



Global Health and Inequalities

Part of the HeaRT training package for health journalists,
Summer 2012



How to measure “health” on a global scale

- Life expectancy
- Infant and child mortality
- Morbidity (illness)
- Disability adjusted life years (DALYs)
- Quality adjusted life years (QALYs)

Global health completely linked with inequality

- **Every year** about 9 million children die before their fifth birthday - 93% of them in Africa and Asia;
- **Every year** half a million women die from pregnancy-related causes, 99% of them in developing countries;
- **Every year**, almost **FIVE MILLION** people die of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.
- **Poorest countries** with greatest health problems have **fewest health resources** (doctors, nurses)

Global Health issues and health problems

- HIV/AIDS
- Malaria
- Diabetes
- Global influenza
- Cholera
- Tuberculosis
- Neglected tropical diseases
- Cancer
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Meningococcal meningitis
- Overweight / High Blood pressure
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SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

- Poverty/inequality
- Diet & nutrition
- Housing
- Water & sanitation
- Environmental health
- Health systems financing
- Mortality and Global Burden of Disease (GBD)
- Tobacco
- Alcohol abuse
- Road safety

Millennium Development Goals (2000 – 2015)

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- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- **Goal 4: Reduce child mortality rates**
- **Goal 5: Improve maternal health**
- **Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases**
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Many low-cost interventions for improved health are known

- Priority global targets for improving maternal health include increasing coverage of deliveries with a skilled birth attendant.
- Interventions for improved child health and survival include: promotion of breastfeeding, zinc supplementation, vaccination, treatment of severe acute malnutrition.
- • In malaria endemic regions, use of insecticide treated bednets and intermittent pharmacological treatment reduce mortality.

Global Health issues and health problems – Exercise

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- Were you aware of the MDGs?
- How should the British government and EU work to ensure the success of the MDGs ?
- What type of projects are needed?
- Do you know of any organisations working for these objectives?
- Can you think of ways of reporting their work?



WHO call to action

- **“Achieving further progress on the health MDGs will require the underlying shortfalls of weak health systems, inadequate financing of the health sector in developing countries, and inequitable access to health services to be addressed.”**

What needs to be done?

“This means taking urgent action to deliver **universal access to primary health care**, including **preventative services** and will require a rapid scaling up of efforts to address the weaknesses in health service delivery caused by huge **shortages of human resources, drug stock-outs and inadequate funding**, alongside more concerted efforts to remove the social, cultural and financial barriers that prevent many people in low and middle-income countries from **accessing the healthcare that they need.**”

- (Source:
http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/EN_WHS2011_FuII.pdf, p. 17ff)

Key actors and stakeholders in Global Health

- •The United Nations,
- The World Health Organization
- The World Bank
- World Trade Organization,
- NGOs (including the International Red Cross)
- Other donors such as the Gates-Buffett foundation
- GPPPs with focus on the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria,
- Pharmaceutical industry



Countdown

- Progress in coverage of health interventions, especially relating to child and maternal health (Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5), is tracked in 68 low-income countries by a WHO- and UNICEF-led collaboration called [Countdown to 2015](#). These countries are estimated to account for 97% of maternal and child deaths worldwide.

What links are there between your audience and global health

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- This writing exercise intends to empower you to break down global health issues to your local or regional level and to relate between these two spheres.
- Can a local initiative, a group of volunteers in Europe, help to resolve some international health inequalities or should this be left to the “big politics”?
- Pick one of the medical challenges presented above and prepare a coverage on how cases in your community, your area of coverage of the media you are working for, blends into the global context.

SELECTED WEBLINKS

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- **WHO:** <http://www.who.int/en/>
- Countdown to 2015: <http://countdown2015mnch.org/>
- Global Health Council: <http://www.globalhealth.org/>
- Action for Global Health:
<http://www.welthungerhilfe.de/?id=2465>
- **Action for Global Health / Gates Foundation:**
<http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/>
- **Global Health e-learning:**
<http://www.globalhealthlearning.org/login.cfm>
- **Global Health Magazine:**
<http://www.globalhealthmagazine.com/>
- Global Health Facts: <http://www.globalhealthfacts.org/>
- **Global Health Map:** <http://www.healthmap.org/en/>
- Global Health Center:
<http://globalhealthcenter.umn.edu/documents/whatisglobalhealth.pdf>
- **Global Health Media Project:** <http://globalhealthmedia.org/>

Organisations active on global health issues

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PLUS

Oxfam,

Save the Children,

War on Want

People's Health Movement

MedSin

Médecins Sans Frontières

Help Age International

... and more