

The Sustainable Development Goals: opportunities and challenges for Christian healthcare ministries



Dr Ted Lankester
Co-Founder and Specialist in Travel Medicine
InterHealth Worldwide

Co-Founder and Director Community Health
Global Network

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PLAN FOR SESSION

- OUR WONDERFUL FUTURE but...
- HEALTH NEEDS WE HAVE TO FACE
- SO WHAT CAN WE DO?
- FBOs- THE "NEW" KID ON THE BLOCK
- SDGs
- OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND EXAMPLES FOR CHRISTIANS
- DISCUSSION

OUR WONDERFUL FUTURE

but meanwhile work to be done

Our future: a few years ahead

- There will be no more death,
or crying or pain
- For the old order of things has passed away
- AND ALREADY: The kingdom of this world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and he will reign for ever and ever *Rev 21:4 and 11:15*

But in the meantime The Nazareth Manifesto

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to:

- Preach good news to the poor
- Bind up the broken-hearted
- Proclaim freedom
- Recovery of sight
- Release from oppression
- Proclaim the year of the Lord's favour

Is 61:1, Luke 4:18

WHO DOES THIS?

- So that THEY will rebuild the ancient ruins
- And THEY will renew the ruined cities.....

Is 61:4

The liberated people will be the builders

Bringing empowerment and transformation leading to fulfilled, self-sustaining communities



AND.... MIRACLE IS WELCOMED AND EXPECTED

- The apostles performed many miracles, signs and wonders *Acts 5:12*
- Believers will do the works that I do.. and greater works *John 14:12*



THE RESULT OF MIRACLE AND NEW TESTAMENT LIVING

- People say “your God answers your prayers!”
- We like what we see- please may WE have it!

HEALTH NEEDS WE HAVE TO FACE

Vast needs persist

- 702 million people, about one tenth of the world's population- live in absolute poverty ie on less than 1.25 USD per day (*World Bank 2015*)
- 303,000 women per year do not survive pregnancy or childbirth, the majority because of no access to routine and emergency care (*WHO 2015*)
- 36.9 million people are living with HIV/AIDS (*UNAIDS end 2014*) 15.8 million are accessing ARVs ie less than half (*UNAIDS June 2015*)

Premature deaths in adulthood

- Diabetes (quadrupled since 1980 *Lancet 2016*)
 - Hypertension (leading cause of death worldwide)
 - Stroke
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
 - Other smoking-related diseases
 - Cancer
 - Mental health issues
 - Addictions
 - Disability, including hearing impairment and blindness
 - Road crashes
- And remembering the extreme differences between wealth and poverty within countries and within communities

More high priority needs

- Family planning and reproductive health
- Elderly care, palliative care and home care
- Global health security eg Pandemic preparedness, Ebola, Zika, VHFs
- Gender violence, abuse of minorities
- Injuries from civil conflicts and theatres of war. Targeting of aid workers, hospitals

Vast inequalities

- A child born in Malawi can expect to live for only 47 years while a child born in Japan could live for as long as 83 years. That's a 36 year gap
- In Afghanistan, Somalia and Chad, the maternal mortality ratio is over 1000 (out of 100,000 live births) while the same average figure for the WHO European Region is 21



www.who.int/sdhconference/background/news/facts/en/on 2015

Appalling access



- 56 per cent of people living in rural areas worldwide do not have access to essential health-care services
- In Africa 83% of people in rural areas are not covered by essential health-care services *International Labour Organisation April 2015*
- Health care is not working for these people- ie for those who need it most

The Inverse Care Law

- The availability of good medical care tends to vary inversely with the need for the population served.
- Commonly the poorest 90% of the population is looked after by 10% of the health care work force.
- This law operates more completely where medical care is most exposed to market forces

Lancet: Saturday 27 February 1971 Julian Tudor Hart

- *A call to Christians to work “beyond the road” and in the poorest slums*



That's demand- how about supply?

- The world is short of 10.3 million trained health workers *World Social Protection Report :International Labour Organization, UN 2015.*
- *Half of health workers born and trained in Kenya now work abroad (Health Poverty Action)*
- In practice those most in need of health care will have no direct access to doctors, nurses and hospitals for the foreseeable future
- Have we really grasped this?

SO WHAT CAN WE DO



TURN OFF THE TAP OF ILL HEALTH!



And key to this: addressing social determinants of health

- Identify the commonest diseases and then work “up-stream” to prevent them
- Recognize and cure illness at an early stage, in the home or in the neighbourhood, so it never reaches hospital
- Are you an upstreamer?



FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS: THE “NEW” KID ON THE BLOCK

2007

A NEW DISCOVERY?

At least 40% and in some countries as high as 70% of health care in sub-Saharan Africa is provided by faith-based organisations.

Appreciating Assets: Mapping, Understanding, Translating and Engaging Religious Health Assets in Zambia and Lesotho.
WHO 2007

Why this is important

- More than 80% of the world's population report having a religious faith (higher in LMICs) *Lancet 2015 and Berkeley centre for religion, peace and world affairs 2014*)
- It is good anthropology to understand and engage with the spiritual world views of those served by mission partners and humanitarian aid agencies

FAITH BASED ORGANISATIONS: INTO THE MAINSTREAM

Consultation on the Role of Faith
Based Partnerships: Towards
Primary Health care
WHO Geneva December 2007

FBO CONSULTATION KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- FBOs have a vital role to play
- They need to work together to improve their quality, and power for advocacy
- FBOs need to stand up and be counted
- They need to cooperate with government
- They should not be intimidated because there is evidence they are doing a vital job

Result: the world is opening up to Faith Based Organisations

We have “permission” to write about FBOs and for them to become an integral part of global health

Engage with faith groups

- Almost every community in the world has a worshipping group- church, temple or mosque
- Build trust with their leaders and members
- Offer training- in key community health priorities
- Ensure the faith group serves the whole community on the basis of “need not creed”

CJGH

- What does this stand for?
- The Christian Journal of Global Health
- This is a peer reviewed open access journal of high quality
- The third edition is now published on line
- What will you write for it?

<http://www.cjgh.org/>

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The era of the SDGs

- A special event at the UN General Assembly on Sept 25, 2013 marked a bridge between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the end of 2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will lead policy and practice from 2016 to 2030.
- They were endorsed by the UN General Assembly on September 2015

Read more:

www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals

Who gave the opening address?





The SDGs outline a blueprint for development priorities until 2030.

They include 17 goals with 169 targets covering a broad range of sustainable development issues



Health-related SDG goals (6 out of 17 goals)

- **1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 2. End hunger, achieve food security and nutrition
- **3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all**
- 4. Achieve gender equality and empower all women
- 6. Ensure availability of water and sanitation for all
- 10. Reduce inequality

SDGs: Targets for Goal 3

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



- 1. Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 2. End preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children
- 3. End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases
- 4. Reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND EXAMPLES FOR CHRISTIANS



Opportunities

- Be trainers, facilitators and coaches to emerging church leaders and theological students Or find people to do this
- Help them to understand and get excited about holistic health- body, mind, soul spirit and care of creation
- Have some demo models you know of for stories, videos or to visit eg ASHA Delhi

More opps

- Radio programmes and radio soaps.

- The series of 52



- Being non-resident missionaries
- Promoting holistic health in the World Evangelical Alliance and Lausanne

Challenges for Christians

- Weak on sexual and reproductive health eg use of contraception:



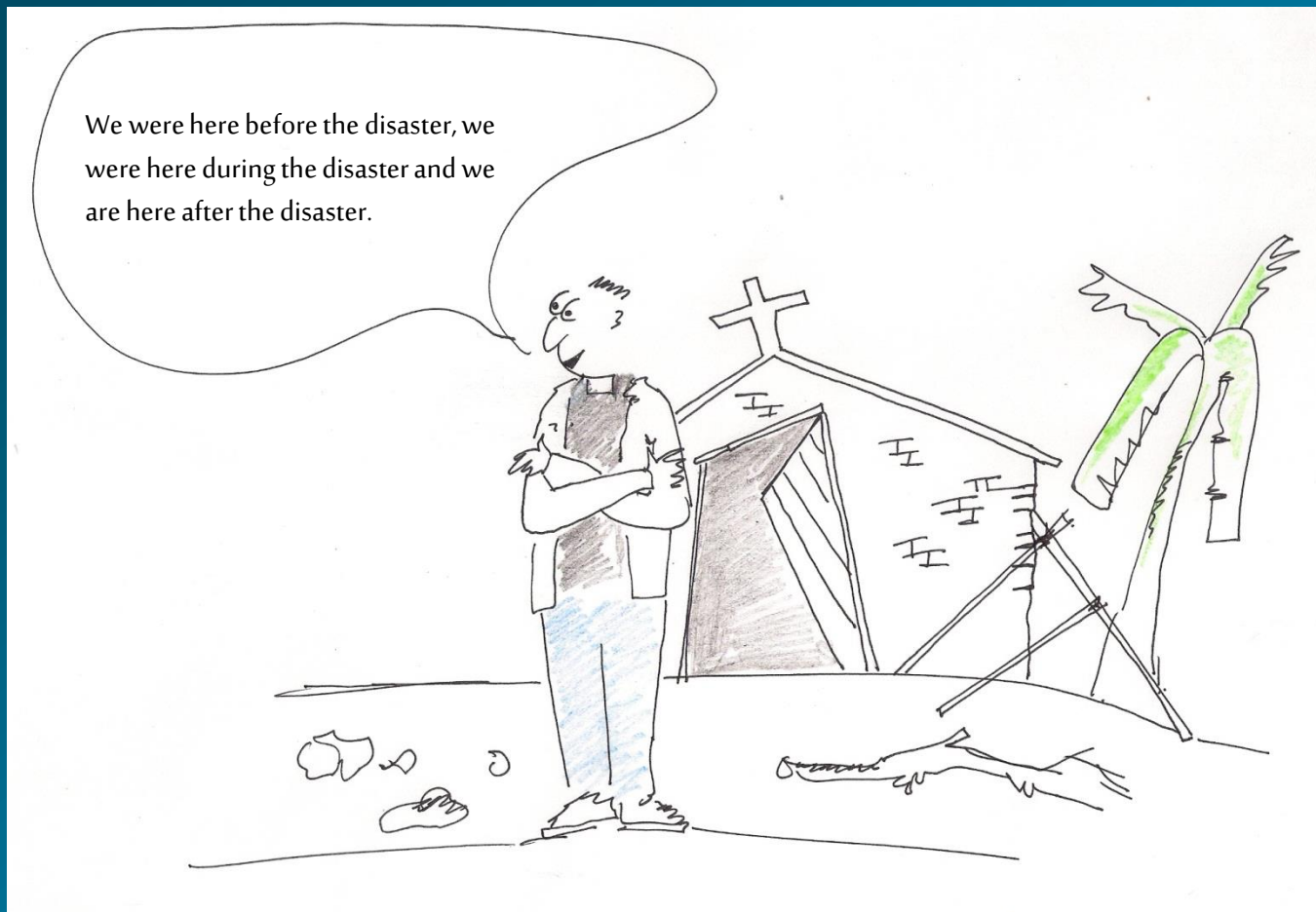
- The prosperity gospel viz love God and go to church and you will become rich
- God always does miracles so throw away your ARVs for HIV and you will be cured
- Many churches only do evangelism

UMOJA



UMOJA

- Means “TOGETHERNESS” in Swahili
- Is a Tearfund flagship programme
- “Umoja is about enthusing and empowering the church to go out into the community and help people identify and address their needs with their own resources”



The church, mosque or temple has a permanent presence



What the Guardian says about Tearfund's Ethiopian Umoja project

- “ This is some of the most impressive development work I've ever seen and its being done on a shoestring. I simply cannot imagine a better return on investment than this”

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/oct/07/what-transformation-in-aid-and-development-really-looks-like-ethiopia>

One further key area



- Prioritize the health and well-being of Christian leaders
- Then they have more energy physically and mentally ie score 8 out of 10 for effectiveness instead of 4
- Then more credibility and passion to teach, and talk about this to their congregations and communities
- The Archbishops Anglican Communion Fund

Join a network

- Community Health Global Network www.chgn.org
- CCIH: Christian Connections for International Health www.ccih.org
- ICMDA: International Christian Medical and Dental Associations www.icmda.net
- PRIME: Partnerships in International Medical Education www.prime-international.org.uk
- MAP International www.map.org
- CHE: Community Health Evangelism www.lifewind.org
- The Lausanne Movement/Covenant <https://www.lausanne.org>

Any questions?



Community Global Health Network

63-67 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6BD UK
t: +44 (0)20 7902 9000

Email us at: team@chgn.org
www.chgn.org

INFO FOR YOU TO KNOW ABOUT

- *Community Health Global Network* is a network to link strengthen and empower faith-based and other community based health care programmes world wide. Do go into the site and join (free) www.chgn.org
- *Setting up Community Health Programmes* Ted Lankester 3rd Revised Edition 2009 Hesperian Foundation is available either from TALC www.talc-uk.org/catalog or from www.interhealth.org.uk or from www.hesperian.org. 4th Edition being published by Oxford University Press 2017
- Contact me at tedlankester@hotmail.com