A Global Framework for Public Health Functions

Taskforce for
World Federation of Public Health Associations
WG Public Health Professionals' Education and Training (PET)

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Purpose of the Framework

• To develop a globally recognised set of Public Health functions and definitions
• That are in the form of a flexible framework for different countries to apply to their own settings
• To strengthen public health systems to achieve sustainable and fair health outcomes
• To support the post 2015 MDGs and wider Sustainable Development agenda and the implementation of Universal Health Coverage
• To scale up public health capacity building and standardise assessment
Vision: Towards fair and sustainable health and well-being
Suggested areas for the Global Framework for Public Health Functions

1. **Governance**: public health legislation and policy, health in all policy, strategy, funding, organisation, quality assurance, audit, transparency and accountability

2. **Intelligence**: surveillance and monitoring, research and evaluation, innovation, dissemination and uptake

3. **Protection**: communicable disease control, emergency preparedness, environmental health and climate change

4. **Prevention**: vaccination, screening, evidence-based, integrated, person-centred quality health-care and rehabilitation

5. **Promotion**: inequalities, social and environmental determinants, resilience, behaviour, health literacy, life-course, healthy settings

6. **Advocacy**: sustainable development, social participation and solidarity, people-centred approach, voluntary community sector engagement, ethics, leadership and communications

7. **Capacity**: for public health, health professionals and wider workforce: planning – numbers, resources, infrastructure; standards, curriculum, accreditation, capabilities, teaching and training

**Core Public Health Functions** = Intelligence, Protection, Prevention, Promotion (purple outline)

**Enabler Public Health Functions** = Governance, Advocacy, Capacity (green outline)
A Proposed Public Health Definition:

‘Public Health is the art and science of organising collective efforts to:

• promote well-being,
• protect health and
• prevent disease,
• based upon robust intelligence and
enabled by good governance, advocacy and the capacity to ensure fair and sustainable health and well-being for all’

(World Federation of Public Health Associations, 2014)