

## WHO WE ARE



— CHAIN, the Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research brings together academia, public health experts, the UN system and civil society organisations to examine the causes and extent of health inequalities and identify solutions to decrease disparities. It aims to empower governments, businesses and societies to act on evidence-based solutions to increase health equity.

— The centre emerged in 2017 from a collaboration between a cross-disciplinary research group on health inequalities at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and UNICEF Norway. Since then, CHAIN has grown and expanded. It now brings together researchers from many regions and disciplines to advance health inequalities research, with a specific focus on children's health.



## Contact



[www.NTNU.edu/CHAIN](http://www.NTNU.edu/CHAIN)



CHAIN brings together **health inequality researchers** all over the world.

It focuses on going beyond simply exploring health inequalities to identifying and develop **effective interventions and policies.**

# Our mission

Our mission is to create a global transformation in actionable health inequalities research. The centre's objectives are to:

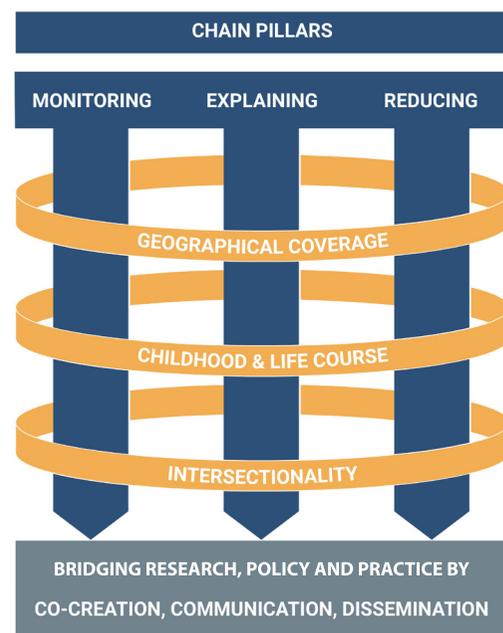
**Monitor** health inequalities between and within countries.

**Explain** variations of health inequalities in time and space.

**Reduce** health inequalities.

**Bridge** the gap between research, policy and practice.

**Develop** the next generation of health inequalities researchers.



# Our work

CHAIN identifies and analyses the most important determinants of health inequalities in different contexts, and the policy and responses that are most effective in reducing them.

To do this, we:

**Collect** and **harmonise** data on health inequalities and their determinants covering all world regions.

**Assess** the magnitude of health inequalities and identify their causal drivers.

**Identify** policy and programme interventions that are effective in reducing inequalities in health.

**Focus** on dissemination, knowledge transfer and translation of findings in the fields of health, environment, social and corporate policy. This work is led by EuroHealthNet and UNICEF Norway, and includes capacity building activities, policy exchanges at local, national and international levels and general communication activities.

# The Global Burden of Health Inequalities (GBHI) data warehouse

CHAIN's data warehouse will compile and provide access to individual-level data on inequalities in health by socioeconomic position and by their determinants in as many countries as possible. The data warehouse will cover all world regions, and will serve as the basis for new research on explaining and reducing health inequalities.

For morbidity, the warehouse will include all internationally harmonised surveys that have included measures of socioeconomic status, health and their

social determinants, including the World Health Survey (WHS) and the European Social Survey. Because rich data on determinants rarely exist in combination with rich data on health outcomes, CHAIN will develop a comparable social health survey to be delivered across countries in both the global North and the global South.

For mortality, CHAIN aims to expand its existing database from the EU-funded Demetriq project with similar data from non-European countries. For this, the centre relies on census-linked mortality data, and on demographic and health surveys, as well as other databases. Coverage over the life-span is increased by adding data on inequalities in mortality, self-reported health and health determinants among children.



As part of its research into **health inequalities worldwide**, CHAIN examines how disparities are influenced by welfare policies, social, economic and material factors, lifestyle factors, childhood conditions, working conditions, unemployment, housing conditions and health care.

We leverages knowledge from its **interdisciplinary network** spanning

health, social factors, technology, human development, and policy, to produce innovative research and evidence to address gaps in our current evidence base.

CHAIN emphasises the **developmental origins** of health inequalities and the importance of health in the **early years** as a driver of lifelong productivity and wellbeing.

# CHAIN's key activities include:

Studying lifesaving **technological advances** and their effects on health inequalities.

Examining why social inequalities in health persist in **European welfare states** and what can be done to reduce them.

Investigating the impact of **international trade on labour market conditions** and how trade can impact health through labour market pathways.

Exploring social and environmental inequalities in **child development**, as well as developing a strategic framework for protecting children's environmental health.

Evaluating interventions and improving the effectiveness of health systems in terms of **cancer mortality** with the International Agency for Research in Cancer (IARC).

Collaborating with the European Social Survey (ESS), through which CHAIN created a **pan-European dataset** on the determinants of health and health inequalities.

Estimating the **global burden of disease attributable to social and economic factors** in collaboration with the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's Global Burden of Disease study.

**Disseminating and communicating**, in partnership with EuroHealthNet and UNICEF Norway, the latest evidence on health inequalities to research partners, policymakers, students, and the general public.



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