

# **INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**

Presenter:

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# Introduction

- Health and disease can not be limited by the boundaries of the nations, was recognized long ago.
- Way back in 1377, the first recorded quarantine legislation was promulgated for prevention of transshipment of rodents.

- International Sanitary Conference, convened in Paris in 1851,
  - the first step towards seeking international cooperation in prevention of communicable diseases with epidemic potentials.
- Led to the establishment of *Office International d'Hygiene Publique (OIHP) in 1907*
  - a precursor of League of Nations and World Health Organization (WHO).

# International Health

- “A field of research and intervention embracing the international dimensions of health, disease process and care systems.”
- Research:
  - the analysis of health determinants and the health states of the individuals and populations,
- Intervention:
  - the actions taken at economic, political and administrative levels.

# Contents of International Health

- Principles of epidemiology.
- Psychosocial aspects
- Demographic aspects
- Economic aspects
- Health system and governance
- Miscellaneous aspects
  - ethical issues, utilization of alternative medicine by various population segments, humanitarian response to disasters and emergencies and the participation of various governmental, non-governmental and private agencies.

# Organizations Involved in International Health

- Multilateral organizations
  - funding comes from multiple governments (as well as from non-governmental sources) and is distributed to many different countries e.g. UN and WHO.
- Bilateral organizations
  - governmental agencies in a single country which provide aid to developing countries e.g. USAID.
- Non-governmental organizations
  - private voluntary organizations, provide approximately 20% of all external health aid to developing countries.

# World Health Organization (WHO)

- Following World War II and creation of intergovernmental organizations like United Nations (UN)
- International health conference was held in June-July 1946
- All the 61 members approved the constitution of World Health organization (WHO) on 22 Jul 1946.
- This constitution, after many deliberations and ratifications, came into force on 7 April 1948.

- Its objective, as set out in its Constitution, is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.



# Role in Public Health

1. **Leadership** : Providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed.
2. **Setting standards** : Setting norms and standards and promoting and monitoring their implementation.
3. **Policy formulation** : Articulating ethical and evidence based policy options.
4. **Capacity building** : Providing technical support, catalysing change and building sustainable institutional capacity;
5. **Monitoring** : Monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends. Shaping the research agenda and stimulating
6. **Research** : the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge.

# Organisation

- The WHO has its Headquarters comprising of the World Health Assembly and the executive board, at Geneva.
- Its regional offices for six regions covering all the member states, at six different places.

# World Health Assembly

- The supreme decision-making body for WHO.
- It deals with the administration, finances and international policies and programmes.
- It also elects the Director General of the WHO who is the chief technical and administrative officer of WHO.
- It meets each year in May in Geneva and is attended by delegations from all 193 Member States.

# Regions of WHO

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Headquarters</b>
America	Washington D.C. (U.S.A.)
Europe	Copenhagen (Denmark)
Eastern Mediterranean	Alexandria (Egypt)
Western Pacific	Manila (Philippines)
South East Asia	New Delhi (India)
Africa	Harare (Zimbabwe)

# Activity Areas in India

- Provides technical assistance and collaborates with the Government of India and major stakeholders in health development efforts.
- Assists notably in Policy Development; Capacity Building and Advocacy.

# Core Programme Clusters

- Health system and community health
- Communicable diseases
- Non- communicable diseases
- Sustainable development and healthy environments
- Evidence and information for policy
- Health technology and pharmaceuticals
- Social change and mental health

# United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was originally created to deal with the issue of child poverty in Europe after World War II.
- Official permanent status in the UN only in 1953
- In 1961, UNICEF also included the rights of children to education and proper health care under the umbrella of its activity.
- The administrative and organizational headquarter of UNICEF is at New York City.

# Priorities of UNICEF include

- Promotion of breast feeding,
- Immunization,
- Growth monitoring,
- Oral rehydration,
- Education of girl child,
- Child spacing and
- Nutritional supplementation.



# UNICEF in India

- **1949** : UNICEF begins working in India.
- **1967** : UNICEF's association with GOI's rural water programme provides emergency relief to tackle severe drought.
- **1975** : UNICEF supports piloting and launch of ICDS.
- **1985-86** : UNICEF supports launch of GOI's UIP.
- **1986** : UNICEF works with GOI to launch ORT Programme.
- **1996** : UNICEF supports launch of GOI's RCH programme.
- **2000** : UNICEF partners with GOI to ensure eradication of guinea worm.
- **2004** : UNICEF joins Government of India's (GOI) efforts to eradicate polio.

# **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- Founded on 16 November 1945.
- Headquarter is at Paris.
- Aims at promotion of international co-operation among its Member States in the fields of education, science, culture and communication.

# UNESCO in India

- Six broad areas for providing assistance and directing its activities:
  - **Universal Primary Education**
  - Promoting gender equity and equality
  - Implementation of the new commitment to science
  - Protecting world's cultural diversity
  - Equitable access to information and knowledge to all
  - Sustainable Development

# Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- Founded in 1945.
- Headquarter is at Rome.
- FAO aims at achieving food security for all.
- Activities comprise 4 main areas:
  1. Putting information (relating to nutrition, food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries) within reach.
  2. Sharing policy expertise.
  3. Providing a meeting place for nations.
  4. Bringing knowledge to the field.

# FAO in India

- It's current focus is mainly on plant production activities, forestry, fisheries, nutrition and food quality & safety.
- The various projects in India are as follows :
  - Transfer of technology for vegetative propagation of walnuts in Jammu & Kashmir
  - Development of integrated plant nutrition systems methodology
  - Training in sea safety development programmes
  - Greenhouse technology for floriculture
  - Food quality control

# International Labour Organization (ILO)

- The ILO was founded in 1919 to improve the living and working conditions of the working population all over the world.
- In 1946, it became the first specialized agency of the UN.
- Headquarter is at Geneva, Switzerland.
- It coordinates and provides technical assistance to **India** in the field of rural labour, women workers, employment generation, occupational safety and health etc.

# United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- UNDP provides expert advice, training and grant support to developing and least developing countries
  - a) to meet developmental challenges
  - b) to develop local capacity and
  - c) to accomplish MDGs.

# The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes
  - a) To reduce poverty
  - b) To ensure that every pregnancy is wanted
  - c) To ensure that every birth is safe
  - d) To ensure that every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and
  - e) To ensure that every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.



# Bilateral Agencies

- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Colombo Plan
- Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA)
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

# NGOs

- Ford Foundation
- Rockefeller Foundation
- International Red Cross
- Co-operative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE)
- Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM)
- Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH)

# International Health Regulations

- An international law
- Helps countries work together to save lives and livelihoods caused by the international spread of diseases and other health risks.
- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007
- 194 countries across the globe

# Aim

- to prevent, protect against, control and respond to the international spread of disease while avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.

# Why does the world community need IHR?

- To strengthen the collective defences against the multiple and varied public health risks.
- Establish a set of rules to support the global outbreak alert and response system and
- To require countries to improve international surveillance and reporting mechanisms for public health events and
- To strengthen their national surveillance and response capacities.

# History of IHR

**1830-  
1847**

- Cholera epidemic (Europe)

**1851**

- 1<sup>st</sup> International Sanitary Conference

**1951**

- WHO Members adopted the International Sanitary Regulations

**1969**

- Renamed International Health Regulations

# IHR (1969)

- Primarily intended to monitor and control six serious infectious diseases:
- **Cholera\***
- **Plague\***
- **Yellow fever\***
- Smallpox
- Relapsing fever and
- Typhus.

**\*Notifiable**

**Early  
1990s**

- Resurgence of Cholera, Plague
- Emergence of Ebola Hemorrhagic fever

**1995**

- Call for revision of the IHR at 48<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly

**2001**

- Adopted Global Health Security: epidemic alert and response

**2003**

- Established Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) to review and recommend a draft revision of the IHR.

**2005**

- World Health Assembly adopted IHR (2005)



# Why were the IHR revised?

- The limitations of the IHR (1969):
  - Narrow scope (three diseases),
  - Dependence on official country notification, and
  - Lack of a formal internationally coordinated mechanism to contain international disease spread.

# What are the main functions of the IHR (2005)?

- **Notification**
- The IHR (2005) require States
  - to notify WHO of all events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern; and
  - to respond to requests for verification of information regarding such events.
- To ensure appropriate technical collaboration for effective prevention of such emergencies or containment of outbreaks

# "Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)"

- An extraordinary public health event which is determined, under specific procedures:
  - a) to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease; and
  - b) to potentially require a coordinated international response.

**THANKS !**