“A broken promise”. Advances and challenges in infant, child and young people’s morbidity and mortality.

EAPS Health, Morbidity and Mortality Workshop,
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Infant and child mortality have long been, and remain, critical markers of a population's well-being. Today, looking at rates in lowest mortality populations, we appreciate that (effectively) all such mortality is avoidable. The root causes of infant and child mortality are economic (standards of living), social (patterns of relationships) and political (social policies). Yet, even as mortality declines, childhood mortality persists and children continue to die. In some regions, these deaths challenge public authorities and global NGOs, who remain powerless to prevent them; other regions face new disease manifestations thought to have been eradicated long ago. Differences persist, between less and more-developed countries and regions across the world and, within these, by gender, racial and ethnic origin, and social class.

This workshop will focus on mapping these differences and understanding how they may be overcome. We shall examine, *inter alia,* the role of vaccination, early-childhood nutrition, sanitation, clean water, and targeted interventions for specific diseases – but also those of intentional and non-intentional injuries; war and political violence, road injuries, suicide and interpersonal violence. What are the risk factors in infants’, children’s and young people’s health, morbidity and mortality today? What are the roles of disease and injury on the one hand, of social and economic insecurity on the other? What can we learn from recent and localised increases in children’s mortality and how are all these related to continuing, and growing, social inequalities, within and between world regions and countries? Answers to these, and other, questions can help us reach a sustained understanding why children and young people continue to die unnecessarily, and how we may improve their life and health and prevent their premature death.