Globalization and health: WHO perspective

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Public Health in a Globalizing World

- Health is on the global policy agenda
- Achievements in health are critical to Millennium Development Goals
- Domestic action alone - no longer sufficient
- New context (rules, actors, markets, tools) requires new responses
Globalization, Trade & Health

Globalization

- Economic opening
- Cross-border flows (goods, services, capital, people, ideas, information)
- International rules and institutions

National economy and health-related sectors

- Risk factors
- Household economy
- Health services

Health
Globalization and Risks for Health

- Exclusion from developed markets/economic shocks
- Lack of access to knowledge and technology
- Cross-border transmission of disease
- Marketing of harmful products and unhealthy behaviours
- Environmental degradation
- Conflict

Microbes are unpredictable!
Economic impact, selected infectious disease outbreaks, 1990–1999

USA—E. coli 0157
Food recall/
destruction
Periodic

UK—BSE
US$ > 9 billion
1990-1998

HONG KONG SAR
Influenza A (H5N1)
Poultry destruction, 1997

INDIA—Plague
US$ 1.7 billion,
1995

MALAYSIA—Nipah
Pig destruction, 1999

PERU—Cholera
Seafood
Export Barriers
1991

UR TANZANIA
Cholera
US$ 36 million
1998

World Health Organization
Globalization and Opportunities for Health

- Wider dissemination of knowledge/technology
- Incentives for R&D for diseases of the poor
- Resources for effective interventions
- New rules to control cross border risks
Globalization and Health

New context - New responses

• Global Health Governance - international collective action
• Global public goods for health - investments beyond the means or incentives of any single government - new vaccine development for neglected diseases