

**GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY
AT A TIME OF ECONOMIC
VULNERABILITY:
Issues for nation states and
health policy**

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August 2009

COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTIVE SECURITY

“Protecting security of the nation and its citizens; the most important responsibility of government” (Peter Hennessey)

“Securitization of public health” (Ilona Kickbusch)

“Human security places individual not just the state at the centre of security considerations” (UNDP)

ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

SARS put economic ministries on notice of the macro-economic consequences of public health emergencies

Current economic crisis could have long lasting consequences for global health security

POLICY ISSUES FOR NATION STATES

De-globalization or more globalization

Resilience against further economic downturns and short, medium and long term options for health security

GLOBAL ECONOMY

Prompt action avoided a global collapse of the financial and banking sector

Downturn varies from recession in US and Europe to slower growth in some emerging and developing countries

Deterioration of public finances and levels of public debt increasing significantly in many advanced economies

WHY THIS TOPIC FOR HEALTH POLICY PRACTITIONERS?

Following SARS, IMF and World Bank asked “what other health problems lay over the horizon with macro-economic consequences and could decision making by governments be improved?”

GLOBAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF MACRO- ECONOMIC EMERGENCIES

Economic crisis and main risks for health and health systems and opportunities for action

Policy options to respond to the negative impact on health systems in low, middle and high income states

Health system measures to address structural issues in poor societies

HEALTH POLICY CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL RESILIENCE

Health policy development requires an appreciation of the changing nature of capitalism, assessment of the global health consequences of economic vulnerability and an understanding of global resilience and action for global health security

FUTURE OF CAPITALISM AND GLOBALIZATION

“The international system constructed after World War 2 will be unrecognisable by 2025 thanks to globalization, the rise of emerging powers and transfer of relative wealth and economic power from West to East. The future world will be bipolar”. (US National Intelligence Council, 2008)

“A retreat from globalization would be economically damaging, sow distrust and strengthen antagonism between nations. World leaders must fend off the worst consequences of the economic crisis they failed to prevent” (Financial Times April 2009)

HEALTH SECURITY AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

Overcoming the crisis will require well targeted, fully coordinated efforts and investing in health should be part of the response.

Strengthening health systems for the most vulnerable needs to be recognised as well as the importance of health and public protection

IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON HEALTH SYSTEMS

“Health is very much influenced by education, employment and access to social protection.

The frequency and severity of communicable and non-communicable disease are likely when health systems do not function well” (WHO Commission: Social Determinants of Health)

PROTECTING HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEMS: nation states local perspective

Nation states need to respond at different levels without over reacting and compromising vital social programmes

Ministers of health have a duty to advocate for government policies that take a pro-health approach and “promote the shared values of solidarity, equity while paying attention to the needs of the poor and vulnerable”
(WHO Euro Tallinn Charter 2008)

PROTECTING HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEMS: nation stated global perspective

“UK global health strategy one way for Britain to help build a better fairer world as a question, not just of morality, but of global health security” (Gordon Brown, Prime Minister 2008)

PROTECTING HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEMS: global health security

More effective international organizations for
global health

Reformed UN and more effective WHO

Nation stated to more effectively co-ordinate
efforts at regional levels (EU, APEC) as well as
with international partners e.g. World Bank, IMF

LONDON CHALLENGE TO GLOBAL LEADERS

“We are faced with a choice between transformation of the global economic system to bring it into the 21c and to allow it to tackle the extra-ordinary challenges we now face or seek to paper over the cracks of a profoundly dysfunctional system and bequeath a world of gross inequity, widespread poverty, disease and environmental catastrophe to our children”

(Ron Labonte, London 2008)

WHO AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

Remember the lessons of 1979 when budgets were shifted from the social sector-education and health- and many countries today suffer the legacy of errors

DG called for a period of investment in health, protect the poor and recognise that healthy human capital is the foundation for economic productivity, recovery and stability

(WHO November 2008)

OXFORD CENTRE FOR GOVERNANCE – G 20 submission

Aid more important than ever to protect access to health for the world's poorest

IMF should avoid macro-economic targets that contract public spending on health and to go further to take into account the short and medium term benefits of investing in health.

(Oxford Centre for Governance Submission to G20 2009)

G20 PROGRESS LONDON 2009

“We believe that the only sure foundation for sustainable globalization and rising prosperity for all, is an open economy based on market principles, effective regulation and global institutions”

(G20 Communiqué April 2009)

ACTION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY: Resilience

Better national policy making: contingency planning; response capability; forward looking including contingency and scenario planning; outward looking with an international perspective; communication with the public; innovative, flexible and creative solutions and plans; evidence based policy including cost options, joined up; review, evaluation and learning from experience

(UK Cabinet Office)