

Introducing Global Health One Health and Planetary Health

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Abstract

Understanding the concepts of Global Health One Health and Planetary Health is essential for health information professionals and medical librarians that wish to support research and education in these public health domains. This brief note aims to provide a short overview of the concepts.

Key words: *Global Health; One Health; Environmental Health; environment.*

In an era of increasing global interconnectivity, the health of individuals, animals, and ecosystems is deeply intertwined. While Public Health is a concept that is well known to most health information professionals and medical librarians, three major frameworks – Global Health, One Health and Planetary Health – address the complex challenges posed by this interdependence. For health information professionals and medical librarians, understanding these concepts is essential to support research and education in these public health domains. The following table (Table 1) introduces each concept and highlights key organiza-

tions and publications, aiming to deliver a summary without the aim of being comprehensive.

Global Health, One Health and Planetary Health provide frameworks for addressing current and emerging health challenges from a holistic perspective. Understanding these concepts enables medical librarians and health information professionals to support interdisciplinary health research, inform global public policy, and enhance public health education. As the world faces increasing environmental and health crises, these health domains will be essential in understanding and shaping the determinants of a healthier future for all.

	Global Health	One Health	Planetary Health
Summary of the concept	Global Health is a multidisciplinary field that seeks to improve public health and achieve equity in health outcomes worldwide. It addresses transnational health issues, health determinants, and solutions, emphasizing cooperation and resource-sharing across borders. Global Health prioritizes access to healthcare, disease prevention, and health system strengthening, especially in low- and middle-income countries.	One Health is an integrated approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. It emphasizes collaboration across multiple sectors – such as medicine, veterinary science, and environmental science – to prevent and manage health threats, particularly zoonotic diseases (e.g., avian influenza, COVID-19). It is essential in preventing pandemics and tackling antimicrobial resistance.	Planetary Health is a broader, multidisciplinary concept that recognizes that the health of the human civilization depends on Earth's natural systems. It encompasses climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, land system change, freshwater change, biogeochemical flows, and other planetary boundaries. It analyzes the impacts of human disruptions to Earth's natural systems on human health and the more-than-human life on Earth.

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<p>Key organizations</p>	<p>World Health Organization (WHO); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); World Food Programme (WFP); Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières; MSF); International Committee of the Red Cross; The Global Fund.</p>	<p>World Health Organization (WHO); One Health Commission (OHC); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH); One Health Platform.</p>	<p>WHO Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health; Planetary Health Alliance (PHA); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).</p>
<p>Key literature</p>	<p>Jafar AJN, et al. Redefining global health and shifting the balance: the ARC-H principle. <i>BMJ Glob Health</i>. 2024 Feb 22;9(2):e014487.</p> <p>Turcotte-Tremblay AM, et al. Global health is more than just 'Public Health Somewhere Else'. <i>BMJ Glob Health</i>. 2020 May;5(5):e002545.</p> <p>Holst J. Global Health - emergence, hegemonic trends and biomedical reductionism. <i>Global Health</i>. 2020 May 6;16(1):42.</p> <p>Koplan JP, et al. Towards a common definition of global health. <i>Lancet</i>. 2009 Jun 6;373(9679):1993-5.</p>	<p>Pitt SJ, Gunn A. The One Health concept. <i>Br J Biomed Sci</i>. 2024 Feb 15;81:12366.</p> <p>One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP). One Health: a new definition for a sustainable and healthy future. <i>PLoS Pathog</i>. 2022 Jun 23;18(6):e1010537.</p> <p>One Health Joint Plan of Action, 2022-2026. Working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment. Rome: FAO; UNEP; WHO; WOA; 2022.</p>	<p>Caesar L, et al. Planetary Health Check Report 2024. Potsdam: Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research; 2024.</p> <p>Romanello M, et al. The 2024 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: facing record-breaking threats from delayed action. <i>Lancet</i>. 2024 Nov 9;404(10465):1847-96.</p> <p>Rockström J, et al. Safe and just Earth system boundaries. <i>Nature</i>. 2023 Jul;619(7968):102-11.</p> <p>Whitmee S, et al. Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch: report of The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on planetary health. <i>Lancet</i>. 2015 Nov 14;386(10007):1973-2028.</p>

Table 1. *Introducing the concepts of Global Health One Health and Planetary Health*

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