Strengthening international cooperation of Global Health Security through Global Health Diplomacy



Salima Benhassine

University of Biskra, Algeria, salima.benhassine@univ-biskra.dz

Received date: 23/05/2026 **Accepted date: 09/06/2026** **Publication date: 01/07/2026**

Abstract:

This study emphasizes the importance of Global Health Diplomacy in Strengthening international cooperation of Global Health Security. Calls for a unified global approach that encourages nations to collaborate to build a healthier global community, paving the way for shared commitment to public health challenges. Common goals between global healthy security and global health diplomacy such as providing basic human needs (food, water, and health), are considered from the biggest challenges for global health security. We conclude that all the actors in the world must act collaboratively to build stronger health systems that can withstand future challenges.

Keywords: *International cooperation; Global Health Security; Global Health Diplomacy.*

Introduction:

Global health diplomacy is an important instrument of cooperation at the international level, linking the foreign policy and global health security to develop and sustain international cooperation to face health issues in a globalized world, like pandemics (COVID-19) with the diplomatic negotiations of countries to modify and elaborate international health regulations , set up early warning systems, shape the architecture of the global health systems and coordinate a joint health response of countries to ensure health security and protect sustainable development. Health will need, in development strategies and trade agreements, new skills for the negotiation. They require high-level political decision-making and negotiation skills, and, often, need to include a diverse range of… Influential decision-makers around the world, they need the cooperation of many countries to address issues of concern.

The security of global health is important for the prosperity of humankind as well as the national peace and stability of all nations on Earth. Stopping disease outbreaks in vulnerable areas, improving care capabilities, and health service access can prevent the social, economic, and political instability from spreading.

In this context, we deals with this problematic:

- How does global health diplomacy contribute to strengthening global healthcare systems?

To tackle this problematic, this research study is divided into four main axes as follow:

1. Coneptional framework of the study :

a-Definition of global health security:

The term “global public health security” is the actions that are taken to reduce the threat and impact of acute public health threats and the activities that are taken to improve them. These events threaten the health of the population across countries and continents. The aim of global health security is to working towards reducing the impact of infectious crimes. To protect the harmful impact of such diseases and epidemics is beneficial for everyone across the globe. It is the strong and able to care public health systems that can protect the impact of infectious diseases. [1]

b-Definition of Global Health Diplomacy:

The recent notion of global health diplomacy is framed as a multi-disciplinary field covering global health, international relations and multi- sectorial health public policy. It promotes the multidimensional approach towards global health

diplomacy through international cooperation to promote health and address a range of threats to global health. It emphasizes the significant role of diplomats in partnership formation while health is gaining momentum in the workplace of the diplomats. [2] The ability of the United States government to promote its foreign policy objectives and maintain relationships with the international community depends heavily on global health security.[3]

The ability of political entities to enable public health and to deliver effective health care to populations has always been an important aspect of modern human development, contributing to improved social capital, economic wellbeing, and geopolitical security.[4]

c-Objectives of global health diplomacy:

- Strengthening global health security: Health diplomacy aims to promote global health security through strengthening preparedness and responsiveness to outbreaks and other public health emergencies. This involves collaborative efforts in surveillance, early warning mechanism and rapid response coordination to control the spread of infectious disease across jurisdiction.

- To improve equity and access to health services: Diplomacy also includes supporting initiatives to promote equitable access to essential medicines, medical services and vaccines. Specifically, this covers initiatives for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and reducing health equity within and among countries through policy dialogue, mobilization of resources, and provision of technical assistance.

- Negotiating international health agreements: Health diplomacy plays a vital role in negotiating and implementing international agreements and treaties that address health issues and concerns. These agreements create frameworks for international cooperation and joint efforts to address global health challenges.[5].

2. A unified and universal approach to health security:

a. Global health security approach:

Health is integrally related with the complex social, economic, and political environment, lending global health diplomacy great significance at this time and age. Global health diplomacy is revealed through global events and initiatives which impact public health and the vast network of issues and mechanisms involved. Health action requires health leadership across all governance levels, whether regional, bilateral, or multilateral, so this involves policy coherence and coordination not only between sovereign states but also the other major global actors such as civil society, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, and public private partnerships[6].

Creating a country of global health security cannot stand alone. The cooperation between the partner country provided a lot of substantive impact towards their preparedness in tackling the infectious disease threats.[7] A humanitarian crisis can easily become a public health disaster. An epidemic can adversely impact a community's general health and worsen health inequities. Health security demands a global, comprehensive response.[8] It is seen that factors such as population explosion, fast-paced urban expansion, environmental harm, and the abuse of antimicrobials are overturning the balance that holds the microbial world intact. [9]

In the case of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases outbreaks, health can breach borders, destabilizing societies and threatening the global geopolitical order. As such, advancing global health security is an essential national security objective.[10] Leaders must priority to the national income and foreign savings to increase the production of goods and services. [11] A national health system should not be limited to the geographic boundaries of a nation-state. Health threats to these systems vary widely and respond promptly against factors due to structural weaknesses within system health. A common approach is necessary when it comes to health security. [12] Lack of access to healthcare services and the lack of a framework for safeguarding the population against the risk of disease is an issue of social development.[13]

The true health crisis is likely due to lack of population growth and disease outbreaks. Global public centered health development, disease, care, prevention, monitoring, research. All countries face risks: outbreaks of communicable diseases that can severely impact health, tourism, trade, and international relations.. [14]

a. Requirements of achieving health security systems:

In order to achieving vibrant and robust health systems, a synergistic workforce is required across health systems to achieve planetary health security and universal health coverage:

- Consolidate district planning for all heath programs and promote adaptive adjustments to district health systems.
- The subnational level must also put into practice investment in enhanced technical and management capacities to capitalize and addressing existing challenges and optimize the potential of the overall health system .
- Coordination at subnational level - Geographical distance, Personal acquaintance among the stakeholders, and Local context of the actions desired.
- Leveraging the current implementation of COVID-19 directions to assess district level management and coordination integration issues. [15]

- Currently, there are still gaps that exist in our understanding and analysis of the implementation strategies employed for these kinds of approaches.[16]

3. The importance and challenges of global health security:

a. The importance of global health security:

The history of diseases and responses to them: for centuries, nations tried to "isolate" diseases to other countries when feasible, for example with quarantine. Only recently have they begun to recognize that health security, while important for their own nations, is a global problem.[17]

The sole and collective need for protection from acute public health hazards has quite evidently, become one of the global health policy priorities. What is even more pertinent is the fact, that it encompasses an even wide array of broader threats. Such threats being highly infectious as well as complex and uncertain typically spread easily across international boundaries due to the interconnectedness of the globe, seriously threatening human health, economies and threats to social liberties around the world. [18]

Foreign policy should pay attention to learning and working on the likely threats which are the infectious diseases, outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance which are becoming security threats to global health. Foreign policy should mainstream its engagement along with other sectors and ministries in advocating and building health security using all hazards approach. [19]

The most important global health actors need to come together to develop rapid programs, policies and actions designed specifically to minimize the public health and socioeconomic impact resulting from risks, threats posed by infectious epidemics and pandemics. Because threats to Global health security are epidemic or pandemic threats to response are vitally important, yet are not clearly defined in the responsibilities of the actors involved in preparedness and response architecture. [20]

b- Impact of health diplomacy on global health governance:

-Improved coordination and collaboration: Health Diplomacy is the process which involves several government and non-governmental institutions of the states and worldwide organizations to work together for global health breaches and for the health-related objectives, part of any international plan, such as SDG.

-Strengthened health systems: While delivery of services, buildings resilient health systems that deliver vital health services, prevent and respond to health emergencies, and advance health equity, where diplomacy contribute to these, educated institutions and synergies help to accomplish it. Technical assistance,

capacity-building and knowledge transfer help to empower health systems and workforce.

-Advancing public health priorities: Health diplomacy influences policies profoundly by promoting evidence-based policies, advocating for health promotion strategies, and mobilizing political will to address key public health challenges such as maternal and child health issues, infectious diseases, environmental health, and mental health.

-Future directions in health diplomacy: In the future perspective, health diplomacy aims to be rewarded by the trends in global health and efforts to increase progress in the face of a country for diplomacy in health, increased access through digital health solutions as well as health products technologies and innovative health and health care partnerships between several sectors. Addressing health security and equity issues, and social factors that affect globalization and transnational progress will strengthen the demand for global development and promise health for all.[21]

c. A challenges of global health security:

The entire world is facing the same issues such as global population, antibiotic resistances, and the peril of vicious epidemics. Since those people in the poorest countries and communities bear the greatest burden, it is a priority for research to develop new therapeutics and vaccines to target poverty-related and neglected diseases and put a halt to these premature and preventable deaths.[22] Any pandemic and dysfunctionality of the health system is not only a threat to human existence but also one of the most significant challenges to the global economy and security at present. [23]

Failing to collaborate and synergize on these fronts would also represent a huge opportunity lost that would affect the health system's ability to recover and improve future resilience.. [24]

Furthermore, in the light of addressing global health concerns, it is important that foreign policy develop diplomats know how to address borders of health across sectors. Along with other calls, the border of including sectors not related to health has come from linking areas such as the global concerns about health due to economic, trade and social factors. Making use of a multisectoral approach in global health diplomacy encourages the link with health challenges faced by developing states. The ability to understand the complexities as a leader in the field of global health diplomacy can be a trial. However, with a baseline understanding on how diplomacy and governance in global health works, an effective gain can be achieved by understanding health processes across diverse sectors.[25]

The attacks on civilians health facilities in warring regions by forces may destabilize the humanitarian emergency and become a great implement for them to emerge..[26]

Disease distribution of limiting diseases such as malaria is changing due to climate change. In addition, food security is decreasing. Besides, the access to adequate food and safe drinking water is also a primary human right, but with this trend affecting many in the world, disease prevalence is sometimes guaranteed and global health challenges affected especially in developing countries.[27]

Emerging infectious diseases are threats to both national and global security. Its potential for rapid cross-border transmission threatens not only public health but also social and political instability; health crises reduces a nation's ability to respond effectively to other security challenges[28].

Global health diplomacy involves addressing global health issues that impact multiple countries through negotiation and international relations within the government and between countries. This includes addressing and maintaining global health policy issues and challenges requiring decisions made from the confluence of public health and foreign affairs, involving a multi-level, multi-actor process in resource-poor circumstances.[29]

Global health realities will continue to affect today's geopolitical trends. Companies will be better able to appreciate, for example, that there are great impacts to global order from human health's existential issues—including climate change and the dislocations it causes, projecting, in particular, global human migrations. Fortunately, these geopolitical realities will demand that all states work together cooperatively in their efforts to address these issues. Funding and employing these mission-driven organizations that work to impact global health care will enable states to meet their shared cognizance of the universal needs for the health security.

Substantial challenges to human health and wellbeing, by any reason (for example: Human relocation is also the result of other factors such as globalization, lifestyle changes, and imbalance or crises like war, climate, famine, and so on. This is the reason people now migrate from one area to the other, especially from underdeveloped to developed countries in search of jobs and better lifestyles, putting pressure on neighboring countries that pay the economic price and experience additional political and social unrest. [30]

In addition, the term Global health diplomacy is not only associated with new and emerging infectious but it also plays a vital role in addressing the longstanding public health statement that includes the call towards collective responsibility for the refugee and migrant health in ensuring that health diplomacy as an emerging field is growing and responds to the broad contexts of migration and health. Diplomatic representation and advocacy that improves inter-sector

collaboration among health officials and those that work with the environment at multiple levels of governance is vital in ensuring the protection and sustainability of human health and the environment. Apart from the former statement, another core value in knowing the global health is humanitarian diplomacy, the importance of creating links and intersections between global human suffering and loss of life with common goals and principles that such as the attainment of basic human needs where health and medical relief support procedure still remain their objectives and have posed the greatest threat to the achievement of global health security as it exist today.[31]

So now we know that health diplomacy acts as an important tool to forge health development, promoting partnership between countries, and tackling complicated health issues that may affect us all to some level. So health diplomacy, by promoting negotiation and cooperation among countries on health matters, is able to develop health systems, health security and health equity around the globe. So as countries face the many changes in the world of health, health diplomacy will simply become more and more important to promote the health and well-being of everyone. [32].

Conclusion :

Health is the primary component of global security. So, globally all the countries must work together as a shared responsibility building robust health systems. However, the global health threats penetrate the barriers thus compromising global health security which requires collaborative global solutions. This is imperative to tackle public health challenges and establishing a healthier global society.

The solutions should be diverse and interprofessional, made possible by joint collaboration and partnership. It is essential to build the competent capacity of the World Health Diplomacy to coordinate the global health agenda the World Health Diplomacy should play a central role in dealing existing and future health threat for the future vision of having one family who are healthier will be achieve.

The future recommendations of this study include the following:

-The establishment of global health security plans, and strategies.

-Enhanced disease surveillance systems in all the countries.

-Ensuring public health security must always be an essential priority worldwide.

-There is an urgent need for humanitarian aid organizations and global health institutions to develop world health diplomacy and hence, to develop global health security.

Bibliography:

[1] Center for disease control and prevention, Global Health Center, **Global Health Security**, December 12, 2024, available on the link : https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/topics-programs/global-health-security.html

[2] Ilona Kickbusch, Thorsten Behrend, **Global Health Diplomacy,** Oxford Bibliographies, available on the link : https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780199756797/obo-9780199756797-0101.xml

[3] Leeda Jewayni, **What is Health Diplomacy**, The Porgen Project,26 October, 2014, available on the link : https://borgenproject.org/health-diplomacy/

[4] Stanley Kutcher, Bettina Borisch, Health and global security: challenges and considerations, **Journal of Public Health Policy,** Volume 46, pages 473–478, 16 April 2025, available on the link : https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41271-025-00562-0

[7] Willaim Jacob, The Impact of Health Diplomacy on Global Health Governance and International Relations, Journal of Political Sciences & Public Affairs, (2024)Volume 12, Issue 2, available at the link : https://www.longdom.org/open-access/the-impact-of-health-diplomacy-on-global-health-governance-and-international-relations-109758.html

[8] Ilona Kickbusch, Thorsten Behrend, **Op.Cit.**

[9] Center for disease control and prevention, **Op.Cit.**

[10] School of public health and tropical medicines, **Op.Cit.**

[11] World health Organization, Health security, **Op.Cit.**

[12] Center for disease control and prevention, **Op.Cit.**

[13] Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, **Collaborations in Global Health,** available on the link : https://www.gesundheitsforschung-bmftr.de/en/collaborations-in-global-health-8493.php

[14] Martin Alilio, Neetu Hariharan and others, **Strategies to Promote Health System Strengthening and Global Health Security at the Subnational Level in a World Changed by COVID-19,** Glob Health Science and Practice, 2022 April 28, available on the link : https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9053150/

[15] Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, **Op.Cit.**

[16] World health Organization: Eastern Mediterranean Region, **Global health security is integral to foreign policy**, available on the link : https://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/health-diplomacy/foreign-policy.html

[17] Martin Alilio, Neetu Hariharan and others, **Strategies to Promote Health System Strengthening and Global Health Security at the Subnational Level in a World Changed by COVID-19,** Glob Health Science and Practice, 2022 April 28, available on the link : https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9053150/
[18] Martin Alilio, Neetu Hariharan and others, **Op.Cit.**
[19] World health Organization, **Op.Cit.**
[20] Adams Festus, **Strengthening international cooperation to manage global health security risks from emerging infectious diseases : experiences from Ghana during COVID-19**, Griffich University, available on the link: https://research-repository.griffith.edu.au/items/d0a02131-ddcf-4e30-9ae8-d2bdc121f622/full
[21] World health Organization, **Op.Cit.**
[22] Adams Festus, **Op.Cit.**
[23] Willaim Jacob, The Impact of Health Diplomacy on Global Health Governance and International Relations, Journal of Political Sciences & Public Affairs, (2024)Volume 12, Issue 2, available at the link : https://www.longdom.org/open-access/the-impact-of-health-diplomacy-on-global-health-governance-and-international-relations-109758.html
[24] Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, **Op.Cit.**
[25] World health Organization, Health security, **Op.Cit.**
[26] Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, **Op.Cit.**
[27] Ilona Kickbusch, Thorsten Behrend, **Op.Cit.**
[28] Stanley Kutcher, Bettina Borisch, **Op.Cit.**
[29] Embrace Relief Organization, **6 Challenges Threatening Global Health Security**, 12 September 2024, available on the link: https://www.embracerelief.org/6-challenges-threatening-global-health-security/
[30] Stanley Kutcher, Bettina Borisch, **Op.Cit.**
[31] Mohamed Mustaf Ahmed, **Top 10 Public Health Challenges for 2024: Charting a New Direction for Global Health Security**, available on the link: https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12039348/
[32] Stanley Kutcher, Bettina Borisch, **Op.Cit.**
[33] Ilona Kickbusch, Thorsten Behrend, **Op.Cit**
[34] Willaim Jacob, **Op.Cit.**