## HOW DO SOCIAL DETERMINANTS INFLUENCE HEALTH?

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#### Examples of social determinants of health



#### Social determinants of health: education



## Effects of education on health



## Some relevant pathways

Substantial evidence that education has a positive effect on:

- Not smoking
- Physical activity
- Use of preventative health care
- Use of specialist health care
- Good management of chronic health conditions

Feinstein et al. "What are the effects of education on health?" in R. Desjardins and T. Schuller (eds) Measuring the Effects of Education on Health and Civic Engagement: Proceedings of the Copenhagen Symposium, OECD, 2006.



Links between parental education and child mortality

#### Pathway: education & child mortality



Common causes of child mortality in low or middle income countries

Neonatal conditions

Pneumonia

- 🗆 Diarrhoea
- 🗆 Malaria
- Measles

#### Social determinants of health: place



## Impact of urbanization on health



#### Social determinants of health: environment



# Social determinants of health: exclusion and discrimination



### Interaction of social determinants





# Examining social determinants of health of non-communicable disease

#### Prevention of non-communicable diseases

- 80% of non-communicable diseases could be prevented through primary prevention particularly modifying:
  - tobacco consumption;
  - fat, alcohol and salt intake;
  - preventing obesity;
  - improving environmental conditions.

Commission on Social Determinants of Health, Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health: Commission on Social Determinants of Health final report. Geneva: WHO; 2008.

## Health risks related to obesity

- Type 2 diabetes
- Coronary heart disease
- Hypertension
- Cancer
- □ Etc.

### Exercise "The causes of the causes"

Four groups

Examine the determinants and the "causes of the causes" of obesity

Analysis: multilevel social ecological model

## Social ecological model

Lifecours

Structural conditions & public policy

Living & working conditions

Social, family & community Individual behaviour

Biological



- Social determinants have a profound impact on health outcomes
- Social determinants interact with each other and with other determinants of health
- In order to promote health equity we need to address social inequity and the "causes of the causes".