



## The role of public health associations to move forward action towards health equity through a “social determinants of health” lens

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## Presenter Disclosures

“No relationships to disclose”

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## Why a survey of PHA?

- WFPHA perspective on health equity through a SDH approach
- WHO Conference on SDH (Rio de Janeiro, 19-21 October 2011)
- 13th World Congress on Public Health (Addis Ababa, 23-27 April, 2012) – Towards Global Health Equity: Opportunities and Threats

## Goal/Objectives

- To define the role of PHAs in promoting action on the SDH as a means to achieve health equity
- To determine the opportunities, successes, failures, challenges, and obstacles to promote action on the SDH as a means to achieve health equity

## Context

- Limited resources and connectivity: used web-based survey (FluidSurveys)
- Sent to 59 current WFPHA full members
- Most PHAs have advocated on PH issues
- WFPHA distributed announcement about survey to all members
- Voluntary survey, no attribution of responses to specific countries (aggregated)

## Survey Questionnaire

- Country identification
- 2 multiple choice & 8 open-ended questions
- Tri-lingual (E/F/S)
- “Save and continue later” option

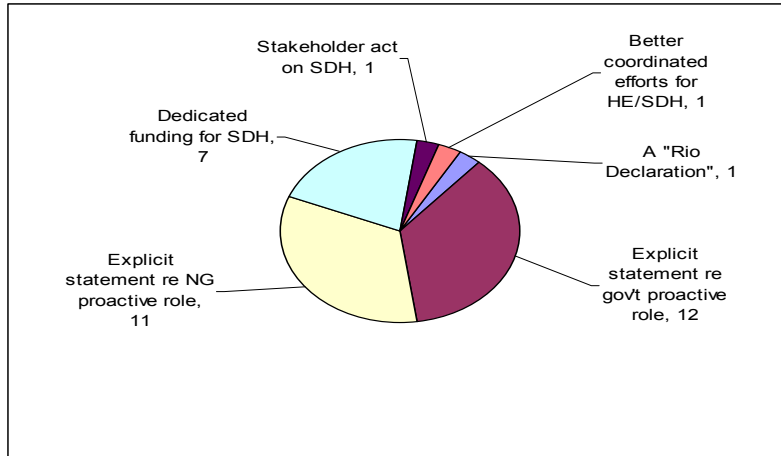
## Response & Location of Respondents

- 29% (17/59) replied; 16 complete
- Roughly equal number of respondents from four continents
  - Americas (1E/1F/1S)
  - Africa (3E/3F)
  - Europe (4E)
  - Asia (4E)

## In your PHAs opinion, what is the role of “public health” in reducing health inequities (or alternately increasing health equity) in your country?

- Advocate for a policy or effective program intervention with decision-makers (“agenda-setting”)
- Provide evidence for local and national decision-makers
- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Facilitate/ensure access to health services
- Disseminate/facilitate exchange on promising practices/strategies

## What would success look like from national public health associations and for the WFPNA as an outcome from the WHO SDH Conference?



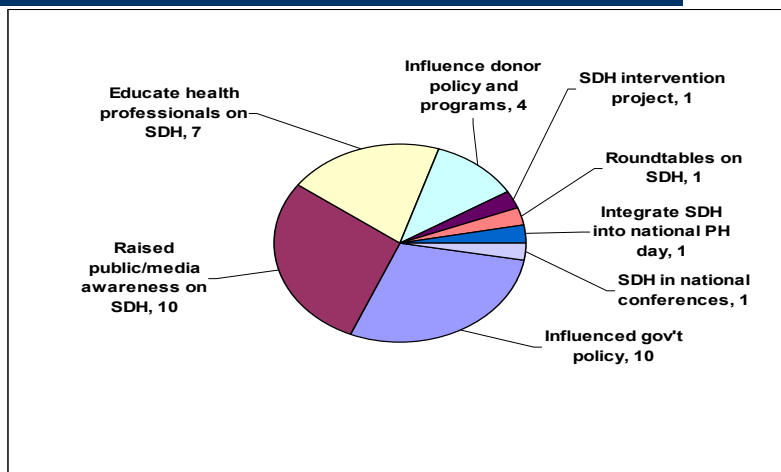
## What unique role can PHAs play in terms of the inclusion of a SDH-based approach for HE at the national level?

- Advocacy to gov't leaders, decision-makers, experts, stakeholders about importance of SDH
- Promotion, awareness raising, knowledge transfer and training on SDH to policy-makers, media, stakeholders
- Network/alliance building to strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration
- Implementation of projects/policies to support SDH (including national "HE observatories")

## What unique role can WFPHA play in terms of the inclusion of a SDH-based approach for HE at the global level?

- Advocacy with multilateral agencies and gov'ts
  - HE and SDH acted on urgently and fully integrated into policies and programs
  - PHAs included in consultation and policy-making process
  - Support for PHA-driven actions on HE & SDH
- Resolutions on HE and SDH
- Lobbying donors for funding for PHAs on SDH/HE-related initiatives
- Knowledge transfer among PHAs on promising policies and practice on HE/SDH
- Providing template for framework for PHA networking/collaboration on SDH

## What role does your PHA play in supporting an SDH approach for HE in your country?



## Opportunities for promoting an SDH approach for HE (if any)?

- Knowledge generation: effectiveness of policies
- Knowledge exchange & transfer (conferences, special days)
- Indicators to monitor progress
- Creating supportive environments
- Intersectoral collaboration
- Pilot projects and scaling up

## Gaps in promoting an SDH approach for HE (if any)?

- Understanding, interest, political commitment
- Capacity of national health systems
- Evidence-based/C-B analysis
- Promising practices (nationally/globally)
- M&E
- Human resources knowledgeable about HE/SDH
- Funding/investment (gov'ts, donors)

## Challenges in promoting an SDH approach for HE (if any)?

- Changing political mindset
- Generating interest and commitment
- Limited HR capacity
- Coordination/collaboration – territoriality
- Gathering evidence: research-2-policy
- Corporate “social responsibility” = profit self-interest?
- Private foundations = “celanthropy”

## What action is required to address SDH in your country?

- Advocacy
- Knowledge exchange/generating interest
- Intersectoral action for HE
- Public awareness = generating groundswell
- Changing health strategies to incorporate HE/SDH into policy and programs

## What action is required to address SDH globally?

- Endorse HE/SDH
- Advocacy to global actors and governments
- Information sharing/dissemination
- Develop indicators
- Support to communities, PHA community and other NGO actors

## Where does WFPHA go from here on HE/SDH?

- Working Group on Health Equity
- Qualitative survey on HE among PHAs
- 13th World Congress on Public Health
- WFPHA Resolution on HE
- Advocating at WHA
- "Health Equity for All" = WFPHA Call to action