

## **Recommendations from the WHO COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH – Cochrane Public Health Review Group’s ongoing and planned reviews of relevance**

Topics and reviews-in-progress within the Cochrane Public Health Review Group of relevance to *some* of The Commissions recommendations.

*Title under development* - an authorship team is working at the pre-protocol stage (Involvement in the development of the review from others still possible)

*Protocol under development* – title is registered and authorship team are developing the protocol for publication on The Cochrane Library

All others are planned review topics of the PHRG but still not under development by an authorship team.

### ***Improve Daily Living Conditions***

❖ *Provide quality compulsory primary and secondary education for all boys and girls, regardless of ability to pay. Identify and address the barriers to girls and boys enrolling and staying in school and abolish user fees for primary school*

- Interventions for increasing school completion rates (title under development)
- School-time scheduling and its effects on the health and wellbeing of students (title under development)
- Provision of scholarships for improving health and related outcomes in economically vulnerable students

❖ *Manage urban development to ensure greater availability of affordable housing; invest in urban slum upgrading including, as a priority, provision of water and sanitation, electricity, and paved streets for all households regardless of ability to pay*

- Housing improvements for health and socio-economic outcomes (protocol registered with Campbell Collaboration – for co-registration with PHRG).
- Increasing the supply/quality of public sidewalks and walking trails for increasing physical activity levels of communities
- Environmental strategies for preventing water-borne infections/food-borne infections

❖ *Ensure urban planning promotes healthy and safe behaviours equitably, through investment in active transport, retail planning to manage access to unhealthy hoods, and through good environmental design and regulatory controls, including control of the number of alcohol outlets*

- Healthy cities, municipalities or spaces projects for reducing health risk factors
- Interventions for minimizing the adverse health effects of urban sprawl
- Community-building interventions (designed to build a sense of community, connectedness, cultural revival, social capital) to improve physical, social and mental health
- Active transport initiatives for increasing physical activity
- Collaboration with council and workplaces to provide facilities (eg showers and bike racks) that encourage active transport
- Segregated cycle facilities for increasing the use of active transport by adults and children
- Transport schemes for improving social connectedness of adults

- ❖ Improve the working conditions for all workers to reduce their exposure to material hazards, work-related stress, and health-damaging behaviours.
  - Flexible working conditions and their effects on employee health and well being (protocol under development)
  - Workplace and/or legislative interventions for addressing work-life balance in adults
- ❖ Build quality health-care services with universal coverage, focusing on Primary Health Care
  - Contracting out primary health care services to NGOs for increasing uptake of services by the poor
- ❖ Strengthen public sector leadership in equitable healthcare systems financing, ensuring universal access to care regardless of ability
  - Cash transfer programs for improving health and related outcomes
  - Equity funds financed by government for increasing health insurance coverage specifically for the poor
  - Financing mechanisms for improving access to health services for poor people

***Tackle the Inequitable Distribution of Power, Money, and Resources***

- ❖ Reinforce the primary role of the state in the provision of basic services essential to health (such as water/sanitation) and the regulation of goods and services with a major impact on health (such as tobacco, alcohol, and food)
  - Pricing policies to increase healthy food choices
- ❖ Create and enforce legislation that promotes gender equity and makes discrimination on the basis of sex illegal
  - Interventions addressing discrimination and prejudice due to sexual orientation and/or gender identity (title under development)

**The third overarching recommendation of the Commission was:**

***Measure and Understand the Problem and Assess the Impact of Action***

- ❖ Ensure that routine monitoring systems for health equity and the social determinants of health are in place, locally, nationally and internationally
- ❖ Investment in generating and sharing new evidence on the ways in which social determinants influence population health and health equity and on the effectiveness of measures to reduce health inequities through action on social determinants
- ❖ Provide training on the social determinants of health to policy actors, stakeholders, and practitioners and invest in raising public awareness

The PHRG, in working closely with the Cochrane Health Equity Field, advocates for all of its reviews to include information to highlight the effect of interventions on health equity. These elements are emphasized in training workshops conducted by the PHRG and all our editors have a sound knowledge of the social determinants of health and the need to add to the evidence in this arena.