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COURSE: INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

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QUESTION: 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

1. PROMOTING MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

The WHO set up standards so as to promote the Health of mothers and baby during and after pregnancy. The Standards for maternal and newborn health consist of a set of user-friendly leaflets that present World Health Organization (WHO) key recommendations on the delivery of maternal and neonatal care in health facilities, starting from the first level of care. Facilities at higher levels of care should also have these standards in place as a minimum (essential) care for all mothers and babies; in addition, they should have standards for the care of women and newborns in need of obstetric and special care.

The standards are part of the WHO Integrated Management of Pregnancy and Childbirth Care (IMPAC) package, which provides guidance for assisting countries to improve the health and survival of women and their newborn babies during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period.

2. PREVENTION AND CURE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE.

HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases and viral hepatitis affect billions of people around the world, and cause more than 4 million deaths each year. The WHO Cluster for Communicable Diseases (CDS) is concerned with the prevention and treatment of these high-burden diseases.

The Cluster helps countries to prevent, reduce and mitigate the health impact of these diseases, which are a major factor affecting development.

The objectives of this cluster are

1. To develop norms, standards and policies to foster new solutions to prevent and treat these high-burden diseases.
2. To assemble technical and normative expertise, especially in the realms of prevention, treatment, care, research, training and epidemiology.
3. To develop innovative frameworks for public health action against these diseases, and to support health system strengthening.
4. To engage leaders and civil society to make the case for increased and sustained investment in countering these diseases.

The WHO through their platforms educate, update and communicate issues regarding to communicable diseases including modern preventive techniques, verified medical cures alternatives medicines and possible outbreaks.

WHO carry out comprehensive action on the leading causes, conditions and the high coverage of proven health interventions that can significantly reduce the burden of disease, premature death and the disability they cause.

The WHO release guidelines on clinical interventions on the prevention of mother to infant transmission in cases of HIV and other Human Immune diseases transmutable through Infant feeding and the actions that government and other stakeholders can take to prepare for emergencies.

3. ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

Sustainable development is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services based upon which the economy and society depends. It is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

The work of the World Health Organization focuses on the needs of all peoples since its very beginning. The WHO introduced the Universal Health Coverage Act, urging its member states that it should be the single most powerful concept in public health.

The goal of Universal Health Coverage is to ensure that all people obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them. It includes health protection, promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation. Universal health coverage is the target that underpins and key to the achievement of all other health-related goals and targets by increasing coherence, reducing fragmentation, and contributing to the development of strong health systems.

WHO leads global efforts to develop standards for quality of care with accompanying implementation guidance, as well as a measurement framework for assessing progress globally and in countries. WHO coordinated research underpins normative guidance and support to countries to accelerate progress.

Responsible consumption and production cut across several of the other transitions, allowing us to do more with fewer resources with the need to adopt a circular economy approach and reduce demand. It is possible to decarbonise the energy system around 2050 while providing clean and affordable energy for all, including through energy efficiency, more renewables and electrification. Achieving access to nutritional food and clean water for all, while protecting the biosphere and the oceans, requires more efficient and sustainable food systems. For example by increasing agricultural productivity and reducing meat consumption.

4. IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES

WHO has contributed earnestly in Health Care Facilities especially in Developing countries ensuring that the available health care have an appropriate physical environment.

According to WHO, Health facilities must have water, energy, sanitation, hand hygiene, and waste disposal facilities which are functional, reliable, and safe. The space needs to be designed, organized, and maintained to allow for privacy and facilitate the provision of quality services. Facilities also need to have adequate stocks of medicines, supplies, and equipment.

The WHO has set up guidelines and recommendations for its member state to follow in

achieving and improving a proper health care facilities while constantly checking to see that those guidelines are adhered to, assisting in ways that they can to increase the efficiency of compliance.

The WHO recommends a woman see her health provider at least 8 times during her pregnancy to detect and manage potential problems and reduce the likelihood of a stillbirth or neonatal death. Antenatal care also offers an opportunity for health workers to provide a range of support and information to pregnant women, including on healthy lifestyles, preventing diseases, and family planning.

Secondly newborns should be kept in skin-to-skin contact on their mother's chest and enabled to breastfeed. They need to be kept clean and warm, and given care for their eyes and umbilical cord. Bathing should be delayed for 24 hours, vitamin K and vaccines given as per national guidelines, temperature monitored, and complications identified and managed. A complete assessment before discharge, normally around 24 hours, serves as a first postnatal check-up.