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World health organization

The world health organization is an agency of the United Nations. The headquarters is in Geneva. The organization came into function on 7th April 1948, which is celebrated as World Health Day. On this day, for each year a theme is chosen on a certain aspect of public health and all attention is focused on it.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. WHO is a member of the United Nations Development Group. Its predecessor, the Health Organization, was an agency of the League of Nations. The constitution of the World Health Organization had been signed by 61 countries on 22 July 1946, with the first meeting of the World Health Assembly finishing on 24 July 1948. It incorporated the Office International d'Hygiène Publique and the League of Nations Health Organization. Since its creation, it has played a leading role in the eradication of smallpox. Its current priorities include communicable diseases, in particular, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, malaria and tuberculosis; the mitigation of the effects of non-communicable diseases; sexual and reproductive health, development, and aging; nutrition, food security and healthy eating; occupational health; substance abuse; and drive the development of reporting, publications, and networking. WHO is responsible for the World Health Report, a leading international publication on health, the worldwide World Health Survey, and World Health Day (7 April of every year).

WHO Logo



History

During the 1945 United Nations Conference on International Organization, Dr. Szeming Sze, a delegate from China, conferred with Norwegian and Brazilian delegates on creating an international health organization under the auspices of the new United Nations. After failing to get a resolution passed on the subject, Alger Hiss, the Secretary General of the conference, recommended using a declaration to establish such an organization. Dr. Sze and other delegates

lobbied and a declaration passed calling for an international conference on health. The use of the word "world", rather than "international", emphasized the truly global nature of what the organization was seeking to achieve. The constitution of the World Health Organization was signed by all 51 countries of the United Nations, and by 10 other countries, on 22 July 1946. It thus became the first specialised agency of the United Nations to which every member subscribed. Its constitution formally came into force on the firstWorld Health Day on 7 April 1948, when it was ratified by the 26th member state. The first meeting of the World Health Assembly finished on 24 July 1948, having secured a budget of US\$5 million (then GBP£1,250,000) for the 1949 year. Andrija Stampar was the Assembly's first president, and G. Brock Chisholm was appointed Director-General of WHO, having served as Executive Secretary during planning stages. Its first priorities were control the spread the to of malaria, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections, and to improve maternal and child health, nutrition and environmental hygiene. Its first legislative act was concerning the compilation of accurate statistics on the spread and morbidity of disease. The logo of the World Health Organization features the Rod of Asclepius as a symbol for healing.

The most important objective that the WHO seeks is the attainment of the most optimum level of health of the people which would enable them to load a socially, economically and mentally productive life.

The WHO seeks to:

- Act as directing and co-ordinating authority on international health activities.
- Collaborate the member states and other agencies in planning and carrying out health programmes.
- Give technological assistance in emergencies or upon the request of the government.
- Promote medical research and improve the underdeveloped countries.
- Bring the health status to international level.
- Keep communicable diseases under constant surveillance, to give knowledge about health.
- Set certain standards for the quality control of drugs, vaccines and other detrimental substances to the well being.
- Widen the spectrum of maternal and foetal health and to live harmoniously.

The WHO consists of 3 principal organizations:

World health assembly: this is the supreme growing body of the WHO, which meets the assembly composed of delegates representing the member states.

Executive board: this has 32 members technically qualified in the field of health. The main work of the board is to give effective decision and policies to the assembly.

Secretariat: it is the organization staff consisting 5000 people mainly physicians, medical scientists, health administrators. The main function is to give technical and managerial support for the national health development programmes.

In order to meet the special health needs of the different nations WHO has established regional headquarters.

REGION	HEADQUARTERS
South East Asia	New Delhi
Africa	Brazzavile
America	Washington DC
Europe	Copenhagen
East Mediterranean	Gilekandia (Egypt)
Western Pacific	Manila

Functions

Feeding special food

WHO has recently increased its nutrition work to develop low cost foods for babies and infants, which are in protein. It educates the people and also encourages the governments to educate people about the importance of correct foods-basically the mothers, because they are involved in selection, preparation and handling of food.

Research work

It conducts medical research programme, which includes human reproduction, drug evaluation, pollution and to improve sanitary conditions. The WHO is studying the different types of medical disorders and their treatment. The main function of WHO is to sponsor the training and research for the medical practitioners of different countries.

Other functions

WHO continuously stresses on the importance of National Health Planning, and the need for each country to make best utilization of the social resources. The WHO is always ready to serve in case of major natural calamities like floods, famines or quakes. WHO now directs its resources in underdeveloped countries to accelerate the growth of primary healthcare in rural areas. WHO provided vaccination for cholera and eradicated in Nigeria.

WHO is collaborating with Indian Government in the programme of medical research in areas of epidemics like cholera, typhoid, occupational health, medical technology, pathology etc. WHO gives support to the Cholera Research Centre, Kolkata and the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahamedabad.

Almost all communicable diseases have been the subject of WHO. The global emancipation from small pox is an example of this. WHO is currently and directly involved in the global battle against AIDS. Immunization against common diseases during childhood is given the utmost priority in WHO programmes. WHO provides vaccinations for measles, polio and tablets for deworming.

WHO is working closely with health authorities in the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) affected countries to provide clinical, epidemiological and logistical support to eradicate it.

WHO acts as a source of information regarding various health problems. A wide variety of morbidity and mortality statistics relating to health problems are published by WHO in the weekly epidemiological records and quarterly world health statistics. The technical reports of WHO publication complies hundreds of topics on a wide variety of health issues. The WHO also has a public information service booth at the headquarters and at each of the regional offices.

There has been a regional advisory committee on health research and a global advisory committee which is in collaboration with policy of global health.

WHO is involved in nutrition programmes by promoting general awareness of the prevalence of deficiencies and supporting the development and application of improved methods of prevention, detection and control of diseases. It also provides technical and other support to countries for strengthening their capabilities for preventing and managing nutritional problems.

The work of WHO is outlined in a six-point agenda, aimed at:

- 1. Promoting health and socioeconomic development
- 2. Defending against outbreaks of disease through improving health security
- 3. Reducing poverty by strengthening health services
- 4. Generating health information that can be disseminated to the public
- 5. Collaborating and encouraging partnerships between international, nonprofit, and privately run organizations
- 6. Reforming and improving the organization's own performance and that of its associated branches and centres.

Public health education and action

Each year, the organization marks World Health Day and other observances focusing on a specific health promotion topic. World Health Day falls on 7 April each year, timed to match the anniversary of WHO's founding. Recent themes have been vector-borne diseases (2014), healthy ageing (2012) and drug resistance (2011).

The other official global public health campaigns marked by WHO are World Tuberculosis Day, World Immunization Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Hepatitis Day, and World AIDS Day.

As part of the United Nations, the World Health Organization supports work towards the Millennium Development Goals. Of the eight Millennium Development Goals, three – reducing child mortality by two-thirds, to reduce maternal deaths by three-quarters, and to halt and begin to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS – relate directly to WHO's scope; the other five inter-relate and have an impact on world health.

Data handling and publications

The World Health Organization works to provide the needed health and well-being evidence through a variety of data collection platforms, including the World Health Survey covering almost 400,000 respondents from 70 countries, and the *Study on Global Ageing and Adult Health* (SAGE) covering over 50,000 persons over 50 years old in 23 countries. The Country Health Intelligence Portal (CHIP), has also been developed to provide an access point to information about the health services that are available in different countries. The information gathered in this portal is utilized by the countries to set priorities for future strategies or plans, implement, monitor, and evaluate it.

The WHO has published various tools for measuring and monitoring the capacity of national health systems and health workforces. The Global Health Observatory (GHO) has been the WHO's main portal which provides access to data and analyses for key health themes by monitoring health situations around the globe.

The WHO Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems (WHO-AIMS), the WHO Quality of Life Instrument (WHOQOL), and the Service Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA) provide guidance for data collection. Collaborative efforts between WHO and other agencies, such as through the Health Metrics Network, also aim to provide sufficient high-quality information to assist governmental decision making. WHO promotes the development of capacities in member states to use and produce research that addresses their national needs, including through the Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet). The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/AMRO) became the first region to develop and pass a policy on research for health approved in September 2009.

On 10 December 2013, a new WHO database, known as MiNDbank, went online. The database was launched on Human Rights Day, and is part of WHO's QualityRights initiative, which aims to end human rights violations against people with mental health conditions. The new database presents a great deal of information about mental health, substance abuse, disability, human rights, and the different policies, strategies, laws, and service standards being implemented in different countries. It also contains important international documents and information. The database allows visitors to access the health information of WHO member states and other

partners. Users can review policies, laws, and strategies and search for the best practices and success stories in the field of mental health.

The WHO regularly publishes a *World Health Report*, its leading publication, including an expert assessment of a specific global health topic. Other publications of WHO include the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, the *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal* (overseen by EMRO), the *Human Resources for Health* (published in collaboration with BioMed Central), and the *Pan American Journal of Public Health* (overseen by PAHO/AMRO).

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

The Food and Agriculture Organization came into existence in October 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity, and to better the condition of rural populations. Today, FAO is the largest autonomous agency within the United Nations system.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernise and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all. Its Latin motto, fiat panis, translates into English as "let there be bread". As of 8 August 2008, FAO has 191 members states along with the European Union, Faroe Islands and Tokelau which are associate members. It is also a member of the United Nations Development Group.

FAO logo



History

The idea of an international organization for food and agriculture emerged in the late 19th and early 20th century, advanced primarily by the US agriculturalist and activist David Lubin. In May–June 1905, an international conference was held in Rome, Italy, which led to the creation of the International Institute of Agriculture. Later in 1943, the United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt called a United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture. Representatives from

forty four governments gathered at The Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia from 18 May to 3 June. They committed themselves to founding a permanent organization for food and agriculture, which happened in Quebec City, Canada on 16 October 1945 with the conclusion of the **Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization**. The First Session of the FAO Conference was held in the Chateau Frontenac at Quebec, Canada, from 16 October to 1 November 1945

The Second World War effectively ended the International Agricultural Institute, though it was only officially dissolved by resolution of its Permanent Committee on 27 February 1948. Its functions were then transferred to the recently established FAO.

The motto of FAO is "FIAT PANIS" (let there be bread) and leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

Functions

- The organization shall collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture. In this constitution the term "agriculture" and its derivatives include fisheries, marine products and forestry products. FAO publishes hundreds of newsletters, reports and books and creates CD-ROMs. Millions visit FAO Internet for technical consultation.
- The organization shall promote and where appropriate, shall recommend national and international action with respect to:
 - a) Scientific, technological, social and economic research relating to nutrition, food and agriculture.
 - b) The improvement of education and administration relating to nutrition, food aand agriculture and the spread of public knowledge of nutritional and agricultural license and practice.
 - c) The conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural products.
 - d) The improvement of the processing, marketing and distribution of food and agricultural products.
 - e) The adoption of policies to the provision of adequate agricultural credit-national and international.
 - f) The adoption of international policies with reference to agricultural commodity arrangement.
- It shall furnish the technical assistance as Governments may request. Since its inception, FAO has worked to alleviate poverty and hunger by promoting agricultural development, improved nutrition and the pursuit of food security-the access of all people at all times to the food they need for an active and healthy life. The organization offers direct development assistance, collects, analyses and disseminates intermational forum for debate on food and agricultural issues.

FAO is active in land and water development, plant and animal products, forestry, fisheries, economic and social policy, investment, nutrition, food standards and commodities and trade. It also plays a major role in dealing with food and agricultural emergencies.

A specific priority of the organization is encouraging sustainable agriculture and rural development, a long-term strategy for the conservation and management of natural resources. It aims to meet the needs of both present and future generations through programmes that do not degrade the environment and are technically appropriate, economically viable and society acceptable.

FAO under "Farmer Field Schools" gives training to farmers of Asian countries in using biopesticides.

In crisis situations, FAO works with World Food Programme to help people rebuild their lives.

The challenges of the future

- To reduce the number and proportion of the world's people affected by hunger and malnutrition.
- To speed up the development of food production in low income food deficit countries.
- To conserve and protect natural resources.
- To achieve a higher degree of rural equity.
- To strengthen the position of the developing countries in world trade.

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