

## Week 1 - Health & Globalisation

Globalisation - “changing trends in society towards a ‘borderless world’ through the increasing integration of trade, transport, communications & technology. Globalisation can also refer to the increasing transfer of ideas, languages & popular culture”

- No solid or agreed upon definition; widely agreed that it is extremely complex phenomenon. *Common feature* of many definitions is ‘integration’, focus on ‘connected economies and cultures’
- Concept of change, ‘*borderless world*’, Integration of the world
- *It isn’t a new thing*; always been the sharing & exchange of goods, service, information & knowledge. Several phases of globalisation since the beginning of human history
- *In recent years*; it is the speed of exchange that is much faster, more dramatic leading to unprecedented changes & reduction of barriers
- Can provide both opportunities & challenges with potentially good & bad consequences

### Impacts on health

- *Positive & negative* - varies based on factors (location, gender, ethnicity, education)
- *Benefits* - economic growth (trade), ability to respond quicker to emergencies, better equipment (technology), air travel, shipping
- *Drawbacks* - inequality has worsened in the last 20 years (larger gap between rich & poor), infections can rapidly spread around the world (transport)

### Examples of global action

- *Equality in economic benefits* - change international rules & institutional arrangements to reflect needs, removal of major obstacles
- *Health benefits* - economic growth needs to be sustainable & consciously directed towards poor (better design of policies, more explicit consideration of distributional effects).
- *Minimised population health problems* - minimise potential adverse effects of globalisation, regulatory action at international level & ability to take measures necessary
- *International rules effects on health care systems* - consider potential effects on health care systems & related sectors, full health impact assessment of international agreements & measures that have significant effects, *directly* (through constraints/influences on policies) & *indirectly* (through availability of resources & input costs)

Health - “complete state of physical, mental & social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”

- *Lalonde* (Canadian health minister); introduced the notion that all causes of death & disease have **4 contributing elements**;
  - Human genetics

- Health care services
- Lifestyle/behaviour,
- Environment
- Advanced a central message that improvements in environment & lifestyles of individuals would be single most effective means of reducing death/illness
- **Determinants of health**
  - **Institutional infrastructure** - governance structure, political environment, regulations
  - **Culture** - religion, customs
  - **Knowledge** - education, technology
  - **Lifestyle** - food consumption, alcohol/tobacco use, unsafe sex
  - **Social interactions** - migration, social equity

**Public/Population Health** - “the science & art of preventing disease, prolonging life & promoting physical health & efficiency through organised community efforts”

**Week 2** - Getting to know your world

**Mega countries** - defined as countries with a population of over 100 million people

### **Urbanisation**

- **2010**; 51.5% of the world’s population were living in urban areas
- **2020**; 56% world’s population urbanised, rates higher in North America, EU & Oceania (>75%)
- **2050**; 70% world’s population urbanised, South America will be the most urban region (91.4%)
- Tokyo has the world’s largest city - 37.2 million people (2012)

### **Refugees**

- 42.5 million people displaced by persecution & conflict (Dec 2011)
- 26.4 million internally displaced persons
- 15.2 million refugees
- 895,000 asylum seekers
- AU ranked 47th for hosting refugees by UNHCR (71st per capita & 89th relative to total national GDP) with 23,434 refugees

### **Slums**

- Defined as areas that have combinations of the following characteristics;
  - Inadequate access to safe water, sanitation & other infrastructure
  - Poor structural quality of housing
  - Overcrowding
  - Insecure residential status