Defining global public goods for health

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CSE Antibiotics Webinar 3, Oct 18, 2023
1. Why is there renewed attention to GPGs for health?

2. Conventional definition and its limitations

3. Alternative approaches
   » WHO: common goods for health
   » Commission on Investing in Health: global functions

4. The value of a “global functions” approach
What I’m going to talk about today

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Why is there renewed attention to GPGs for health?

We are facing an array of complex transnational health challenges—those that transcend the boundaries of individual nation states—that require international collective action for health (ICAH).

The costs of inaction are huge, e.g. Covid-19 will cause an estimated $13.8 trillion in economic losses from 2020 to 2024 (IMF, 2022*).

We have been largely neglecting the need to finance, organize, govern, and deliver a critical set of ICAH activities.

One challenge—a focus of our discussion today—is in defining this set of activities.

*Gopinath G. A disrupted global recovery. IMF, 9 Mar 2022*
Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

- Heat-related illness and death, cardiovascular failure
- Injuries, fatalities, mental health impacts
- Severe Weather
- Air Pollution
- Malaria, dengue, encephalitis, hantavirus, Rift Valley fever, Lyme disease, chikungunya, West Nile virus
- Rising Temperatures
- More Extreme Weather
- Changes in Vector Ecology
- Changes in Plant and Animal Ecology
- Respiratory allergies, asthma
- Forced migration, civil conflict, mental health impacts
- Malnutrition, diarrheal disease
- Increasing Allergens
- Water and Food Supply Impacts
- Water Quality Impacts
- Cholera, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacter, leptospirosis, harmful algal blooms
- Increasing CO2 Levels
- Environmental Degradation

- Extreme Heat
Combating antimicrobial resistance, a global threat
Large returns on investment

Global Health Risk Framework

Pandemic Financing

Cost: $1

Economic benefits: $2-7

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

The Center for Policy Impact in Global Health
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Conventional economic definition of GPGs for health

Global public goods for health: weaknesses and opportunities in the global health system

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Professor, Public Health Sciences, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami, Miami, FL, USA

A health good that is:

• non-rival—if one person consumes it, this does not reduce its availability to others
• non-excludable—no one can be denied access

Examples: Open access health research, patent shared in a patent pool (new antimicrobial, if patent is shared), WHO technical guidelines
Conventional definition has limitations

The narrow definition seems “inadequate to capture the broad array of international collective actions needed to address supranational health challenges”

West Africa Ebola epidemic 2014-2016

- No vaccine, treatment, or RDT
- Weak surveillance systems
- WHO under-performed in its response
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WHO’s Common Goods for Health (CGH)

“a new construct born out of the observed failures exposed by Ebola, SARS, Zika, and other communicable diseases as well as by other health and environmental risk factors”

“CGH are public goods or have large social externalities, and thus will not arise through market forces alone – therefore, they require both public financing and public action”
### Global Functions (Lancet Commission on Investing in Health)

**GLOBAL FUNCTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplying global public goods (GPGs)</td>
<td>• R&amp;D for health tools</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development of norms, standards and guidelines</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Knowledge generation and sharing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Intellectual property sharing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Market-shaping activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Managing cross-border externalities*</td>
<td>• Outbreak preparedness and response</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Responses to antimicrobial resistance</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Responses to marketing of unhealthful products</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Control of cross-border disease movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercising leadership &amp; stewardship</td>
<td>• Health advocacy and priority setting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Promotion of aid effectiveness and accountability</td>
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**COUNTRY-SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Providing support to LICs &amp; MICs for country-specific purposes</td>
<td>• Achieving convergence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Controlling NCDs and injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>• Health-systems strengthening</td>
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*Health externalities: ‘spillover’ costs suffered by a 3rd party uninvolved in the action (e.g., uncontrolled outbreaks, AMR, pollution)*

Regional or global externalities do not adhere to local or national borders.
How much donor financing for health is channelled to global versus country-specific aid functions?

Marco Schäferhoff, Sara Fewer, Jessica Kraus, Emil Richter, Lawrence H Summers, Jesper Sundewall, Gavin Yamey, Dean T Jamison

![Pie chart showing the distribution of donor financing for health in 2013. The chart indicates that 79% of the financing is for country-specific purposes, and 21% is for global purposes. The total financing is US$22.0 billion.](chart.png)
International Funding for Global Common Goods for Health: An Analysis Using the Creditor Reporting System and G-FINDER Databases

Marco Schäferhoff, Parth Chodavdia, Sebastian Martinez, Kaci Kennedy McDade, Sara Fewer, Sachin Silva, Dean Jamison, and Gavin Yamey

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The value of a “global functions” approach

- A global functions framework helps to clarify, define, and classify essential ICAH activities
- We need to know “what it is” that we are prioritizing, how much we are spending, what the price tag is, the size of the funding gap
- Valuable for tracking financing for these activities (we have developed a machine learning tool to aid tracking)
- “Global functions” capture the broad array of transnational activities that are critical in preparing for & responding to transnational challenges
Thank You

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