

GHPs and Health Inequalities

A new reality in the international cooperation system

- New agenda: MDG
- New framework in the relation between donors and recipients countries (PRSP and MTEF)
- New approaches and Instruments: SWAPs and Budget Support
- New actors:
 - South-south cooperation, Non OECD countries
 - Foundations, private companies
- New principles and recommendations (París Declaration)

What are GHPs?

- Public-private alliances which bring together a set of actors (national and international; public and private) for the common goal of coordinating efforts, mobilising public opinion and raising resources on a large scale in order to fight, in a specific way, against diseases which are considered to be particularly serious in developing countries.

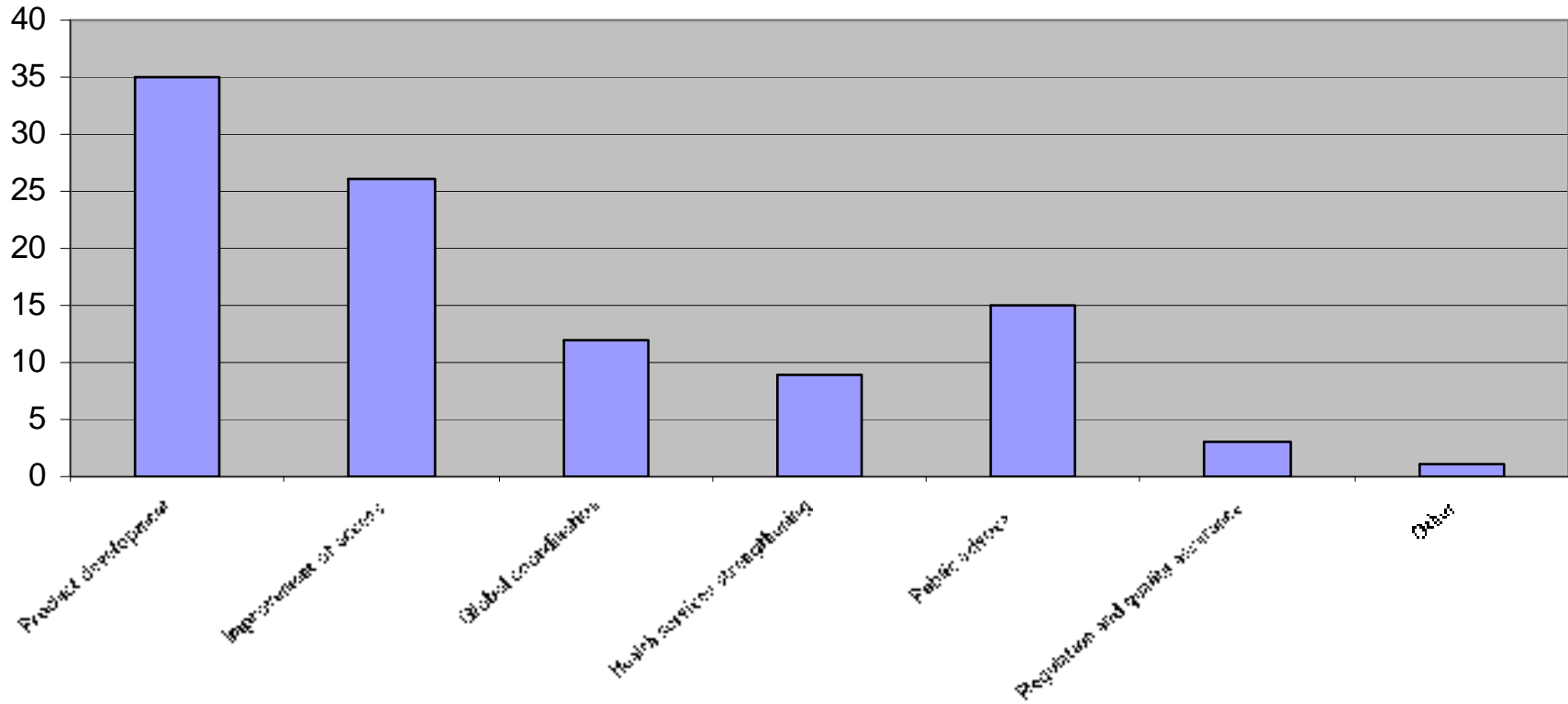
There are many and different GHPs:

- Between 75-100 GHP, and more Global Funds in other sectors.
- Some of them are only mechanisms to finance activities; others promote specific programs.
- Different structures of governance: top-down or bottom-up approaches.
- Some are big, others are small.

GHPs' main activities

- ***Research and development:*** dedicating resources to the discovery and development of new treatments, products, and vaccines.
- ***Technical assistance and service support:*** towards the definition of policies that improve population access to drug and services.
- ***Advocacy:*** improving the response capacity to certain diseases.
- ***Financing/funding:*** raising resources for specific programs.

GHP in terms of their main approach



GHP in terms of diseases or conditions

Disease/Condition	N°GPH		N°GHP
All human diseases and medical conditions	1	Leprosy	2
Blindness	3	Lymphatic Filariasis	2
Cataract	1	Malaria	18
Chagas	2	Meningitis	2
Chemical safety information	1	Micronutrient deficiency	2
Communicable diseases	2	Neglected diseases	1
Counterfeit and standard drugs	2	Onchocerciasis (river blindness)	4
Dengue	2	Parasitic an other neglected diseases	1
Diarrhea dehydration	1	Pneumococcal vaccines	1
Digital divide	1	Polio	1
Diseases of the poor	1	Reproductive health	5
Guinea worm disease	1	Schistosomiasis	1
Harmonization drug application	1	Sexually transmitted infections	7
Health policies and health systems	1	Tetanus, maternal and neonatal	1
HIV/AIDS	20	Trachoma	3
Human African trypanosomiasis	4	Tuberculosis	10
Human Hookworm Infection	1	Vaccine vial monitors	1
Injection safety, syringes	2	Vaccine-preventable diseases	5
Lassa fever	1	Vitamin A deficiency	1
Leishmaniasis	3		

Source: Ito (2007), pag. 74

Rationale of GHPs

- Fighting against certain diseases (specially contagious diseases) is a global public good: it requires a global response.
- Focus on a specific disease can mobilise opinion and resources in a more effective way.
- Doubts surrounding the efficiency and effectiveness of traditional channels of allocation and management international aid.
- High externalities of certain diseases that demand a concentrated effort.

Some of the GHP achievements

- Overall positive assessment.
- Strong capacity to mobilize resources for health programs.
- Awareness raising of some forgotten diseases.
- Development of new markets and products.
- Involvement of multiple agents.

Main problems

- Impact on national health systems: vertical focus of GHPs can clash with (predominantly) horizontal focus of (fragile) national health systems.
- Impact on international aid system: proliferation of donors (with limited coordination) can break the coherence of the international cooperation system, increasing the transaction costs of aid.
- Doubts remain about the effect of GHPs on social and gender equality.

Vertical vs. horizontal

- The horizontal approach seeks to tackle the over-all health problems on a wide and long-term base (through the provision of general health services).
- The vertical approach calls for the solution of a specific health problem by means of a single-purpose machinery (mass campaign) .
- The long-term goal is that countries have an organised and efficient health service. Nevertheless, specific measures against certain diseases, through vertical approaches, can also be useful to improve health in the short term.

Conditions to take advantage of both approaches

- To define the suitable conditions in which a vertical approach is a good solution
- To create the conditions for coordinating general health services and vertical funds in a complementary way .
- In order to achieve this objective, it is necessary to limit the number of vertical initiatives.
- National health systems should be in charge of coordinating both approaches.

GHPs and Foreign Aid System

- Proliferation of donors: difficulties to maintain the overall coherence.
- In some cases, problems with ownership of health policies.
- Undesirable effects on the capacity to manage budgets: absorption, predictability, financial stability and sustainability.
- It is necessary to curb the creation of new GHPs and to study carefully if they are the best answer in each case

GHPs and inequalities: three dimensions

- Selection of diseases
- Selection of beneficiary countries
- Working procedures followed by the GHPs

Diseases treated

- There are clear linkages between the health problems of the poor and the diseases targeted by GHPs
- But
 - The top killer diseases are not include in any GHPs' mandate

Allocation of resources

- Resources are mainly oriented to poorer countries, especially sub-Saharan ones
- But
 - While this can contribute to reduce gaps across countries, it does not guarantee that inequality within a country can be reduced.
 - Poorer countries have less capacities to design initiatives to be funded

Tackling the poverty-disease nexus

- Even if attention were dedicated to poor people's diseases, there is not guarantee that poor people would be the main beneficiaries of health programs and services
- Improving the access to health services is an important way to reduce social and gender inequality.
- It is important to analyse the specific barriers that affect poor and vulnerable people in each case and country
- But,
 - There are doubts on whether anti-poverty and gender equality approaches are being properly integrated into the GHPs practices

Support national health systems

- Tackling the poverty-disease nexus and fighting against specific diseases demand a more sound support to national health systems
- But,
 - It would be necessary to use explicit intervention priorities to drive the required improvements into the health systems.

Recommendations

- Reduce the conflict between disease specific interventions and general health services by better coordination and if needed, by limiting the proliferation of GHPs.
- Improving national health systems as a goal in itself and as a means to effect better coordination of GHPs.
- GHPs need to perceive their action as part of an overall approach to health problems.
- Design and implement GHPs to address specific factors that limit equitable access to health services.
- Empower national health systems to influence GHP policies and programs and prevent social and gender inequities associated with GHP implementation.
- Integrate social and gender equity in other development policies that have an impact on health, including education, water and sanitation, working conditions, etc.