New political, economic, social and environmental realities...

2014 A changing world—where are we going?

Environment under pressure: health risks come from climate change. Progress in creating mechanisms for a coherent approach to sustainable development has been slow.

Migration offers benefits, but migrants can be exposed to, and bring, health risks.

Changing demographics and ageing populations.

Risk of outrage and uprising where youth unemployment continues to rise with lack of economic and political rights.

Technology and social media have transformed how the world works and communicates.

Rapid, unplanned urbanization, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, brings opportunities and risks.

Economic fluctuation may lead to decreased public spending, which affects public goods and services.

More complex health challenges

Rising healthcare spending
Healthcare spending is rising faster than GDP in developed countries, adding pressure to increase efficiency.

Changing burden of disease
63% of all deaths are now caused by noncommunicable diseases, but progress is still lagging in reducing maternal and child deaths, and turning back the epidemics of HIV, TB, malaria and other diseases.

Greater complexity in response to health needs
A complex landscape, with new players...

Need to work with different sectors influencing the determinants of health. Need for holistic approach to emergency risk management, removing artificial distinctions between relief and development.

Globalization
Living standards have improved for some but there is wider inequality and lack of balance between economic, social and environmental policies.

Poverty and inequity
Inequality deepens poverty and increases gaps in health outcomes. This calls for new ways of working among multiple sectors.

Power
Relative powers of States, markets, civil society and social networks of individuals have changed: progress requires significant collaboration among all stakeholders.

“...In a context of growing inequity, competition for scarce natural resources and a financial crisis threatening basic entitlements to health care, it would be hard to find a better expression of health as a fundamental right, as a prerequisite for peace and security, equity, social justice, popular participation and global solidarity...”

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