

GLOBAL EQUITY GAUGE ALLIANCE – FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION

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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the right to a healthy existence for all people. However, despite worldwide average gains in health and other social sectors, the widening inequities between rich and poor, the increase in poverty and declining health systems have meant that disadvantaged groups within developing and developed countries are not able to enjoy this right in any meaningful way.

A concern for growing inequities both within and between countries, exacerbated by an apparent lack of policy and practice attention to reducing these inequities, was the catalyst for the formation of the Global Equity Gauge Alliance (GEGA).

The Alliance comprises a network of Equity Gauges from Africa, Latin America and Asia that are made up of groups of national and sub-national level institutions aspiring to bridge the gap between research and action, and between communities and policy makers. The Gauges have shared principles and a common approach based on a combination of monitoring and measuring population health and identifying socioeconomic and other determinants at work; advocacy for pro-equity policy; and community participation. Monitoring and measurement provides an evidence base for Equity Gauge activities, advocacy is intended to motivate action by policy makers and increases accountability, and community empowerment is essential to creating a sustainable culture of expectation for equity in society.

This presentation will relate the goals, activities, and progress of the Gauges to date, and discuss the successes and challenges that have been encountered. Special attention will be given to common experiences among the Gauges. Current activities that describe GEGA's involvement in building capacity for others to develop Equity Gauges and in developing an effective global advocacy campaign through the Global Health Watch will also be discussed.