

# Global Community Health Annual Workshop

## Doing community health

Pr. Didier Jourdan

UNESCO Chair and WHO collaborating center in 'Global Health & Education'

WHO COLLABORATING CENTER  
UNESCO CHAIR



Global Health  
& Education



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair  
"Global Health and Education"  
University of Clermont Auvergne

# 5 ideas to be shared

1. Community health, a discourse and practices
2. Rooted in history, cultures and contexts
3. At the intersection of the health, social and educational fields
4. Defined by a specific configuration
5. And which takes the form of 4 “doing” (practices)





# Community health

Community health care Includes **health services and integrates social care**. It promotes self care, independence and family support networks.

**Community medicine** is the study of health and disease in the population of a defined community or group and the practice of medicine concerned with groups or populations rather than individual patients.

Community health **is a nursing/medical specialty** that focuses on the physical and mental well-being of the people in a specific geographic region. This includes initiatives to help community members maintain and improve their health, prevent the spread of infectious diseases and prepare for natural disasters.

A **community health centre** is an ambulatory health care programme, usually serving a catchment area which has scarce or non-existent health services or a population with special health needs.

# Community health

A **collaborative approach** that makes it possible to improve the coherence and relevance of the actions carried out by institutions, associations, health professionals and inhabitants.

A **community health worker** (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member or has a particularly good understanding of the community served. A CHW serves as a liaison between health and social services and the community to facilitate access to services and to improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

Community health workers should be **members of the communities** where they work, should be selected by the communities, should be answerable to the communities for their activities, should be supported by the health system but not necessarily a part of its organization, and have shorter training than professional workers.

# Community health

Collective efforts by communities which are directed towards **increasing community control over the determinants of health** and thereby improving health.

A blend of health and social services provided to an individual or family in his/her place of residence for the purpose of promoting, maintaining or restoring health or minimizing the effects of illness and disability. The programmes, services and institutions involved emphasize the prevention of disease and the **health needs of the population as a whole**.

The objective is that individuals and families assume **responsibility for their communities' health and welfare**, and develop the capacity to contribute to their communities' development.

# Community health

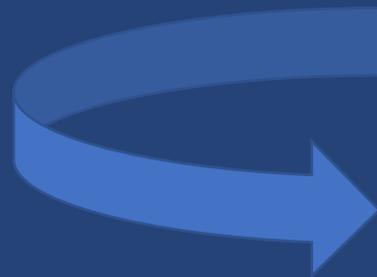
A wide variety of policies and practices based on the **involvement of members of a community**, whether geographical or social (e.g. neighbourhood, village, town, LGBT community), **in social transformations for their health**.

Its specificity is linked to the **role given to the members of the community** who are called upon to reflect together on their health problems, to express their priority needs and to participate actively in the setting up, implementation and evaluation of the actions most likely to respond to these priorities.

*Equity, social justice, participation,  
empowerment, health as human right...*

# Community health

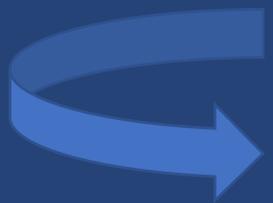
- The concept does not refer to a univocal definition but to a wide **variety of realities**.
- The fact that professionals from different disciplines and community members collaborate on a variety of interventions or research in community health means that the language they use to describe their work, the meaning of their work, and the way in which they use it are all different.



**An incredible treasure of knowledge!**



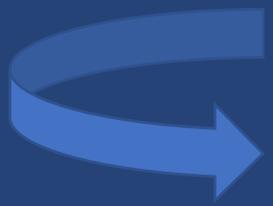
Community health is first and foremost referred to **social practices** and not a set of fixed paradigms, strategies and research methods.



**A wide diversity of practices!**

Community health is a **discourse** and **practices** rooted in history, cultures and contexts.

There is no “**chemically pure**” community health universally recognized....



**A wide diversity of practices**

# 5 ideas to be shared

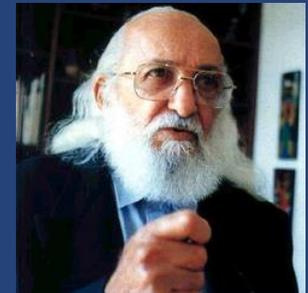
1. Community health, a discourse and practices
2. Rooted in history, cultures and contexts
3. At the intersection of the health, social and educational fields
4. Defined by a specific configuration
5. And which takes the form of 4 “doing” (practices)



# History, cultures and contexts

- At the end of the 1970s, the term “community health” was hugely popular in the field of health and welfare in many countries throughout the world.
- Mainly inspired by outh and North American sources, the concept was based on a participatory and multidisciplinary approach to preventive and curative health services.

Neighborhood Health Clinics



Popular education

# History, cultures and contexts

- Political, geographical & socioeconomical situation...
- Institutions & human resources...
- Research...
- Population needs...
- A global dynamic



**Community Health Worker Program**

- Rewarding career
- Help others understand nuances of the health care system
- Connect people to resources for better health and greater quality of life
- Serve as a bridge between communities, health care systems, state health departments

[LEARN MORE](#)

The image shows three people (two women and one man) smiling and looking at a laptop screen. The man is pointing at the screen. The woman on the right is holding a small white card. The background is a brick wall.



# 5 ideas to be shared

1. Community health, a discourse and practices
2. Rooted in history, cultures and contexts
3. At the intersection of the health, social and educational fields
4. Defined by a specific configuration
5. And which takes de form of 4 “doing” (practices)



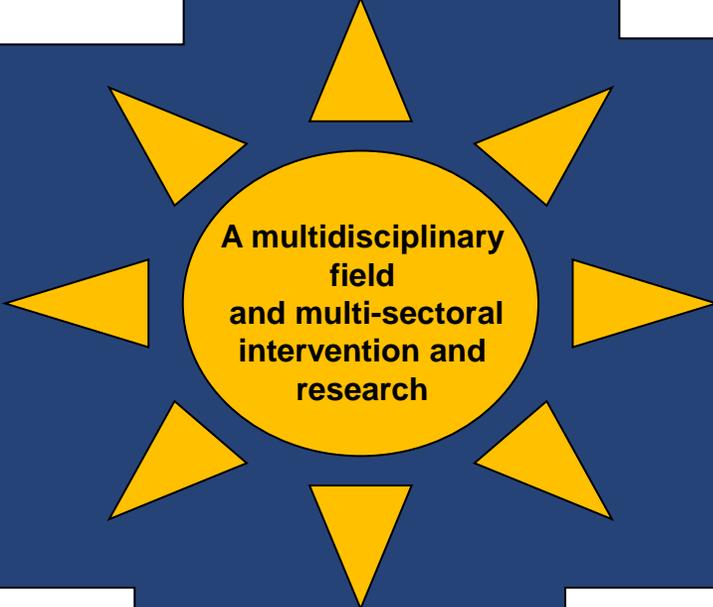
# Community health, a specific configuration

## Individual or organizational actors:

Citizens and in general the people concerned, community and associations, professionals from different origins in the position of facilitators, researchers, decision-makers...

## Privileged spaces for intervention:

Vulnerable populations, local living environment, access to primary care



A multidisciplinary field and multi-sectoral intervention and research

## Key values:

Emancipation, social justice, political commitment

## Purposes:

Improvement of health and well-being, social development, health promotion, prevention

## Concepts and theories:

Ecological model, theories of social change, participation, social determinants of health

## Methods:

Strategies for the involvement of all, participatory approaches, methods from needs analysis and evaluation ...

# Community health

Community health, appears more as a disciplinary **crossroads** than as a discipline in itself.

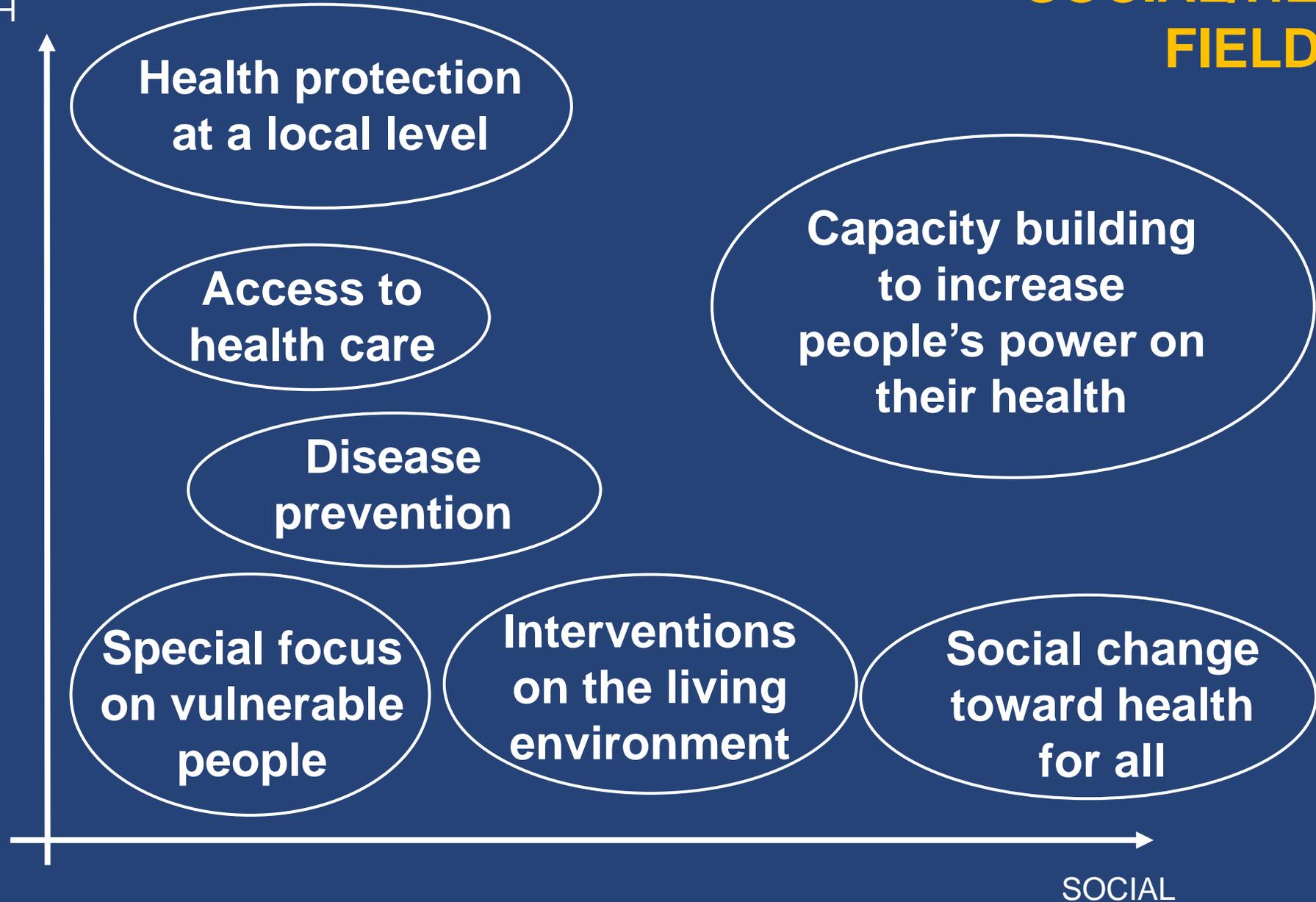
The aim is to implement all kinds of measures to ensure that each member of the community has a standard of living compatible with his or her health.



Where are you?

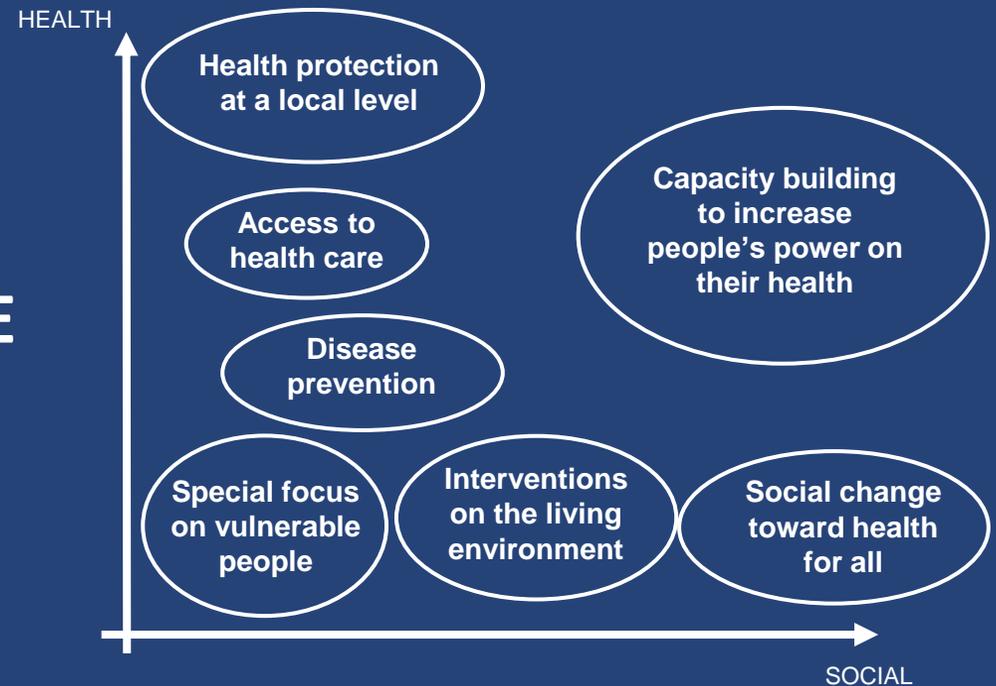
HEALTH

**SOCIAL/HEALTH  
FIELD**



Based on your activity (or future activity), can indicate where you are located on this picture?  
You can choose as many areas as you need.

<https://www.wooclap.com/COMMUNITYHE>



Where are you?

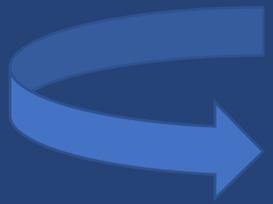


# Where are you?



<https://www.wooclap.com/COMMUNITYHE>

- Community health has become an **umbrella concept** for a diversity of programs and policies addressing the health needs of the population at a local level (health promotion, prevention, health care...).
- An orientation towards intersectoral action and engagement of societal actors.
- Different levels of institutionalisation
- Blurred interactions with other public health, educational and social-based initiatives.



**Many ways of doing  
community health**

# Community health is a « doing ».

- Depending on the time and place, the actions and practices of the concerned actors will determine the extent to which they are incorporated into the institutional context of public interventions.
- What defines this « doing »?

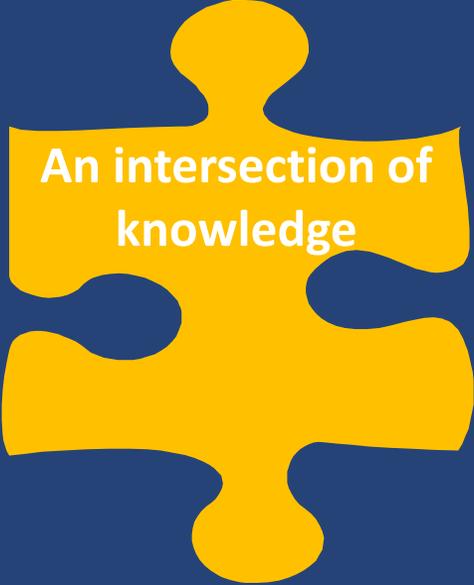
# Doing community health



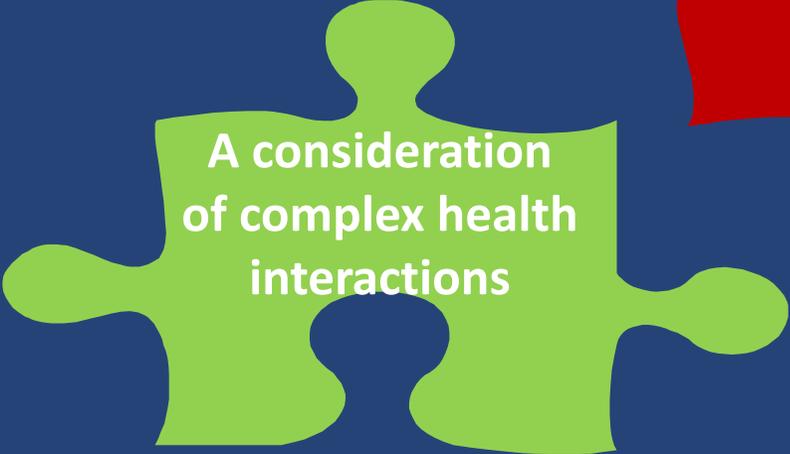
**A Strategy for social change**



**An ethical  
framework**



**An intersection of  
knowledge**



**A consideration  
of complex health  
interactions**

# A Strategy

- A strategy of social change
- Builds on knowledge gained from the determinants of health and socio-cultural practices
- Translating into a systematic and balanced approach (environment and individuals)



# A Vision

- Emancipation/freedom/empowerment as the objective
- Several ways to formulate the assumptions and values, which support action in health promotion



For example, 5 principles

# *Examples of principles*

- *A comprehensive and positive approach to health*
- *Acting on health determinants*
- *Working across sectors to promote health*
  
- *To have a planning process through a shared, evolving and permanent assessment*

# *Examples of principles*

- Concerning a community
- Encourage the involvement of all the actors concerned in a co-construction process
- Foster a context of sharing, power and knowledge
- Enhancing and sharing the community's resources

# An Intersection of Knowledge

Community health is a social practice in which knowledge from various social practices flourish :

- individual, community and population knowledge & knowhow
- professional and institutional expertise
- scientific knowledge

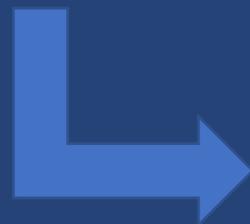


*Community health is founded on set of social practices (what is recognized as the norm in one time and space) and embodied by governmental and research-based institutions.*



# An Intersection of Knowledge

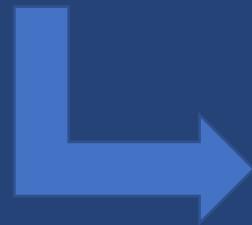
*I want to go to the moon, I need scientific and technological knowledge; if I want to preserve the biodiversity of the Amazonia region, I need indigenous knowledge...*



**An ecology of knowledge**

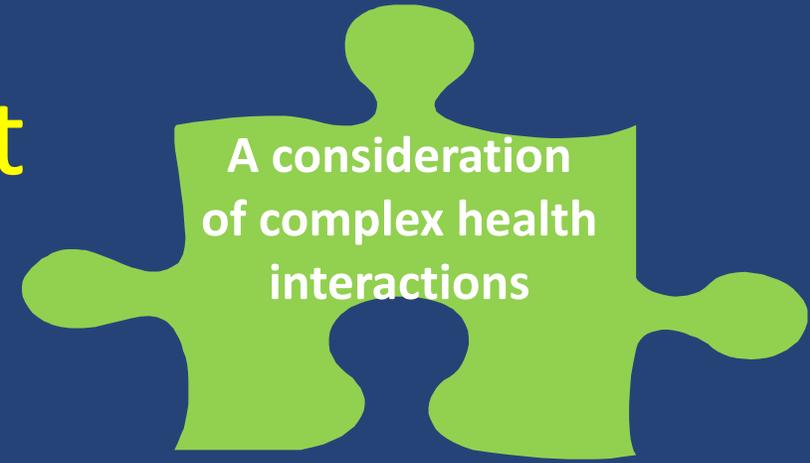
# An Intersection of Knowledge

Community health is an area of interdependence between scientific and non-scientific knowledge, where intercultural translation is a key element of action.



**An ecology of knowledge**

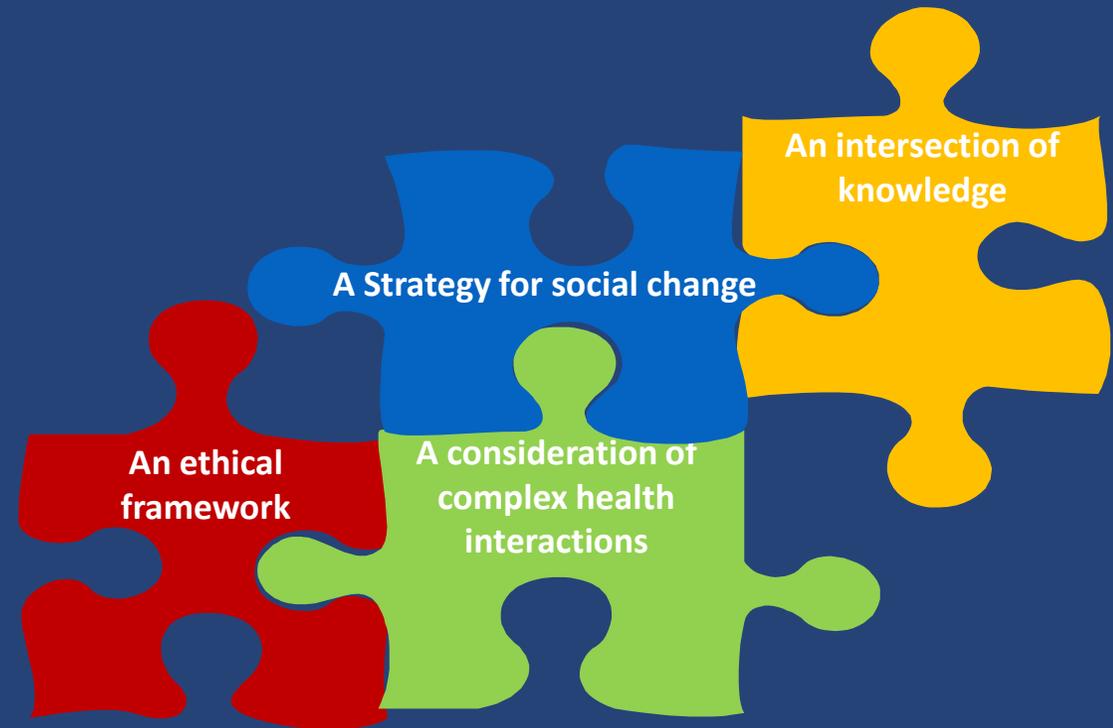
# Taking complexities into account



- Dimensions of health: physical, emotional, social, environmental, cultural, religious and spiritual
- Cultural and social foundations, power, resources
- Question Western values, particularly neo-colonial ideologies of dominance/influence around the world
- The life course, the shared environment, education, access to health care ...

# Developing people's and populations' capacities to maintain or increase their health

- Contribute to social movements that influence social change toward better health and inequality reduction
- 4 “doing”



# 5 ideas to be shared

1. Community health, a discourse and practices
2. Rooted in history, cultures and contexts
3. At the intersection of the health, social and educational fields
4. Defined by a specific configuration
5. And which takes de form of 4 “doing” (practices)



# Community health

## *Four practices*

- **The practices of individuals and populations:** both individual and group practices are linked to the determinants of health. These practices are anchored in different cultures, knowledge and social contexts. By emphasizing that health is created locally in everyday life through control over its determinants, community health puts the focus on what people do that produce health.

# Community health

## *Four practices*

- **The practices of professionals and stakeholders:** A wide range of community health practitioners from different sectors intervene to improve the health of a group of people and to transform the determinants of health at a local level. These practitioners includes professionals, activists, unions, associations, forums, and communities engaged in social change for improving health.

# Community health

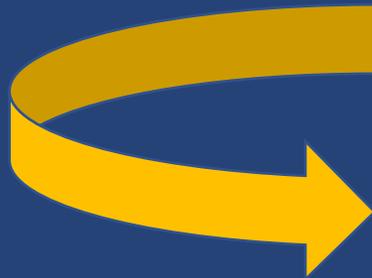
## *Four practices*

- **The practices of policy makers and institutions:** These refer to the implementation and advocacy of public health policies; not only in the health sector, but also in all sectors that influence the determinants of health.

# Community health

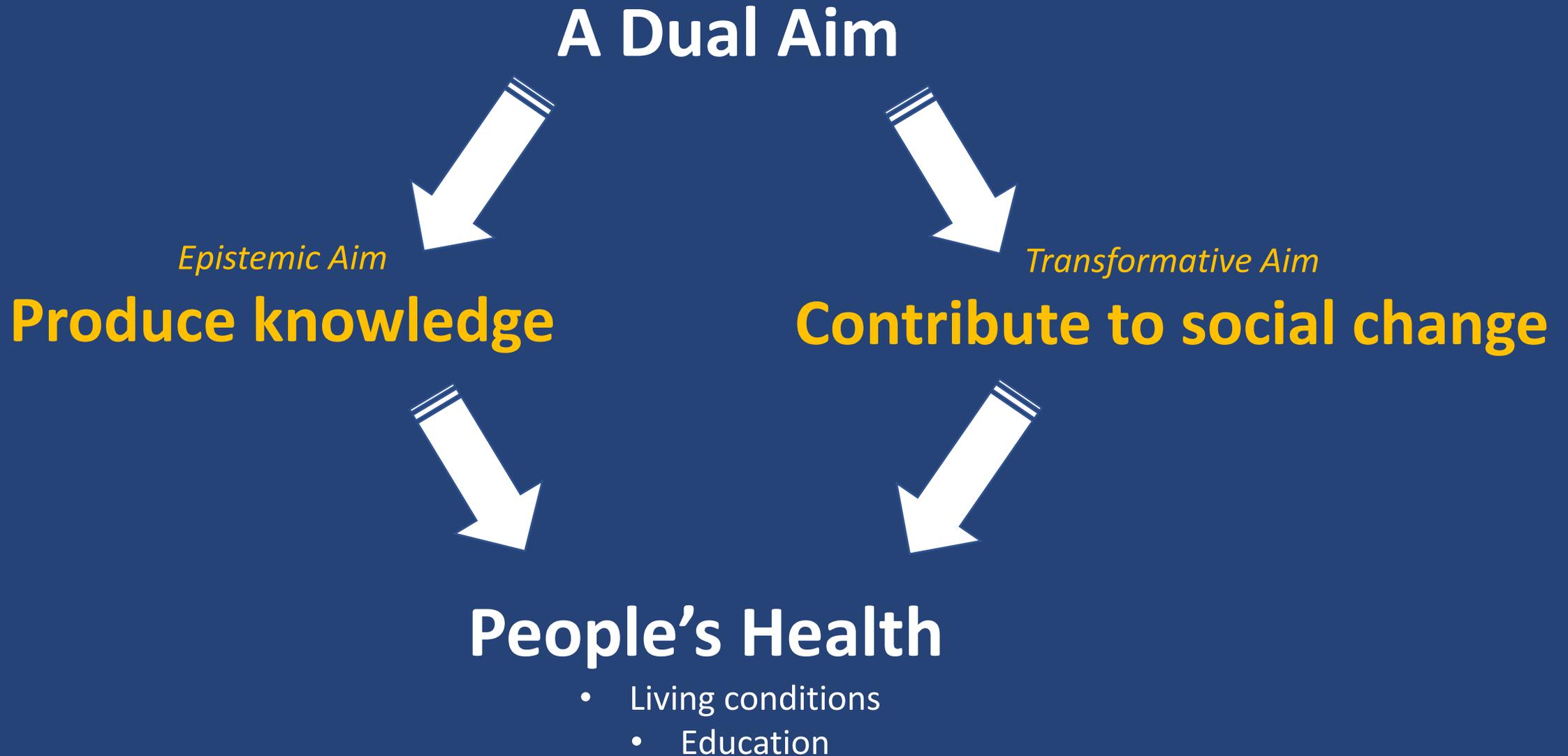
## *Four practices*

- **The practices of « innovators »:** These refer to the network of academic scholars, peoples involved in research activities and agencies through which a continued investment in community health research and the production of evidence-based practice guidelines are made. Research is constitutive of community health. Knowledge about the practices of those who produce and disseminate scientific knowledge about the three types of practices defined above is essential for the development and implementation of those practices.



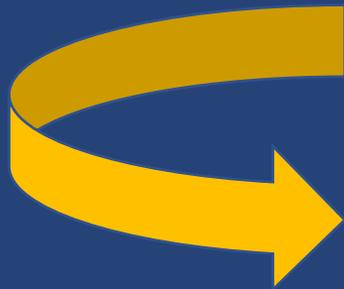
**There is a key fundamental link between these four practices but what ultimately enables the success or failure of such endeavour is in the hands of the individuals and populations involved.**

# Developing innovators' capacities to produce and share knowledge



# Research capacity building

- By a multidisciplinary team or researchers, practitioners, people
- Based on the recognition of the plurality of knowledge and worldviews
- By developing studies and ethical interventions that take local knowledge into account
- By working to articulate the results of research and the knowhow from different populations on the body, health and sickness.

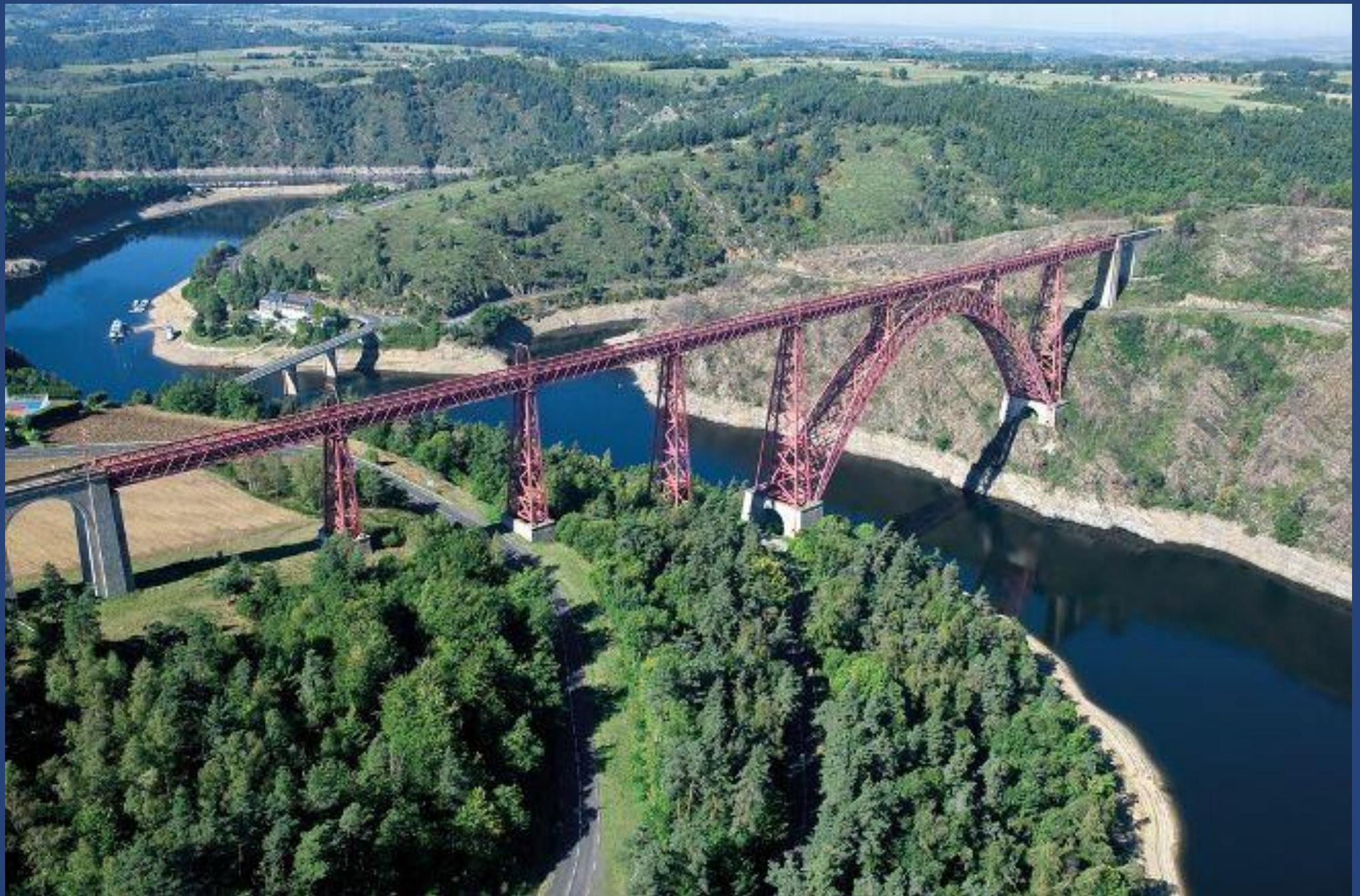


**New ecosystems for knowledge production and sharing**

# Community health

## *Four practices*

1. The practices of individuals and populations
2. The practices of professionals and stakeholders
3. The practices of policy makers and institutions
4. The practices of « innovators »



# Global Community Health Annual Workshop

## Doing community health

Pr. Didier Jourdan

UNESCO Chair and WHO collaborating center in 'Global Health & Education'

WHO COLLABORATING CENTER  
UNESCO CHAIR



Global Health  
& Education



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair  
"Global Health and Education"  
University of Clermont Auvergne