



# International Health

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*'Nothing is more international than  
a disease.'*

- Paul Russel

# INTERNATIONAL HEALTH



- Also called 'Geographic medicine' or 'Global health'.
- It is a field of health care, usually with emphasis towards public health dealing with health across regional and/or international boundaries.

# BACKGROUND



- Health and diseases has no political boundaries.
- Disease in any part of the world is a threat to other countries.
- History replete with spread of disease (exm – Plague and Cholera) along trade routes.

- In order to protect spread of disease , attempts had been made by rulers/States to place barriers against infection by detection and isolation of travelers.
- In 14<sup>th</sup> Century a procedure **Quarantine** was introduced in Europe to protect importation of disease.

- 40 days quarantine programme in Europe → plague .
- Quarantine soon became an established practice.
- Different countries adopted different quarantine procedures.
- This was ORIGIN of international health work.

- But, later opposition came from several quarters → 40 days → long period and caused inconvenience for international trade and travelers.
- Quarantine failed in its objective because lack of scientific knowledge.

- It became necessary for international agreement and cooperation on QUARANTINE matters to control communicable disease.
- Thus, **International Conferences** were held and **organizations** were set up to discussions, agreement and cooperation on matters of international health.



	<b>Early Health Organizations</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
1.	First International Sanitary Conference	1851
2.	Pan American Sanitary Bureau	1902
3.	Office International D'Hygiene Publique	1907
4.	The Health Organizations of League of Nations	1923
5.	The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration	1943
6.	<b>Birth of WHO</b>	<b>1948</b>

# FIRST INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONFERENCE (PARIS - 1851)



- Convened in Paris.
- Attended mainly by European countries: Austria, France, Great Britain, Greece, Portugal, Russia, Spain and four Sovereign States (Sardinia, the two Sicilies and Tuscany) & Turkey.
- Objective: To bring some **order** and **uniformity** in the **quarantine** measures.



- Prepared an **International Sanitary Code** containing 137 articles dealing with cholera, plague and yellow fever → but never came into existence.
- Further, 10 other conferences were held between 1851 – 1902 for the same purpose but were equally unsuccessful.

# PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU (PASB) (AMERICA – 1902)



- First International Health Agency.
- Intended to coordinate quarantine procedure in American States.
- **Pan American Sanitary Code** signed in 1924 → Still in force between the states.

- 1947 Bureau was reorganized and called the 'Pan American Sanitary Organization.' (PASO)
- 1958 → renamed →

### **Pan American Health Organization**

- → since then **PAHO** has grown as major health agency → headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**OFFICE INTERNATIONAL D'HYGIENE PUBLIQUE**  
**(OIHP) (PARIS – 1907)**



- International Sanitary conference lead to the establishment of a **Permanent International Health Bureau** (1903).
- **OIHP** also k/as “**Paris Office**” started to disseminate information on communicable diseases and supervised international quarantine measures.

- **OIHP** and **PASB** joined together.
- **British India** and 60+ countries joined OIHP.
- Continued to exist until the 1950 and was **taken over** by the **WHO**.



## THE HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS (1923)

- After first World War - I (1914 - 1918) →  
the League of Nations was established to build a better world.
- League of Nations include –  
**‘Health Organization’** which took steps in matters of international concern for prevention and control of disease.



- **Not** concerned **only** with **quarantine**.
- **But, branched out** into various fields of nutrition, housing, rural hygiene, training of health workers etc.
- League analyzed epidemiological information and started the series of periodical epidemiological reports now issued by WHO.

- Till second world war the three co-existed (OIHP, PASB and HO.)
- In 1939, League of Nations dissolved, but its Health Organization in Geneva continued to publish Weekly Epidemiological Reports.

## THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION (UNRRA) (1943)



- Purpose → organize **recovery** from the effect of **World War- II**.
- Had a health division to care of health to the **millions displaced**, to **restore** and **help services** and to **revive machinery** to aid the **exchange of information** on epidemic diseases.

- Did outstanding work of **preventing** the spread of **typhus** and other diseases.
- Assistance to **malaria control** in Italy and Greece.
- 1946 → taken over by Interim Commission of the WHO.

# BIRTH OF THE WHO



- **In April 1945** → Conference at San Francisco → **United Nation** was formed.
- **7<sup>th</sup> April 1948** – **WHO** was born.
- **World Health Day** - 7<sup>th</sup> April



**World Health  
Organization**

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
(WHO)



**World Health  
Organization**

- WHO is a specialized, non-political health agency of United Nations.
- Its constitution came in to force on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1948. (Rene Sand - Chairmen)
- Which is celebrated as “World Health Day.”

# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)



- Headquarters – **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- It's a part of UN, not subordinate to it.





- It is unique among the UN specialized agencies that it has own constitution, governing bodies, members and budget.
- Each member contributes to the budget and is thus entitled to its services and also has a right to vote.

# OBJECTIVE

- “Attainment by all people’s of the highest level of health.”

- Current objective –

*“Attainment by the all people of the world a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life.”*

# Preamble of the Constitution

- *“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely absence of disease or infirmity.”*
- *“The enjoyment of highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic and social conditions.”*

# Membership

- Open to all countries.
- Most nations are members of UN and WHO. (except-Switzerland – member of WHO only)
- In 1948, the WHO had 56 members.
- Now has 194 members states and two associate members.

# Functions of WHO

- *First Constitutional Function is to act as the directing and coordinating authority in all International health work.*
  1. Prevention and control of specific diseases.
  2. Development of comprehensive health services.
  3. Family Health.
  4. Environmental Health.
  5. Health Statistics.
  6. Biomedical Research.
  7. Health Literature and Information.
  8. Cooperation with other organizations.

# 1. Prevention and control of specific diseases

- Epidemiological surveillance of communicable disease.
- Collect and disseminate information on diseases subject to IHR.
- *ATRS – Automatic Telex Reply System.*
- *WER - Weekly Epidemiological Record.*
- The aim of IHR is to ensure maximum security against spread of disease.
- Non-communicable disease – Cancer, CVS, DM, mental disorders, drug addiction.

## 2. Development of Comprehensive Health Services.



- Function is to **promote** and **support** development of **National health policy** and **National Health Programs**.
- Organizing health system → based on **Primary health Care**.
- Development of health manpower and building of long term national capabilities.
- Appropriate Technology for Health (ATH) is a new programme to encourage self sufficiency in Primary health Care.

### 3. Family Health



- Major programme activities of WHO since 1970.
- Subdivided into → **Maternal and child health care (MCH), human reproduction, nutrition, and health education.**
- Chief concern → improvement of the quality of life of the family as a unit.





## 4. Environmental Health



- Advisory to govts – Sanitary services.
  - Protection of quality of **air, water and food**.
  - Health conditions at **work**.
  - **Radiation** protection.
  - **Detection of new hazards** from new technological developments.
- 
- WHO Environmental Health Criteria Programme.
  - WHO Environmental Health Monitoring Programme.



## 5. Health Statistics



1. Since 1947, morbidity and mortality statistics are published in

a. **Weekly Epidemiological Records.**

b. **World Health Statistics Quarterly.**

c. **World Health Statistics Annual.**



2. Statistics from different countries should be comparable hence,

WHO publishes- **International Classification of Diseases.**

(Updated in every 10 years. 10<sup>th</sup> revision- 1993 )

3. Assistance is provided to countries to improve their medical

records and help in planning and operation of **National Health**

**Information Systems.**

## 6. Bio-Medical Research



- WHO → Stimulates and coordinates research work.
- Worldwide network of → WHO collaborating centers.
- For promoting research → **WHO awards grants** to researchers and research institutions



- **Two committees:**

1. Regional Advisory Committees → define regional health priorities.
2. Global Advisory Committees → deals with policy issues.

- **Target of WHO special programs** for research and training:

**Six diseases → malaria, schistosomiasis, trypanosomiasis, filariasis, leishmaniasis and leprosy.**

- To develop new tools, train workers and strengthen research institutions.



## 7. Health Literature and Information

- WHO LIBRARY Satellite center of
- Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS).
- Only fully **computerized indexing system** covering the whole of medicine on an international basis.
- Public information services are found both at headquarters and six regional offices.





## 8. Cooperation with other organizations.

- Collaborates with UN and other specialized agencies.
- WHO maintains working relationships → with a number of International Government Organizations.



# **STRUCTURE OF WHO**

## Three principal organs

1. The World Health Assembly.
2. The Executive board.
3. The Secretariat.

# *WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY*



- “**Health Parliament**” of Nations and the supreme governing body of the organization.
- Meets annually at headquarters in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- Health Assembly appoints “**Director general**” on the nomination of Executive board.
- **Functions:**
  1. To determine international health policy and programs.
  2. To review the work of the past.
  3. To approve the budget for following year.
  4. To elect Member States to serve for 3 years on the Executive Board.



# *THE EXECUTIVE BOARD*



- Board now has 34 members → each designated by a “**Member State**”.
- Should have at least 3 persons from each WHO region.
- Meets **twice** a year.
- To give effect to the **decisions** and **policies** of the Assembly.
- Has power to take **decisions** → **Emergencies**. E.g. Earthquakes, epidemics, floods etc.

# *THE SECRETARIAT*



- Headed by **Director General** - chief technical and administrative officer of the organization.
- Assisted by **5 Assistant Director Generals** at the headquarters.

## Function:

To provide **technical and managerial support** for their **national health development programs**.

## WHO staff –

In 1948 – 250    in 2010 - 8000

## **WHO Secretariat comprises of 14 different divisions**

1. Division of epidemiological surveillance and health situation and trend assessment.
2. Division of communicable diseases.
3. Division of vector biology and control.
4. Division of environmental health.
5. Division of public information and education for health.
6. Division of mental health.
7. Division of budget and finance etc.

8. Division of strengthening of health services.
9. Division of family health.
10. Division of non-communicable diseases.
11. Division of health manpower and development.
12. Division of information system support.
13. Division of personal and general services.
14. Division of budget and finance.

# WHO Regional Organizations

SN	Region	Headquarters
1.	South East Asia Region	New Delhi
2.	Africa	Brazzaville Congo
3.	The Americas	Washington D.C. (U.S.A.)
4.	Europe	Copenhagen (Denmark)
5.	Eastern mediterranean	Alexandria (Egypt)
6.	Western pacific	Manila (Phillipines)

# The South East Asia Region

- Head quarter in New Delhi – k/as
- World Health House, Indraprastha Estate.
- **Region has 11 members** – India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Korea, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Srilanka, Thailand, Timor-leste.
- Major activities –
- Malaria eradication, TB control, control of other communicable disease, health statistics, public health administrations, environment health and water supply, nutrition, mental health, quality control and medical education.

## **OTHER UNITED NATION AGENCIES**



## United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

Specialized agency of **United Nations**

Established → **1946**

To **deal with rehabilitation of children in war ravaged countries.**

30 nations executive board.



- Now, **United Nation's Children's Fund** → UNICEF

Head Quarters → **New York.**

Works in collaboration with **WHO, UNDP, FAO.**

Early years, worked with WHO → urgent problems

Malaria, TB etc.

**Country Health Program** → focuses on “**whole child.**”

# SERVICES PROVIDED



- ✓ Child Health
- ✓ Child Nutrition

- ✓ Family and Child Welfare
- ✓ Education (Formal & Non-Formal)

## 1. CHILD HEALTH:

- i. Provides aid for the production of **vaccines** and **sera**.
- ii. Assisted environmental **sanitation programs** for safe and sufficient **water** for drinking and household work.
- iii. Providing **Primary Health Care**: Mother and Children  
(immunization, infant and young child care, family planning, safe water and adequate sanitation)
- iv. Local **community participation** → planning personnel and material support.

## 2. CHILD NUTRITION



- 1950's → **Low cost protein rich foods**
- Along with FAO → began "**applied nutrition.**"  
E.g. agriculture extension, helped population to grow and eat food for better nutrition.
- Supplied **equipment's for modern dairy plant** to various countries.
- Provision of large dose of **Vitamin A** ( xerophthalmia is prevalent)
- Enrichment of salt with **iodine** in regions with endemic goiter.
- Provision of **iron** and **folic acid** to combat anaemias

### 3. FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE



- ❖ Improve the care of children both within and outside their homes by giving **parent education**, opening **day care centers**, **child welfare** and **youth agencies** and **women's club** for training.

## 4. EDUCATION – FORMAL AND NON - FORMAL



- ❑ Works in collaboration with UNESCO.
- ❑ Currently, GOBI campaign is being promoted to encourage the following 4 strategies for “Child Health Revolution.”

### UNICEF’S G.O.B.I. — FFF PROGRAMS

1. Growth Monitoring:- which could help mothers to prevent most child malnutrition before it begins.
2. Oral Rehydration: which could save more than 4 million young children who now die each year from diarrheal dehydration.
3. Breast Feeding: Which can ensure that infants have the best possible food and a considerable degree of immunity from common infections during the first six months of life.
4. Immunization: Which can protect a child against measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, tuberculosis, and polio.

# OTHER AGENCIES



- ❖ **UNDP (1966)** – Main source of funds for **technical assistance**. Helps poorer nations develop their human and natural resources.
- ❖ **UN FUNDS FOR POPULATIONS ACTIVITIES** – Funds national level schemes, area projects for development of health, infrastructure, family welfare etc.
- ❖ **FAO (1945)** – Chief aims are to raise the **living standards**; improve **nutrition**; increase efficiency of **farming, forestry, fisheries**; and to better the **living conditions of rural people**, thus widening the opportunity for all to indulge in productive work.  
1960 → **FFHC** (Freedom from Hunger Campaign) – To combat **malnutrition** and to spread awareness.
- ❖ **ILO (1919)** – as an affiliate to the League of Nations to improve the **living and working conditions of the working class**.  
Its purpose was to establish peace, improve international action, labour conditions, and the living standards; to promote economic and social stability.
- ❖ **WORLD BANK** - Governed by 'Board of Directors'.  
Funds projects concerned with **electric power, roads, railways, health, agriculture, family planning** etc.
- ❖ **INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS** - An international humanitarian movement started to **protect human life and health** to ensure **respect for the human being**; and to prevent and alleviate human suffering, without any discrimination based on race, religion etc.

# BILATERAL AGENCIES



- USAID (US Agency for International Development)
- SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency)
- DANIDA

## OTHER NGO's

- Rockefeller Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- CARE (Co-operative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere)
- International Red Cross

# WORLD HEALTH DAY THEMES



- ✓ 2014 → Vector-borne Diseases
- ✓ 2013 → Healthy Blood Pressure
- ✓ 2012 → Ageing and Health
- ✓ 2011 → Anti-microbial resistance
- ✓ 2010 → Urbanization and Health
- ✓ 2009 → Save Lives. Make Hospitals Safe in Emergencies.
- ✓ 2008 → Protecting Health from the Adverse Effects of Climate Change
- ✓ 2007 → Invest in Health, Build a Safer Future
- ✓ 2006 → Working together for health
- ✓ 2005 → Make every mother and child count
- ✓ 2004 → Road safety
- ✓ 2003 → Healthy environments for children
- ✓ 2002 → Move for health



“Healthy Minds Build Healthy  
Bodies”

THANK

YOU

