

‘The global health enterprise’: Unpacking competing interests in the governance of global health

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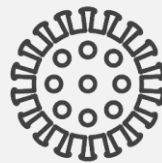
Lecture outline



What is global health governance?



Public-private partnerships in global health governance



Public-private cooperation in the COVID-19 pandemic

1. WHAT IS GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE?

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING





A normative field where principled actors pursue global health goals?



A field of power relations in which actors compete with each other for institutional interests, prestige and power? (Shiffman 2014)

Global health as a field of power relations

Global health governance

“The formal and informal institutions, norms and processes which govern or directly influence global health policy and outcomes” (Sridhar, 2009: 1366).

“An international process of consensus-forming which generates guidelines and agreements that affect national governments and international corporations’ management of health affairs” (WHO glossary)



The WHO, at the heart of GHG

1948: WHO officially launched as a permanent international health agency, part of the UN system

A central headquarters in Geneva and six regional offices



World Health Organization

Refashioning the WHO as a global health coordinator

- WHO under budgetary stress
- Appointment of Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1998 - focus on global campaigns to end malaria and against tobacco, but scaling back of Health for All ambitions
- Echoing the 'investing in health' for development argument of the World Bank
- Participating in and advocating a model of public-private partnerships in international health

Brown et al. 2006

The global health 'enterprise'?

- New actors from philanthropic foundations, business & civil society
- Plethora of global public-private partnerships
- A business-oriented ethos and culture
- New definitions of success

BILL &
MELINDA
GATES
foundation



**Save the
Children**



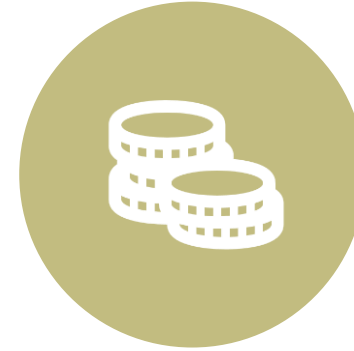
**World Health
Organization**



The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*



ESTABLISHED IN 2000
ASSETS: \$51 BILLION (2019)
GRANTS: \$8 BILLION (2019)



HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE “USE
OF EVIDENCE FOR GLOBAL
HEALTH DECISION-MAKING”
AND “ACHIEVING RESULTS”
THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL
INNOVATION

A new era of public-private partnerships for health

Focus	Specific diseases or selected interventions, technologies or services
Diversity	Vary in functional aims, budgets and governing arrangement
Decision making	Entail joint decision-making among multiple partners from the public and private sector





ESTABLISHED IN
2000 – COLOSSAL
ENDOWMENT
FROM GATES
FOUNDATION USD
\$750 MILLION



IN 20 YEARS,
822 MILLION
CHILDREN
VACCINATED;
14 MILLION LIVES
SAVED



RETURN ON
INVESTMENTS:
\$54 PER DOLLAR
SPENT



Annual budget:
\$1,8 billion (2016-
2020)



TOP DONORS:
1. UK (24%)
2. GATES (16%)
3. USA (13%)
4. NORWAY (9%)



DESIGNED TO
BYPASS THE
'BUREAUCRATIC
ENCUMBRANCES'
OF UN AGENCIES
(STORENG 2014)

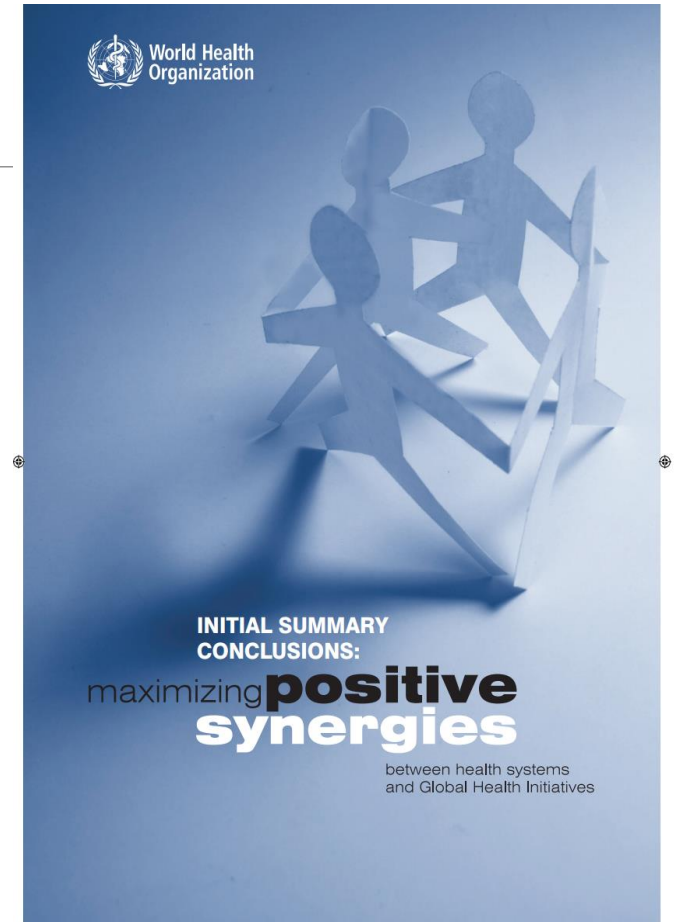
2. Public-private partnerships in global health governance



...

...with a few adjustments to the way in which they are run, global health initiatives (PPPs) may offer critical opportunities to improve “efficiency, equity, value for money, and outcomes in global public health”

(World Health Organization Maximizing Positive Synergies Collaborative Group, 2009:2137).





'Value added' of public-private partnerships

Agenda setting	Getting specific health issues onto national and international agendas
Fund-raising	Mobilising additional funds for these issues
Innovation	Stimulating research and development (R&D)
Access	Improving access to cost-effective health-care interventions among poor population Augmenting health service delivery capacity
Norm-setting	Establishing international norms & standards (treatment protocols, technical management and financial strategies) Strengthening national policy processes and content?



Criticisms of public-private partnerships

Narrow objectives

- - Can skew national priorities of recipient countries by imposing those of donor partners
- Ignore effects of issue-specific goals on the wider health system
- Inadequate performance monitoring through a narrow definition of 'success' (≠ aid effectiveness)?

Vilification of the public sector

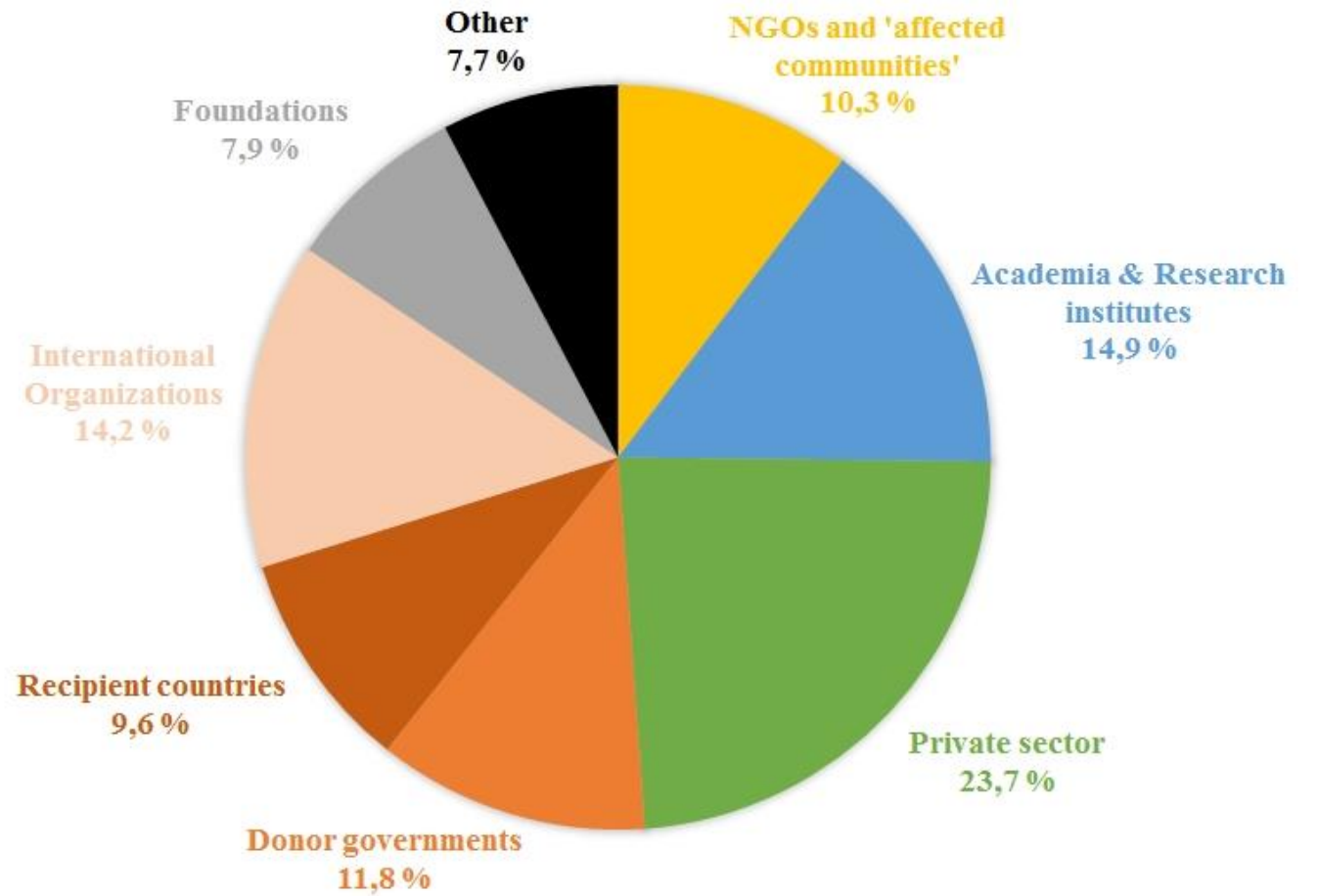
- Failure to compare the costs and benefits of public versus private approaches
- Little attention to a sense of global public responsibility
- Potential to forward commercial gains at the expense of public interest

Governance limitations

- Failure to clearly specify partners' roles and responsibilities
- Lack of transparency in decision-making
- Insufficient oversight of corporate partner selection and management of conflict of interest
- Issues in representation (cf next slide)

Representation in PPPs' decision-making bodies

Figure 4: Average board composition of 18 major public-private partnerships for global health



Source: Storeng & de Bengy Puyvallée (2018)



David McCoy
See www.medact.org

“The many global health partnerships that have emerged over the past two decades...have worked effectively to reconcile the mission of global health actors (from civil society, academia and the United Nations) with the interests of powerful private actors” (McCoy 2017:541)

The democratic deficit in global health governance

Summing up



Global health governance has undergone huge transformations in the past twenty years



Competing interests & power asymmetries



Notions of success have shifted



Current governance mechanisms support the neoliberal ideology of globalization

3. Public-private cooperation in the COVID-19 pandemic



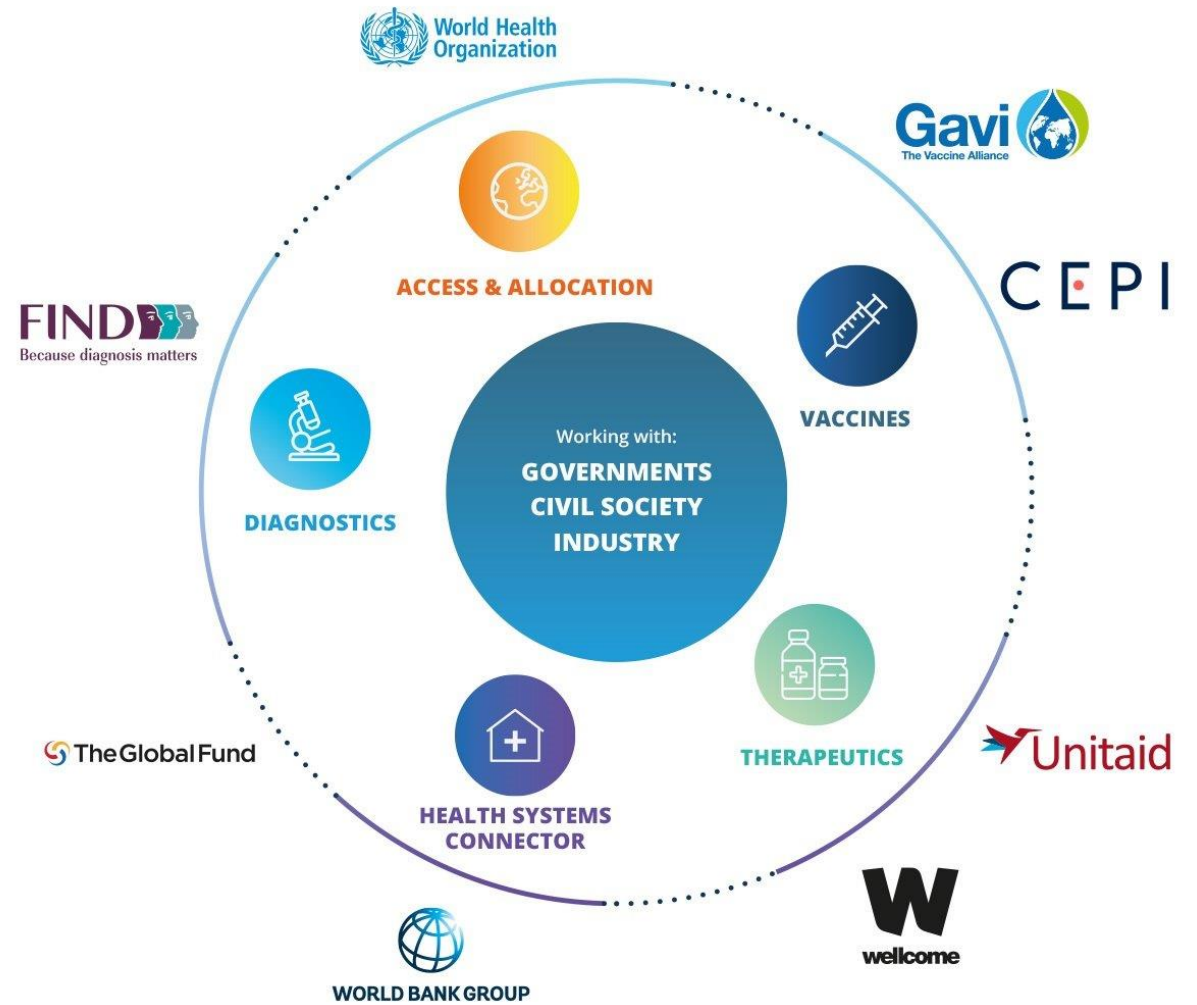


Discussion

Can you identify public-private partnerships mobilized in response to the covid-19 pandemic?

What are the different interests?

Access to covid-19 tools accelerator (ACT-A)





The mobile industry is harnessing big data to help public agencies and NGOs tackle epidemics, natural disasters and environmental pollution.

BIG DATA FOR SOCIAL GOOD

Have questions about **COVID-19**?
We have answers



Click this link and
text hi to
the whatsapp number

