



HEALTH EQUITY NETWORK  
OF THE AMERICAS

# FACT SHEET

## SHARING KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTION

### MISSION

To promote knowledge sharing and intersectoral action for health equity and human rights as priority issues in the Americas.

### VISION

An intersectoral network dedicated to promoting health equity and equality in the Americas, especially for vulnerable populations.

### HENA CORE FUNCTIONS

- I. Disseminate knowledge related to: a) health inequities and human rights in populations living in situations of vulnerability; and b) policies and programs in the pursuit of health equity.
- II. Provide avenues to access and utilize this knowledge through HENA advocacy efforts.

### GOALS

- I. To **identify, promote, and share** health equity policies and practices based on a human rights approach
- II. To **encourage action** on promoting health equity through policies and practices that consider social determinants of health and human rights;
- III. To **monitor progress** and impact of health-related policies.

## CURRENT POLICY FOCUS AREAS

### GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY

HENA **advances** the adoption of policies that encourage gender equality and equity, such as the reduction of domestic violence and violence against women, protection of sexual and reproductive rights, and equal access to health care, and more.

### AT-RISK POPULATIONS

HENA **advocates** for policy change positively impacting at-risk populations, specifically immigrant and Indigenous peoples, as well as racial/ethnic minorities. HENA work will include a focus on policies that prevent racial discrimination; honor ancestral heritage; promote equal treatment and health care access for historically marginalized communities.

## HENA IN THE HEALTH EQUITY POLICY LANDSCAPE

HENA focuses its energy on research, policy, and advocacy work. HENA shares knowledge and resources promoting policy and action through 1) hosting convenings in the Americas and the Caribbean; 2) publishing research in scholarly journals; 3) conducting policy analyses to assess laws that impact health equity; and 4) briefing policymakers on the findings of these analyses. HENA is widely promoting policy recommendations from the PAHO Commission on Equity and Inequalities in the Americas upcoming report.

## HENA MEMBERSHIP

The foundation of HENA is made up of experts from 26 countries and organizations representing non-governmental organizations, civil society, academia and government agencies. These organizations include: FEIM (Argentina); CARICOM (Caribbean Community); University College of London's Institute of Health Equity (England); Cayetano Heredia University (Peru); University of Costa Rica (Costa Rica); Collaborative Group for Health Equity in Latin America (Tulane University, US); FIOCRUZ (Brazil); CARE (Peru); CLADEM; Satcher Health Leadership Institute (US); the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (US) and more.

## HENA HISTORY

Summit 2017: Health Equity in the Americas took place in Cuernavaca, Mexico where health equity experts convened to identify strategies to address health disparities across gender, race, ethnicity, and other social determinants of health. Participants pledged to *Collaborate, Build Power, and Take Action* and began work to bring HENA to life.

## HENA WEBSITE

[HealthEquityAmericas.org](http://HealthEquityAmericas.org)

## HENA CONTACT

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