Global Health Governance:

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  Week 2
- **Unit 2: Lecture 1**

Unit 2: Learning Objectives

- To understand the differences between Global Health Governance, Global Health Diplomacy and Global Health Security

- To be familiarized with the key global health actors

- To analyse the major challenges in global health governance

Globalization

Increased transnational interconnectivity of people and communities, leading to a growing density of transnational relations and the creation of common identities based on characteristics other than nationality. It extends far beyond the economic realm to political, cultural, environmental and health security issues.

How did Globalization evolve ?

- Intensification of global cross-border flows of goods, services, finance, people, and ideas.

- Facilitated by new technologies and by changes in the institutional and policy regimes at the international and national levels.

What are the main consequences of Globalization?

- **Globalization** has increased the need for inter- and transnational cooperation to "govern" the many global forces that can affect human health.

- **Globalization** has had important consequences for the dynamics of global problems such as health as well as on the architecture of international relations.

Global Health Governance and Global Health Diplomacy

- Global health governance and Global health diplomacy are essential for addressing health challenges that transcend national borders.

- Both involve the coordination of policies, resources, and actions among various actors globally to improve health outcomes worldwide.

. Global Health Governance (GHG) Definition

- GHG is the "totality of collective regulations to deal with international and transnational interdependence in the context of health issues"

- GHG refers to the formal and informal processes through which global health issues are managed at the international level. It encompasses the policies, institutions, and mechanisms that shape how health issues are addressed globally.

Global Health Governance

Global health governance refers to the collective efforts of international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders to manage health issues that affect multiple countries.

It encompasses the creation of policies, frameworks, and institutions aimed at promoting health equity, preventing diseases, and responding to health emergencies.

Key Features of GHG

•**Institutional Structures**: These include the World Health Organization (WHO), international health agencies, and multilateral bodies like the United Nations (UN) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

•**Rules and Norms**: Governance involves the creation of global norms and agreements to address transnational health issues (e.g., pandemics, environmental health threats, etc.).

•**International Health Regulations (IHR)**: These are legal frameworks designed to guide countries in preventing and responding to public health risks.

Key Features of GHG

- Recent studies emphasize the increasing role of non-state actors in GHG, such as International NGOs (e.g., the Gates Foundation) , multinational corporations, and private foundations in shaping global health policies.

- GHG increasingly reflects the need for multi-sectoral collaboration, involving sectors like trade, development, and security, to address health issues.

Global Health Diplomacy

Global Health Diplomacy refers to the negotiation processes,

international relations, and policy-making efforts aimed at managing

global health issues through diplomacy and collaboration between

governments and other international actors.

Key Aspects of Global Health Diplomacy

•**Negotiations and Agreements**: Involves bilateral and multilateral negotiations to develop agreements that affect health outcomes (e.g., trade agreements, health security agreements).

•**Health Security**: A growing focus on global health diplomacy is the negotiation of responses to global health threats, including pandemics (e.g., COVID-19) and bioterrorism.

•**Political Influence**: This area considers how political dynamics influence global health, including power imbalances between countries, health priorities, and the influence of large corporations.

Key Aspects of Global Health Diplomacy

- **Health diplomacy as a tool for conflict resolution** and fostering collaboration across countries, especially in the face of global health crises.

- Recent studies emphasize the role of global health diplomacy in addressing the **intersection of trade and health**, particularly with regard to access to medicines and intellectual property rights under international agreements like the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement.

Scope of GHG versus GHD

- **Global Health Governance** is about the overarching structures and processes for managing global health.

- **Global Health Diplomacy** is concerned with international negotiations and political processes that shape global health agreements and responses.

Global Health Security (GHS)

Refers to the protection of populations from health threats that can cross national borders and pose risks to public health, social stability, and economies. It encompasses a range of strategies, policies, and systems to prevent, detect, and respond to health emergencies, particularly those that are infectious and transnational in nature, such as pandemics, antimicrobial resistance, and bioterrorism.

Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA):

Launched in 2014, the GHSA is an international initiative that aims to accelerate progress toward a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats. It involves collaboration among countries, international organizations, and non-governmental entities to strengthen health systems and improve global health security.

Current Challenges in Global Health Security

Pandemic Preparedness and Response: The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of preparedness for pandemics, particularly in terms of surveillance, vaccine development, and the ability to rapidly scale up responses to emerging infectious diseases. Research points to the need for strengthening international frameworks for pandemic preparedness, particularly through frameworks like the Global Health Security Agenda and International Health Regulations.

Current Challenges in Global Health Security

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):AMR is increasingly recognized as a significant global health security threat. It undermines the ability to treat infections and respond to disease outbreaks, making both prevention and response more difficult. Global initiatives to address AMR, such as the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, are being highlighted as critical to health security efforts.

Current Challenges in Global Health Security

Health Inequities: The pandemic exposed global inequities in health systems and vaccine access, reinforcing the argument that equitable health security is necessary for effective global responses to health threats. There is increasing recognition that inclusive approaches to health security that prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations are essential.

Important terms to remember

International Health Regulations (IHR): Established by the World Health

Organization (WHO), the IHR are legally binding regulations designed to help prevent

and respond to public health risks that have the potential to cross borders.

Health in All Policies (HiAP): is a growing trend in GHG, which is about the

incorporation of health considerations into non-health sectors (e.g., trade, development,

environmental policy).

Key Challenges in Global Health Governance

- **Coordination and Fragmentation**:
  Lack of central authority and overlapping mandates.
  Inefficiencies in global health programs.
- **Accountability**:
  Political pressures vs. public health priorities.
  Disparities in resources and representation.
- **Financing and Sustainability**:
  Dependency on donor funding.
  Lack of long-term investment in health infrastructure.
  Power Dynamics:
  Influence of powerful nations or organizations.
  Equity and justice concerns in decision-making.

There are multiple issues leading to fragmenting and global health inequality, according to Jennifer Prah Ruger. Global health is an issue of justice, not charity, she says.

https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/global-health-justice-and-governance

Conclusion

- The line between GHG, GHD and GHS is blurring. GHS and GHD are increasingly seen as part of GHG.
- Example: COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of all three domains coming into play: WHO was leading GHG actors' efforts and setting GHS strategies (e.g., pandemic preparedness), and GHD (e.g., vaccine distribution negotiations).

GHG, GHD AND GHS are dynamic fields that require continuous collaboration among diverse actors to address health challenges effectively. Understanding the roles and interactions of these key players is crucial for developing strategies that promote health equity and security worldwide.