



Global health and ethics
Matthew Hunt, PT, PhD

Plan for this afternoon

1. Sketch broad strokes of 'global health ethics'
2. Canvass (ethical) reasons for attending to global health
3. Use an ethics lens to examine a set of global health practices

ETHICS

Where do ethics and
global health intersect?

Global health and ethics

Global health is “a collection of problems which turn on the quest for equity”

Farmer P. Preface. In Farmer P, Kim JY, Kleinman A, Basilio M, eds. Reimagining global health: an introduction. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.

Global health and ethics

Global health

Global health “places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide”

Koplan, Jeffrey P., et al. "Towards a common definition of global health." *The Lancet* 373.9679 (2009): 1993-1995.

Global health and ethics

Global health is a priority

Global health aims to promote
'equitable access to health in all
regions of the globe'

Kickbusch I: Global Health - A definition. 2002 [<http://www.ilonakickbusch.com/global-health/global-health.pdf>]

Koplan, Jeffrey I, et al.

Global health and ethics

Global health aims to reduce
“global health inequities”

Janes CR, Corbett KK: Anthropology and Global Health. Annual Review of Anthropology 2009, 38:167-183.

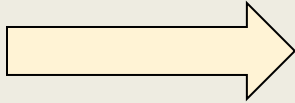
[http://global-health.pdf](#)

Global health ... a way of looking at our world. It seeks to observe, document, monitor, interpret, and eliminate the harms that accrue from national and transnational forces inimical to health—political, commercial, military, financial, diplomatic, legal, intersectional, and cultural. **Global health is about power and poverty, violence and exploitation, oppression and silence, and collusion and exclusion.**

Richard Horton. Offline: Frantz Fanon and the origins of global health. The Lancet. 392(10149), P720, Sept 1, 2018

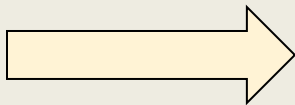
Facets of global health ethics

Ethics for global health



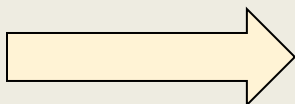
Ex: What do conceptions of justice reveal about funding of research on neglected diseases?

Ethics in global health



Ex: Should students on a short-term global health trip participate in activities they would not be allowed to do at home?

Ethics of global health



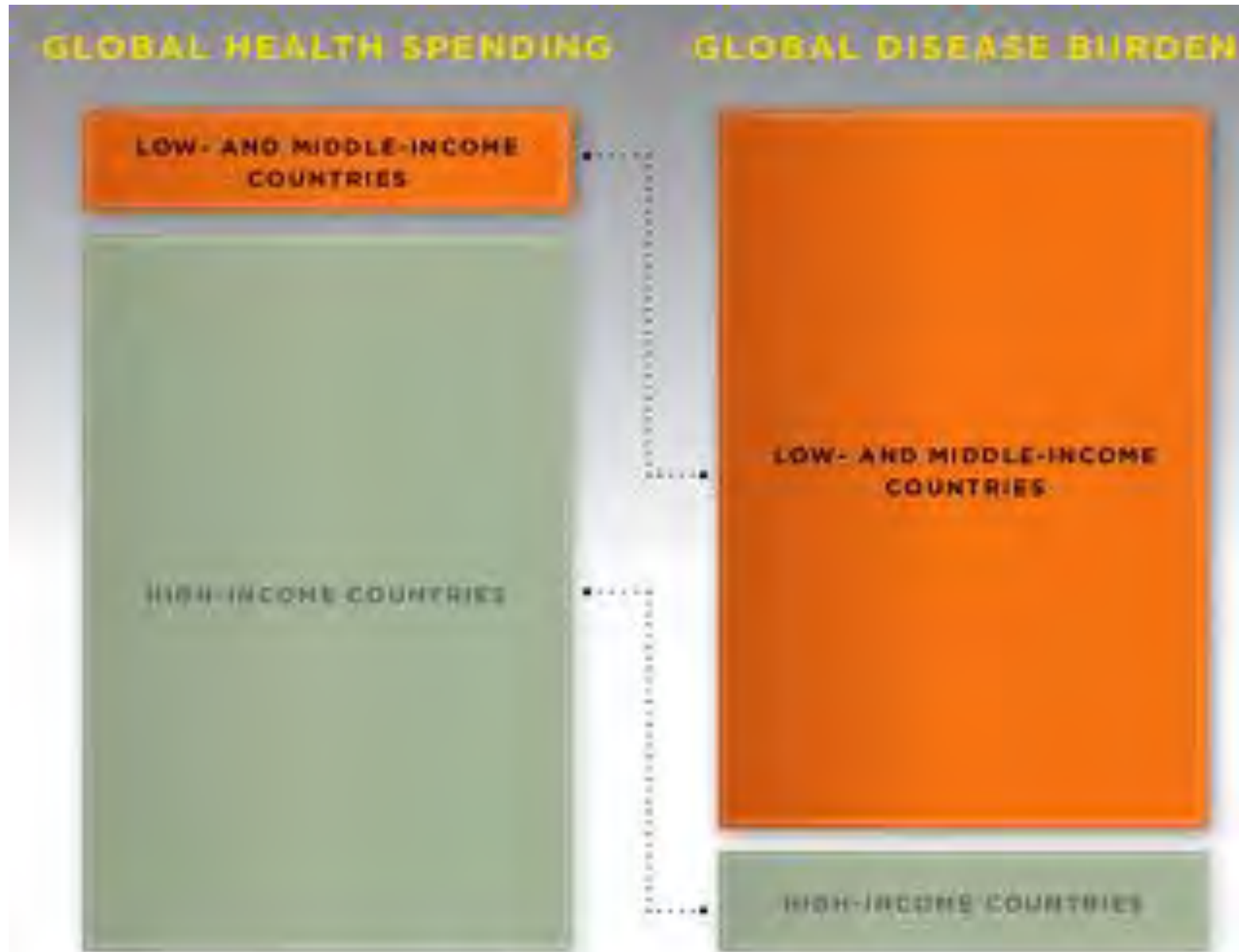
Ex: What ethical issues arise when humanitarian organizations integrate new innovations in their programs?

The context for discussing ethics of global health:

- Inequality
- Interconnection



HEALTH SPENDING / DISEASE BURDEN



An example: disability and rehabilitation



**Poor
because
they are
disabled**



**Disabled
because
they are
poor**

Population subgroup	Threshold of 40	
	Higher income countries (standard error)	Lower income countries (standard error)

Wealth quintile

Q1(poorest)	17.6 (0.58)	22.4 (0.36)
Q2	13.2 (0.46)	19.7 (0.31)
Q3	11.6 (0.44)	18.3 (0.30)
Q4	8.8 (0.36)	16.2 (0.27)
Q5(richest)	6.5 (0.35)	13.3 (0.25)
Total	11.8 (0.24)	18.0 (0.19)

WHO, World Disability Report, 2011, p 28 (World Health Survey, WHO 2002-4)

Who is the most vulnerable?



Interconnection



“In the 21st century, health is a shared responsibility, involving equitable access to essential care and collective defense against transnational threats.”

World Health Organization

“... our privileges are located on the same map as their suffering, and may - in ways we might prefer not to imagine - be linked to their suffering...”

Sontag, 2003, p 103

Given what we've said so far, what values do you think are especially relevant to global health ethics?

Given what we've said so far, what values do you think are especially relevant to global health ethics?

Solidarity

Avoiding harm

Respect for persons and communities

Reciprocity

Accountability

Trustworthiness

Social justice

Fairness

Given what we've said so far, what values do you think are especially relevant to global health ethics?

An example:



Canadian Coalition
for Global Health
Research

Figure 1: Six CCGHR Principles to Guide Global Health Research

Ethics **for** global health



Why respond?

**Self-
interested /
prudential
reasons**

- Narrow
- Enlightened



GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Stopping Outbreaks Globally to Protect Americans Locally

Tracking and Responding to Disease Threats 24/7



2,000+
OUTBREAKS

and other public health
emergencies responded
to since 2006



30-40
THREATS

to public health
monitored daily



11
**NEW PATHOGENS
& STRAINS**

of dangerous diseases
discovered since 2000

Training Disease Detectives to Identify and Stop Outbreaks

10,000+

People trained in field
disease detection and
response since 1962

3,300+

Outbreaks Investigated
by trainees since 2005

65+

Countries with trained
coast-on-the-ground
outbreak responders



Center for Disease
Control and Prevention
United States Department of
Health and Human Services

Why respond?

**Self-
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**Ethical
reasons**

Promoting global health: reasons why

1. Reduce the threat of infectious diseases
2. Promote developed countries economic interests
3. Promote global security
4. Promote greater good of humankind
5. Achieve enormous benefits for only small sacrifices
6. Amend historical injustices (that rich countries have contributed to)
7. Promote equality of opportunity
8. Improve the situation of the worst-off
9. Promote respect of HR to have basic needs met
10. Reduce undeserved inequality (inequities) in well-being

**Self-interested
reasons**

Utilitarian reasons

Libertarian reasons

**Egalitarian and
Human Rights**

Ethics of/in global health





DEVELOPMENT OF A TOOLKIT FOR ETHICAL HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION



elrha



An ethical, responsible & effective humanitarian research & innovation ecosystem

User-centered
sanitation design

Self-examination DNA swabs

Reusable menstrual products

Powering humanitarian operations with
reusables

Better body bag

Household water filters

Some examples...

Handwashing product for
humanitarian contexts

Refugee-led early childhood
education

Map generation through drone
imagery

3-D printing of relief supplies

Wheelchairs for austere environments

- What do you think would be distinctive about innovation in the context of war, disaster or epidemic?



OUR SPECIFIC TASK: DEVELOP A “TOOLKIT” THAT CAN SUPPORT PEOPLE ENGAGED IN HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION PROCESSES TO BE ATTENTIVE OF AND RESPONSIVE TO ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

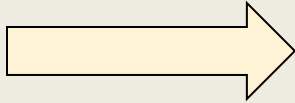


The innovation is a new model of music therapy for survivors of sexual violence in a post-conflict setting in East Africa. Working with a psychologist and music therapist, participants write, record and professionally produce songs about their experiences. Women are not treated as patients but as artists who use music as therapy and as a form of public advocacy against sexual violence and the stigmatizing of survivors.

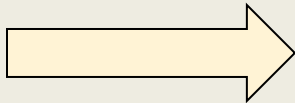
- What sorts of supports do you think would be helpful for humanitarian innovators?

Facets of global health ethics

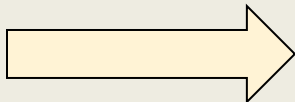
Ethics **for** global health



Ethics **in** global health



Ethics **of** global health



1. *Solidarity*
2. *Introspection*
3. *Humility*
4. *Social justice*

Pinto and Upshur, 2009

Why?



Thank you
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