

GEGA has adopted the  
2015 Development Goal

By the year 2015 every country should have an integrated system for monitoring health inequities that informs, tracks and evaluates health and other socio-economic policies.

#### GEGA's values and commitments

- Promoting social justice based on fair global and national political, economic, and social structures
- Establishing a scientific foundation for proactive advocacy, policies, and programs
- Elucidating the causes of health inequalities both within and between countries
- Promoting capacity development tools for health equity research and policy
- Providing decision-makers with information and concrete suggestions to reduce health inequities
- Increasing availability of public information on equity-related issues

GEGA will achieve these goals through activities falling into two broad areas:

#### \*Support and enhance the effectiveness of its Equity Gauge projects through

- Technical support
- Regional networks and workshops, annual meetings, and on-going exchange fora
- Creation of capacity development tools

#### \*Support the global health equity agenda through development of a

- Global Equity Gauge
- Global GEGA Network

# GEGA

The Global Equity Gauge Alliance participates in and supports an active approach to monitoring health inequalities and promoting equity within and between societies through advocacy and community participation.



#### Contact Information

**Email:** [secretariat@gega.org.za](mailto:secretariat@gega.org.za)

**Web:** <http://www.gega.org.za>

**Tel:** (+27) 031 307-2954

**Fax:** (+27) 031 304-0775

**Mail:** PO Box 808  
Durban, 4000  
South Africa

**Physical address:** 401 Maritime House  
Salmon Grove  
Victoria Embankment  
Durban 4001  
South Africa



DRIVING **SO**CIAL JUSTICE BY LINKING  
HEALTH **RE**SEARCH TO GLOBAL,  
NATIONAL, AND LOCAL **AC**TION

PROOF

GEGA is an action-based organisation focusing on policy-oriented monitoring and remediation of health inequities at all levels of society.

### GEGA's Concept of Health Equity

GEGA places health development squarely within a larger framework of *social justice*. While some health variations between people are inevitable, e.g. that the elderly generally have worse health than the young, many health inequalities are associated with unjust conditions and processes. Such inequalities cut across all societies, and are associated with underlying political, economic and cultural influences.

GEGA strives toward a world in which disadvantaged populations (whether defined by gender, race-ethnicity, socio-economic class or residence) can better achieve their full health potential, and calls for affirmative and preferential action when those with the poorest health face unjust obstacles to achieving that potential.

### What is an Equity Gauge?

An *Equity Gauge* is a health development project that uses an *active* approach to monitoring and addressing inequity in health and health care. It moves beyond a mere description of equity indicators to concrete actions designed to effect real and sustained change.

The *Equity Gauge Strategy* is based on three pillars, each equally important and essential to a successful outcome:

- > **Research & monitoring** to measure and describe health inequalities and injustices
- > **Advocacy and public participation** to promote the use of information to guide and effect change
- > **Community involvement** of marginalized groups, to promote their role as active agents rather than passive recipients

### Gauge Activities

Approaches to research & monitoring include analysis of secondary data sets, undertaking primary research, and incorporating new equity-relevant measures into existing surveys. The Gauges choose health indicators according to their goals and needs, measured across a variety of dimensions of health, including

- > **Health status**
- > **Health care access, quality, financing and resource allocation**
- > **PROGRESS variables:**
  - Place of residence
  - Religion
  - Occupation
  - Gender
  - Race/ethnicity
  - Education
  - Socio-economic status
  - Social Networks/capital

> **Other health determinants**  
 These findings are then translated into specific policy recommendations and strategic health interventions.

Some Gauges incorporate a **training** component while others are developing more transparent, accountable health **resource allocation formulas**. Information dissemination activities include **workshops, community meetings, publications, and media outlets**.

Gauge participants currently include over 100 experts & leaders. Institutions involved in the Gauges include:

- Ministries of Health and other social sectors
- Women's and Indigenous People's organisations
- Public and private research and academic institutions
- Community based health organisations
- Local governments
- Legislators
- Religious organisations and churches
- Public and Private Policy Institutes

The Equity Gauges	
Country	Goals
Bangladesh	Develop a national health equity monitoring system; increase public awareness about health inequities; support timely policy development.
South Africa, Cape Town	Develop a strategy for equitable resource allocation among 11 health districts in Cape Town Metropole.
Burkina Faso	To use outreach activities and community mobilisation to improve health and reduce infant and child mortality in disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods of Ouagadougou.
Chile	Develop a system for monitoring health at the national, regional, and county level; redesign key household surveys to include equity-sensitive indicators; generate "policy levers" to influence policy.
China	Establish the China Health Surveillance System (CHSS), an equity-sensitive health monitoring system, in 9 provinces; use the findings to generate and effectively disseminate information to shape policy.
Ecuador	Use participatory methods to monitor and build equality in health in El Tambo, a municipality with a high indigenous population.
Kenya	Document health inequities between residents of Nairobi slums and better-off residents, disseminate findings to key decision-makers, and foster policy formulation and implementation to reduce those health gaps.
South Africa	Monitor core indicators for assessing progress towards equity in health care provision; facilitate use of information by national and provincial legislators and local government.
Thailand	Monitor equity in health and health care at the national, regional and provincial levels; facilitate the use of equity measures to monitor equity policy and implementation; establish provincial networks for exchange.
Uganda	Monitor equity dimensions of the health sector at the national, district, & community levels; create mechanisms for evaluation of the Health Sector Strategic Plan.
Zambia	Document health disparities & disseminate findings to policymakers; advocate for and monitor the effects of policies on equity in health and health services.
Zimbabwe	Articulate equity demands and enhance public participation and accountability in the health budget allocation process.