

## **Role of International Organization in Health Care**

It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

## **International Health Agencies and Their Important Role**

A large number of international health agencies/organizations of various sizes provide international health assistance to improve long-term medical care in developing countries. They provide aid to victims of war, famine, and natural disasters. Agency sponsored research and pilot programs in developed industrialized countries have generated many of the best ideas for improving health in developing countries. The international health agencies/organizations are an important source of expert technical advice and training for local health professionals. These agencies/organizations produce the leading tropical health textbooks as well as the most important manuals for health workers. Here we will discuss the major international health agencies that are contributing to the health care delivery system in India.

- 1. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)**
- 2. UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)**
- 3. UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND ACTIVITIES (UNFPA)**
- 4. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**
- 5. WORLD BANK**
- 6. SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SIDA)**
- 7. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)**
- 8. UNITED NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND (UNICEF)**
- 9. DANISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (DANIDA)**
- 10. EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC)**
- 11. UNITED STATES AGENCY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)**

**12. COLOMBO PLAN**

**13. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)**

## **Function / Roles of International Agencies**

### **Health Service Development**

It strengthens the health services of Member States on request. This is the first time in history that international help is available to a State in the form of experts, personnel, drugs, transport, and equipment. India has received such help for control of communicable diseases (malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, VD, cholera, smallpox, etc.) and in the fields of health, statistics, family planning, MCH, nutrition, health education, mental health and AIDS, etc. The WHO helps to improve the standards of teaching and training in health, medical and related professions by granting fellowships to doctors of one country for study and training in another country.

### ***Biomedical Research***

The WHO encourages and facilitates research by (i) giving grants and fellowships, (ii) standardizing nomenclature, laboratory techniques and substances like sera, vaccines and drugs. It has published an International Pharmacopeia and has set up several International Reference Laboratories.

### ***Prevention and Control of Specific Diseases***

This activity covers both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Among communicable diseases, a large variety has been tackled by the WHO. The more important among these are malaria, filaria, smallpox (now eradicated), tuberculosis, leprosy, diarrheal diseases and AIDS. The WHO

maintains an epidemic intelligence service that collects and disseminates information about the epidermis. WHO has set up a uniform set of International Health Regulations regarding immunization and quarantine of travellers to prevent the international spread of disease. During recent years, the WHO has placed a major emphasis on six target diseases through the Expanded Program of Immunisation, aimed at immunization of all children by 1990. As regards noncommunicable diseases, the WHO has given special attention to cardiovascular, neoplastic, mental, genetic and dental disorders, as also to drug addiction.

### ***Health Statistics***

The WHO lays down uniform procedures for reporting, registration and collection of health and vital statistics. It publishes the “International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death” which is revised every 10 years. The WHO also publishes (a) Weekly Epidemiological Record, (b) World Health Statistics Quarterly, and (c) World Health Statistics Annual to disseminate information in this area.

### ***Cooperation with Other Agencies***

It promotes international cooperation in health through other specialized agencies of the UN, such as UNICEF, FAO, ILO, etc. It also maintains contact with other organizations like CARE and USAID.

### ***Family Health***

Since 1970, the WHO has given a major emphasis to its Family Health Program, the aim of which is to improve the quality of the family as a unit. The

components of this program are MCH, human reproduction, nutrition and health education.

### ***Environmental Health***

The WHO advises the Member States about the provision of basic sanitary services and safe water supply, as also as the prevention of air pollution. The WHO is committed to the target of “Water for All by 1990” set up by Habitat, the UN Center for Human Settlements.

### ***Health Literature and Information***

The WHO acts as a clearinghouse for information on diverse health problems. It maintains a well-stocked library at the headquarters and brings out many publications.

*The important ones are listed below:*

1. Bulletin of WHO (Monthly), which publishes original work
2. WHO Chronicle
3. Weekly Epidemiological Report
4. World Health Statistics (Quarterly and Annual Reports)
5. World Health (Monthly)
6. WHO Technical Report Series on different subjects
7. WHO Monograph Series
8. International Digest of Health Legislation
9. World Health Forum.

## **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

UNESCO specific agency of United Nations was established on 16th November 1945. It has 193 member countries and 7 associate members. This organization is based in Paris with over 50 field offices and many institutes throughout the world.

### **Objectives**

1. To maintain peace and security by promoting international collaboration through education and sciences.
2. To protect human rights, universal respect for justice.
3. To improve educational, social and human sciences with better communication and information.

### **Functions**

The main functions of UNESCO are:

1. Education: The largest sector of UNESCO activity is in the field of education
2. Scientific activities: The scientific activities initiated by the UNESCO
3. Communication: Develops communication for dissemination of information
4. Preservation of Cultural Heritage: It encourages modernization without the loss of cultural identity and diversity.

## **United Nations Population Fund Activities (UNFPA)**

UNFPA is an international development agency that helps in the promotion of the right of women, men and children by health and equal opportunity. Since 1974 UNFPA is serving in India

### **Core Areas of focus**

The three core areas of work are

1. Reproductive health
2. Gender equality and population
3. Development strategies.

### **Functions**

1. To develop the national capability for the production of contraceptives.
2. To develop population education programmes.
3. To undertake organized sector projects.
4. To strengthen programme management as well as to improve the productivity of grass-root level health workers.
5. To introduce innovative approaches to family planning and MCH care.

## **United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)**

Since 1966 UNDP partnered with people at all cadres of society to help build nations that can cope with crises, and sustain the kind of development that set everyone's quality of life.

## **Basic objective**

1. To help poorer nations to develop their human and natural resources more fully.

## **Focused areas**

1. Supporting strategic
2. Legal empowerment
3. Strengthening the position of women
4. Supporting UNDP country offices and national partners

## **Functions**

1. Advocating for change to help people build a better life and to connect countries with knowledge, experience and resources
2. Solutions to global and national development challenges.
3. Advocates for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
4. Advocates for prevention and recovery, environment and energy, poverty reduction, democratic governance, crisis and HIV/AIDS.

## **World Bank**

The World Bank was founded in 1944, is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

## **Functions**

1. Powers of the bank are vested in a Board of Governors.
2. Bank issue loans for projects that will steer to economic growth.
3. Projects are usually generally related to electric power, roads, railways, agriculture, water supply, education, family planning
4. Health and environmental elements have been added to many projects.

5. Co-operative programmes exist between WHO and the Bank *g.* Water Supply, World Food Programme, Population Control projects