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**MATRIC NO: 18/MHS08/004**

**DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC HEALTH (MHS)**

**COURSE TITLE: INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**

**COURSE CODE: PUH202**

Write on the contribution of World Health Organization on the following;

1. Promoting Maternal/Infant Health
2. Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases
3. Achievement of Sustainable Development
4. Improvement of Healthcare Services and Facilities

**Promoting Maternal/Infant Health**:

Improving the well-being of mothers, infants, and children is an important public health goal for the United States. It is the fifth of the United Nations’ eight Millennium Development Goals, targeting a reduction in the number of women dying during pregnancy childbirth by three quarters, notably by increasing the usage of skilled birth attendants, contraception and family planning.

Key interventions that reduce the risk of maternal mortality include skilled care at birth and emergency obstetric care. Newborn deaths may be substantially reduced through increased use of simple, low-cost interventions, such as breastfeeding, keeping newborns warm and dry, and treating severe newborn infections.

**Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases**:

A core function of Public Health law is minimizing the transmission of infectious diseases. The appropriate exercise of legal powers will vary according to the seriousness of the disease, the means of transmission, and how easily the disease is transmitted.

Disease control programmes resulting from the collaboration of national and international agencies, including WHO, are reducing the burden of communicable diseases. Through expert consensus based on scientific evidence, WHO has had a leading role in formulating strategies and settings standards for the control of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases. These strategies have demonstrably improved health, yet the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases will continue to be a global health challenge for many decades.

**Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals**:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of seventeen (17) global goals designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The SDGs set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and intended to be achieved by the year 2030, are part of UN Resolution 70/1, the 2030 Agenda.

The Sustainable Development Goals are:

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
10. Reducing Inequality
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life On Land
16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

Implementing the 2030 agenda requires a multi-stakeholder, multi-actor response. The innovations and development in policy, technology and research must include dialogue between governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and nongovernmental organizations, most importantly; strong community involvement is needed. All these goals can be achieved by tackling it together, collectively

**Improvement of Healthcare and Facilities:**

Quality of healthcare is the degree to which health services for individuals and populations increased the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge. There is increasing global awareness that good quality healthcare is key to keeping mothers and babies alive and well.

There are ten ways to improve the quality of healthcare facilities by World Health Organization. They are;

* Pregnant women should receive the right care, at the right times.
* Newborns should receive essential care immediately after birth
* Small and sick babies should be well cared for in a facility
* All women and newborns must receive care that prevents hospital-acquired infections
* Health facilities must have an appropriate physical environment
* Communication with women and their families must be effective and respond to their needs
* Women and newborns who need referrals can obtain them without delay
* No woman should be subjected to harmful practices during labour, childbirth, and the early postnatal period
* Health facilities need well-trained and motivated staff consistency available to provide care
* Every woman and newborn should have a complete, accurate, and standardized medical records

**References**

* International Health Regulations 2005. 2nd ed. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2008: Article 6, Annex 2.
* <https://www.euro.who.int/en/news-room/feature-stories>
* <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/life-stages>
* [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/sustainable­\_development\_goals](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/sustainable_development_goals)
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