Healthy, Prosperous Lives for All
The WHO European Health Equity Status Report Initiative

Investment for Wellbeing and Health Equity in the Context of COVID-19

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People are being left behind due to poor health: The bottom 20% of the population in the WHO European Region experience:

| Category                              | Top 20% of the Population | Bottom 20% of the Population | Ratio
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illness Limiting Daily Life</td>
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<td>Poor Life Satisfaction</td>
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<td>Poor Mental Health</td>
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<td>Poor Self-Reported Health</td>
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- Limiting illness leaves the individual and their family at risk of poverty and social exclusion.
- Poor life satisfaction captures how people feel about their lives – and indicates that people are not thriving and flourishing.
- Depression and anxiety are among the top 5 causes of the overall disease burden in the WHO European Region.
- Poor self-reported health is a good predictor of future health problems.
What is holding people back from good health and a decent life?

Decomposing the gap in health status between poorest and richest income quintiles over 36 European countries

- **10%** Inequity in access to and quality of health care
- **35%** Financial Insecurity ‘not being able to make ends meet’
- **29%** Poor quality housing and underdeveloped and unsafe neighborhoods
- **19%** Lack of trust, agency and sense of belonging + poor access and quality of education
- **7%** Lack of decent work and poor working conditions

% of the gap explained by differences in 5 factors, controlling for age & gender (based on analysis of EQLS 2003-2016)
How is COVID impacting health? the 3 main pathways

• Direct impacts on health and health inequities from **contracting COVID-19**

• Direct and indirect health impacts due to the COVID-19 **containment measures**

• Indirect impacts on health due to health-related **socioeconomic effects of lockdowns** measures

Figure: Mechanisms for the health and socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and its containment measures
Current Policy Challenges

- Compounding existing inequities in health within countries
- New health and economic vulnerabilities
- Increased insecurity in access to essential health goods and services
- Increased levels and concentration of unmet health and social needs
United in Action for Better Health for All