



# SHEM HIGHLIGHTS



Member of the  
PLANETARY HEALTH ALLIANCE



## Advancing Sustainable Health Equity: From Global Rhetoric to Measurable Transformation

Juan Garay - SHEM CO-CHAIR

The WHO World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity (2025) reaffirms the global commitment to reducing health disparities driven by social, economic, and political inequalities. While the report offers a robust ethical and conceptual foundation, it lacks the operationalization of clear thresholds, rigorous metrics, and actionable redistribution strategies. The Sustainable Health Equity Movement (SHEM), through its international webinar series, has fostered a participatory dialogue and developed a comprehensive suite of analyses, publications, and proposals to address these limitations and guide a new era of measurable and accountable health equity. First, clear ecological and economic thresholds must be established. These include caps on income inequality (such as minimum and maximum GDP per capita/income ratios) and ecological ceilings within planetary boundaries. Second, health equity models must evolve beyond the unsustainable paradigms often derived from high-income countries, identifying alternative, replicable, and sustainable development and wellbeing references. Third, SHEM underscores the imperative to define and implement fair fiscal redistribution levels, both within and between countries. Achieving health equity requires more than progressive discourse; it demands concrete redistributive targets. Ethical redistribution must simultaneously address national and global inequalities, advocating for financial transparency, debt justice, equitable trade, and fair climate financing mechanisms. To integrate these dimensions, SHEM proposes the Fair Wellbeing Index (FWI) as an alternative. While the WHO report sets an essential agenda, the SHEM proposals delineate a pathway from aspiration to implementation.

*"Let's take decisive action now! By embedding clear thresholds, rigorous burden assessments, redistributive targets, and the Fair Wellbeing Index, we can propel the global community towards a sustainable and just future. Together, we can turn equity from an ideal into a quantifiable and achieved reality."* **Juan Garay**

[Call to action on social determinants of health](#)

[Identifying international sustainable health models.](#)

[World report on social determinants of health equity: executive summary.](#)

[SHEM ethics and metrics webinar series](#)



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## News from the field

### CIVIL SOCIETY URGES ACTION ON STRUCTURAL HEALTH INEQUITIES

In the face of escalating global crises, civil society organizations have emphasized the failure of international responses to effectively address the structural roots of health inequities, roots deeply intertwined with geopolitical and economic interests that often disregard human dignity. Wars and conflicts are stark examples of how geopolitical agendas compromise public health. [ActionAid](#) has denounced the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, where more than 50 days have passed without the entry of humanitarian aid. The blockade has led to soaring food prices and severe shortages, with the destruction of agricultural infrastructure pushing thousands of children into acute malnutrition and leaving hospitals unable to care for pregnant women, individuals with chronic illnesses, and the wounded. Similarly, [CARE](#) has raised alarms over the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where millions have been displaced due to ongoing conflict. The organization highlighted the severe challenges in delivering aid amidst insecurity and called for concerted efforts to secure lasting peace. [Médecins Sans Frontières](#) has condemned the indiscriminate bombing campaigns by Russian forces in Ukraine, which continue to strike hospitals, schools, residential buildings, and civilian infrastructure, causing mass casualties. In Sudan, [CARE](#) is actively providing essential health and nutrition services to women and children displaced by conflict. The collapse of healthcare services and widespread malnutrition have deepened the crisis, leaving many without access to life-saving support. Beyond the realm of armed conflict, political decisions at the national level...

Continue reading [here](#)

## READINGS

[Understanding the health impacts of the climate crisis](#)

[If not now, then when? Reimagining global health equity](#)

## VIDEO

[Migration, refuge and global health](#)

## PODCAST

[No one wants to depend on aid, including refugees](#)

[Is it time to declare a humanitarian crisis in the US?](#)



# HEALTH EQUITY AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH




**Partners Meeting on Health Equity and the Right to Health**

An opportunity for mutual learning, to inform our strategies and identify avenues for collaboration

-  Share knowledge and experience of partners' health equity and right to health communications and advocacy actions
-  Identify good practices that could maximize our effectiveness in promoting health equity and the right to health
-  Grow and deepen relationships to strengthen movement-building for health equity and right to health

| DATE & TIME                           | LOCATION                                                                                                  | JOIN US VIRTUALLY                                         |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, 20 May 2025<br>16:00 – 17:30 | Campus Biotech Innovation Park,<br>Newton Room (Ground Floor)<br>Avenue de Sécheron 15, CH-1202<br>Geneva | On Zoom:<br>Meeting ID: 897 0143 1414<br>Passcode: 888889 |

**RSVP** EMAIL TO CONFIRM IN PERSON ATTENDANCE  
Connect@fchalliance.org







In the lead-up to the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA78), the Framework Convention on Global Health Alliance and the Alliance for Health Promotion, are convening a partners meeting, co-sponsored by SHEM, in Geneva to strengthen advocacy, coordination, and movement-building for health equity and the right to health. This gathering aims to provide a platform for civil society organizations to share their experiences, successes, and challenges. It will be a crucial opportunity for mutual learning, strategy refinement, and identifying collaborative opportunities as we prepare for the battles ahead.

**When:** Tuesday, 20 May 2025 from 16:00 – 17:30

**Where:** Campus Biotech Innovation Park, Newton Room (Ground Floor), Avenue de Sécheron 15, CH-1202, Geneva

**Join virtually on zoom:**

Meeting ID: 897 0143 1414

Passcode: 888889

## POINT OF VIEW

### SHEM MEMBERS' WRITINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**In Loving Memory of José “Pepe” Mujica (1935–2025)**

**The U.S. Government and the World Health Organization**

**Big Decisions Loom for Global Health at the 78th World Health Assembly**

**Countries finalize historic pandemic agreement**

**JOIN SHEM**

**[sustainablehealthequity.org](https://sustainablehealthequity.org)**

**[shequitymov](https://shequitymov)**

**[SustainableHealthEquity](https://SustainableHealthEquity)**

At SHEM we link citizens, public health and healthcare advocates, scientists, academics, and related institutions from all regions, cultures, and ideologies pursuing the universal right to health. We aim to promote sustainable health equity as an ethical principle that guides all national and international economic, social, and environmental policies.

**SHEM's Highlights Curators: Andre Luis Sales, Diana Zeballos, Gustavo Buss**

## MUST ATTEND

### SHEM CURATED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

**A climate for change: Towards just taxation for climate finance**

As climate breakdown and inequality accelerate, the climate justice and tax justice movements share a mission: to secure public funds for a just transition, not through charity, but through fair and effective taxation. At this critical juncture of UN tax negotiations and Brazil's COP30 presidency, the Climate for Change conference will gather researchers, activists, and policymakers to align fiscal and climate agendas. Co-hosted by UNICAMP's Institute of Economics, Inesc, the Brazilian Tax System Observatory, Red de Justicia Fiscal, Transforma, and the Tax Justice Network, the event takes place **13–14 October 2025 at UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil**, with livestream access.

**[Register here](#)**