

Global health is a humanitarian imperative of international cooperation

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Abstract. The article discusses the practice of shaping global health as a focused institutional response of the international community to the challenges of a changing world and the most important factor in ensuring security. Growing global factors continue to make health security an integral part of international policy through the collaboration of the World Health Organization (WHO) and other actors. The state of health security, changing values, and rising expectations determine the adoption of new systemic decisions by WHO and other global health actors, leading to the revision of traditional approaches in order to respond effectively to current challenges.

Keywords: health, international organizations, World Health Organization, actor, international cooperation

1. Introduction

The growing interdependence of individual regions and territories from acute social problems and upheavals, crises of various kinds places increased demands on participants in international cooperation in the field of health security. A policy aimed at preserving health gives rise to a whole range of initiatives implemented not only at the level of individual states but also within the framework of international organizations and specialized structures. Issues of ensuring safe and sustainable development as new paradigms for preserving the mankind are included in the agenda of these actors, for whom the problems of maintaining health are an important imperative of international humanitarian cooperation and expanding the boundaries of mutual responsibility. Collaboration, encompassing a wide range of organizational and regulatory activities, offers opportunities for new global initiatives and strategies. Global health risk factors directly affect the interests of modern society and the international order; therefore, they require finding adequate answers [9].

In this context, the problems of developing “global health” as an important factor for sustainable development remain a necessary effort of the international community. In 1958, this concept was used in the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) on the topic “Global fight against diseases” and in the report of the US House of Representatives “Policy of global health” (1971). These documents are a reflection of the dynamic processes in which global health is viewed by researchers as providing the world community with the health needs of all people on the planet. The priority goal is equal access to health services for all people on the planet, without taking into account territorial boundaries,

etc. [1]. There are other definitions characterizing the preservation of health as the possibility of achieving positive results through global interaction based on democratic principles, or as an activity aimed at solving the problems of the survival of society.

Global health as a “multilateral system of international interaction” [2] is a topic of discussion, which testifies to the diversity of existing views. Most often, specialists determine health issues that transcend national and state borders, as well as joint actions of the global community [3]. The growing need to ensure safety of life, one of the main motives of the activities of people and communities of different levels, leads to increased coordination of solving problems of preserving and promoting health.

2. Materials and Methods

The problems of global health, among which, in recent decades, basic values have been increasingly brought to the fore in the framework of the activities of specialized international humanitarian actors, take on special significance. They are associated with the growth of new challenges, the preservation of negative trends in several regions of the world and the ineffectiveness of the role of individual states and international structures. Accordingly, in the context of exacerbation of the vital problems of mankind, there is a need not only to use the mechanisms of broad partnership, but also there are new initiatives, solutions to revise the problems of improving the overall responsibility model. This is particularly relevant in the development of global health policies and the involvement of interested civil society actors in this issue.

With the globalization that generates social tensions of the spread of various types of diseases, the understanding of their growing impact on the state of society has changed. The obvious manifestation of signs and the increase of their negative influence require that health is to be considered as an important factor of personal, national, and international security.

In the second half of the twentieth century, the concept of global health was framed with the goal of improving health and protecting the life of everyone from the growing challenges and threats that have a supranational aspect. Major health promotion strategies have been developed and consolidated in a number of adopted documents (such as “Worldwide Malaria Eradication Program”). The “Health for All” Charter of Ottawa (Canada) gave an important impetus to the development of this, it was adopted in 1986. The need to adopt new approaches to the development of global health was due to significant changes in the world.

In order to ensure compliance with the principle of justice and the adoption of effective global measures, the UN pays special attention to this important issue. The charter of a well-known institute, “guarding the health of the inhabitants of the whole world,” defines the special significance of the fundamental categories “health” and “safety” for the survival of civilizations. Among the basic principles, it is stated that the health of all nations is a major factor in achieving peace and security and depends on the fullest cooperation of individuals and states.

Today, it is increasingly understood that human health and humanitarian protection, including an equal access to primary care and collective protection against transnational threats, are of a shared responsibility. The WHO is responsible for providing leadership in addressing global health issues, setting the agenda for medical research, setting norms and standards [4], and other actions that are related to meeting the humanitarian need of individuals and society.

Effective development of global health depends not only on government institutions working in the health sector but also on the increasingly popular role of non-governmental actors. This confirms the existence of ample opportunities to change the lives of millions of people through existing channels of interaction with international humanitarian actors. The latter, having more specific specifics of activity and new sources of resources, are both a tool for interaction with certain segments of the population, and an opportunity for more in-depth work in a certain direction.

3. Results

The WHO has strong relationships with well-known intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The current procedure for cooperation with the latter is determined by the document “Principles Governing the Establishment of Official Relations Between the WHO and Nongovernmental Organizations.” The WHO legislation governing these relationships has a major impact in managing global health. This is a step-by-step process, during which information is exchanged and attended at technical meetings in order to determine the main areas of cooperation.

One of the main tasks of the participants in global interaction is to reduce the gap between individual regions. Today, the WHO Emergency and Humanitarian Aid Division deliberately coordinates the international response to health emergencies in all regions of the world. The effectiveness of WHO in implementing this policy depends largely on how effectively it cooperates with various international organizations, UN specialized agencies, civil society and the private sector, especially in ensuring a global regime for controlling the spread of infectious diseases.

In the past decade, the need to develop new approaches to the development of global health management has been driven by significant changes in the world. Several factors have played a role in expanding the agenda regarding the role of WHO in the interests of health: the health management is no longer the exclusive prerogative of nation states; an increasing role of new actors; increasing concerns over the conduct of numerous discussions on leadership issues; development of the health management principle in the interests of health [5].

Of course, one of the key aspects of multifaceted activities conducted by the WHO is to expand the channels of cooperation with selected international, national actors working to improve public health and combat dangerous diseases. As one of the main co-founders of the UNAIDS, the WHO is the main coordinating organization for health in the UN system. The program brings together the efforts of 11 UN agencies. As one of its sponsors, the WHO supports the expansion of national HIV / AIDS treatment and care programs.

The studies conducted within the framework of the Program indicate that it is expected that up to 2 million new outbreaks of HIV infections will occur in Africa and the Middle East by 2030 (if the indicators of the last decades remain). The African Union’s “2063 Agenda” and the UN-African Union Framework Agreement on Peace and Security “Sustainable Development Goals to 2030” create important prerequisites for expanding the activities of this actor in this area.

The UNAIDS continues to address the health and rights of women and young people. New commitments in the areas of human security and medical care in humanitarian crises are emerging to minimize the negative impact of acute social problems, instability, armed conflicts and natural disasters. It is estimated that 60% of all preventable deaths of mothers occur in humanitarian crises and armed conflicts [6].

Over the years, the WHO has been collaborating in a global health dialogue with the Russian Federation. Within the framework of existing channels, Russia is taking initiatives to strengthen measures that ensure health security and are aimed at preventing and combating non-communicable diseases and makes a great contribution to the global agenda.

The process of establishing new channels of humanitarian cooperation between the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russia and international structures acquires a special character. With all their quantitative diversity on a par with other international actors, collaboration with the WHO is a strong channel for interaction on humanitarian response issues on a wide range of issues. Russia’s role is growing in the context of readiness for international response in various formats on a wide range of humanitarian issues. As part of the implementation of the International Development Assistance (IDA) projects, significant funds are channeled through international organizations to overcome the consequences of humanitarian crises and to provide medical assistance. Trust funds were allocated to those international organizations (including WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) being involved in global health issues.

A significant tool for the implementation of humanitarian projects abroad is the Russian National Corps of Emergency Humanitarian Response (RNCEHR). This organization has carried out a large

number of large humanitarian operations in various response formats. The search and rescue unit of the “heavy” class “Centrospas”, which is part of the RNCEHR, operates in accordance with the annual Plans of Measures of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russia. Airborne hospital works in the squad. In 2016, it entered the top three global register of emergency medical teams established by the WHO. The doctors of the detachment worked in Syria, providing high-tech medical care in the WHO system. A highly qualified medical assistance was provided to more than one and a half thousand civilians and the development of dangerous infectious diseases in places of temporary residence for refugees was prevented [7].

Compliance with the WHO international standards and the willingness of specialists of the detachment to provide a qualified medical care allows you to use its potential in the conditions of acute humanitarian crises in the disaster zone. There are also resuscitation aircraft, helicopter medical modules for the evacuation of victims of emergency humanitarian operations.

4. Discussion

The study of individual aspects of the WHO’s interactions with certain actors of humanitarian activity is a necessary aspect in understanding its role in the development of effective global health, which has been an important part of its policy in recent decades. Of course, it is not possible to achieve this goal only with the help of resources of one organization and without alternative mechanisms that require “hard imperative regulation” [8].

Despite the development of a system of global interaction, individual societies continue to face acute social and humanitarian problems. In developed and developing countries of the world, knowledge and well-being are expanding, while the situation in the third world countries is radically opposite. On the one hand, the improvement of production, advanced technologies allow to move to a new stage of development, and on the other hand, new challenges adversely affect human health and the environment. There are new diseases that are more resistant to the changing environment; health inequalities and other problems indicate the failure of the system of rapid response to new challenges of a changing world.

The importance of the WHO’s claimed role in emergency situations and humanitarian crises is increasing. An analysis of the WHO’s programmatic actions shows that humanitarian disasters and complex emergencies of a different nature are traditionally considered to be the main threat to health security. But at the same time, programs aimed at developing global health do not have clear limits of responsibility and guarantees of participants.

5. Conclusion

The current trend in the development of the modern world makes it possible to note that the increasing attention to the problem of maintaining health in a global aspect looks quite natural today. In the future, active influence on its prospects will come from both intergovernmental and non-governmental participants, who have organizational and other means to expand and maintain universal coverage. Expanding the boundaries of partnership in this area determines the establishment of effective channels of close international cooperation. It is thanks to the growing multifaceted activities of the subjects of international humanitarian activities that favorable conditions are created for the sustainability and vitality of the system of relations in the field of ensuring health security.

Despite the persistence of existing contradictions between the need to introduce international regulation and difficulties, the WHO is creating new channels, including at the expense of Russian organizations to improve access to the health care system, seeks to address the needs of people in difficult and critical situations. The emergence of new strategies, initiatives, more and more actualizes their consideration as a focused institutional response of the international community to the challenges of a changing world and the most important factor in ensuring health security. The growing influence of existing problems leads not only to an active search for a response to modern realities and the growing challenges of a changing world from the WHO and its traditional partners, but to expanding

the boundaries of international interaction and shared responsibility at the expense of the most effective mechanisms and actors in the civil sector.

In the works of domestic authors, this aspect of ensuring health security is fragmented. More than that, there is no necessary critical analysis of the mechanisms of interaction between the WHO and other actors of humanitarian activities. Accordingly, a new vision of changing the role of the latter in the context of diverse challenges requires further scientific and practical reflection and use of new partnership mechanisms for health. Studying the prospects of partnership, in particular with the Russian participants, allows expanding the scientific and practical foundations that take into account the experience of the past, as well as the factors that most significantly influence the nature of solving health safety problems.

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