World Health Organization (WHO)

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Formation and Purpose
- Founded on April 7, 1948, to promote international cooperation in public health.
- A specialized agency of the United Nations (UN), responsible for global public health.
- Aims to build a better and healthier future for all people worldwide.

Key Objectives
- Attainment of the highest possible level of health by all people.
- Providing global leadership in public health.
- Shaping the research agenda and setting norms and standards.
- Monitoring health trends and assessing health systems around the world.
- Providing technical support to countries in order to strengthen their health systems.

Major Achievements
- Smallpox eradication in 1980, the first disease eradicated globally.
- Control of diseases like polio, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and others.
- Development of global vaccine programs, improving immunization coverage.
- Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases like cancer and heart disease.
- Promotion of mental health and well-being globally.
- Leading response to global health emergencies such as Ebola and COVID-19.

Organizational Structure
- World Health Assembly (WHA)
  - Governing body of the WHO, consisting of representatives from all member states.
  - Adopts the organization's policies, appoints the Director-General, and approves budgets.
- Executive Board
  - Comprises representatives from 34 member states, elected by the WHA.
  - Implements the decisions and policies set by the WHA.
  - Meets twice a year to review and approve the program budget.
- Secretariat
  - Led by the Director-General, who is appointed by the WHA for a 5-year term.
  - Comprises six regional offices and over 150 WHO country offices worldwide.
  - Supports the implementation of global health policies and programs.
- Technical Departments
  - Communicable Diseases
  - Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health
  - Health-Related Sustainable Development Goals
  - Health Systems and Services
  - Preparedness, Surveillance, and Response
  - WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Future Challenges
- Ensuring equitable access to vaccines and essential health services.
- Strengthening health systems, particularly in low-resource settings.
- Tackling emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance.
- Addressing the impacts of climate change on public health.
- Promoting collaboration and coordination among member states and partner organizations.

Current Priorities
- Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and primary healthcare strengthening.
- Preparedness for health emergencies and response to outbreaks and pandemics.
- Non-communicable disease prevention and control, including mental health.
- Addressing social determinants of health and health inequities globally.
- Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to health.
- Accelerating research and development of new diagnostic tools and treatments.
- Addressing the impact of climate change on health and promoting environmental sustainability.

Funding and Budget
- Funding comes from member states, assessed based on their wealth and population.
- Voluntary contributions from governments, foundations, and other organizations.
- Program budget for the 2020-2021 period was approximately $4.84 billion.
- Major contributors: United States, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, United Kingdom.

Collaborations and Partnerships
- Collaboration with United Nations agencies, including UNICEF, WFP, and FAO.
- Partnerships with governments, civil society organizations, academia, and industry.
- Cooperation with regional health organizations like PAHO, AFRO, and EURO.
- Engagement with philanthropic foundations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Collaboration with the private sector to improve access to healthcare and resources.

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