

## CTGH Session 1 — Primary Health Care: Now More Than Ever

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| Slide | Presentation Notes   |
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| 1     | For a course on global health (GH), we thought we should first try to define “global health”....   |
| 2     | We would like to begin that process of defining GH by offering a series of photos and questions that might represent various components of GH and get us thinking more carefully of what constitutes GH. After the images, we’ll attempt to come up with our definition of GH and then look at 2 example definitions from other organizations.   |
| 3     | For example, when we think of GH, some might think that it’s treating those exotic tropical diseases -- all those worms and diseases that are hard to spell? Schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis, strongyloidiasis, trypanosomiasis, etc. In this photo is dracunculiasis (or guinea worm; ingest contaminated water -- worm migrates and dwells near long bones and joints, then after a year, migrates to lower extremities and emerges in a painful boil to lay its eggs and repeat the cycle). (Parenthetically, this may have been the origin of the medical caduceus symbol.) |
| 4     | But GH could also be addressing the common killers of people worldwide, such as malnutrition   |
| 5     | Or is it addressing the needs of internally displaced persons and refugees? In this photo are refugee children in Tanzania.  |
| 6     | When you think of GH, do you think of the international community responding to humanitarian needs?  |
| 7     | When some think of GH, they think of disaster response, like the last couple of years, responding to the multiple crises that affected the people of Haiti.  |
| 8     | Is it working with and supporting traditional health providers, including TBAs in South Sudan? Here are 2 TBAs, with genuine commitment but no training and no education. How does one build local capacity and still respect traditional processes and culture.   |
| 9     | Does GH include building health infrastructure, such as this new Partners in Health hospital in Rwanda? How do we demand the resources needed to apply the successful Partners in Health model even more broadly?  |
| 10    | Is it health systems building, including health information systems, quality assurance processes, and monitoring and evaluation? In this photo is a medical records department in Rwanda.  |
| 11    | Is there a role for introducing western technology to developing countries? And when does technology become inappropriate and a drain on already limited resources. This photo shows bedside ultrasound and the country’s first pediatric ICU bed we established in Liberia (complete with monitor, ventilator, IV pump).  |
| 12    | Does global health include the act of U.S. physicians traveling to the developing world for short-term medical missions? Are these periodic missions sustainable? Or do they undermine local capacity?   |
| 13    | Should GH also include “medical missionaries” offering medical assistance WITH a faith-based message? How does the inclusion of evangelical messages affect this work and our neutrality?  |
| 14    | This photo is to represent the idea of “medical tourism,” or clinicians motivated perhaps more by a sense of adventure than of social responsibility. Is there an  |

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appropriate role for this? Despite questionable motivations, can't these clinicians still provide a useful service in areas without sufficient resources?

**15** With these questions and photos in mind, I would be interested to hear how you would define "global health"....

**16** This quote suggests GH is not only providing clinical care to individuals and population-based interventions, but also involves health equity for all people, addressing underlying determinants of poor health, interdisciplinary approach (public health, medicine, policy, research, etc.).

**17** This second quote suggests GH is certainly more than clinical medicine practiced in the tropics. It's even more than the broad field of public health. GH is all of these, and it attempts to address the underlying causes of poor health and health disparities.

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