

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES  
IN  
HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND POPULATION

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## FOREWORD

The World Bank shares the desire of its member states and client countries to ensure that the poor partake fully in the health gains that the countries achieve. To assist in this, the Bank, in cooperation with the Dutch and Swedish Governments, has sponsored the set of reports providing basic information about health inequalities within countries to which this document belongs.

The information shows clearly that disparities in both health conditions and health service use are unacceptably large. As countries and the Bank work to reduce important inequalities among regions and countries, there is a clear need for equally vigorous efforts to lessen the inequity represented by intra-country differences among socio-economic groups.

My colleagues and I hope that all concerned with equity in health will find this information useful in making the case for effective actions to improve the health of the poor, and in designing programs to achieve this crucial objective.

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