Human Security Approach for Global Health

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Transition of causes of deaths during the conflict in Darfur (Sudan)

Source: Univ. of Catholique de Louvain, 2011
Threat to Human Lives: Conflict vs AIDS?

Sources: Univ. of Catholique de Louvain, 2011; Sudan UNGASS, 2009; World bank, 2006; UNAIDS, 2010

- Deaths due to conflicts during '04 - 08 (Sudan)
- Deaths due to HIV in '09 (Sudan)
- Deaths due to conflicts in '01 (Sub-Saharan)
- AIDS-related deaths in '09 (Sub-Saharan)

AIDS-related deaths in '09 (Sub-Saharan): 1.3 million (2.3 million in 2001)
Deaths due to conflicts during '04 - 08 (Sudan): 56,919
Deaths due to HIV in '09 (Sudan): 12,000
Deaths due to conflicts in '01 (Sub-Saharan): 77,000
Today marks the first time, after more than 4,000 meetings stretching back more than half a century, that the Security Council will discuss a health issue as a security threat.

We tend to think of a threat to security in terms of war and peace. Yet no one can doubt that the havoc wreaked and the toll exacted by HIV/AIDS do threaten our security. The heart of the security agenda is protecting lives -- and we now know that the number of people who will die of AIDS in the first decade of the 21st Century will rival the number that died in all the wars in all the decades of the 20th Century.

When 10 people in sub-Saharan Africa are infected every minute; when 11 million children have already become orphans, and many must be raised by other children; when a single disease threatens everything from economic strength to peacekeeping -- we clearly face a security threat of the greatest magnitude.

AIDS as a Human Security Issue: Not New
(U.S. Vice President Al Gore, UN Security Council, January 10, 2000)
(http://clinton3.nara.gov/ONAP/pub/vp_un_sc2.html)
Human Security Principles

- The scope of security must be expanded **beyond military threat** to multi-dimensional threats.
  - Epidemics, disasters, financial crisis, climate change, etc.
- **Security is no longer addressed only at national level**
  - SARS, Influenza, HIV/AIDS…
  - Equity based approach at global level by UNICEF
- **A state alone can no longer provide sufficient protection.**
  - Non-state actors play essential roles.
Human Security Now

- **Concept of human security**
  - “Protecting individuals’ and communities’ freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live in dignity.”
- **Identified 5 elements of human security**
  - It is **people-centered** (not disease centered, not service-provider centered)
  - It is **integrated** with human development and human rights
  - It deals with **comprehensive set of threats**
  - It engages **actors beyond the government**
  - It proposes a bi-modal strategy of **protection from above and empowerment from below**.
3 Values of Human Security: Why HS approach for global health?

- **Life (survival)**
  - Conflict, violence, health, natural disasters

- **Livelihood**
  - Education, food, water, sanitation, employment, social protection, environment

- **Dignity**
  - Human rights, gender, identity

Why health?
1. It cannot be postponed
2. It has far reaching impacts on well-being and development
3. It is feasible to achieve target within a set timeline
Potentials of HS approach

- Acknowledge the importance of good governance
  - Omission in MDGs except for the part of commitment in the Millennium Summit in 2000.
- Analyses the priorities perceived in each country: unlike MDGs which came with common 8 goals approach from UN:
  - Countries have their own concerns (communicable diseases, maternal and child health, food insecurity, etc.)
- Participation
  - Unlike the MDGs, which focus on interventions to the populations, HS approach starts from individual needs and wants, then targets populations.
Health, Wellbeing, (and Freedom?)
Health is a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living. (Ottawa Charter for health promotion by WHO, 1986).

Wellbeing (Freedom)

Human security approach

Vertical health projects

A patient

Health is a goal

Health Level