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The renewed public health policy in Sweden

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Health in All Policies at times of COVID-19, 2021-01-26

Social Determinants of Health

- The past 15-20 years, SDoH has become established as *the* framework for understanding health inequity
 - A range of conditions affect health throughout life
 - These conditions are unequally distributed
- This view has been a key part of Swedish public health policy since 2002
- Still, inequalities in health have increased...

The Swedish public health framework 2.0

- Reformulated in 2018 by decision in Parliament
 - Government Bill based on the proposals from the Swedish Commission for Health Equity
- Over-arching objective with two parts:
 - To create societal conditions for good and equitable health in the whole population, and
 - Closing the avoidable health gaps in a generation

Eight objective areas

- Eight areas, across a range of sectors, are pointed out as important for interventions and follow-up
- The areas reflect conditions and opportunities that are important for people's health and well-being across the life-course
- More equal *conditions* and *opportunities* across these areas will bring reduced health inequalities



Good and equal health – Eight key areas of life

Illustration: Folkhälsomyndigheten

How does this work so far?

- Some momentum has been gained:
 - The inclusion of a time-frame makes the goal clearer
 - The new role for the Public Health Agency important
 - Additional work on a support structure for monitoring and follow-up is promising
- Still a challenge to catch the attention in other sectors
- The alignment to the 2030 Agenda is helpful
 - New goal for the implementation taken by parliament

Public health during the pandemic

- Public health has been pushed to the forefront
 - Covid has demonstrated the links between health, work, welfare systems and economic performance
 - An opportunity to use these insights also for NCDs
- The Swedish Public Health Agency has actively used the wider policy framework for their Covid recommendations

Concluding remarks

- The SDoH successful in principle, but less so in practice
 - Difficult to communicate to other sectors
 - Unspecific recommendations, lack of priority-settings
- This apply to Sweden as well, but small steps of change can be noted, some reasons include:
 - A slightly different narrative in new framework
 - A new goal with a specific time-frame
- The pandemic has demonstrated the interdependencies

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Thank you!