

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
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THE NETWORK
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Facultad de Medicina



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Content

INTRODUCTION The health of individuals and populations is influenced by a complex network of social, political, economic and environmental factors. The term intersectoral action for health is often used to describe how the health sector works with other governmental and non-state sectors to improve health and well-being, address the complex risk factors for health and ensure full access to health and health equity. I examined how intersectoral action for health is initiated and implemented at a local level, contrasting this to national experiences, and describes challenges and facilitating factors that local governments may encounter in this process. **METHODS** Both issue specific and broad intersectoral action approaches at the local government level **RESULTS** The 25 local government cases represent 19 countries from the World Health Organization regions of the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South-East Asia and Western Pacific. **CONCLUSIONS** There is little evidence on the long-term efficiency of intersectoral action for health on health outcomes, but it is valuable as a participatory and broad-based process. Intersectoral policies are complex and require the input of several different sectors, both horizontally and vertically, and careful consideration of equity. It may not yet be fully clear how sustainable health development through intersectoral action for health can be achieved, but it must be achieved at the local level if it is to be achieved at national and global levels. Local government, as the level of government closest to the people, can play an important role in mobilizing and responding to the public to promote sustainable health outcomes.