objectives, introductions and keynote</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Nicole Valentine</i></p> <p>Welcome and the WHO perspective on the social determinants of health equity (SDHE), Etienne Krug, Director, Department of SDH, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland (5 minutes)</p> <p>The SDH Special Initiative, the programme structure and meeting objectives, Sudhvir Singh, Unit Head, EQH, Department of SDH, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland (5 minutes)</p> <p>Participant neighboring tables introductions (10 minutes)</p> <p>Keynote: A global perspective on health equity and the SDH, Sir Michael Marmot, Director, Institute of Health Equity, University College London (UCL/IHE), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) (20 minutes)</p> <p>Questions and answers (5 minutes)</p>
09.45 – 10.40	<p>Session 2. Country Pathfinder experiences of action on the SDHE</p> <p>Session 2 provides an opportunity for presentation and discussion of ongoing Country Pathfinder work. Participants present their approach to developing strategies, what they have achieved, and how they plan to advance.</p> <p>2.1. Chile and Lao PDR: including SDHE into PHC models</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Orielle Solar, Unit Chief, Health Promotion and SDH, Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO/PAHO), Washington DC, United States of America (USA)</i></p> <p>Chile, Patricia Castillo, Director, Health Department, Municipality of Renca, Chile (15 minutes)</p> <p>Lao PDR's experience, Ketkesone Phrasisombath, Deputy Director, Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR (15 minutes)</p> <p>Questions and answers (10 minutes)</p> <p>Table discussion and feedback (15 minutes)</p>
10.40 – 11.05	BREAK

Time	Session
11.05 – 12.00	<p>2.2. Peru and the Philippines: opportunities for integrating SDHE into health programmes</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Joana Lima, Coordinator, Health Enabling Society, Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO), Manila, the Philippines</i></p> <p>Peru, Nataly Toledo, Responsible for Healthy Municipalities, Cities and Communities, Regional Department of Health, La Libertad Region (15 minutes)</p> <p>The Philippines' experience, Abdulah Dumama Jr, Undersecretary of Health, UHC Health Services Cluster, Area IV (Mindanao), Department of Health, the Philippines (15 minutes)</p> <p>Questions and answers (10 minutes)</p> <p>Table discussion and feedback (15 minutes)</p>
12.00 – 12.55	<p>Parallel Breakout Deep-Dives [English only]</p> <p>Meeting room 1 (Munich): EMRO SDH Toolkit: information tool for the recommendations of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2019-2022), Samar Elfeky, Zahra Ahmed, Jessica Allen</p> <p>Meeting room 2 (Paris): Lao PDR intervention package, Ounkham Souksavanh, Hongkham Xayavong, Khamvene Phengphakeo, Khonesavanh Voralath</p>
12.55 – 14.00	BREAK
14.00 – 14.55	<p>2.3. Morocco and the Occupied Palestinian Territory</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Samar Elfeky, Regional Advisor, Health Promotion and SDH, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), Cairo, Egypt</i></p> <p>Civil service training in Health in All Policies in Morocco, Mohcine Hillali, Chief of Outpatient Care Services, Directorate of Hospitals and Outpatient Care, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Morocco (15 minutes)</p> <p>SDHE work in oPt building on human rights, Ben Bouquet, WHO Office for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (15 minutes)</p> <p>Discussant, Rajae El Aouad, former Commissioner, EMRO SDH Commission, WHO Scientific Advisor on the World Report (5 minutes)</p> <p>Questions and answers (5 minutes)</p> <p>Table discussion and feedback (15 minutes)</p>

Time	Session
14.55 – 15.30	<p>2.4. Costa Rica and Colombia: addressing SDHE through integration with social development</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Hugo Vasquez, International Consultant, Health Promotion and SDH, AMRO/PAHO</i></p> <p>Costa Rica, Maria Fernanda Zeledon, National Consultant, PAHO Country Office, Costa Rica, and Hon. Steven Barrantes Nunez, Mayor, Municipality of Coto Brus, Brunca Region (15 minutes)</p> <p>Colombia, Mario Campo, Secretary of Health, Department of Cauca, Team of Healthy and Sustainable Cities, Settings, and Rural Areas Strategy (CERSS), Ministry of Health and Social Protection</p> <p>Questions and answers (5 minutes)</p>
15.30 – 16.00	BREAK
16.00 – 16.20	<p>2.4. continued. Costa Rica and Colombia: addressing SDHE through integration with social development</p> <p>Table discussion and feedback (20 minutes)</p>
16.20 – 17.00	<p>Session 3. Review of the Initiative's global and regional-level work for Phase I</p> <p>Session 3 revisits the global and regional levels of activity giving a high-level overview of various knowledge, training and advocacy products that have been produced.</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Sudhvir Singh</i></p> <p>Panel of core partners and regional representatives: (30 minutes)</p> <p>WHO global/headquarters, Nicole Valentine</p> <p>UCL/IHE, Jessica Allen, Deputy Director, UCL/IHE, UK</p> <p>UNIL/UNISANTE, Evelyne Hangartner, Research Assistant, University of Lausanne (UNIL), Switzerland</p> <p>AMRO/PAHO, Orielle Solar</p> <p>EMRO, Samar Elfeky</p> <p>WPRO, Joana Lima</p> <p>Discussion (20 minutes)</p>
17.00	CLOSE

Day 2: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 9.00-17.00

Facilitator for day 2: Carmel Williams, Centre for Health in All Policies Research Translation, Health Translation SA, SAHMRI and School of Public Health, University of Adelaide, Australia

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Objectives:

- To share and discuss global recommendations for country action on SDHE as described in the World Report on SDHE
- To share and discuss specific implementation processes and innovative models helpful for deepening action in countries on SDHE in Phase II and in following up on the World Report on SDHE recommendations

Time	Session
09.00 – 09.05	Recap and comments
09.05 – 09.45	<p>Session 4. A world where health equity is a shared societal value</p> <p>Session 4 delves into one of the key global deliverables of the SDH Initiative the forthcoming WHO World Report on the Social Determinants of Health Equity, and presents the key recommendations that aim to move towards health equity as a collective and shared value. Country Pathfinder actors from Lao, Morocco and Chile reflect on how the motivation for greater equity arose in their national context.</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Sir Michael Marmot</i></p> <p>WHO World Report on SDHE recommendations for policy action, Sudhvir Singh (15 minutes)</p> <p>Panel discussion: (20 minutes)</p> <p>Panelists are invited to consider how these recommendations are relevant in their country contexts.</p> <p><i>Chankham Tengbriachue, Deputy Head, Planning and Evaluation Section, National Centre for Maternal and Child Health, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR</i></p> <p><i>Jamila El Mendili, Chief, Service Research and Health Information, Directorate of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Morocco</i></p> <p><i>Gonzalo Soto Brandt, SEREMI, Regional Ministerial Health Secretariat, Metropolitan Region (Subnational), Chile</i></p> <p>Questions and answers (5 minutes)</p>

Time	Session
09.45 – 10.40	<p>Session 5. SDHE strategies and models: development and implementation</p> <p>Session 5 discusses key aspects of strategies and models that address SDHE. The topics discussed include using data to make SDH-related inequalities visible, monitoring SDHE, including for the design and monitoring of Primary Health Care (PHC), the importance of community participation and trust (how to build it). The day concludes with a snapshot of what local health actors do differently when integrating SDHE.</p> <p>5.1. Data for advocacy and monitoring of SDHE to facilitate action</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Erik Blas, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Consultant</i></p> <p>The new WHO Operational Framework for Monitoring SDHE, Julia Berenson, Technical Officer, Department of SDH, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland (10 minutes)</p> <p>A pre-launch of the upcoming version of the WHO Health Equity Assessment Toolkit (HEAT) visualising the association of SDH and health indicators, Ahmad Hosseinpour, Lead, Health Equity Monitoring, Department of Data and Analytics, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland (20 minutes)</p> <p>PAHO monitoring system plans: building from the local level, Hugo Vasquez (10 minutes)</p> <p>Discussant reflections (10 minutes)</p> <p><i>Hoda Rashad, Professor, American University of Cairo, Egypt</i></p> <p><i>Erika Placella, Head of Health, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Switzerland</i></p> <p>Questions and answers (5 minutes)</p>
10.40 – 10.45	PHOTO
10.45 – 11.00	BREAK
11.00 – 11.15	<p>5.1. continued. Data for advocacy and SDHE monitoring to facilitate action</p> <p>Table discussion (15 minutes)</p>
11.15 – 12.00	<p>5.2. Assessing the SDH policy environment to inform strategy and action</p> <p>Part 1. Policy, law, and strategy for SDHE</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Joëlle Auert, Technical Officer (legal), Health Systems' Governance and Stewardship, PHC Special Programme, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland (5 minutes)</i></p> <p>What legislation reviews reveal for SDHE strategy and action: a case example of discrimination, Giulia Zevi, International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Rome, Italy (10 minutes)</p>

Time	Session
	Leveraging different sources of information to assess policies and the contribution of this to SDHE strategy development, Orielle Solar (15 minutes) Discussion (15 minutes)
12.00 – 12.55	<p align="center">Parallel Breakout Deep-Dives [English only]</p> <p>Meeting room 1(Munich): The methodology of theory-of-change workshops, Guiseppe Saracino, Fabrizio Mendez</p> <p>Meeting room 2(Paris): Training for SDHE Strategies and Action, Carmel Williams, Nicole Valentine, Orielle Solar, Francisco Obando, Nathalie Roebbel, Trinette Lee</p>
12.55 – 14.00	BREAK
14.00 – 14.40	<p>5.2. continued. Assessing the SDH policy environment</p> <p>Part 2. Policy implementation: addressing bottlenecks and informing strategy</p> <p><i>Facilitator: April David, Technical Officer, WHO Country Office, Manila, the Philippines</i></p> <p>Example of Lao PDR: What does information on the policy environment tell you about further opportunities for CONNECT development and roll-out? Chankham Tengbriachue, Deputy Head, Planning and Evaluation Section, National Centre for Maternal and Child Health, Lao PDR (15 minutes)</p> <p>Example of the UK, Jessica Allen (15 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
14.40 – 15.30	<p>5.3. Barriers assessment and a rural lens</p> <p>The rationale for a deliberate rural lens, WHO work on rural health equity and approaches to assessing barriers to health services in rural and remote areas, Theadora Swift Koller, Senior Technical Lead (Health Equity), Department for Gender Equality, Human Rights and Health Equity, Office of the Director-General, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland (15 minutes)</p> <p>Understanding health needs, barriers to services and SDH in rural and remote areas in Chile, Calle Larga, Hon. Dina Gonzalez, Mayor, Municipality of Calle Larga, Chile (10 minutes)</p> <p>Perspectives from rural Ireland on health service barriers, and potential implications for rural development policy, Liam Glynn, rural Family Doctor, and Professor of General Practice at the University of Limerick School of Medicine [online] (10 minutes)</p> <p>Discussant on the relationship between rural and urban health assessments, Nathalie Roebbel, Cross-Cutting Lead, Urban Health, Department of SDH, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland (5 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion (10 minutes)</p>

Time	Session
15.30 – 15.50	BREAK
15.50 – 16.30	<p>5.4. Doing things differently. Part 1. Trust and real community participation</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Wassihun Belay, Technical Officer, Enhanced Well-being Unit, Department of Health Promotion, WHO, Geneva</i></p> <p>Building trust between government and communities – case study evidence from Lao PDR, Hongkham Xayavong, Department Coordination Research Information Management, Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute, and Elizabeth Elliott, Consultant (Anthropology in Public Health), Maternal Child Health and Quality Safety, WPRO (10 minutes)</p> <p>How can we engage communities and sustainably build trust in practice? Ounkham Souksavanh, Technical Advisor, Tree+, Lao PDR (10 minutes)</p> <p>Community participation - example from Chile, Cristian Gomez Rivera, Director, Health Department, Municipality of Perquenco, Chile (10 minutes)</p> <p>Table discussion and feedback (10 minutes)</p>
16.30 – 17.00	<p>5.4. continued. Doing things differently. Part 2. Including SDHE in local health practice</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Patrick Bodenmann, Professor, Chair of Medicine for Vulnerable Populations, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland</i></p> <p>NCDs in Tolosa, Philippines, Hon. Manny Martinez, Chairman, Council for Health, Tolosa, the Philippines (10 minutes)</p> <p>Primary level services at the outpatient clinic in Lausanne Hospital, Switzerland, Patrick Bodenmann, Professor, Chair of Medicine for Vulnerable Populations, University of Lausanne, Switzerland (10 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion (10 minutes)</p>
17.00	CLOSE

Day 3: Thursday, 21 March 2024 9.00-16.00

Facilitator for day 3: Alan Higgins, Consultant, Institute of Health Equity, University College London, and Co-lead of the Health Equity Network, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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Objectives:

- To continue discussion of implementation topics and SDHE policy themes
- To discuss Phase II plans and how to strengthen work in the SDH Special Initiative

Time	Session
09.00 – 09.10	Recap and questions or comments
09.10 – 09.55	<p>Session 5. Continued. SDHE strategies and models: development and implementation</p> <p>Session 5 continues with an examination of a recommendation area from the WHO World Report on SDHE - <i>Increase Comprehensiveness of Benefits and Expand Coverage of Universal Social Protection Systems Across the Life Course</i>¹ from the perspective of national and local policy and action. Next, how evaluation of SDHE interventions have been designed and implemented is presented and discussed. Finally, the session concludes with a discussion of engaging health equity champions across society.</p> <p>5.5. Bringing together national and local policy and action</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Nicole Valentine</i></p> <p>Part 1. Social protection in WHO World Report on SDHE</p> <p>Social protection as transformative, Shahra Razavi, Director, Department of Social Protection, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland (15 minutes)</p> <p>Global political context and social protection as part of the welfare state, Meri Koivusalo, WHO Collaborating Centre on Health in All Policies and the Social Determinants of Health, University of Tampere, Finland (15 minutes)</p> <p>A supportive economic vision for enhancing social protection – why we need the well-being economy, Chris Brown, Director, WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development, EURO, Venice, Italy [online] (10 minutes)</p> <p>Questions and answers (5 minutes)</p>
09.55 – 10.30	<p>5.5. continued. Bringing together national policy and local action</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Alan Higgins</i></p>

¹ https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB154/B154_21-en.pdf

Time	Session
	Part 2. Alignment of health and social care services Interconnections between health and social care services, Meri Koivusalo, Orielle Solar (10 minutes) Facilitated discussion: In your cities or sub-national areas, what societal challenges, like poverty, food insecurity, childcare and housing, do you see health and social care services contributing to solving? Are there opportunities for strengthening coordination between health and social care services to address these challenges? (20 minutes) Colombia: Hon. Jorge Luis Pizo Andela, Mayor, Municipality of Totoro - Cauca Chile: Andres Cuyul Soto, SEREMI Regional Ministerial Health Secretariat, La Araucanía Region, (subnational) Costa Rica: Hon. Freiner Lara Blanco, Mayor, Municipality of Golfito, Brunca Region Questions and answers (5 minutes)
10.30 – 10.50	BREAK
10.50 – 11.35	5.6. Evaluating impacts of SDHE intervention strategies Facilitator: Jeanette Vega, WHO Consultant How evaluation is being undertaken, measurement of change, and using results to strengthen CONNECT in Lao PDR, Shogo Kubota, Regional Coordinator, Maternal Child Health and Quality Safety, WPRO (20 minutes) Evaluation of social participation in Costa Rica, Gustavo Mery, Advisor, Health Systems & Services, PAHO Country Office (15 minutes) Discussion (10 minutes)
11.35 – 12.15	5.7. Engaging champions for health equity Facilitator: Alan Higgins Engaging health workers as health equity champions - the Health Equity Network of the UK, Alan Higgins (10 minutes) Advocating for SDH in Civil Society Organizations, Christine Ampon, SIKAP Inc. (Sibog Katawhan Alang sa Paglambo / Community Action Towards Development), the Philippines (10 minutes) Health equity champions for development using malaria as a tracer, Erik Blas, WHO and UNDP Consultant (10 minutes) Domestic Workers of Latin America, Maria del Carmen Cruz, CONLATRAHO [online] (10 minutes)
12.15 – 13.10	Parallel Breakout Deep-Dives [English only]

Time	Session
	<p>Meeting room 1 (Munich): Global Network on Knowledge Development and Exchange for Health Equity, Omar Cherkaoui, Sudhvir Singh</p> <p>Meeting room 2 (Paris): IDLO methodology for civil society capacity building, Giulia Zevi</p>
13.10 – 14.00	BREAK
14.00 – 15.50	<p>Session 6. Plans for Phase II of the SDH Special Initiative</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Sudhvir Singh</i></p> <p>Lessons learnt from Phase I, core outputs, products, and joint events, Nicole Valentine and AMRO/PAHO, EMRO, WPRO regional focal points (15 minutes)</p> <p>Questions and answers (15 minutes)</p> <p>Table discussions (40 minutes)</p> <p>Theme 1: Strengthening the SDH Initiative work in Phase II</p> <p>Theme 2: Opportunities for positioning and disseminating the SDH Initiative</p> <p>Report back (40 minutes)</p>
15.50 – 16.00	<p>Closing comments and thanks</p> <p><i>Sudhvir Singh</i></p> <p><i>Sir Michael Marmot</i></p>
16.00	CLOSE AND COFFEE