

Protecting the Health of the Poor: Social Movements in the South

21-23 October, 2011, New Delhi, India

While global household income is around USD 6,000 per person on average, half of all human beings live on less than USD 500, a third on less than USD 250 per annum (2005 data). This situation conditions the health of most people around the world. Poor people are much less able to recover from serious diseases, and also far more likely to fall ill due to shortfalls in clean water, nutrition, sanitation, clothing, shelter, cooking facilities, and education. Commercial pharmaceutical research is notoriously neglecting diseases concentrated among the poor [www.paho.org/English/AD/DPC/CD/psit-nd-poster.pdf]. Billions are caught in a vicious cycle of severe poverty causing hugely disproportional disease burdens that in turn aggravate poverty. Anyone with a more than rhetorical commitment to human rights must join the struggle to break this cycle.

Social movements in the less developed countries have made exemplary contributions to this fight in recent times. The workshop seeks to build upon these achievements by bringing together successful activists and scholars so that they might jointly learn from successes and failures and reflect on how they might together exert more influence on rule-making at different levels (local, national, international, and global). The goal is to achieve better understanding and collaboration towards protecting the health of the poor.

A major topic of current international discussion, at the World Health Organization and elsewhere, is how to fund the development of important new treatments that will be available at low prices. The basic idea of these innovative financing mechanisms is to de-link the price of a medicine from the costs of its development and clinical testing. Incentives for Global Health (IGH) is developing a proposal of this sort, calling for the creation of the Health Impact Fund (see [www.healthimpactfund.org]). This workshop will critically discuss this and similar initiatives, aiming to bring the interests and voices of the poor to bear also on the design of global institutional arrangements.

The workshop will bring together a maximum of 25 participants across different disciplines and kinds of social movements. **It will constitute a unique opportunity to generate a critical and fruitful dialogue among academics and social entrepreneurs about how we can better work with poor people toward protecting their health.**

This Call for Papers is open to potential participants throughout the world with preference to participants from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Any practical initiatives and ideas for protecting the health of poor people are worth discussing, including but not limited to political mobilization and activism, legal efforts by appeal to national or international law, campaigns for health system reforms, innovative NGO work in public health or education, private sector initiatives involving corporate social responsibility or innovations in insurance, communications, diagnostics, and the like. The best papers to be selected will be those that inspire collective learning that can be used around the world by poor people and those working in their behalf.

All participants are expected to be active in the presentations and discussions of papers and to be present throughout the workshop. The organizers will cover costs for lodging and meals during the days of the event. In general, selected participants are responsible for their own travel expenses and insurance. There will be a limited number of travel grants available. These will be assigned according to criteria, which include geographic origin, and the relevance, quality, and originality of the submitted abstracts. In the case of co-authored papers, only one of the authors may participate in the application process for a travel grant. The workshop will be conducted in English.

THE DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS IS: MONDAY 8 AUGUST, 2011

The Abstract should include: the title of the proposed paper and a summary of its theme, including its central argument and hypothesis or research question. References to theory, methodology, and findings of the proposed paper SHOULD NOT EXCEED ONE PAGE IN LENGTH. A brief (max. 1 page) CV with a list of recent publications and activities should be included together with the abstract. Please also *clearly* indicate your name, title, gender, nationality, postal and electronic address, and telephone and FAX numbers if applicable. The abstract and summary of your CV (max. 1+1 pages) should be sent via e-mail to the **2 (two)** following addresses:

The CROP Secretariat, e-mail: [crop@uib.no] and
[PHPWorganizers@gmail.com].

Senders of abstracts will be notified toward the end of August with information about the format/guidelines for the final version of papers, which will be due by **Friday October 3, 2011**.

