

# Global Health

*Global Health* refers to those health issues which transcend national boundaries and governments and call for actions on the global forces and global flows that determine the health of people.

*Kickbusch 2006*

# 3 key dimensions of global health

- Public health can no longer be pursued just at the national level – it needs strong global institution, mechanisms and funding
- The health sector can no longer deal with the emerging challenges on its own – it needs multisectoral action and broad public and private partnerships at national and international level
- Health can no longer be seen as a purely professional and technical endeavour – it needs the strong voice and the support of civil society and of political leaders to address the equity and human rights issues at stake.

# A new global environment

“(...) the interdependence produced by globalization has broken down traditional ways of conceptualizing and organizing the medical, economic, political and technological means to improve health”

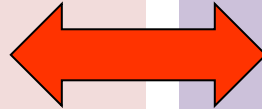
Nick Drager and David Fidler *Foreign policy, trade and health: at cutting edge of global health diplomacy* The World Health Organization Bulletin, Volume 85, number 3, March 2007, the Editorials.

# Global health governance:

- *a mechanism of collective problem solving for improved health through the interplay of different institutional forms and actors at different levels.*
- Like other forms of governance it is subject to reconfigurations of power – it is therefore always also a political undertaking.

# The global health dynamics

- The growing health gap between and within countries
- The return of infectious diseases
- The chronic disease epidemic



- Health is a determinant of growth and productivity, wealth and quality of life
- Direct and indirect economic impact of disease outbreaks and lifestyle changes

# Global inequality and poverty

- Health
- Gender
- Demography
- Education
- Social disparities
- Information
- Security
- Geopolitics

# Trans-boundary collective human security issues

- Trade/mobility
- Global Crime
- Terrorism
- Environment
- Infectious disease
- Intellectual property
- Disaster response

# Global Health Diplomacy

Globalization  
impacts health



Health  
impacts  
globalization



# Global Health Diplomacy

**Health diplomacy may be defined as a political activity that meets the dual goals of improving global health while maintaining and strengthening international relations, particularly in conflict areas and resource-poor environments**

(Novotny, Leslie, Adams, Kickbusch 2008)

**Global Health Diplomacy refers to the multi-level and multi actor negotiation processes that shape and manage the global policy environment for health.**

(Kickbusch 2007)

# 3 key objectives of Global Health Diplomacy

Ideally global health diplomacy results in

**better health security and population health outcomes** for each of the countries involved (thus serving the national and the global interest)

**improving the relations between states** and strengthening the commitment of a wide range of actors to work to improve health

**a common endeavour** to ensure health as a human right and a global public good and delivering results that are deemed fair ( **“for all”** - reducing poverty, increasing equity)

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# The diplomatic space

A major part of global health diplomacy takes place within the United Nations specialized agency for health - **the World Health Organization** - but the range of actors and “spaces” is expanding rapidly. This includes venues such as the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, regional organizations and new organizations such as global alliances, global funds and global forums.

# The new health diplomats

- Increasingly the negotiations on global health matters are not only conducted between public health experts representing health ministries of nation states **but include a growing array of other national actors as well as major players** in the global arena such as NGOs, the private sector, academia and foundations .

# Global Health Diplomacy within a fragmented POLITICAL ECOSYSTEM

MSF



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation



CLINTON



BONO



WEF

G A V I

THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR  
VACCINES & IMMUNIZATION

Partnering with The Vaccine Fund

PHA

Bill Gates administers oral  
polio  
Delhi

World Bank

150 PPPH



- 1945 San Francisco Conference agrees to establish a health organization
- 1946 Constitution is adopted
- 1948 Constitution comes into force
- 1951 International Sanitary regulations
- 1969 International health regulations
- 1978 Alma Ata

# WHO

„the coordinating authority  
on international health work“



- First decade: major diseases
- Second decade: liberation of former colonies – health manpower development
- Third decade: eradication of small pox, new issues such as family planning
- Fourth decade: Primary health care WHO UNICEF Health for All – Equity – cooperation
- Fifth decade: investment in health, poverty eradication
- Sixth decade: common health security and health as a global public good

# Role of WHO in public health

## 6 core functions

- Providing leadership, engaging in partnerships
- Shaping the research agenda
- Setting norms and standards
- Articulating ethical and evidence-based policies
- Providing technical support, catalysing change, building sustainable institutions
- Monitoring health situation and trends
- Critical aspects of emergency preparedness/response should be linked to core public health functions



# Alma Ata 1978

The conference strongly affirms that health....  
is a **fundamental human right** and that the  
attainment of the highest possible level of  
health is a most important **world wide social  
goal** whose realization requires the action of  
**many other social and economic sectors** in  
addition to the health sector.

# Alma Ata 1978

The **existing gross inequality** in the health status of the people particularly between developed and developing countries as well as within countries is **politically, socially and economically unacceptable** and is, therefore, of **common concern to all countries.**

# Alma Ata 1978

Governments have a responsibility for the health of their people which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures. A main social target of governments, international organizations and the whole world community in the coming decades should be the attainment by all peoples of the world by the year 2000 of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life.

# Diplomacy today

- „Today's diplomat has a dual responsibility: to promote his or her **country's interest** and to advance the interests of the **global community**“
- Muldoon et al 2005