Global Health

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Introduction

After the lecture you will be able to understand :

— the concept of global health
— the difference between global and public health
— the main challenges to tackle in 2020
— why is global health so important

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Definition

Global Health is an area for study, research, and practise that places a priority on improving health and achieving health equity for all people world-wide.

(Koplan et al., 2

Public Health

PH is defined as the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society"

(Acheson, 1988; WHO)

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Global vs. Public health

	Global Health	Public Health
Geopolitical	Healthcare problems and policy issues that transcend internationally	Major focus is on specific communities or meeting national goals
Collaboration and Alliances	Global. Strongly propagates interdependence and not merely a flow of resources and information from the developed to the developing nations	National. Based on economic and knowledge dependence of the developing on the developed, directly or via world associations and organizations.
Population Health	Prevention and clinical	Primarily Prevention
Healthcare economics and outreach	Equitable distribution of healthcare resources including finances among nations	Healthcare equity within a nation or loc...
Interrelationship amongst Allied Disciplines	Supports high interdisciplinary approach	Multidisciplinary, es... healthcare and soc...
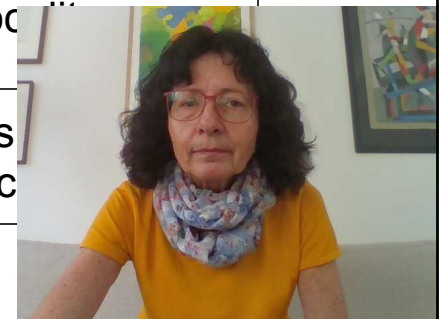
Importance of global health

GH is important because life in the 21st century is global.

Globalization

Growing interconnectedness of countries, centered around trade and the flow of ideas, facilitated by communications technologies, cultural convergence, and common concerns for environmental and health impacts.

(McMichael A, Beaglehole R. 2003)

Concept of Classification of Nations

Original construct: „free world - communist block – third world" is now obsolete.

Other classifications:

„North – South"

„Developing – Developed" („Less developed – more developed")

Classification used by WHO:

„Established market economies – former socialist economies of Europe – China and India as distinct entities due to population size – the rest of the world by geographic region"

Global Health Challenges

WHO List of 10 Threats to Global Health (2019)

- Air pollution and climate change
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Threat of a global influenza pandemic
- Fragile and vulnerable settings, such as regions affected by drought and conflict
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Ebola and high-threat pathogens
- Weak primary care
- Vaccine hesitancy
- Dengue
- HIV

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Another perspective of top 10 Global Health Issues

- Physical Activity and Nutrition.
- Overweight and Obesity.
- Tobacco.
- Substance Abuse.
- HIV/AIDS.
- Mental Health.
- Injury and Violence.
- Environmental Quality.

Poverty and poor health – Is it Global health problem?

Poverty and poor health worldwide are inextricably linked. The causes of poor health for millions globally are rooted in political, social and economic injustices. Poverty is both a cause and a consequence of poor health. Poverty increases the chances of poor health. Poor health, in turn, traps communities in poverty. Infectious and neglected tropical diseases kill and weaken millions of the poorest and most vulnerable people each year.

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Poverty…

Poverty…

Poverty…

Which infectious diseases are the main killers worldwide?

- HIV, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as communicable respiratory diseases such as pneumonia kill the most people. Diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria account for nearly half of all child deaths globally.

- Neglected tropical diseases affect over one billion people, almost all in the poorest and most marginalised communities. You may not have heard of diseases such as leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminths and trachoma, but they can cause severe pain and life-long disabilities – and mean enormous productivity losses. However, efforts to tackle them have usually taken a back seat to the bigger killers.
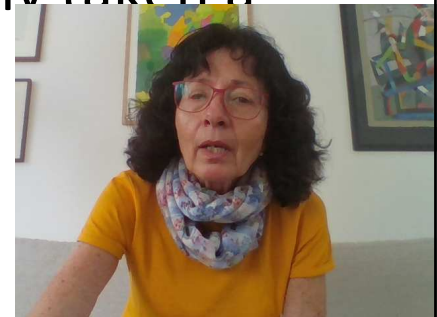
Leprosarium - Angola
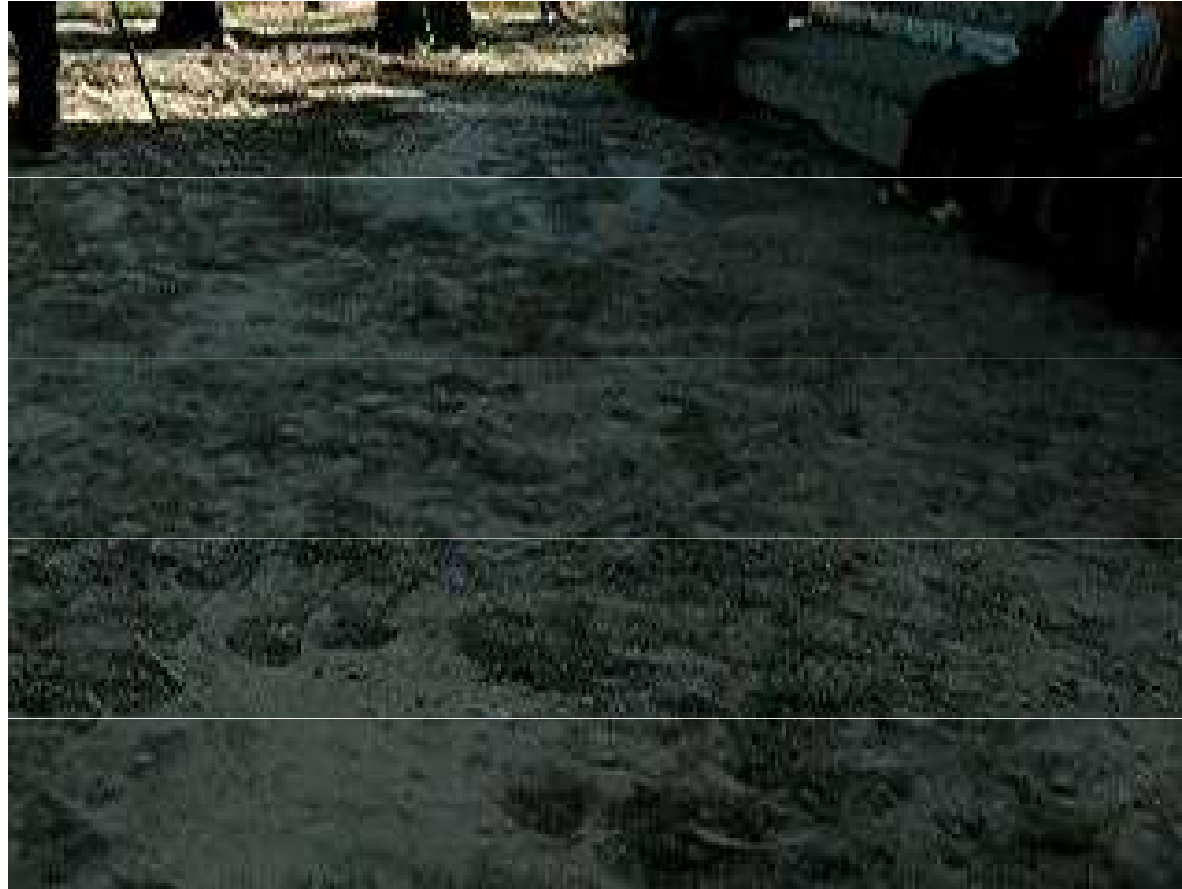
13 Most Pressing Global Health Issues This Decade

(Caruso, C., January 16, 2020)

1. **Focusing on health when discussing climate change**

The climate crisis not only impacts the environment directly, but it also poses many health risks to people all over the world. For instance, nearly 7 million people die from air pollution every year. Natural disasters and catastrophic weather events caused or fueled by climate change worsen the spread of disease and can lead to or inflame malnutrition. World leaders must address these urgent health risks.

2. Providing health care to nations in crisis

Outbreaks of diseases are very difficult to treat or contain in countries experiencing conflict or crisis. Continued attacks on health care facilities and medical professionals also limit the amount of access to basic health care residents have in a given region. While it is imperative that organizations like the WHO provide medical teams to distribute health care services to countries in crisis, political solutions are also needed to put an end to these life-threatening conflicts.

3. Making health care accessible to everyone

Health care should be accessible to people of all socio-economic backgrounds. As it stands, there is an 18-year discrepancy in life expectancy between people living in rich and poor nations. With the overall increase of cancer, diabetes, and other noncommunicable diseases worldwide, access to quality health care for all is essential in reducing health inequality. In order to make this possible, countries must be willing to set aside 1% of their gross domestic product (GDP) for primary health care services.

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4. Expanding access to vaccines and medicine

Nearly one-third of the world's population doesn't have access to quality medicine and vaccines, which puts millions of lives in danger. Making these potentially life-saving drugs and vaccines more accessible is key to improving the lifespan and quality of life of people living in low-income communities and impoverished nations.

5. Fighting communicable diseases

Communicable diseases are [estimated](#) to kill around 4 million people this year alone, over 28 times the amount of those who died due to vaccine-preventable diseases in 2019. In order to decrease this death toll, endemic countries need sufficient health funding to improve the quality of treatments, invest in research, and expand the outreach of immunization.

6. Preparing for epidemics

When it comes to disease outbreaks or epidemics, it is important to stay ahead of the curve, especially when millions of lives are potentially at risk. Whether it is a new vaccine-resistant strain of influenza or the continued spread of various mosquito-transmitted diseases like malaria, it is important for countries to focus on preparedness and preventative measures by investing in health care and infrastructure.

7. Making healthy food more accessible

As [food insecurity continues to afflict millions](), especially in war-torn regions, many are left with either unsafe or unhealthy food options, which directly causes [a third]() of all diseases worldwide. To combat the rise of obesity and diet-related diseases, nations must develop better public policies and provide healthier food options for all.

8. Investing in health care workers

Health workers around the world are often overworked and underpaid, which has led to a worldwide shortage of health care professionals, placing both health care systems and people at risk. To keep global health care systems afloat, the world requires an additional 18 million health care workers by the end of 2030.

9. Promoting adolescent safety

Nearly [1 million](#) teenagers die from violence, HIV/AIDS, and suicide every year. Providing educators and health care professionals with the necessary tools to educate teenagers about sex, drug use, and mental health can help significantly reduce this number. Protecting our future means protecting the world's next generation.

10. Strengthening trust between health care systems and the public

Misinformation around medicines and vaccines can be detrimental to public health on a global scale. Groups like the anti-vaccination movement, for instance, use social media to spread misinformation, eroding public trust in health care institutions on a global scale. Increased quality health education and social media accountability can thwart this mistrust.

11. Utilizing modern technology and innovations

New technological advancements are coming out every day, making it easier to detect and treat various illnesses. However, it is important to understand the ethical implications of these new advancements when bringing them into the public health sector so people seeking medical treatment are not harmed by the very tool that is supposed to help them.

12. Preventing antibiotic resistance

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is when certain bacteria or viruses can no longer be treated by antibiotics and can be caused by the overuse of antibiotics, poor hygiene, or lack of access to clean water. Because AMR could pose a serious threat to modern medicine, international authorities must allocate funding for research into new antibiotics.

13. Ensuring health care facilities are clean and sterile

Clean water and sanitation are key to keeping health care facilities sterile. Currently, 1 in 4 health facilities worldwide lacks basic water and sanitation services, increasing the overall risk of infection for patients and health care professionals alike.

Recommended readings:

- https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/eu_world/docs/20140930_global_health_infograph_en.pdf

- https://ec.europa.eu/health/international_cooperation/global_health_cs

- Arah, Onyebuchi A. "On the relationship between individual and population health." *Medicine, health care, and philosophy* vol. 12,3 (2009): 235-44. doi:10.1007/s11019-008-9173-8

Thanks for your attention.