

## **Mission from Regional Office to assist Nationals on Social Determinants of Health (SDH) Strategic Plan 26 Aug – 2 Sept 2008**

Tackling Social Determinants of Health (SDH) and reducing health inequities is on the government's policy agenda of I.R.Iran and Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOH&ME) has taken the leadership role in advancing this agenda. In this regards an SDH unit has been established in the MOH&ME and a three year strategic plan for addressing the SDH has been drafted. In addition Iran has been identified as a partner country by the WHO Global Commission on Social Determinants of Health and to function as model for other countries of Eastern Mediterranean and other WHO Regions in following a holistic and comprehensive approach to health .

In order to strengthen the planning process of SDH activities in Iran, it was felt there is a need to further refine and improve the draft strategic plan and support its implementation and monitoring. To overcome this a team from WHO/EMRO composed of Regional Advisers for Health Policy and Planning (PHP) and Community Based Initiatives (CBI) visited Iran in order to advocate SDH and health equity through meeting with policy makers to discuss priority issues related to SDH, to organize a planning workshop to develop a strategic plan for SDH, to follow-up the Urban HEART project and discuss issues on its integration with SDH strategy and plan. In addition the team paid a field visit to Qazvin province where the SDH pilot project is under preliminary stage of implementation.

A 3-day workshop was organized in the MOH&ME attended by representatives of some of the related development sectors and representatives of all health departments in the MOH&ME. Accordingly different technical sessions including reviewing SDH situation analysis (which was prepared and updated by RO and HQ), determination of major health problems, and their related social determinants, setting strategies, goals, and objectives, along with logical frame work and operational planning have been presented and for each session working groups following with plenary discussion were facilitated by WHO team.



In the plenary of the last day, it was decided that the SDH Secretariat in collaboration with stakeholders to finalize the logical frame work of the priority areas for SDH and make the SDH strategic Plan more comprehensive. This will be done through establishment of different task forces related to SDH priority areas.