



**World United News Agency
Exclusive Interview**

Nina Novus: Well, we're finally here today to do our interview with Dr. Salus "Dynamica" Mundi. Let's get started. So, doctor, my first question would be: What is global public health, and how does it differ from local public health?

Dr. Salus 'Dynamica' Mundi: That's a great question because global public health really takes in the whole gamut of health. When we think about local public health, we generally just think about diseases. When you think about global public health, you need to also think about politics. How does that play a role? You need to think about poverty, and you need to think about infrastructure. So I would say that those sorts of things are the main differences between the two.

Novus: So why are you always on the go? And along with that, why are you so cautious about sharing your travel itinerary?

Dr. Mundi: Well, there are so many problems in the world, and generally, when we have outbreaks, they not very close to each other. And an outbreak happens suddenly, so that's why I am always on the go. And I never know where the outbreak is going to be, so I never know where I am going to be traveling.

Novus: So how do you prepare for a trip? By that, I mean, What do you read? Who do you talk to? What do you pack? What sorts of inoculations do you make sure to have? And especially, what sorts of medications do you take with you? Things like that.

Dr. Mundi: Well, before I go anywhere, I want to know where I am going, and what the culture is like where I'm going to be, and what diseases are prevalent. For example, if I am going to go to a malaria-ridden area, then I'm going to be sure to take anti-malarials. And if I'm going to a place where there is a lot of yellow fever, then I'm going to get a yellow fever vaccination. So and I also want to know about the people that I'm going to be serving. What's their culture? What do they like? What should I be wearing? And that's how I decide what I'm going to pack.

Novus: So how do you stay healthy during a trip abroad?

Dr. Mundi: Well, I try to watch what I eat. For example, I'm always sure to eat things that have been cooked very well. And I'm always looking to find bottled water instead of drinking water straight from the tap. And I try to get a lot of sleep as well, when I can.

Novus: In prior interviews, you talked about the need to have "cultural sensitivity" in your work. What exactly do you mean?

Dr. Mundi: Well, when I'm talking about cultural sensitivity, I'm talking about the difference between nations. For example, as a woman in North America, we have lots of freedom. But if you look at women in other countries, they might not have as much freedom. And so we need to be very careful about how we dress, so we don't dress provocatively. And we don't upset the people about where we're going to be.

Novus: So what sorts of educational backgrounds are needed to work in global public health? And why?

Dr. Mundi: I would say that if someone wants to work in the field of global public health, they should certainly invest in a Master of Public Health (MPH degree). And it's always nice to have a professional degree, for example, to be a doctor or to be a veterinarian, because those particular criteria and those particular experiences are very valuable for people that you're going to be serving.

Novus: What work experiences would enhance being able to work in global public health?

Dr. Mundi: I would say that one of the most important things that someone who wants to work in global public health could think about is to do an externship at an international facility, for example, the World Health Organization or the Centers for Disease Control (and Prevention), where they could actually work with people who are involved in global public health and have the opportunity to go into areas with those experts.

Novus: What are the most important sets of skills to have in global public health?

Dr. Mundi: I would say that when a person is going into global public health, they need to be caring, but they also need to be sensitive and professional, so sometimes you need to be extremely cautious about what your beliefs are compared to where you're going to be. And

always, you need to remember what you're there for, and what your profession is, and how you can serve the people that you're going to help.

Novus: Okay. So how do you maintain composure when dealing with difficult health issues and human suffering?

Dr. Mundi: I think one of the most important things that you can do is be caring, but sometimes, you have to put your emotions aside and get on with the job and take your sets of skills and do what you can do to relieve the suffering. And understand that sometimes people are going to die.

Novus: What are the ethics in global public health, and how do you uphold these values and principles?

Dr. Mundi: I think to be ethical, one needs to be true to their profession. So, if a person has become a doctor, then they have taken a Hippocratic Oath. And they know what they are supposed to do for their profession, and it's the same for oneself. You need to be true to yourself, but you also have to uphold what the particular criteria are for your own profession.

Novus: So, doctor, you work with a lot of different stakeholders in global public health. Would you describe who these groups are, and how you get fund-raising and support?

Dr. Mundi: We try to bring together public-private partnerships because when you bring together people with a lot of different talents, then you make an excellent team. Where you might particularly be weak, then you've got a partner who's strong, and when you start to build that sort of a team, then you can really solve a lot of emergency situations that might appear. And I think when you look for funding, then you need to look at donors that are interested in your particular problem or what you're trying to raise funds for and do some research to try to find out where you can actually find the donors that you need.

Novus: So what is the role of *public* education and global public health?

Dr. Mundi: In my opinion, education is really the key to everything because what we want to do is to empower communities to really improve their own situation, and the only way we can do that is by educating them about how they can actually improve their health and how they can improve their own situation. So in my opinion, we can put a lot of money on education.

Novus: What strategies do you use in tackling global public health issues, and are such challenges tailor-made to each region?

Dr. Mundi: I think that you need to look at what the problem is and do some research about how to solve it. And the exact method to solve the problem is probably going to be different in one region than in another region. And that's partly due to the facilities, the infrastructure, and the actual things that are available to solve the problem in those countries.

Novus: You seem to work with highly constrained budgets. How do you manage with fund-raising, budgeting, sustainability, and do you deal with challenges when you come up short?

Dr. Mundi: Well, we're always looking for money. But what we try to do is make each dollar go as far as it will go. And we try to get communities that we're working with, governments that we're working with, to put in some of their own money and their own investment. We also rely a lot on volunteers. And for sustainability, what we want to do is to build the program, so that when we go away, that the program doesn't stop.

Novus: So, doctor, how do societies prepare for possible pandemics. And how can societies be more resilient against these potential pandemics from emerging diseases?

Dr. Mundi: Well, it's very difficult to prepare against a pandemic. We can only look at history and see what's happened. But what we have different perhaps today than we had historically is we have international organizations that actually have monitoring posts throughout the world to look at which viruses are circulating. So we can always vaccinate ourselves, if we have the vaccine. If we don't have the vaccine, we can always try to stay healthy by getting rest and avoiding going out if we don't feel well so we don't spread the disease and that sort of thing.

Novus: What is the role of global public health in national security?

Dr. Mundi: Well, we've heard a lot about "biosecurity" and "bioterrorism" and that sort of thing. And we see historically that we have had nations that have actually been wiped out by people intentionally infecting them with organisms. So it plays a huge role. But over the past decade, we've seen that this nation, the United States, has really stepped up the surveillance, and I think that's critically important is surveillance when it comes to trying to stop any type of global terrorism.

Novus: Well, would you like to add any other points today, doctor?

Dr. Mundi: I'd just like to say that if you are thinking about going into global public health, you're probably going to be going into the most rewarding profession that you could have ever chosen.

Novus: Well, I'm glad that we finally caught up to you. It was a pleasure to meet you.

Dr. Mundi: The pleasure was all mine. Thank you for inviting me.

Novus: This is Nina Novus with the World United News Agency signing off.

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Videographer and Editor: Brent A. Anders

Actors: Mary Werick and Dr. Deborah J. Briggs (in the order of appearance)