

Solving a Medical Crisis

By: Emma Garcia

Counterfeit medication is everywhere and it is becoming an even bigger problem in the twenty-first century. Though there has been little done for this problem, this type of conflict is just as important. This problem is currently active around the world, and this committee took a step forward by discussing possible solutions.

Many solutions were discussed during the 24th annual Model United Nations conference in San Antonio, and with them came questions and doubts. The United Kingdom and other countries agreed that collaboration is key to coming up with the best solution for everyone. Though Australia does not have the problem as much, they were still willing to help as much as they can. Russia thought that this is a serious matter that everyone needs to be involved in which means that some countries need to put away their pride and collaborate to make a plan that will eliminate the black market of medication.

Mexico suggested that an increase in border security would help decrease the problem. Another delegate countered it, stating that it might not be enough because there could still be ways around the border security that will let fake medicine into different countries. This type of dialogue continued throughout the debate.

Some countries are dependent on the black market for money. About 3.6% of Russia's medicine is counterfeit. Over the last few years, the black market has made about one billion dollars. Russia suggested a solution be to inform, train and advise. The delegate said that there had to be a better way to distribute the medicine. Iran asked, "How does Russia plan on preventing drugs from being transported?" Technology came up as a solution to finding out if the medicine is fake.

A solution that came up many times was an education about the problems at hand. Educating people in poorer countries would spread the word and give them a chance to learn. Most people in less developed countries are illiterate so they are less likely to get a stable job. They then end up doing illegal work to earn money. Educating them informs them about the dangers and risks as well as allowing them to later get a job that is legal and pays well.

With some of the solutions to the problem, there will be gaps left in the economy. A possible answer is to give jobs to some of the smugglers and the people caught up with the black

market. This will provide them with employment that is legal so that they can provide safe and healthy lives for their families.

Many solutions are being discussed that could put a stop to counterfeit medicine but working together is key. According to the discussions that took place, this problem is serious and needs more attention to come up with a long term solution that works for everyone. Countries need to pull together and take the actions needed to create change.