

INTERNATIONAL/ GLOBAL HEALTH

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Outline

- Concept and evolution of International/Global health

- Globalization and its effect on health and health system
- Major collaborative efforts in International Health
- Roles and contributions of International Health Organizations

- **International health**, also called *geographic medicine*, *international medicine*, or *global health* is a field of healthcare, usually with a public health emphasis, dealing with health across regional or national boundaries. International health is a complex mix of health problems, politics, economics, culture and environment.
- Global health is an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasises trans-national health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care.
- More recently, *public health* experts have become interested in global processes that impact on human health. *Globalization and health*, for example, illustrates the complex and changing sociological environment within which the determinants of *health and disease* express themselves.

Figure 1

Social Determinants of Health

Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment Income Expenses Debt Medical bills Support	Housing Transportation Safety Parks Playgrounds Walkability Zip code / geography	Literacy Language Early childhood education Vocational training Higher education	Hunger Access to healthy options	Social integration Support systems Community engagement Discrimination Stress	Health coverage Provider availability Provider linguistic and cultural competency Quality of care

Health Outcomes

Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations



Brief history

The term international health was likely coined in the early 20th century, emerging as the international sanitary conventions of the previous five decades gave way to permanent

bodies addressing health concerns internationally. It was employed most prominently by the Rockefeller Foundation's International Health Commission (later Board and Division) launched in 1913. By the end of World War II, international health was in widespread use, but the new World Health Organisation (as a semi-independent specialised United Nations agency) crafted its own name around the unifying notion of 'world health'. Still, the term international health retained its primacy.

During the Cold War, the field of international health came to encompass the problems of health in underdeveloped countries and the efforts by industrialised countries and international agencies to address these problems. Global health was adopted broadly over the past decade to transcend past ideological uses of international health (as a 'handmaiden' of colonialism or a pawn of Cold War political rivalries) to imply a shared global susceptibility to, experience of, and responsibility for health. In its more collective guise, *global health refers to health and disease patterns in terms of the interaction of global, national, and local forces, processes, and conditions in political, economic, social and epidemiologic domains.*

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the international body primarily responsible for regulating and governing health-related policies and practices across nations.

Much work in international health is performed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Services provided by international health NGOs include direct health care, community potable water, vitamin supplementation, and mitigation of endemic and epidemic infectious diseases and malnutrition.

Examples of NGOs dedicated to international health include:

The International Committee of the Red Cross, International Medical Corps, Oxfam, Partners in Health, Project HOPE, Save the Children

Therefore, health and health related event became an International/Global concern

- Concept of transborder transmission of disease
- Disease is not only the problem of small part but also of whole world
- International commitment on health



A disease threat anywhere is a disease threat everywhere.

Rationale of concept of International health

- Globalization in knowledge and technology
- Communication network extension
- Trade liberalization
- Emergence and Remergence of communicable disease

Global health issues include:

Global health security and protection

Travelers health

Food & water

HIV & Tuberculosis

Malaria & Parasitic diseases

Climatic changes and problems

Terrorism

Immunization

Other disease & threat

Disease outbreaks can cause economic disruption

Decreasing demand for U.S. exports

Putting U.S. export-related jobs at risk

Global health security helps safeguard America's health and economic stability



www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection

The infographic features a blue header with the title 'Disease outbreaks can cause economic disruption'. Below this, a light blue section contains the text 'Decreasing demand for U.S. exports' and an illustration of a cargo ship. A teal section contains the text 'Putting U.S. export-related jobs at risk' and an illustration of a forklift moving boxes in a warehouse. A dark teal section contains the text 'Global health security helps safeguard America's health and economic stability'. The bottom section is black and contains the CDC logo and the website URL 'www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection'.

The spread of a disease doesn't stop at a country's borders. With more people traveling to other countries and living in crowded cities, it's easier for germs to spread. Infectious diseases that start in one part of the world can quickly reach another. Resistance to medicines such as antibiotics is on the rise. This makes it harder to treat certain diseases. Natural and man-made disasters create refugee populations with immediate and long-term health problems.

Some of the major diseases currently affecting countries around the globe include HIV/AIDS, malaria, Zika, and tuberculosis. Climate change is also an international problem which can affect people's health. Many countries and health organizations are working together and sharing information on these and other health issues.

Key Concepts in Relation to Global Health

1. The determinants of health
2. The measurement of health status
3. The importance of culture to health
4. The global burden of disease
5. The key risk factors for various health problems
6. The organisation and function of health systems

Multi-sectoral Dimension of the Determinants of Health

- ▶ Malnutrition –
 - ▶ more susceptible to disease and less likely to recover
- ▶ Cooking with wood and coal –
 - ▶ lung diseases
- ▶ Poor sanitation –
 - ▶ more intestinal infections
- ▶ Poor life circumstances –
 - ▶ Prostitution → STIs, HIV/AIDS
- ▶ Advertising tobacco and alcohol –
 - ▶ addiction and related diseases
- ▶ Rapid growth in vehicular traffic often with untrained drivers on unsafe roads-
 - ▶ road traffic accidents

The Measurement of Health Status

▶ Cause of death

- ▶ Obtained from death certification but limited because of incomplete coverage

▶ Life expectancy at birth

- ▶ *The average number of years a new-borns baby could expect to live if current trends in mortality were to continue for the rest of the new-born's life*

▶ Maternal mortality rate

- ▶ *The number of women who die as a result of childbirth and pregnancy related complications per 100,000 live births in a given year*

The Measurement of Health Status

II

▶ Infant mortality rate

- ▶ *The number of deaths in infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births for a given year*

▶ Neonatal mortality rate

- ▶ *The number of deaths among infants under 28 days in a given year per 1,000 live births in that year*

▶ Child mortality rate

- ▶ *The probability that a new-born will die before reaching the age of five years, expressed as a number per 1,000 live births*

Culture and Health

▶ Culture:

- ▶ *The predominating attitudes and behaviour that characterise the functioning of a group or organisation*

▶ Traditional health systems

▶ Beliefs about health

- ▶ e.g. epilepsy – a disorder of neuronal depolarisation vs a form of possession/bad omen sent by the ancestors
- ▶ Psychoses – ancestral problems requiring the assistance of traditional healer/spiritualist

▶ Influence of culture of health

- ▶ Diversity, marginalisation and vulnerability due to race, gender and ethnicity

The global burden of disease

- ▶ Predicted changes in burden of disease from communicable to non-communicable between 2004 and 2030
 - ▶ Reductions in malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, **TB and HIV/AIDS**
 - ▶ Increase in cardiovascular deaths, COPD, road traffic accidents and diabetes mellitus
- ▶ Ageing populations in middle and low income countries
- ▶ Socioeconomic growth with increased car ownership
- ▶ Based on a 'business as usual' assumption

Key Risk Factors for Various Health Conditions

- ▶ **Tobacco use** –
 - ▶ related to the top ten causes of mortality world wide
- ▶ **Poor sanitation and access to clean water-**
 - ▶ related to high levels of diarrhoeal/water borne diseases
- ▶ **Extra marital affairs** –
 - ▶ HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections
- ▶ **Malnutrition** –
 - ▶ Under-nutrition (increased susceptibility to infectious diseases) and over-nutrition responsible for cardiovascular diseases, cancers, obesity etc.

The Organisation and Function of Health Systems

▶ ***A health system***

- ▶ comprises all organizations, institutions and resources devoted to producing actions whose primary intent is to improve health (WHO)

▶ Most national health systems consist:

- ▶ public, private,
- ▶ traditional and informal sectors:

Changing in Health Inequality

World Population arrange by income

Distribution of Income

