# Country-report literature reviews

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# Purpose of the literature reviews

1. To establish **what is already known** about SDH and health inequalities in each INTREC country

2. To identify and learn about **groups, institutions, and key individuals** working in SDH

3. To identify **SDH-relevant policies** and forthcoming policy reviews

4. To provide a (further) **basis for discussion** during the stakeholder interviews/FGDs

# Rationale for the literature review

We don't want to re-invent the wheel: some needs assessment and other SDH-related work has already been done in the INTREC countries

Some of this will be of very high quality

They may have had more resources to research than we have: good sample of respondents, good analysis, limitations already thought through etc

So let's use what is already known!
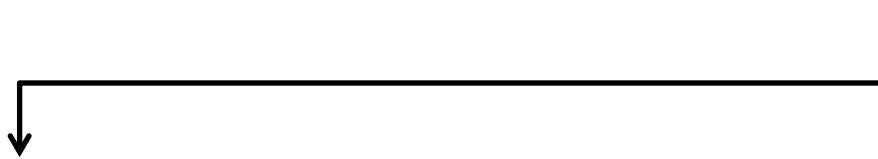
# Stage 1 – The Search

**Three different topic areas to be covered for each country**

   a) SDH country needs
   b) Ongoing work on SDH
   c) SDH policies and forthcoming policy reviews

- We are **<u>not</u>** conducting a Cochrane-style systematic review – no time for this, and insufficient resources anyway

- We will need to be **pragmatic** in approach

- Do not only search for 'Social Determinants of Health' – this term is not understood or used by everyone!

- Expand the search to include, for example, '*Health Inequalities*', '*Health Inequities*', '*Health Determinants*', '*Determinants of Disease*' etc, in your country

- Focus on reports and documents from 2005 to 2012 – not earlier, unless there is a really good reason

# Sources to include:

- NGO/Ministerial reports and policies
- International agency documentation (WHO/UNAIDS/ILO/UNICEF etc )
- Donor reports
- Peer-reviewed literature (*including from your own INDEPTH site*), via PubMed, Web of Science etc
- Grey literature
- Newspaper reports
- Books and book chapters
- Qualitative and quantitative approaches
- Material provided on your memory sticks

# a) SDH country needs

1.  Identify the **main SDH actors/institutions** in the country (online searches, word of mouth, your own knowledge etc)
2.  Identify the **main SDH documents** written to date in the country. Follow up the **reference lists** to identify more core documents on your country

(NB: 1 can inform 2, and 2 can inform 1 – this should be an **iterative** process)

# SDH country needs (cont)

3.  Find the **Executive Summaries** or abstracts (if they exist) of all documents identified

4.  **Extract** the main findings (i.e. SDH needs and recommended actions), and put them into the table template

5.  Stop when you reach **saturation** (or contact your RC if you think you have, or will identify too much material to analyse)

# SDH country needs - Table template

| Reference / title of article | Name and contact details of first (or other main) author | Objective of study | Methods | Findings | Recomm-endations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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# b) Ongoing work on SDH

1. As with the 'SDH country needs' above, identify the **main SDH actors/institutions** in the country (online searches, word of mouth, your own knowledge etc)
2. Find recent **annual reports** and similar types of documents
3. Identify their **core areas of work**, possible **alliances** with other groups, **accomplishments**, and **future aims**
4. Fill in the table template

# Ongoing work on SDH – Table template

| Name of group/ institution/ actor | Web address, and name and contact details of key person/ people | Mission of group/ institution | Core area of work, and possible alliances | Accomplish-ments, future aims |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
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# c) SDH policies and forthcoming policy reviews

1. Identify and **obtain copies** (soft, if possible) of all relevant Ministry of Health policy documentation

2. Check outside MoH for **other sectors** that may have SDH-relevant policies

3. Ask informants during interviews for information about additional policies and **forthcoming policy reviews** (both in the health sector and elsewhere)

# SDH policies and forthcoming policy reviews (cont)

4. **Review policies** for any SDH-related issues – explicitly stated or not

5. Assess, to the extent possible, which groups and institutions have interests in the policy, in **opposition or support**. Identify what they have at stake in the policies.

6. **Complete table** for each SDH-relevant policy

# SDH policies and policy reviews – Table template

| Responsible Ministry | Name and year of policy document | SDH-relevant components (incl. details of actions, people affected, etc) | Groups/ individuals in support of policy, and why | Groups/ individuals in opposition to policy, and why | Policy review date (if known) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
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- Keep soft copies of all documents carefully filed on your laptop

- Do these activities simultaneously with the curricular review. Many paths will cross, so always look out for added value in both literature and curricular reviews!

- Stage 1 (except for information collected during stakeholder interviews) to be completed by **March 16** (= 3 weeks after ISS training)

# Stage 2 - Analysis

- A **narrative text** will be written outlining the main findings from the material collected

- Will include a **synthesis and summary** of the main points in the three tables:

  1. Core SDH issues in the country

  2. Main SDH actors in the country

  3. Relevant SDH policies, including identification of interested parties and any forthcoming policy reviews

- To be written in close contact with Regional Coordinator and Raman Preet

- Depending on the literature obtained, we may structure the literature review in two parts:
    1. Broad national level review
    2. Deeper analysis from the local level

# Product of the literature review:

1. Narrative text, for country report
2. 1 page summary for discussion in interviews/FGDs

Be sure to use your own knowledge of your country as you work

You are already an expert, so use this knowledge!

# A couple of tips:

Two very good NGOs working towards eliminating health inequities:

- Tanzania and South Africa should check out EQUINET

- India should check out SATHI (Support for Advocacy and Training to Health Initiatives)

# A final, very, very, very important word:

*Back up **all** your INTREC work (on your memory stick and/or by emailing it to yourself) **AT LEAST** once a week, and keep the extra version apart from your laptop!*

# OK,
## the clock is ticking!