

# The WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health: Key implementation challenges

## Forum: Towards Global Access to Health

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# WHO Commission on Social Determinants for Health: Goal

To increase vulnerable people's chances to be healthy by promoting a core emphasis on the social determinants of health in national policies, at WHO, and among global health actors

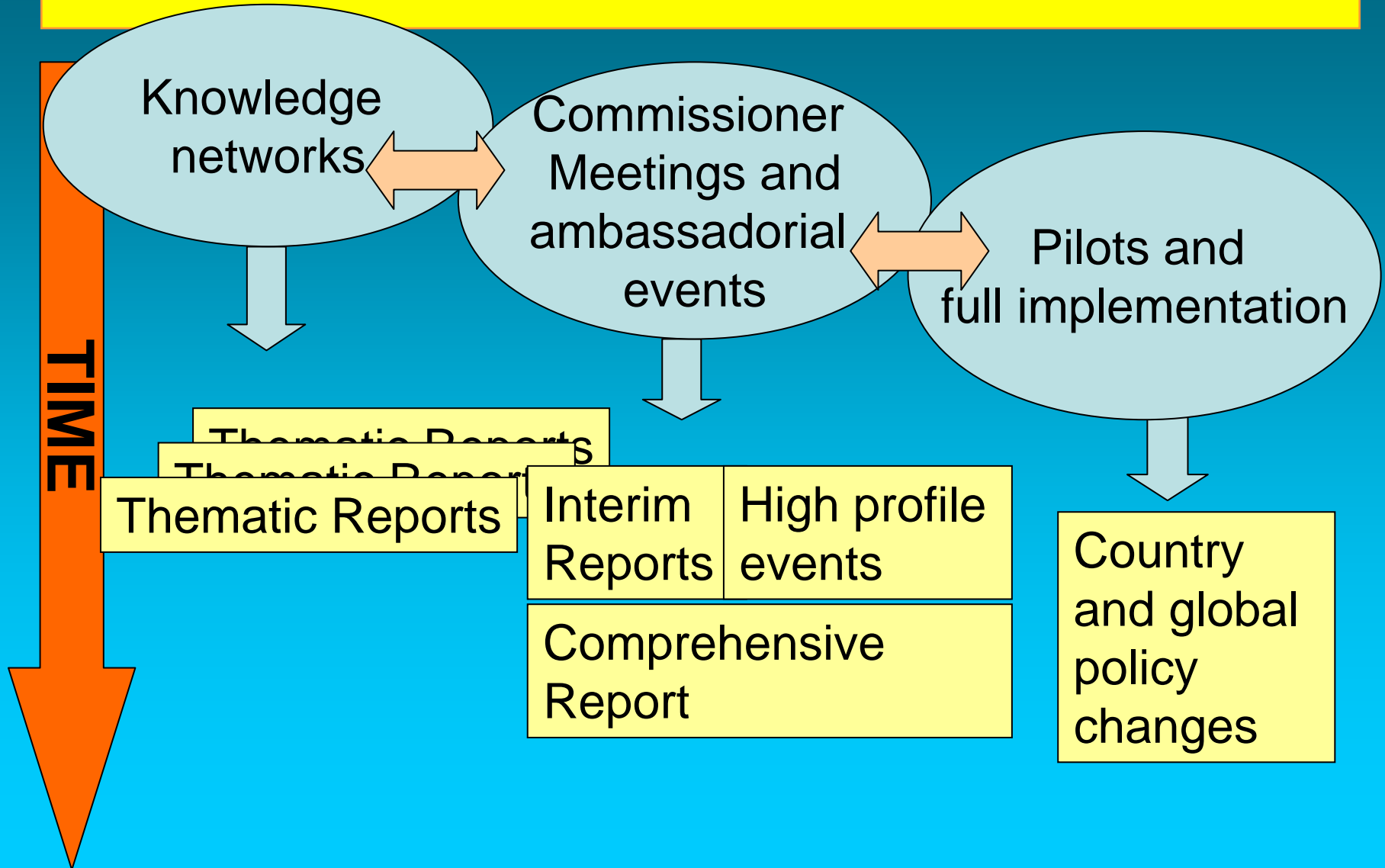
# Commission objectives UPDATE

1. Compile and analyse evidence, completing the picture on how social mechanisms shape health;
2. Develop a detailed inventory of successful policies;
3. Recommend policies tuned to countries' levels of economic development;
4. Propose steps for integrating social interventions to address determinants of health into national health ministries and broader governments;
5. Implement proposals, working with national and international constituencies.

# Strengths of the Commission

- Political leadership
- Scientifically rigorous research
- Moral vision and compelling communication

# Implementation strategy



# Criteria for success

- **Broad-spread participation:**
  - Institutions within countries
  - WHO engagement at all levels
  - UN and other global health initiatives
  - Active CSOs participation
- **High profile Commissioners**
  - Appealing to different audiences
- **Effective Communication Strategy**
  - Empowering people within countries
- **Finding practical solutions to improve social policies that managers can relate to**

# Ideological challenges:

- Again, comprehensive "vs" vertical approaches: transversal approaches?
- Role of knowledge and role of politics
- Equity and efficiency
- Role of the state, role of the individual/market
- Intrinsic and instrumental value of Health and Development: Human Rights
- Short term and long term approaches
- Reform or revolution?

# Political challenges

- Political power of those against vs. those in favour: coalitions?
- Political mapping: role of MoH, health staff, professional associations, private sector, CSOs, faith organizations, donors, media, PEOPLE
- Accountability and empowerment: democracy building
- Inequality, gobernability, social stability and economic growth
- Lack of security & war: fragile states

# Institutional challenges

- Institutional capacities in poor countries
- Is intersectorality feasible? At which level?
- Roles and capacities at central and local levels
- MoH capacity to lead other sectors
- Training and incentives of government staff for working in poorest areas
- Legal framework to enforce laws
- SWAps, harmonization and alignment of donors

# Financial challenges

- How much a SD approach will cost? Is it cheaper? Is it affordable? by whom?
- From where the money will come from?
- Making donors and recipients fulfilling MDG commitments
- National & international taxes.  
Philanthropy?
- Are CCTs the way forward?

# Knowledge challenges

- Which are the critical SDs affecting equality?  
Which is the role of health care?
- How to combine cost effectiveness with equity approaches?
- Are there universal recipes? Adapting knowledge to local context
- How to make health care programmes more pro poor?
- Understanding political and institutional issues from an historical & international perspective