



Intergenerational Relationships in Ageing Societies

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Intergenerational solidarity

- No less difficult concept than „justice“ etc.
- Limited role of scientific evidence - Value-based and cultural issue (Does exist „ideal“ level of interdependence? Is interdependence good or bad?)
- Strong public support, but difficult to translate into concrete policy



Intergenerational relationships

- Macro x micro level (social transfers, community and family ties)
- „Intergenerational politics“ – (more oriented on family and individual, or generations/social groups and income „solidarity“ within and between them)
- Part of social cohesion (a sign or source)?
- Is „age-friendliness“ and age-inclusive society alternative concept or part of the concept?
- In which areas „generations“ have real relevance as policy issues?



Intergenerational relationships and „absolute“ and „relative“ ageing

- Challenge of structure, challenge of numbers – more frail people, people with dementia
- Statistical (demographic) age ratios x economic, social ratios – key to address social, economic (health, educational) ageing („real“ ratios)
- „Sandwich generation“ (unsupported by evidence) - concepts mongering
- „Dependence on care“ - social and cultural construct (what we see as positive or negative)



Age groups or ageing?

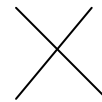
- Are there interests of „age groups“?
- Is ageing about older people, children, women, families? What then means „ageing mainstreaming“?
- It is NOT about choice between age groups, it is about linkages important for well-being of all individuals and communities across life course.
- Ageing is about human life and human societies and communities. Populations are people with values, priorities and options for policies...



Intergenerational political and media discourse

Public health success
(opportunity, reform,
investment)

Pension and
health (fiscal)
time bomb
(reform of
financing)





Intergenerational relationships in changing contexts



X



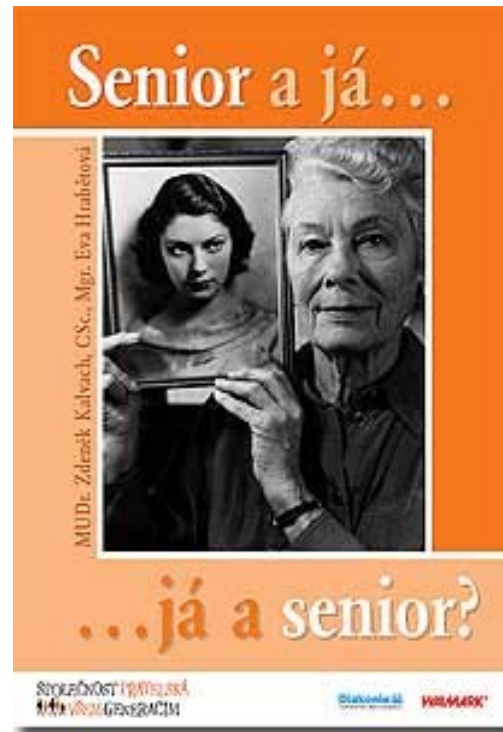
pension, health system, labour market, family...



Intergenerational political and media discourse

Presenting PAYG health and pension system as intergenerational redistribution (technically) or as social insurance with income „solidarity“ („philosophically“) plays major role....

Image of ageing



Portraying ageing as crisis is against MIPPA intention to address opportunities and promote human-rights



Rethinking „ageing and family“

- „Older persons“ are often isolated as group outside family and other contexts (e.g. 2nd demographic forum: „Better societies for families and older persons“) x Ageing families (communities) etc.
- In relation to ageing, family requires re-thinking no less than social protection, health, education, environment and other issues



Is ageing about older persons?

- What is international policy on ageing about? What is relation between population and human rights issues?
- Is „society for all ages“ about equality between age groups or about adjusting to ageing for the benefit of whole societies?
- Can adjusting to ageing be possible without meeting major potential and needs of seniors (ourselves in seniors years)?



Human rights and ageing?

- Ageing as result of development x as challenge for development (= need for policy FOR development)
- Demographic ageing is not only reason to address human rights of seniors internationally (other changes, ethic of longevity)
- Crisis in dignity and meaning (ethics of longevity)
- Rights of other groups (women, children, disability) - not mixed up with „population structural policies“ (responses to migration x rights of migrants)
- Instead, general human rights are developed to specific areas, vulnerabilities, and concerns of particular groups



Is ageing about older persons?

- Accommodate to ageing (longer lives) often means to accommodate older persons potential **FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOCIETY OF ALL AGES**
- Ageing policy is not discriminatory „saving“ on seniors to meet negatively portrayed demographic development



Structural and rights perspective

- Health – sustainable x recognising frailty in old age (RIS etc.)
- Adjustment key systems – to be more productive etc. (be employable, not to be discriminated for the benefit of ageing individual and ageing society)
- Balance, reinforcement, not conflict



Intergenerational perspective - bridging generations

- Holistic approach (integrity, continuity of life, of community)
- Gender perspective across life course and intergenerational issues
- It means that poverty and broader human rights and opportunities for women, children, etc. are addressed



Intergenerational perspective - bridging generations

- Supportive environment, incl. social networks, impact on need of care by other persons
- Community – age friendliness (social connectedness, participation)
- Healthy ageing
- Life course (opportunities for healthy life accros life span)



A LIFECOURSE APPROACH TO HEALTH

WIKIMEDIA:100.2
Danz - General
Ong - English

The implications for training of embracing
A Life Course
Approach to Health



World Health Organization

Cobweb of life course in medical education

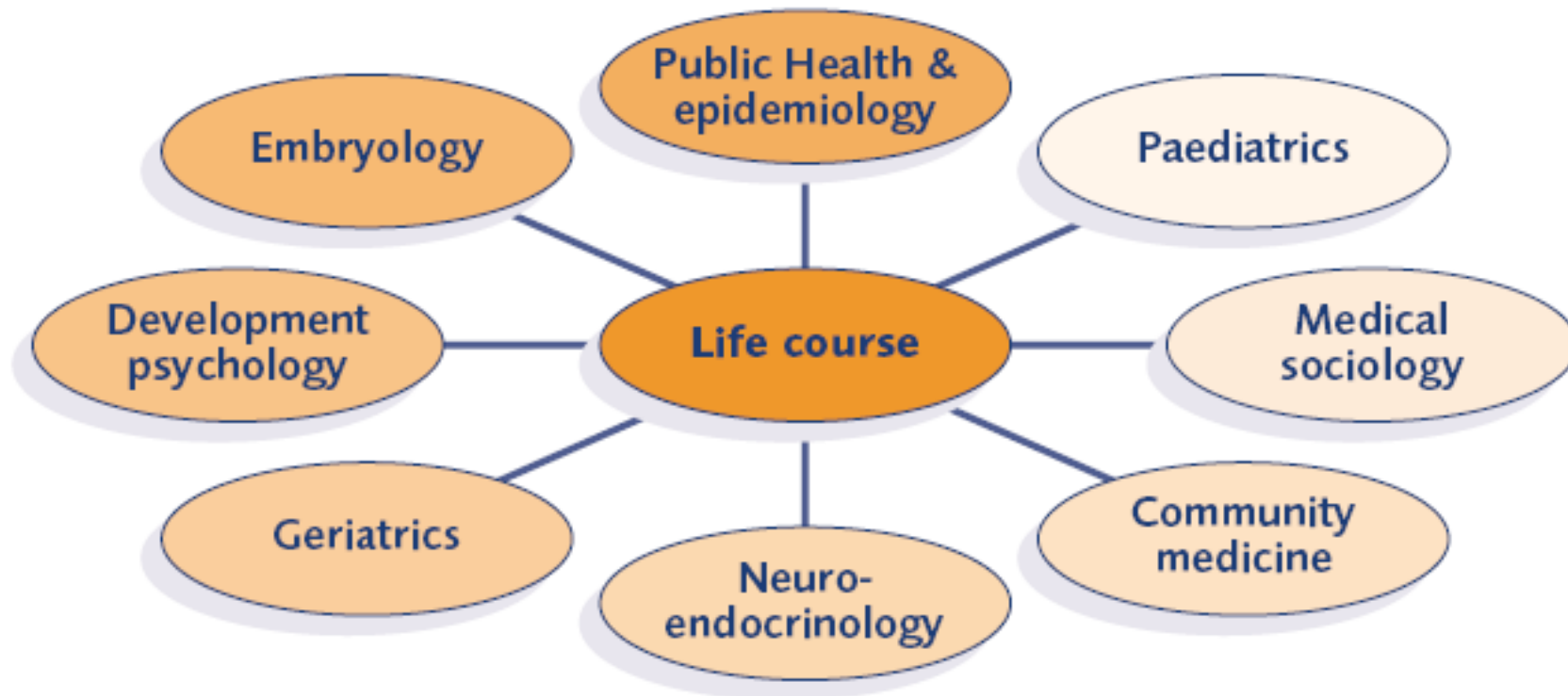
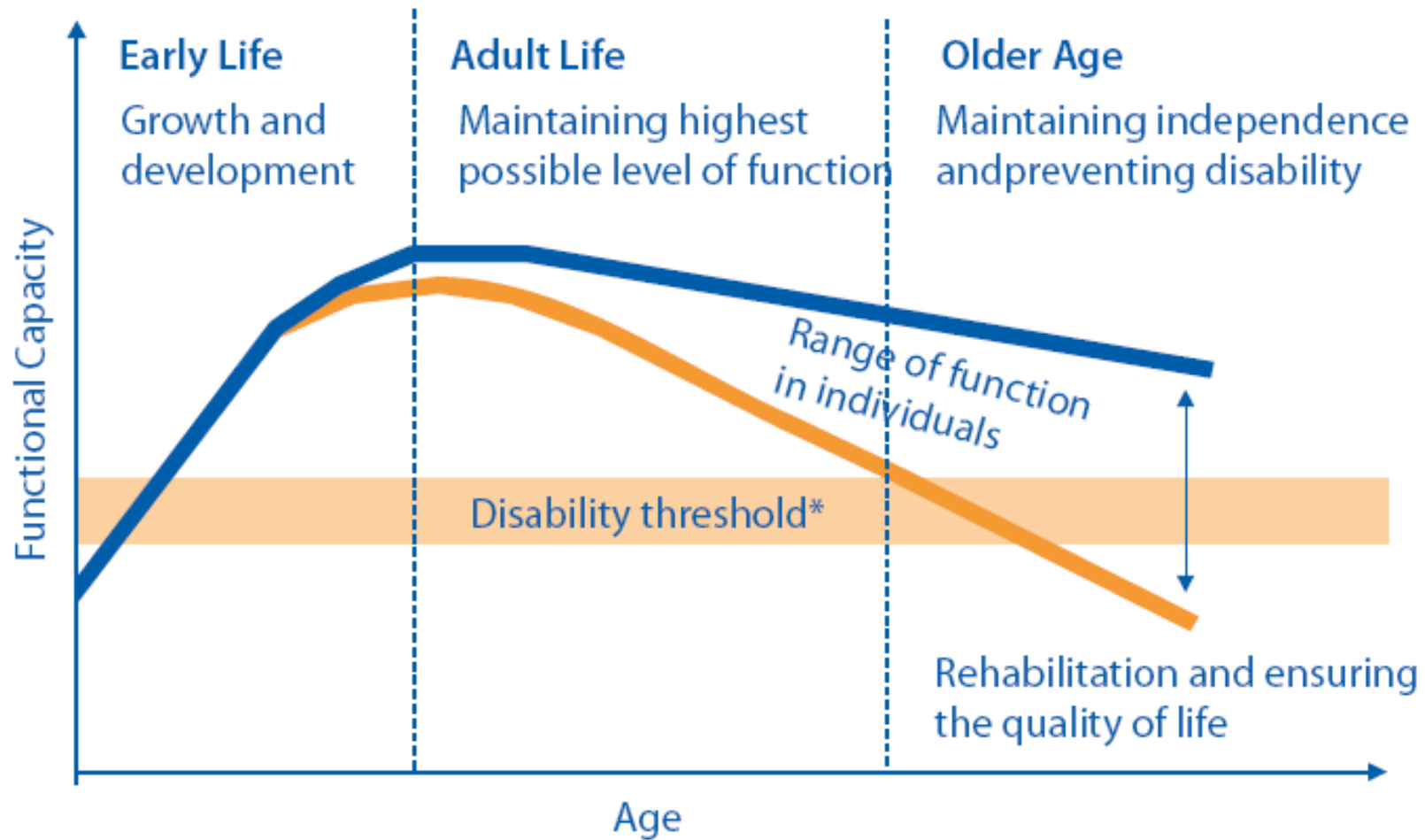


Figure 4. Maintaining functional capacity over the life course



Source: Kalache & Kickbusch (12).



**SOCIAL
DETERMINANTS
OF HEALTH**

THE SOLID FACTS

SECOND EDITION



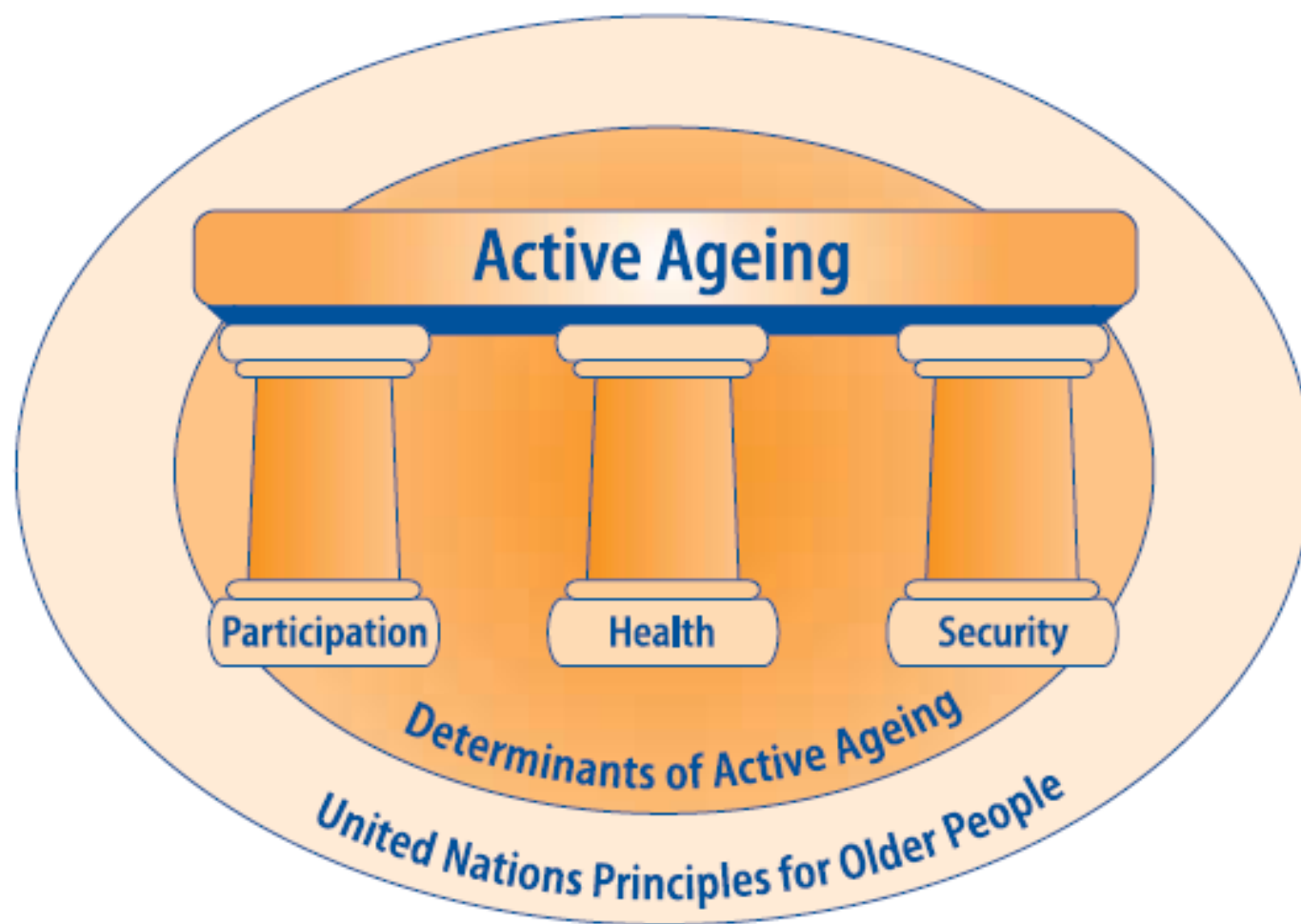
International
Centre for
Health and
Society



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Important foundations of adult health are laid in early childhood.

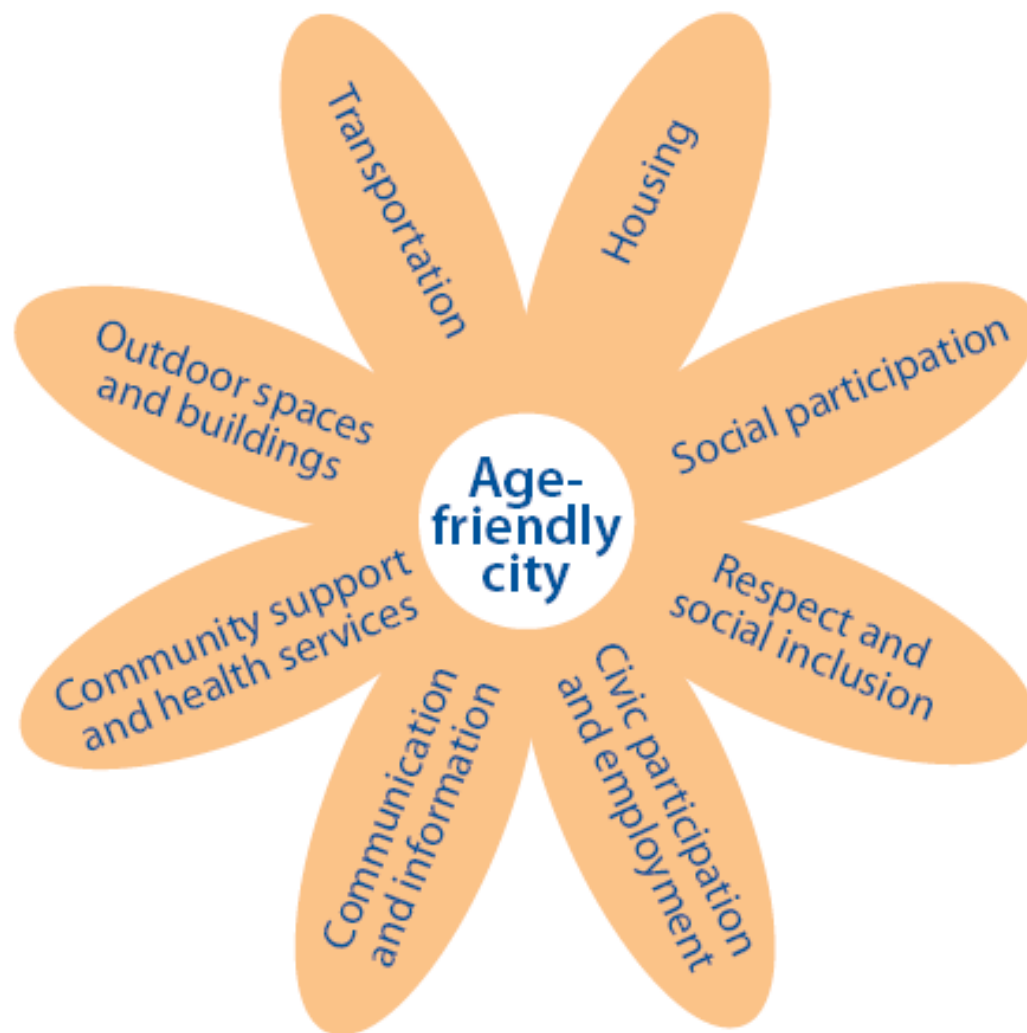
Figure 14. The three pillars of a policy framework for Active Ageing



Města přátelská seniorům: Průvodce



Figure 6. Age-friendly city topic areas





Issues addressed and comments

- Coresidence not preferred, rather separate housing with social contacts (coresidence related to level of development, to type of housing, culture)
- Support for norms of family obligation tends to be lower in generous welfare states (what is cause, what consequence?)
- Is social policy decreasing solidarity and family expectations? Not helping families (informal carers) to care is not measure to support intergenerational solidarity



Strengthening Intergenerational Ties

- Two concepts –
 - projects linking generations – in education, housing, volunteering etc.
 - broader – social connectedness, age friendly design of opportunities to socialize and connect (age friendly cities)



Issues addressed and comments

- Is there correspondence between public opinion and policies? (is there link between problems and public opinions?)
- Voices of informal carers rarely heard and represented...
- Dramatic shifts in the balance between old and young, the worlds of younger age groups are profoundly changed? (Is there balanced relationship? Is ageing bringign intergenerational conflict and burden?)



Some policy options and gaps

- Gender and paid work (traditional roles kept in families in policies, daily housework, care and full employment)
- Social services for families improve quality of life and care for seniors
- Employment, awareness about age friendly employment options (legal options x real options)



Some policy options and gaps

- Informal care – difficult to „measure“ (data, definitions, values, comparability, methodology)
- More than 80% of care for older people is provided by a family (EUROFARMCARE, Holmerova, 2004)
- Growing emphasis on individuality and lifestyle activities
- Gap between family rhetoric and family support
- Employment, income, lack of services in community, migration
- Respite services
- NGOs, civil society, ICT - decreasing dependency on family or professional care



Some policy options and gaps

- Care allowance based on assessment of self-care and self-sufficiency activities (ADL, IADL)
- Care allowance can be used to „pay“ for informal care
- Informal carers (registered as caregivers for persons receiving care allowance) - social and health insurance paid by state
- Care period reflected in pension scheme (entitlements)



Czech EU presidency – Prague declaration

- Balance between family care, health and welfare support are key components in the maintenance of intergenerational solidarity within families
- Generate further knowledge about the dynamics of families with older members and the identification of risk factors for mistreatment.
- Facilitate families in their caregiving role by developing services, work friendly policies, and further the development of a continuum of support including Long Term Care
- Promote a comprehensive policy agenda combining family policy and aging policies



Prague declaration

- Understanding of the systems and dynamics influencing behaviour is much more advanced for other parts of the life course- for example childhood- and it is time for old age to catch up.
- The complex systems of intergenerational relationships, in families, workplaces and in communities.
- The adaptation of organisational cultures, in public and business sectors, to periods of rapid demographic change.
- The relationship between human rights, social inclusion and elder mistreatment.
- The philosophical meaning of longevity and later life



**Thank you for your
attention**



REFERENCES

- Global Age-friendly cities: Guide (WHO)
- Active Ageing: Policy Framework (WHO)
- Life-course Approach to Health (WHO)
- Solid facts (social determinants of health) (WHO).....