



GA2 Chair Report
Addressing Global health
investments: Strengthening health
systems for sustainable development

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Introduction

Global health investments are crucial in the development of international life quality and security. Ensuring safe and sufficient healthcare for their citizens is a structural responsibility for each and every nation. Recognizing the importance of this vital issue, national representatives have committed to a goal of providing healthcare for every human in 2015. Since then, countries have been working towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in order to bestow sustainable healthcare standards worldwide.

However, there has been a tension between vertical, disease-specific global health programs such as HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria, and the need for a more horizontal approach focused on strengthening overall health systems such like WHO's six building blocks, which will be explained in the section of Historical Background. Moreover, better alignment and coordination of global health investment with national properties are required as there has been disarrangements between donor priorities focused on specific diseases and recipient countries' needs for strengthening primary healthcare and health systems (Kieny et al.).

The COVID-19 pandemic also widened gaps in health system globally and disturbed the essential services for global health programs, potentially reversing the progress. It is now prioritized to reform the global health structure and collect investments in pandemic preparedness capabilities, for instance surveillance, lab networks, and community engagement (Kieny et al.) (Bartels).

Thus, even there have been plenty of actions taken in the right direction, the UN is still rightfully concerned about making further necessary changes.

Chair



My name is Ila, and I am a 16-year-old English/German girl. I have always loved debating and becoming involved in global-political activities. I have been awarded best delegate two years in a row for the annual MUN Day; however, this MUNISS conference shall be my first.

MUNISS is a phenomenal opportunity for those who have a passion for debating and expressing their measured stances on such relevant topics. Due to MUN being a model of the United Nations itself, the debates are modernised and in accordance with our global society today. An example being the emphasis on the development of LIC's and how HIC's can further support them. Because of our organisation, being international, we do focus our debates to be global and intertwined with cross-continental mindsets.

Deputy Chair: Celine Kraushaar

Key Terms

Health Equity:

Health equity is essentially the right to healthcare being equal to all. It means that no matter the social status, race or any other difference, everyone has access to healthcare services they need without facing discrimination.

Infectious Disease Control:

Infectious disease control is action taken by governments in efforts to prevent the occurrence and spread of communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS, or any newly emerging diseases like the coronavirus. This term includes healthcare strategies like campaigns to promote hygiene, vaccination campaigns and sanitation practices. In achieving the goal of sustainable global healthcare, IDC is vital to take a step forward especially as the world is in a recovery process from the pandemic.

Primary Healthcare:

Primary healthcare makes reference to essential healthcare services that cater to citizens' basic medical needs. This approach is defined by the UN to have 3 components;

- integrated health services to meet people's health needs throughout their lives
- addressing the broader determinants of health through multisectoral policy and action
- empowering individuals, families and communities to take charge of their own health.(World Health Organization)

Ensuring primary healthcare for every human is a fundamental goal for every nation working towards the issue of sustainably strengthening global healthcare systems.

Global Health Governance:

Global health governance refers to the collection of institutions and processes governing healthcare standards that have relation to health mandates. World Health Organization is a multilateral agency, officially recognized and charged with leadership in global health.

Issue explanation

In a world that has been recently recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the cumulative effects of numerous wars such as the Russian attacks on Ukraine, the Israel-Gaza conflict have been extremely destructive in the progress made towards the strengthening of global health systems. These effects include decreased life expectancy, a major increase on mental health challenges, and the regression on the fight with several diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic has evidently made way for spikes in several illnesses such as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. According to a modelling study published in The Lancet HIV estimated that deaths due to HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria over 5 years could increase by up to 10%, 20%, and 36% respectively in high-burden settings, compared to if there was no COVID-19 pandemic. This is due to interruptions in services like antiretroviral therapy, timely TB diagnosis/treatment, and planned insecticide-treated net campaigns (Hogan et al.).

Becoming aware of the gaps in healthcare systems, the United Nations have once again come to terms with the importance of strong global healthcare systems along with achieving it sustainably. However, the wars that came following the pandemic, has resulted in major economic downfall and debt distress in many countries which had major medical consequences on low and middle-income countries. In relation to these back-to-back phenomenon, potential investments on global healthcare are under great risk and high-income countries are more responsible than ever to take initiative in the progression of SDG in healthcare which may prevent hundreds of thousands of humans dying because of insufficient healthcare.

Historical Background

The historical background of global health investments and sustainable development within the United Nations (UN) goes back to the organisation's founding principles and evolving priorities over time. The establishment of the UN after World War II in 1945 came with goals ensuring global healthcare and safety which resulted in the idea of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. A long way since then, major global health initiatives (GHIs) such as the Global Fund, GAVI, and PEPFAR were established to call up funding for specific diseases in low-income and middle-income countries (Bartels). However, it led to the fragmentation of health system as it is a vertical, disease specified way of approach, and unpredictable effects on their overall strengthening (Bartels). In response to the impacts of GHIs, the concept of Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) gained traction with the calls for allocating funding towards strengthening the WHO's six building blocks of health systems: governance, financing, workforce, information, medical products, and service delivery (Bartels).

Additionally, there have been a lot of global efforts to reform development assistance and helping aid effectiveness, such as the Paris Declaration (2005), Accra Agenda (2008), and Busan Partnership (2011). However, progress has been limited due to misalignment between donor and recipients' needs, short-term funding structures, and a "fly-in fly-out" approach to technical assistance (Knittel et al.). In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was adopted with Goal 3 aiming for healthy lives and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) emphasizing the need for stronger health systems to achieve equal access to quality healthcare for everyone (Kruk et al.).

The pandemic of COVID-19 widened gaps in the development assistance model and increased calls for reforming global health investments to form a stronger health system, particularly primary healthcare, to achieve UHC and prepare for future pandemics (Knittel et al.).

Previous Attempts To Resolve The Issue

Countries from all over the world have collaborated with the United Nations in order to ensure global healthcare. Low- and high-income countries have participated in initiatives, policies and resolutions to tackle this issue. For example, in 2018, Rwanda has officially implemented their Health Sector Strategic Plan 4 (HSSP IV) which prioritizes accessible, affordable, quality, and efficient delivery of healthcare as key pillars to enable Rwanda to achieve the Universal Health Coverage (Kayumba). It also follows United Nations frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals in order to provide their citizens with accessible and affordable healthcare.

For more international efforts, African countries have come together to establish The Public Health Digital Ecosystem (PHDE) which is a system that uses artificial intelligence and big data to standardise service in order to ensure that vaccination cards, medical records and test results are sufficient to be verified and trusted globally (African Union Commission (AUC)). It aims to guarantee that any citizen from any African country gets adequate and equal access to healthcare services, and this system was developed to match international healthcare standards set by the World Health Organization.

Another International effort in solving healthcare issues is The Global Polio Eradication Initiative founded in 1988. It is a partnership led by national governments and is made of 6 core partners including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It is the largest public health initiative in history, and it was founded right after the World Health Assembly resolved to eradicate the disease poliomyelitis. It has since then helped the 99.9% decrease in the disease 's global incidence.

Media Contribution

Many nations and organizations have made major contributions to improving health systems and making investments in global health, to support research, development, and global distribution of vaccines and treatments, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been an important part in financing projects against diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis (Gates Foundation, 2020). Similarly, the

World Health Organisation (WHO) has led global efforts to eliminate illnesses and strengthen immunization programs, such as the Expanded Program on the Immunization and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (WHO, 2018).

In the future, there will be an increase in recognition of the need for creative and joint methods to solve global health issues. To improve healthcare delivery and information systems, nations and organisations are spending more in digital health technologies like artificial intelligence and big data analytics (Jones et al., 2021). The potential of technology to standardize healthcare services and provides equal access for all residents is shown by initiatives such as the Public Health Digital Ecosystem in Africs (African Union Commission, 2019).

Also, there is a greater commitment to strengthening health systems and pandemic preparedness in response to previous global incidents like the COVID-19 pandemic. Prioritizing investments in laboratory networks, community involvement, and surveillance can improve resistance and reduce the effects of future health crises (World Bank, 2020). Globally, stakeholders want to achieve sustainable development and universal healthcare through consistent collaboration.

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