

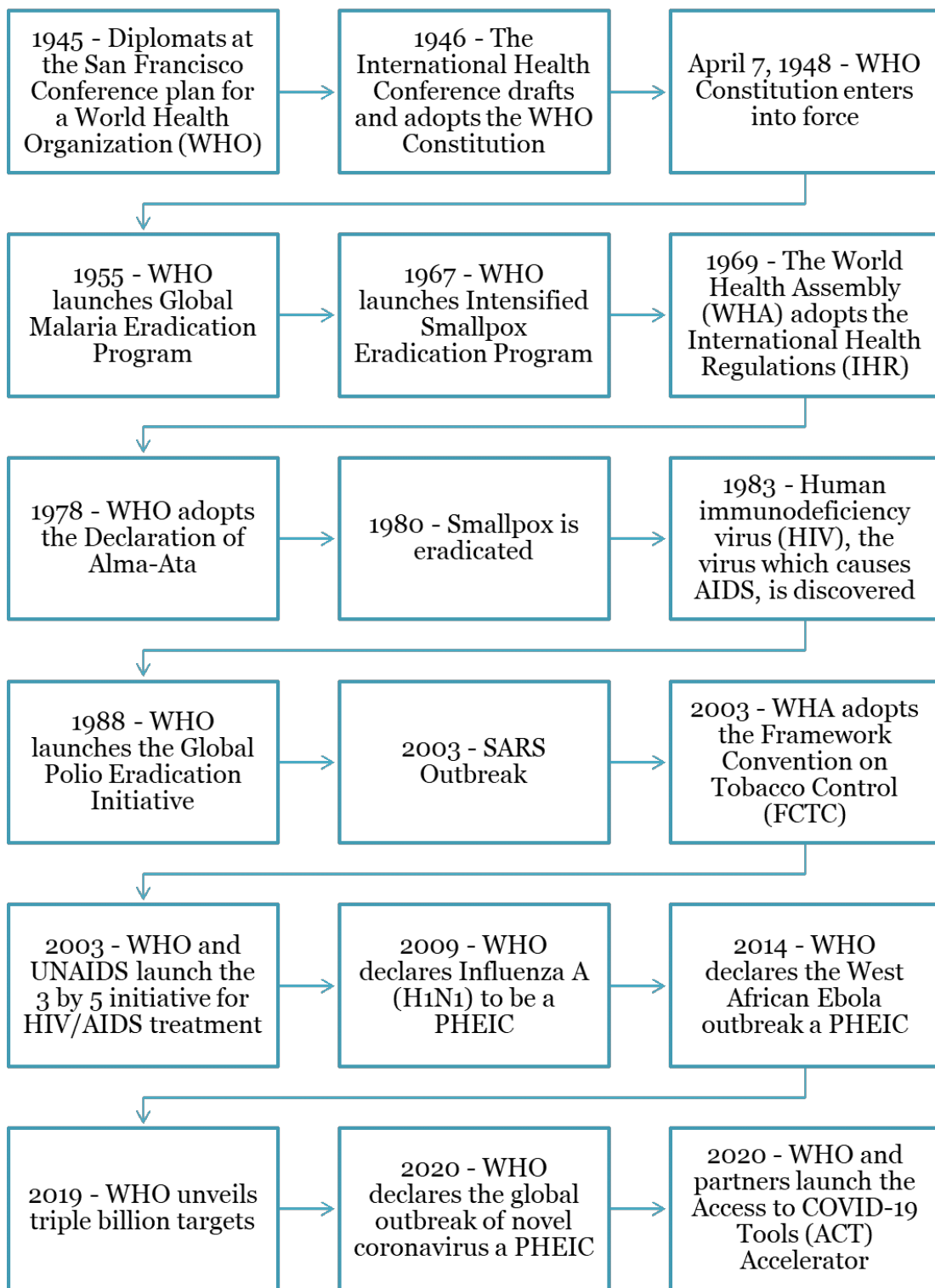
## **World Health Organization (WHO)**

### **Why in news?**

On global world health day, April 6, 2023 the WHO has completed 75 years, despite some great successes, the WHO has received its fair share of criticism.

### **What is World Health Organization (WHO)?**

- The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) came into effect on April 7, 1948.
- The WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that is responsible for international public health.
- The WHO's mission is to achieve health for all people.
- WHO states that health is a human right that every human being is entitled to, without distinction of race, religion, or political belief, an individual's economic or social condition.
- It also states that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security.
- The WHO's headquarters is based in Geneva, Switzerland with six regional and 150 country offices across the world.
- The WHO is a democratic organization with role to guide the response, develop guidance, but not to go into a country to help address a specific health threat.



## What are the activities of WHO?

- **Smallpox** - Is the only human disease to be eradicated by WHO.
- WHO played a key role galvanizing the world around about eradication of small box.
- **Ebola outbreak** - The organization was criticized, among other things, for not reacting swiftly enough to address the epidemic.
- The WHO has even made structural changes considering the future.
- **Malaria** - WHO launched the Global Malaria Eradication Programme (GMEP) in 1955.
- It looked promising, with 15 countries and one territory managing to eradicate the

disease.

- But there was little to no progress in sub-Saharan Africa under the program, and in many places, failure to sustain GMEP actually led to a resurgence of malaria and eventually discontinued in 1969.
- **COVID-19** - US President Donald Trump and others complained at the beginning of the COVID-19 [pandemic](#) that the WHO was not doing enough to support member states in their fight against the disease.

*Public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) is defined as an extraordinary event which is determined to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response.*

### **What are some of the WHO's success?**

- Eradication of smallpox in 1980
- Reduction in the number of deaths from malaria and tuberculosis
- Development of vaccines and treatments for HIV/AIDS, polio, and other diseases
- Provision of technical assistance to countries to improve their health systems
- Coordination of the global response to health emergencies

### **What are the challenges to WHO?**

- Lack of funding
- Political interference and lack of coordination by members
- Inefficient bureaucracy
- Resistance to change
- The spread of new and complex diseases

### **Reference**

1. [The Indian Express | Issues And Challenges Of WHO](#)

