

# Poverty and Health



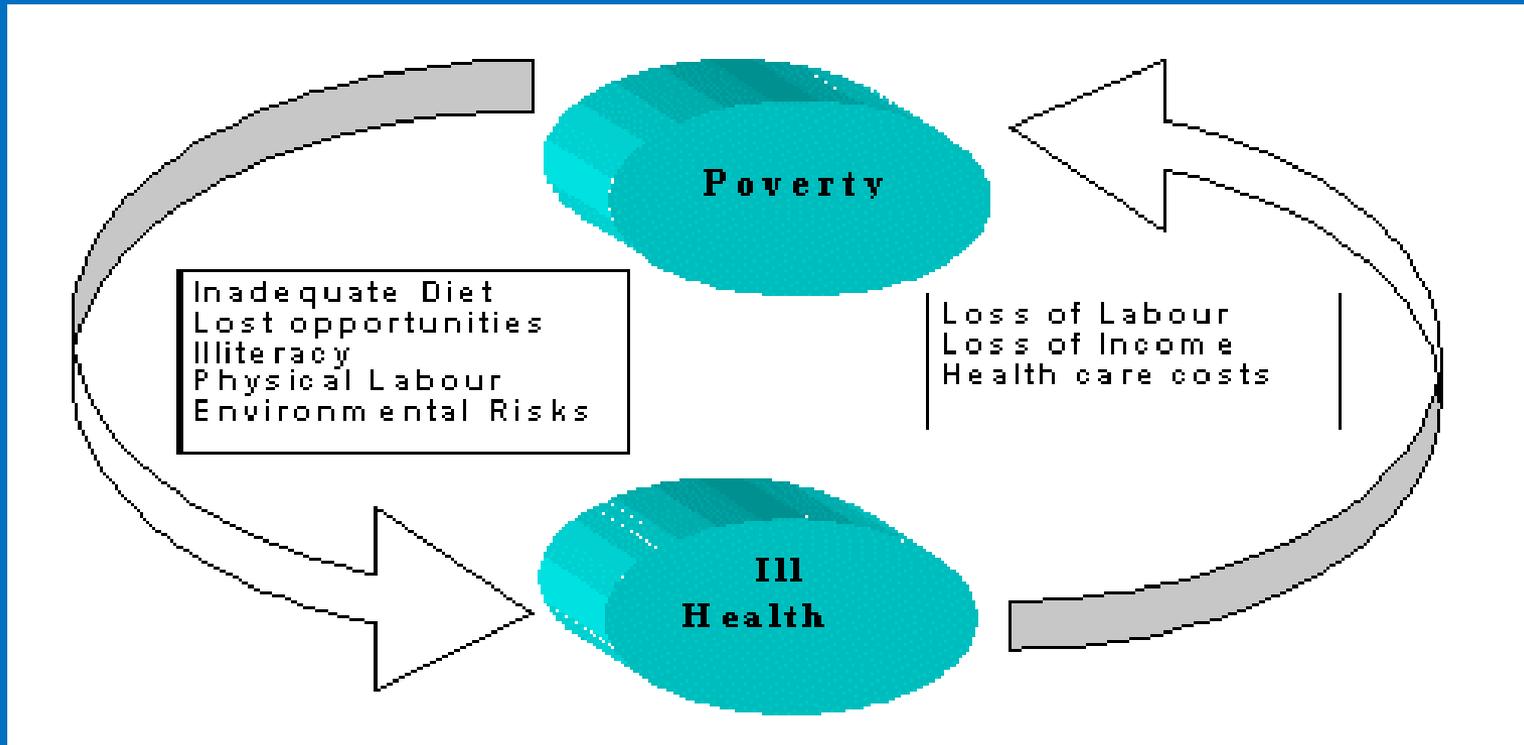
# The basic problem



There is a strong connection between poverty and health, as a consequence to the fact, that the latter is strongly determined by the prior. The individual's social status has a major impact in this issue due to the diverse life conditions of the social groups.

Fig. 1. Cycle of health and poverty





# Several statistics about SDH

- ❑ there is a 36-year gap between the life expectancy between the richest and the poorest countries
- ❑ there are countries where every fifth child dies before reaching the age of 5, while in the WHO European Region the under 5 mortality rate is 13 out of 1000
- ❑ there are significant differences in health outcomes within countries too which are rooted in social status, ethnicity and income
- ❑ children from the poorest 20% are twice more likely to die before the age of 5 than the children of the richest 20%
- ❑ half of the world workers (1.53 billion people) are in vulnerable employment
- ❑ low-income countries have ten times less doctors than high-income countries
- ❑ developing countries account for 99% of annual maternal deaths
- ❑ according to estimation of the European Parliament the losses linked to health inequalities costs 1.4% of the GDP of the EU

# WHO - Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH)



CSDH is a global organization of influential stakeholders, established by the WHO in order to tackle social determinants of health through tackling and forming:

- Early child development
- Globalization
- Health systems
- Measurement and evidence
- Urbanization
- Employment conditions
- Social exclusion
- Public health conditions
- Women and gender equality

# The main recommendations of the CSDH in order to reduce social inequalities

- ❑ Improve daily living conditions
- ❑ Tackling inadequate distribution of power, money and resources
- ❑ Considering and understanding the problem



# Improve daily living conditions

**Globally at least 200 million children do not achieve their full potential. The CSDH proposes to invest in the children's early years, which eventuates a healthier adult population.**

**For this purpose the CSDH made 3 recommendations**

- Establish interagency mechanism which ensure the early child development
- Primary and secondary education for children
- Organized quality program for children and mothers

**Improving housing conditions is also a main factor to achieve the CSDH's ambitions**

- Investing in urban slum upgrading (provision of water, sanitation and electricity)
- Promoting physical activity, encouraging healthy eating and reducing crime through regulation
- Investing in rural development
- Economic and social policy responses to climate change
- Improvement of the working conditions through international labor standards

# Tackling inadequate distribution of power, money and resources

Due to the inadequate distribution of a country's resources there are big gaps between the health status of diverse social groups. In order to amend these circumstances a concentrated intervention is needed by the national governments, WHO, UN and civil society organizations.

For this purpose the CSDH calls for

- The governments should increase the global aid to 0.7% of the GDP
- Progressive taxation
- Strengthening the private sector leadership in the provision of health related services
- Legal regulation of the gender equity

# Considering and understanding the problem

**In order to develop more effective policies and systems of healthcare, a precise method of data collection and analysis is needed with the involvement of the civil and the private sector.**

**To harmonize the actions of the policy-makers the CSDH proposes to set up multilateral specialist and financing agencies which functions are:**

- Using global common framework the monitoring and development of the progress
- Ensure that increases in aid and debt relief support are coherent social determinants of health policy-making
- Support equitable participation of Member States in global policy-making.

# Intersectoral cooperation under the stewardship of WHO

The civil society should participate in the planning and the implementation of the programs , the private sector should invest in researches, and the research institutions role is to generate evidence on the social determinants of health



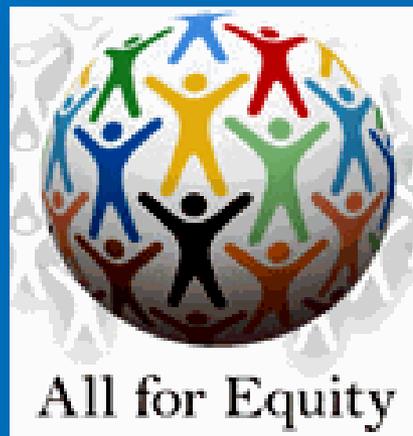
# World Conference on Social Determinants of Health



# Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health

## The principal aims of the document

- ❑ Achieve social and health equality with the involvement of all governmental sectors
- ❑ International support in this mission
- ❑ Due to their significant impact, the private and civil sector should be involved as well
- ❑ As a consequence of the current global economic crisis the adoption of actions which stop the worsening of living conditions is needed
- ❑ The interventions and actions should take into account the countries and regions different social and economic features



# Key actions on SDH according to the Rio Declaration

## To adopt better governance for health and development

- collaboration of the different sectors of the government;
- developing policies which take into account the necessities of the entire population;
- implication of surveys in order to inform policy action
- foster collaboration with the private sector
- special attention to gender-related aspect
- facilitating the transfer of expertise internationally

## To promote participation in policy-making and implementation

- empower the role of communities
- strengthen civil society's contribution to policy-making
- rights and needs of indigenous people should be taken into account
- Both developed and developing countries should fully participate in the formulation and implementation of the policies and measures

## ❑ To further reorient the health sector towards reducing health inequities

- strengthen health systems towards the provision of equitable universal coverage
- build and maintain health financing and risk pooling systems
- promote mechanisms for supporting community initiatives against impoverishment
- work across and within all levels and sectors of government by promoting mechanisms for dialogue, problem-solving and health impact assessment

## ❑ To strengthen global governance and collaboration

- support national governments, international organizations, nongovernmental entities and others to tackle SDH
- support the leading role of the WHO in global health governance
- supporting the government in creating a sustainable workforce in health

## ❑ To monitor progress and increase accountability

- establish, strengthen and maintain monitoring systems that provide data to assess inequities in health outcomes , the allocations and use of the resources
- develop reliable measures of social well-being on existing indicators
- the gained results should be shared among sectors to inform the policy makers
- promote monitoring systems that take into consideration the role of all relevant stakeholders (civil society, nongovernmental organizations, private sector)