

# **“USING THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION’S CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH TO ADDRESS HAND HYGIENE AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN IN ETHEKWINI AS A MEANS OF REDUCING THE BURDEN OF HOUSEHOLD DIARRHOEAL DISEASES”**

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## **TRANSFORMATION FOCUS IN A NUTSHELL:**

There is a need to ensure healthy communities and healthy households through improved health of adults and children. Our transformative initiative through inter-sectoral collaboration intends to build healthy households and communities.

## **KEY COMPONENTS:**

The World Health Organisation’s conceptual framework for action on the social determinants of health (CSDH) gives due consideration to the following

- Structural and social determinants of health inequities
  - Socio-economic and political context
  - Socio-economic positioning
- Intermediary and social determinants of health
  - Material, behavioural and psychosocial factors which link to the health system
- Social cohesion and social capital
- The above elements impact on equity in health and well-being

## **BENEFITS TO ETHEKWINI:**

- Improved inter-sectoral collaboration
- Reduction in the morbidity and mortality related to diarrhoeal diseases
- Improved health of children and communities overall
- Improved health literacy among children and adults

## **EXPANDED SUMMARY:**

Diarrhoeal diseases are responsible for considerable morbidity and mortality in young children in South Africa and in KwaZulu-Natal. In eThekweni Municipality diarrhoeal disease among under 5 year olds and 5 to 14 year olds was amongst the top two leading causes of mortality in these age groups between 2009 to 2014.<sup>1</sup>

Presenting findings of a study on hand hygiene among primary school children in the eThekweni Municipality, we propose the use of the World Health Organisation's conceptual framework for action on the social determinants of health (CSDH)<sup>2</sup> to address hand hygiene among school children as a means of reducing the burden of household diarrhoeal disease and mortality.

The CSDH conceptualises the health system as a social determinant of health. The health system is "*important in mediating the differential consequences of disease in people's lives*".<sup>2</sup> We propose a model using the CSDH, involving inter-sectoral collaboration between Environmental Health (eThekweni Municipality), the School Health Teams (DOH), Community Care Givers(DOH), Schools (DOE), academia and the private sector to address hand hygiene among school children to reduce mortality due to diarrhoeal disease in eThekweni Municipality.

<sup>1</sup> District Health Barometer 2015/2016. Health Systems Trust

<sup>2</sup> A conceptual framework for action on the social determinants of health. World Health Organisation, 2010. Geneva, Switzerland.