Child Health in Global Perspectives Seminar

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where goal number 3 is "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages", and where one sub-goal is to "By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births."

We have chosen six critical topics which provide an opportunity to explore the global variability in child health. Global variability in child mortality rates, its determinants are important in informing global and local policies and intervention measures. The student tasks focus on six major global challenges, where there are huge outcome differentials between high and low-income countries, and high and low-income families within countries.

We want the students to work on developing a short introduction on the topic and address the challenge by responding the leading questions set for the tasks.

The group should prepare a short presentation **(approximately 7-8 minutes and a maximum of 10 slides)** and give room for discussions in class. We want the students to use the global health course reference book, scientifically published papers, and policy documents, from various sources, to inform their presentations. Supervisors will guide the work from the field. Drafts for the presentations need to be shared with the supervisor and **must be approved one week before the seminar** at the very latest.

Child mortality

1. Describe the global trends in child mortality rates during the past decade highlighting how variation in major determinants shape mortality rates in HIC and LIC.
2. How have the MGDs contributed in the improvement of child mortality?
3. Global forces such as pandemics may have detrimental impact on health. In 2019 the number of under-five deaths was recorded to be all-time low across the globe. Explain to what extent and how the COVID-19 pandemic might have affected the pre-pandemic gains in reducing child mortality?

Resources

1. Chapter 6: "Epidemiologic profiles of Global Health and Disease" Global health book
2. Child health. WHO. http://www.who.int/topics/child_health/en/
3. 15 minute lecture from Prof Hans Rosling from Karolinska Institute about child mortality:

   http://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_the_good_news_of_the_decade
4. http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/
5. https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30274-6/fulltext
6. https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/c-change/subtopics/climate-change-and-childrens-health/
7. https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-021-00233-9

Neonatal mortality

1. Provide an account on the trends in neonatal mortality globally
2. Explain why progress on reducing neonatal mortality has been slower than progress for under-five mortality
3. Present the main determinants of neonatal mortality, and the main interventions that are proposed for improving neonatal survival.

Resources:

1. http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs333/en/
2. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/newborns-reducing-mortality
3. Lancet series on newborn health:
   http://www.thelancet.com/series/everynewborn
4. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/70002/1/WHO_FCH_CAH_09.02_eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1

Childhood Pneumonia

1) Pneumonia is the number one cause of child mortality. Explain why the distribution of childhood pneumonia differs between regions globally.

2) What is Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, and how has this tool helped improve detection of childhood pneumonia in low-resource settings?

3) How can the status of the health system and socioeconomic factors affect the detection and management of pneumonia?

Resources:

1. Integrated management of childhood illness. http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/child/imci/en/

2. Pneumonia. WHO. http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs331/en/

3. 5 surprising facts about Childhood Pneumonia. https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/5-facts-about-childhood-pneumonia/

4. Antibiotic roll-out would cut pneumonia deaths in young. http://www.scidev.net/global/medicine/news/antibiotic-pneumonia-deaths-young-children.html

Child nutrition

1. Describe the trends and current state of child nutrition across the globe and compare such trends in two contrasting countries of your choice

2. What is the double burden of disease as it relates to malnutrition?

3. To what extent has the aid-funded projects targeting malnutrition globally impacted the challenge? What are the long-term consequences?

Resources

https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition

https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2020.00453/full

Chapter 6: "Epidemiologic profiles of Global Health and Disease" Global health book

Child health at a life course

1) Explain what health through a life course means and why it is important.
2) What are the critical periods of growth and how do these periods shape long term health outcomes for a child?
3) Disability, mental health, and drug abuse are examples of target areas in a life course approach. Comparing two countries from two different continents (or two countries represented in your group) and present the magnitude and differences in the incidences of disability, mental health, and drug abuse among young people

Resources

1. Chapter 6: "Epidemiologic profiles of Global Health and Disease" Global health book
2. https://www.who.int/life-course/publications/life-course-approach-to-health.pdf
3. https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2019/05/23/health-matters-prevention-a-life-course-approach/

Child labour and child health

1. Child labour is a growing challenge that affect child health globally. What is child labour? Provide the burden of child labour globally and explain the main drivers of child labour
2. Describe how child labour affect children health?
3. Discuss success and challenges in dealing with child labour, and reflect on how this challenge can be solved to achieve SDG goal number 3.

Resources

1. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575541.pdf
2. https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour
3. https://www.worldvision.ca/stories/child-protection/child-labour-facts-and-how-to-help
4. http://www.oit.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_099511.pdf