

Global health: progress and challenges

Acronyms and abbreviations

AU —African Union	NCDs —non-communicable diseases
CEPI —Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations	ORT —Oral rehydration therapy
FP —family planning	PEPFAR —President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
Gavi —Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization	PMI —President’s Malaria Initiative
GDP —gross domestic product	SARS —Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
GHSA —Global Health Security Agenda	TRIPS —Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights agreement
HIV/AIDS —human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	UHC —universal health coverage
HPV —human papillomavirus	UNAIDS —United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
IHR —International Health Regulations	UNICEF —United Nations Children’s Fund
IMF —International Monetary Fund	UNSC —United Nations Security Council
MERS —Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome	USAID —U.S. Agency for International Development
NAM —U.S. National Academy of Medicine	WHO —World Health Organization
	WHO GPA —World Health Organization Global Program on AIDS

Glossary

acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS): A condition that develops from infection of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that over time increasingly harms the immune system. Scientists believe that HIV originated as early as the 1920s when it crossed from chimpanzees to humans, but the HIV/AIDS pandemic began in the 1980s.

antiretroviral therapy: The standard treatment for HIV, consisting of a cocktail of antiretroviral medicines that decrease the rate that HIV spreads, limiting the presence of the virus to preserve the functions of the immune system and thwart the contraction of potentially fatal infections.

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (Gavi): A public-private partnership that unites the efforts of donor governments, the WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank and the vaccine industry with those of research and technical development, civil society, philanthropists and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to make immunization more accessible in developing countries.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (The Global Fund): Established in 2002, the largest international public-private financing organization that promotes resource collection and distribution for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA): Established in 2014, GHSA promote multilateral cooperation in order to improve international safety and security in the face of infectious disease threats.

Global Program on AIDS (GPA): An early iteration of UNAIDS founded in 1988 in the World Health Organization.

International Health Regulations (IHR): Established in 2005, a tool of international law that enacted health and safety standards to hinder the spread of disease and other health risks, particularly those that propagate through international trade and travel.

Kofi Annan: UN Secretary General (1997–2006). Annan and the UN received the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize for rejuvenating the UN and focusing efforts on the HIV pandemic in Africa. His tenure also established the Millennium Development Goals.

Mexico City Policy (“global gag rule”): A U.S. policy that blocks U.S. federal funding for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide abortions or abortion-related services. The policy has been in effect for 17 of the past 32 years, since its establishment in 1973.

Millennium Development Goals: Eight international development goals for the year 2015 that were established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000 and the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

non-communicable diseases (NCDs): Medical conditions or diseases that are not caused by infectious agents.

oral rehydration therapy (ORT): A treatment that involves drinking water with moderate quantities of sugars and salts to prevent and treat dehydration. ORT can reduce the risk of diarrhea-related death by approximately 93%.

President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR): A U.S. government initiative begun in 2002 by the George W. Bush administration to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with an emphasis on Africa.

Sustainable Development Goals: A collection of 17 social and economic development goals set by the UN for the year 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals replaced the Millennium Development Goals in 2015.

Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS): The first and most comprehensive intellectual property law introduced by the World Trade Organization in 1994 that determined the minimum standards for government regulation of intellectual property.

universal health coverage (UHC): A health care system that makes healthcare or financial protection for healthcare accessible to all citizens. UHC is one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF): Founded in 1946, a UN program that works to connect children and mothers in developing countries with humanitarian and developmental assistance.

United Nations Population Fund: A UN organization that seeks to improve reproductive health and access to related resources around the world. It is known for its campaigns against child marriage, obstetric fistula and female genital mutilation.

United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS): Founded in 1996, a UN program that works to improve the global response to AIDS.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID): Established in 1961, a U.S. government agency that manages aid to foreign nationals.

World Health Organization (WHO): Founded in 1946, a UN agency focused on international public health. From 1966 to 1980, the WHO led a successful global campaign to eradicate smallpox.