

Action on the social determinants of health for health equity

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UCL

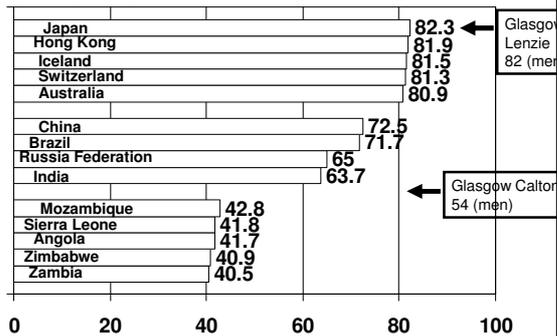
Chair of WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2005-2008)

Economic & Social Council
2009 High Level Segment
Geneva, 6-9 July 2009

- What is health equity?
- Dramatic inequities dominate global health
- A social gradient in health exists in all countries and within cities

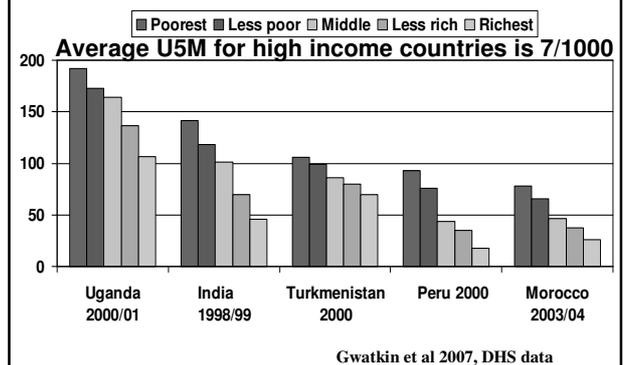
Inequities: Between Countries

Life expectancy at birth (men and women): selected countries



National LE data HDP 2007/2008, Glasgow data: Hanlon et al. 2006

Under 5 mortality per 1000 live births by wealth quintile

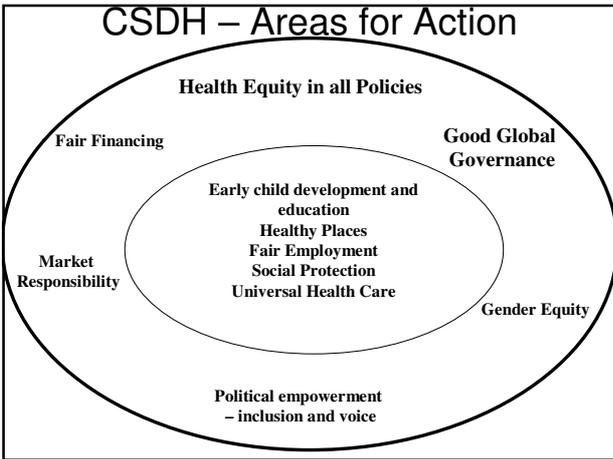
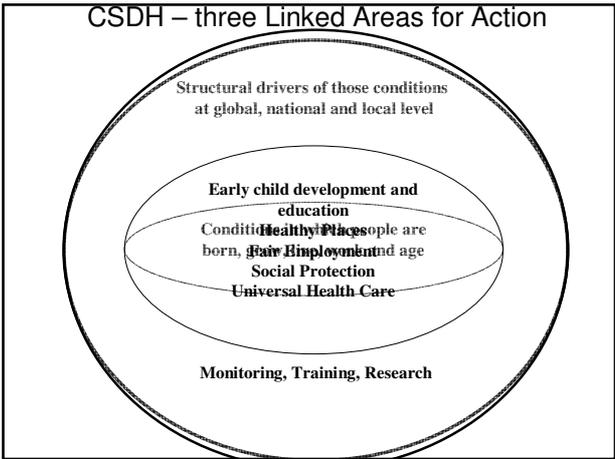


- Inequity in health does not equal inequity in health care

CSDH – three principles of action



- Every sector is a health sector
- Health equity as an outcome of good social and economic policy



“I am pleased to announce that Sir Michael Marmot has agreed to undertake a new review of health inequalities in England...”

“...And we will learn from other countries along the way...”

Gordon Brown, Prime Minister, UK
at Closing the Gap Conference, 6th Nov 2008





WHA resolution

- Resolution at World Health Assembly May 2009 based on the work of the CSDH;
- Member states and multilateral international community;
- WHO role

Regional activity

- Spanish presidency of EU – social determinants of health a priority;
- UNASUR – commission on social determinants of health

- Social justice
- Empowerment – material, psychosocial, political
- Creating the conditions for people to lead flourishing lives



www.who.int/social_determinants/en