

HIAP /SDOH

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Review of social determinants and the health divide in the WHO European Region: final report



Table 8.1

Reasons for failure in governing for health equity through action on social determinants

Type of failure	Explanation
Conceptual failure	Failure to conceptualize the full “causal pathway” leading to the desired equity goals/outcomes
Delivery-chain failure	Failure to understand, construct or gain political commitment to an effective “delivery chain” capable of acting on multiple determinants to reduce inequities/increase equity in health over time
Control-strategy failure	Failure to develop an effective “control strategy” capable of holding stakeholders and policies to account for equity results
Public health system failure	Failure to develop competencies needed to govern for health as a societal objective, not only a health sector objective

Table 8.2**Functions and characteristics important in governing for equity in health through action on social determinants**

Domain	Systems' characteristics	Exemplified by
1. Political commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clear political commitment 	<p>1.1. Ministerial accountability for governance and delivery of social determinants/health inequities</p> <p>1.2. Specific political roles for social determinants/health inequities at national, regional and local levels</p> <p>1.3. Cross-government committee for social determinants and equity</p> <p>1.4. Explicit budget for social determinants/health inequities management</p> <p>1.5. Institutional and legislative framework for equity in health and development</p>
2. Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Evidence and information to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) inform policy and investment decisions b) monitor progress c) hold stakeholders to account ■ Research and intelligence on social determinants/health inequities trends and policies ■ The effectiveness of governance and delivery systems ■ Metrics (targets/indicators for improvement in health equity and distribution of social determinants at European, national and local levels) 	<p>2.1. Social determinants/health inequities as a core work and funding stream in research budgets</p> <p>2.2. Social determinants/health inequities evidence systematically reviewed and publicly reported</p> <p>2.3. Dedicated health intelligence and analysis services producing open-access data</p> <p>2.4. Input, output and outcomes data published on social determinants/health inequities at local, national and European levels</p> <p>2.5. Agreed minimum data sets/reporting requirements on social determinants, equity and health inequity for national and local levels</p>
3. Accountability structures and systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Legislative structures and systems enabling intersectoral action on social determinants/health inequities at European, national and local levels ■ Statutory "governance boards" capable of holding all stakeholders to account ■ Legislative structures and systems enabling formation and action of NGOs and civil society groups as partners in action to reduce inequities and monitoring progress 	<p>3.1. A legal framework involving a duty placed on all health and non-health stakeholders to collaborate and report on social determinants/health inequities actions and outcomes</p> <p>3.2. Community health status/outcome (social determinants/health inequities) boards, established with explicit powers to review data/progress of policies, review options/solutions for improving health equity and hold all stakeholders to account</p> <p>3.3. Statutory roles with formal duty to reduce inequities through action on social determinants, empowered to publicly mandate action at European, national and local levels (public health ministers, chair of parliamentary development committees, prime ministers, ombudsman)</p>
4. Policy coherence across government sectors and levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A formal and explicit framework setting out stakeholders and policy action for improving equity in health and development (social determinants) ■ Framework linked to ministerial portfolios and budgets nationally and locally ■ Government policy audited through health impact assessment and equity impact assessment instruments that institutionalize collaboration across sectors and levels of government 	<p>4.1. Coherence of sectoral actions (national and local) on agreed social determinants and equity targets.</p> <p>4.2. Outcomes explicitly defined for all government and sectoral spending nationally and locally</p> <p>4.3. Specific agreements with the private sector (industry/commerce) on their contribution to delivering equity targets</p> <p>4.4. Outcomes assessed and published by all ministries/directorates at all levels of governance</p> <p>4.5. Impact assessments, which should be public domain documents, challengeable through accountability mechanisms</p> <p>4.6. Systems for joint accounting for results in place, including pooled budgets, shared targets, joint review and reporting of progress and integrated intelligence systems</p>

Table 8.2
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Domain	Systems' characteristics	Exemplified by
5. Involving local people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Commitment to participation of local people and subnational authorities in policy design and review ■ Instruments and systems securing community involvement in solutions ■ Intelligence and data on health, equity and social determinants made accessible within the public domain – locally, nationally and European 	<p>5.1. Mechanisms, organizational design and capacity building to enable a diversity of voices and perspectives from the community and local level in local decision-making and solutions</p> <p>5.2. Representatives at all levels of social determinants/health inequities governance, who should be equal members alongside professional members of decision-making committees</p> <p>5.3. Tools, instruments and support to local level to define local problems and solutions, informed by local data</p> <p>5.4. Public reporting of actions and progress to allow access and debate of results and new challenges by and with community/third parties</p>
6. Institutional and human resource capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Capacity development, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the development of competent and trained social determinants/health inequities staff – institutional processes – formal accountability, annual publishing of progress results 	<p>6.1. Programmes supporting political, civic and professional leadership of social determinants/health inequities within different institutional and social systems of society locally and nationally (and in Europe)</p> <p>6.2. Curriculum modules on equity, health and social determinants in professional and vocational training, within and outside the health sector</p> <p>6.3. Formal protocols defining institutional arrangements and expectations related to social determinants/health inequities in all sectors</p>
7. Modernized public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public health training and practice reviewed and modernized 	<p>7.1. Develop revised descriptors and competencies for national public health practice</p> <p>7.2. Develop revised descriptors for domains of public health intervention (with an increased focus on the use of new social media technology, management of social change and citizen mobilization)</p> <p>7.3. Develop new/update training for public health professionals</p>
8. Learning and innovation systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Commitment to continuous improvement in understanding of social determinants/health inequities and the efficacy of policies and interventions to reduce inequities ■ Commitment to ongoing performance review/improvements in governing for equity in health through action on social determinants 	<p>8.1. Strengthen learning transfer systems within and between countries to accelerate uptake of promising policies and governance instruments</p> <p>8.2. Enrich national and European capacity to tackle inequities in health through establishing multicountry innovation programmes, live demonstration sites/exchanges and documenting and disseminating learning</p> <p>8.3. Establish European registry of policies and governance systems addressing inequities through action on social determinants</p>