

Analysis of social determinants of health and health inequities
- a multi country event on approaches and policy
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Abstracts of key-note lectures

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Measuring and understanding SE inequality in health

Over the past decades, health conditions have improved in different parts of the world, but inequities in health conditions still exist among countries and within countries. Policies aiming at reducing inequities need to be based on a sound assessment of the nature, magnitude and determinants of the problem.

This lecture provides a selection of available health indicators, how to use these with care, and how to investigate the determinants of inequities. This will indicate how information could help shape appropriate policy responses to reduce health inequities. Indeed, the decomposition results that will be illustrated in this course allow policy makers to move from tackling average health problems (the “level approach”) to tackling inequities of health (the “gap approach”).

The following sections will be dealt with:

- (i) A selection of indicators which are available for measuring inequities of health;
- (ii) The usefulness and dangers of such indicators in measuring and comparing health inequity patterns in health outcomes across and within countries;
- (iii) An introduction to an advanced approach to analyzing the determinants of inequities of health, which may be used to persuade policy makers;
- (iv) Data needs for conducting health inequities research;