Expert Group Meeting on Data Disaggregation
27-29 June 2016
New York

WHO health inequality monitoring
at global and national levels

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World Health
Organization

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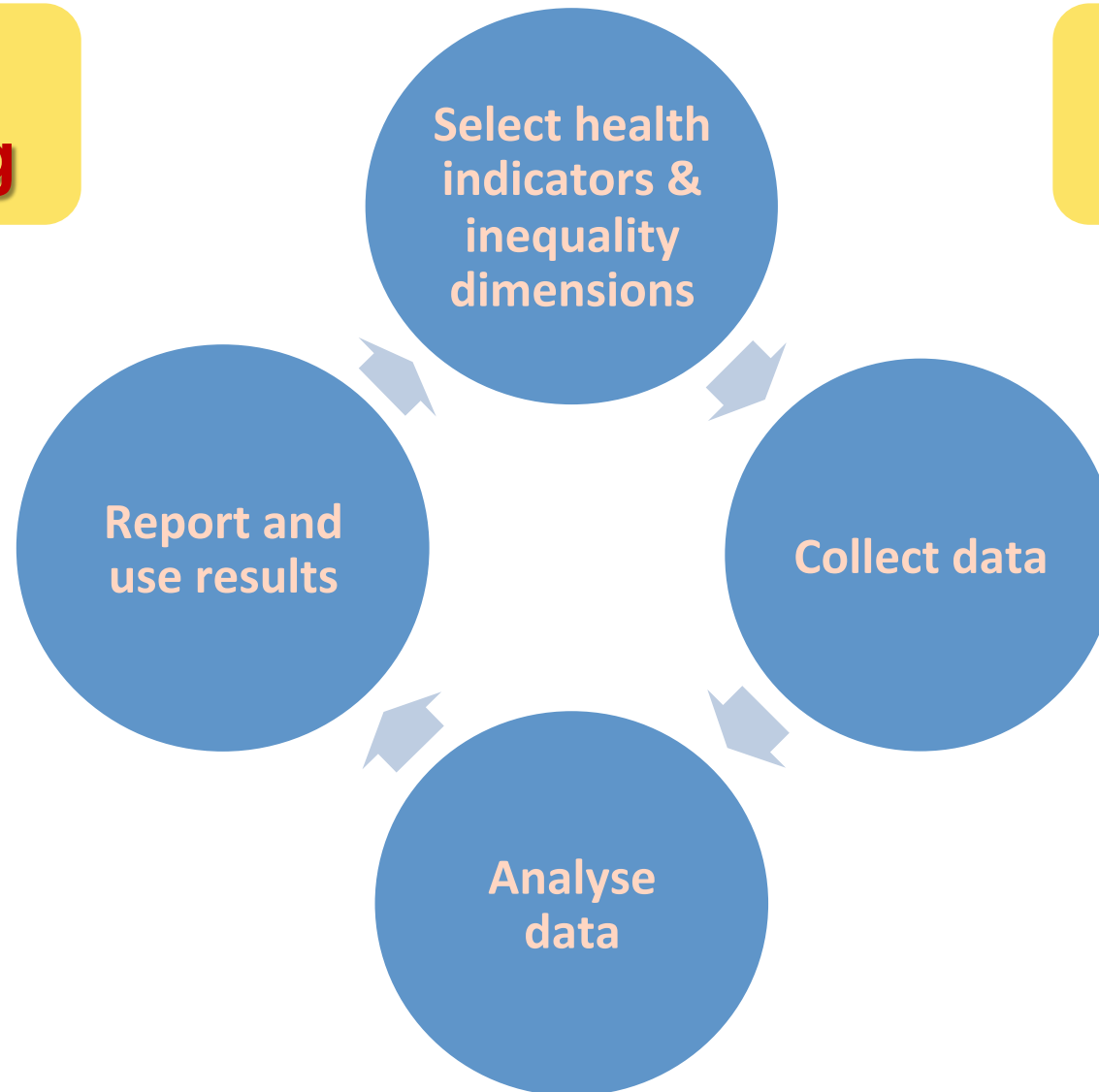
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Equity is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Agenda

- In pledging to achieve the SDGs, countries have committed to leave no one behind.

  – SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

  – SDG 5 Achieve gender equality

  – SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

  – SDG Target 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage

  – SDG Target 17.18 Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries to increase the availability of disaggregated data

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Health inequality monitoring is essential to achieve health equity

Global monitoring

National monitoring

- Select health indicators & inequality dimensions
- Collect data
- Analyse data
- Report and use results

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Health inequality monitoring: *Challenges*

- Indicators/dimensions selection
  - **What and how many indictors/dimensions?**
  - **Complexity of defining the disadvantaged population**

Metrics to Define Economic Status (as an example)

- Individual/household income

- Household expenditure

- Household assets

- Area-level measures e.g. deprivation index

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- Data collection
  - **Lacking data in many countries**

> **Data sources must contain both health indicators & inequality dimensions**

or

> **Possibility to link data sources must exist**

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Data availability for SDG3 indicators – WHS2016

Indicator topic		Country data availability	Disaggregation	Comparable estimates	Source estimates
3.1.1	Maternal mortality	Fair	Poor	Annual	UN MMEIG
3.1.2	Skilled birth attendance	Good	Fair	In preparation	UNICEF, WHO
3.2.1	Under-five mortality rate	Good	Fair	Annual	UN IGME
3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate	Good	Fair	Annual	UN IGME
3.3.1	HIV incidence	Fair	Fair	Annual	UNAIDS, WHO
3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence	Fair	Poor	Annual	WHO
3.3.3	Malaria incidence	Fair	Fair	Annual	WHO
3.3.4	Hepatitis B incidence	Poor	Poor	In preparation	WHO
3.3.5	People requiring interventions against NTDs	Good	Poor	Annual	WHO
3.4.1	Mortality due to NCDs	Fair	Poor	Every 2–3 years	WHO
3.4.2	Suicide mortality rate	Fair	Poor	Every 2–3 years	WHO
3.5.1	Treatment substance use disorders	Poor	Poor	Not available	UNODC, WHO
3.5.2	Harmful use of alcohol	Good	Fair	Annual	WHO
3.6.1	Road traffic injury deaths	Good	Poor	Every 2–3 years	WHO
3.7.1	Family planning	Fair	Fair	Annual	UN Population Division
3.7.2	Adolescent birth rate	Good	Fair	Annual	UN Population Division
3.8.1	Coverage index UHC	Fair	Poor	In preparation	WHO, World Bank
3.8.2	Financial protection	Poor	Poor	In preparation	WHO, World Bank
3.9.1	Mortality due to air pollution	Fair	Poor	Every 2–3 years	WHO
3.9.2	Mortality due to WASH	Fair	Poor	Every 2–3 years	WHO
3.9.3	Mortality due unintentional poisoning	Fair	Poor	Every 2–3 years	WHO
3.a.1	Tobacco use	Good	Fair	Every 2–3 years	WHO
3.b.1	Access to medicines and vaccines	Poor	Poor	Not available	WHO
3.b.2	ODA for medical research	Good	Not applicable	In preparation	OECD, WHO
3.c.1	Health workers	Fair	Poor	Not available	WHO
3.d.1	IHR capacity and emergency preparedness	Good	Not applicable	Not applicable	WHO

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  - **Data quality and harmonization issues**
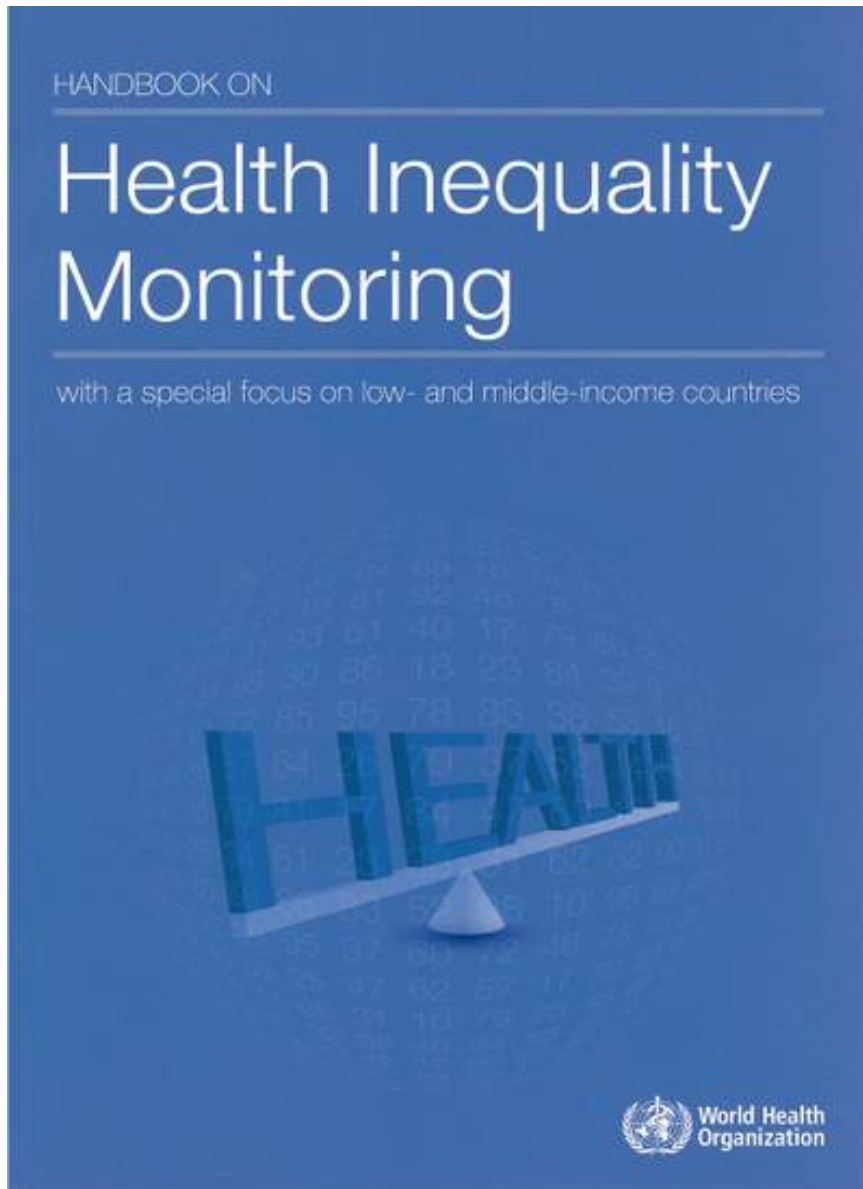
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- Data analysis
  - **Lacking capacity to calculate disaggregated estimates and summary measures of inequality**

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- Reporting
  - **Communicating complex and large amount of information to diverse audiences including policy makers**

Handbook and eLearning module on health inequality monitoring

WHO Global Health Observatory Health Equity Monitor

- **Global database on disaggregated health data**

- **Interactive visualizations including country profiles**

- **Other resources/tools/publications**

The Health Equity Assessment Toolkit (HEAT)

- Software to facilitate analysis, interpretation and reporting within-country inequalities

- Inequalities can be assessed using disaggregated data and 15 summary measures

- Available as an online application and as a standalone version for use offline

- The "Built-in Database Edition" uses data from the WHO Health Equity Monitor database

- The "Upload Database Edition" – under development - will allow users to upload and work with their own data

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WHO health inequality monitoring - references

- WHO Health Equity Monitor:

http://www.who.int/gho/health_equity/en/

- Hosseinpoor AR, Bergen N, Schlotheuber A. Promoting health equity: WHO health inequality monitoring at global and national levels. Global Health Action 2015, 8: 29034 - http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/gha.v8.29034

- The Health Equity Assessment Toolkit (HEAT):

http://www.who.int/gho/health_equity/assessment_toolkit/

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