

Chapter Fifteen

Working Together to Improve Global Health



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Cooperating to Improve Global Health

Cooperation is in everyone's interest

- Creates consensus around a cause
- Strengthens advocacy efforts
- Allows for sharing knowledge and setting standards
- Many aspects of global health are “global public goods”
- Better surveillance
- More effective financing



Key Actors in Global Health

Agencies of the United Nations

- WHO - World Health Organization
- UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
- UNAIDS - Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS

Engaged in advocacy, generating and sharing knowledge, setting global standards and other key functions



Key Actors in Global Health

Multilateral Development Banks

- African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank
- Owned by their member countries
- Lend or grant money to countries to promote economic and social development



Key Actors in Global Health

Bilateral Agencies

- USAID, Australian Agency for International Development, Canadian International Development Agency, and others
- Primarily the development assistance agencies of developed countries
- Work directly with low- and middle-income countries to advance economic and social development
- Involved in advocacy, knowledge generation, financing



Key Actors in Global Health

Foundations

- The Rockefeller Foundation
- The Wellcome Trust
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



Key Actors in Global Health

Research Funders

- Focus on doing and funding research
- Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Howard Hughes Medical Research Institute
- US National Institute of Health, National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, and others supported by national governments



Nongovernmental Organizations

BRAC

- Currently working in several countries in Asia and Africa
- Works in areas of human rights and social empowerment, education and health, economic empowerment and enterprise development, livelihood training, environmental sustainability and disaster preparedness
- Women and children take priority



Nongovernmental Organizations

Doctors Without Borders

- Umbrella organization made up of affiliated groups in 18 countries
- Best known for provision of health services following humanitarian crises
- Commitment to political independence, medical ethics and human rights



Nongovernmental Organizations

Oxfam

- Supports long-term development programs in local communities with a focus on women
- Emergency relief for natural disasters and conflict with an emphasis on clean water, sanitation and shelter
- Advocacy work on the international policy front



Nongovernmental Organizations

Save the Children

- Seeks to contribute to individual and community self-sufficiency
- Particular attention to well-being of newborns and children, reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS



Nongovernmental Organizations

Advocacy Organizations

- Carry out research and policy studies studies
- Advocacy activities for public at large, funding agencies, national legislatures, governments
- May be aligned with specific issues



Nongovernmental Organizations

Think Tanks and Universities

- Often create institutes that bring researchers together to work on global health issues
- Involved in teaching, research, and practice on global health issues
- Technical assistance on the design, monitoring and evaluation of global health projects



Nongovernmental Organizations

Consulting Firms

- For-profit and not-for-profit
- Address a range of issues such as management, economics, financing, and policy
- Particular areas of expertise, such as supply chain management, nutrition, behavior change communications, or social marketing



Nongovernmental Organizations

Specialized Technical Organizations

- Best known example is the CDC
- Assist with planning and carrying out disease surveillance
- Technical assistance for disease control programs



Partnerships Related to WHO

- Stop TB - composed of a wide array of partners with the goal of eliminating TB as a public health problem
- Roll Back Malaria - partnership including a variety of public and private actors that promote appropriate prevention and treatment of malaria



Other Partnerships and Special Programs

- GAVI - main aims are to improve the ability of health systems to carry out immunization, raise rates of coverage in low- and middle-income countries, and promote uptake of underused vaccines
- The Global Fund - provides financing and engages in advocacy for HIV, TB, and malaria with a particular interest in scaling up programs for HIV antiretroviral therapy



Other Partnerships and Special Programs

Public-Private Partnerships

- Aim is often to develop new products
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)- advocates for AIDS vaccine, develops policies and programs that would encourage use of an AIDS vaccine if one were developed, engages in research and development of candidate AIDS vaccines



Other Partnerships and Special Programs

Pharmaceutical Firms

Beyond their normal profit-oriented activities, they sometimes:

- Donate drugs to global health programs
- Sell antiretroviral drugs for HIV at discounted prices
- Sponsor programs to address diseases such as HIV and TB



Trends in Global Health Efforts

- Shift to focus on building capacity for global public health efforts, health systems development, and working together to fight the burden of disease
- Family planning shift from focus on limiting family size to focus on general reproductive health
- Importance of primary care
- Greater private sector involvement



Setting the Global Health Agenda

- World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization
- Groups of development assistance agencies
- Increasing role in agenda setting of the Gates Foundation
- Writings and advocacy efforts of WHO, multilateral or bilateral agencies, and NGOs
- Popular action led by NGOs, often including, for example, MSF



Future Challenges

- Cooperative surveillance, prevention and treatment of emerging or re-emerging conditions
- Working together to strengthen weak health systems
- Addressing knowledge gaps that prevent progress in preventing and treating AIDS, TB, and malaria
- Creating new public-private partnerships
- Financing important initiatives
- Continuing good leadership in the global health community

