

Training Public Health Physicians for Global Health: Challenges and Opportunities

**Institute of Medicine
Committee on Training Physicians
for Public Health Careers**

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Washington, DC June 19, 2006

Overview

- n **Definitions of Terms**
- n **Global Health Crisis**
- n **Why Physicians are Attracted to Global Health**
- n **Public Health Physicians in Development and Emergency Settings**
- n **Conclusion (Local – Global Parallels)**

Definition of Terms

- n **Global Health vs. International Health**
- n **International Settings**
 - u **Developing Country Setting**
 - u **Emergency and Disaster Setting**
- n **Public Health Physician (PHP)**
 - u **Physician able to bridge clinical practice and population health**

Global Health Crisis

- n **Shocking Health Disparities between Rich and Poor**
- n **Global Health Workforce Crisis**
- n **Ineffective Global Health Governance**
- n **Local Impact of Global Health Issues**

The Attraction of Global Health

- n **Understanding of the Connection between Domestic and Global Health**
- n **Value System**
- n **Opportunity to Broaden Perspective and Learn**
- n **Opportunity to Work in Country or Region of Family Origins**
- n **Opportunity to improve Clinical Skills and see Unusual Pathologies**

Developing Country Settings

- n **Weak Health Infrastructure**
 - u **Lack and Mal-distribution of Resources**
 - « **Poor Health Information System**
 - « **Financial, Human and Technical**

- n **Poor Infrastructure**
 - u **Water and Sanitation**
 - u **Communication and Transportation**

Developing Country Settings cont.

- n **Urban Overcrowding and Under-developed Rural Areas**

- n **Many Health Actors**
 - u **Government**
 - u **Private**
 - u **NGOs**
 - u **International and Bi-Lateral Organizations**

Key Operational Challenges in Development Settings

- n **Competition for Scarce Resources**
- n **Balancing local Priorities with Donor Agenda**
- n **Integrating Health Intervention with National Health System and Policies**
- n **Fragmentation of Services and Interventions**
- n **Navigating among Multiple Actors**
- n **Different Social, Cultural and Political Environment**

Key Health Challenges in Development Settings

- n **Malnutrition and Nutritional Deficiencies**
- n **Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health**
- n **Tropical Diseases and Infectious Diseases**
- n **Environmental Health**
- n **Non-Communicable Diseases**
- n **Mental Health**

Emergency and Disaster Settings

- n **Breakdown of Infrastructures**

 - u **Structural**

 - u **Economic**

 - u **Social**

- n **Chaos and Confusion**

- n **Displacement of Populations with Major Public Health Consequences**

- n **Violence and Human Rights Violations**

Key Operational Challenges in Emergency & Disaster Settings

- n **Unstable Social, Economic and Political Environment**
- n **Confusion about Responsibilities and Authority**
- n **Fragmentation of Services and Interventions**
- n **Lack of Coordination**

Key Operational Challenges in Emergency & Disaster Settings Cont.

- n Lack of Access to and Competition for Scarce Human and Material Resources**
- n Integrating Health Intervention with National or Host Country Health System and Policies**
- n Balancing Local and Organizational Priorities with Donor Agenda**

Key Health Challenges in Emergency & Disaster Settings

- n **Mass-casualty Injuries**
- n **Infectious Diseases**
- n **Nutritional Deficiencies**
- n **Environmental Health**

Key Health Challenges in Emergency & Disaster Settings Cont.

- n **Sexual and Other Violence**
- n **Reproductive Health**
- n **Mental Health**
- n **Non-Communicable Diseases**

PHP Competencies Needed in Both Settings

KNOWLEDGE

- n **Scientific Foundation of Medicine and Public Health**
 - u **Evidence-based Medicine**
 - u **Basic Epidemiology and Bio-statistics and their Clinical Application**

- n **Biological, Socio-economic, Cultural and Environmental Determinants of Health**

PHP Competencies Needed in Both Settings cont.

KNOWLEDGE

- n **Cross-Sectoral Nature of Health**
- n **Basics in Health System Development and Policy Contexts**
- n **Principles of Capacity Development / Development Theory**

Competencies Needed in Both Settings cont.

KNOWLEDGE

- n **Thorough Understanding of Maternal/Child Health, Nutritional, Water and Sanitation Issues**
- n **Management Principles (People & Resources)**
- n **Evaluation and Performance Measurement**
- n **Ethical and Cultural Issues**

PHP Competencies Needed in Both Settings

SKILLS

- n **Integrate Public Health Knowledge into Clinical Practice**
 - u **From Community to Clinic**
 - u **From Clinical Encounter to Public Health Intervention**
- n **Use Surveillance, Epidemiologic and Clinical Research Data to develop Strategies and Interventions**

PHP Competencies Needed in Both Settings cont.

SKILLS

- n **Plan and Conduct Needs Assessments**
- n **Plan and Conduct Preventive and Responsive Health Interventions**
- n **Mobilize and Engage Community**
- n **Understanding Warning Signs of Political and Civil Instability**
- n **Develop and Sustain Cross-Disciplinary / Organizational / Sector Partnerships**

PHP Competencies Needed in Both Settings cont.

SKILLS

- n **Develop Proposal and Donor Relationships**
- n **Planning, Development and Management of People, & Financial and Material Resources**
- n **Negotiation and Conflict Mitigation**
- n **Exert Facilitative Leadership**
 - u **Train, Mentor and Coach**
- n **Adapt to Different Social, Political, Cultural and Living Environments**

Additional Competencies Needed in Emergency & Disaster Settings cont.

KNOWLEDGE

- n **Causes and Consequences of Humanitarian Emergencies**
- n **Principles of Disaster Response**
- n **International Humanitarian Laws**
- n **Understanding Emergency - Development Continuum**
- n **Diagnosing and Response to PTSD**
- n **Evacuation and Security Measures**

Additional Competencies Needed in Emergency & Disaster Settings cont.

SKILLS

- n Planning and Conducting Rapid Assessments**
- n Operating in Instable and Conflict Situation**
- n Managing Stress in Self and Others**
- n Understand Basics of Media Relations**

Lessons Learned from International Settings

- n **Local and Global Parallels – Katrina**
- n **Need to create more flexible career paths**
- n **Core competencies are similar**
- n **Need to balance Curative Approaches with Public Health oriented and Preventive Approaches**
- n **Maximizing Use of Resources**