Summit 2017: Health Equity in the Americas

Quantitative Policy Data to Promote Population Health and Equity

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Social Determinants of Health

“Traditionally, society has looked to the health sector to deal with its concerns about health and disease. ... But the high burden of illness responsible for appalling premature loss of life arises in large part because of the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age.”

WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health

The WHO Commission's report focused on improving daily living conditions:

- Equity from the start
- Healthy places, healthy people
- Fair employment and decent work
- Social protection through life
- Universal health care
Sum Greater Than its Parts:
Data to Answer Our Collective Questions

- Enable evidence-based governance, investment, and strategy decisions
- Identify global leaders and laggards
- Establish monitoring and accountability of the SDGs and global commitments
- Advance rigorous work using cutting edge techniques to determine which approaches will work to achieve goals at scale

All three data types are required to:

- Policy Data
- Implementation Data
- Outcomes Data
WORLD: A Quantitative Policy Approach

- The WORLD Policy Analysis Center (WORLD) makes available quantitatively comparable data on more than 1,500 laws and policies in 193 countries affecting human health, development, well-being, and equity.

- With partners, WORLD...
  - Undertakes rigorous analyses of policy effectiveness
  - Facilitates comparative studies of policy progress
  - Informs policy debates
  - Advances accountability efforts
Overview of WORLD Data Areas

WORLD has data on more than 1,500 policies in 193 countries in policy areas that affect the social determinants of health and development, including:

- Health
- Poverty
- Education
- Gender
- Marriage
- Childhood
- Families
- Environment
- Equal Rights and Discrimination
- Adult Labor and Working Conditions
- Child Labor
- Aging
- Disability
The Power Of Policy And Legal Indicators

What Can Data Do?

Create **immediate levers** leaders can move

Allow countries to identify their own **comparators** and highlight leaders and laggards

Provide a necessary, if not sufficient, **first step** to improving implementation

Build upon the work of UN bodies and enable **transparency** and **accountability**

Strengthen the work of **civil society** to promote effective realization of health, development, and well-being

Enable **rigorous techniques** to measure impact and inform evidence-based policy decisions
Equality and Protections against Discrimination

Does the constitution take at least one approach to gender equality?

Does the constitution guarantee protection from discrimination at work based on ethnicity?

Source: WORLD Policy Analysis Center
Adult Labor Policies Promoting Population Health

Is paid leave available for mothers of infants?

Is paid leave available for fathers of infants?

Source: WORLD Policy Analysis Center
Childhood Policies Promoting Population Health

What is the minimum age of marriage for girls with parental consent?

How long are children protected from hazardous work when legal loopholes are considered?

Source: WORLD Policy Analysis Center
Education Policies Promoting Population Health

Is completing secondary education tuition-free and compulsory?

Is inclusive education available for children with disabilities?

Source: WORLD Policy Analysis Center
Poverty Reduction Policies Promoting Population Health

At what level are minimum wages set per day?

Is income protection during unemployment available?

Source: WORLD Policy Analysis Center
Transforming What’s Possible With Newly Available Data

**What Can Data Do?**

- Enable **evidence-based governance** and funding decisions
- Identify **leaders and laggards** in critical areas
- Increase **transparency** on what countries are doing
- Improve **policy design and formulation**
- Advance **rigorous work** to determine which policies matter

**Audiences**

- **Civil society organizations** advocating for evidence-based change
- **Foundations** aiming to make a meaningful impact with their investments
- **Citizens** around the world committed to effective governance
- **Policymakers** seeking information on what is feasible and effective
- **Researchers** analyzing the link between policies and outcomes
Guiding Principles

The following principles define our approach to collaboration:

- Change is most likely to occur when there are efforts at all levels.
- Different people will use the information in different ways.
- To be effective, partnerships need to respect the value of taking a range of approaches to collaborations.
Working with Policymakers

- **Ireland**: Provided data to Equality Now to allow them to highlight an unequal law in Ireland. After a sustained campaign, a year later, the Irish government passed the Paternity Leave and Benefit Bill 2016.

- **Philippines**: In the process of Senate approval of a new 120-day maternity leave bill, Senators cited WORLD and McGill University studies in arguing that “longer paid leave reduces infant mortality” and that the maternity leave law should be “at par with international standards.”

- **China**: Informing officials from Guangdong Province interested in the national and provincial labor policies that can improve economic outcomes.

- **United States**: Responding to elected representatives questions about whether the US can afford to provide paid family and sick leave.
Thank You to Our Global Partners!

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