

The Role of Advocacy for Equity at the Regional Level – The Case of EQUINET

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EQUINET

The Regional Network for Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET) is dedicated to influencing and supporting national and regional policies and practices of the countries of east and southern Africa to promote equity in health. It does so by networking professionals, civil society members, policy makers and state officials to promote policies for equity in health. EQUINET commissions, supports and undertakes research, carries out and builds capacities for policy analysis, initiates conferences, workshops and dialogue (including through email and internet), builds and mentors research and implementation capacities, and publishes and disseminates information.

EQUINET's work

EQUINET has pursued work in areas where evidence is needed to support equitable public policy (including the social action that drives it) and where debate exists on paths to improving health equity. This work is co-coordinated by twelve lead institutions in east and southern Africa. EQUINET has also supported country level networking on equity in health as well as alliances with parliaments and civil society on equity in health. EQUINET's work is focused on gathering evidence, promoting options and supporting capacities for:

- Values-based leadership for equity and social justice in health;
- Building equitable, national, people-centered health systems that secure the universal right to health, and that value and entitle people;
- Raising investments in the state and public sector in health, fair financing for health, with mechanisms to ensure universality, solidarity, transparency and equitable allocation of resources;

- Ethical and equitable human resource policies at national, regional and international levels;
- The expansion of access to anti-retroviral therapy as an urgent priority, through approaches that strengthen public health systems;
- Democratic and accountable states with full authority to exercise the policy measures necessary to protect the health of people, and effective participatory mechanisms for public and stakeholder contribution to decision making in health;
- Regional integration and co-operation within Africa to advance the health of people and challenge injustices to health;
- Economic and trade policies that promote public interests in health.

EQUINET has built a consistent Programme of Work (PoW) over eight years in support of policy commitments to equity in health. PoW is community, nationally and regionally focused. It is driven by public interest, and seeks to inform and support critical actors in health.

EQUINET publications

The EQUINET newsletter provides monthly briefings on work published and underway on equity in health, also on activities, opinions and policy debates. Our website is updated regularly with EQUINET publications.

For further information on EQUINET please contact the secretariat - Training and Research Support Centre (TARSC) Zimbabwe at this email: admin@equinetafrica.org and website: www.equinetafrica.org.