

Committee: UNICEF

Topic: Addressing Access to Healthcare for Children in Poverty

Report of the Chairs

I. Theme of the Conference

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

II. Rationale

Access to comprehensive and quality health care services is important to maintain public health and achieve health equity for all. Children are the future generation of the world, and without access to proper healthcare, the lives of our future innovators and problem-solvers will be compromised. In Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, there is only 1 doctor per 2000 inhabitants. This number is 6 times less than in developed countries. Every year over 13 million children under the age of 5 years die from illnesses that could have been prevented with proper treatment.³ The resulting impacts are estimated to cause about 25% of death and disease globally, reaching nearly 35% in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa.⁴ With the help of the delegates, this committee hopes to increase access to adequate healthcare for all children, and in doing so create a more promising future for generations to come.

III. Background of the Topic

Healthcare is defined as the act of taking preventative or necessary medical procedures to improve a person's well-being. Providing citizens with a strong healthcare system is vital because good health is essential to well-being, economic success, and quality of life. Healthcare

makes an important contribution to economic progress, as healthy populations live longer, are more productive, and contribute more to their communities. As a committee, UNICEF has made significant progress in providing immunizations, offering community-based treatment for diarrhea in children, improving access to quality care for newborns and pregnant women, increasing access to emergency care for children, and strengthening health systems to better serve the needs of women and children. UNICEF has an extensive global health presence and strong partnerships with governments and non-governmental organizations at national and community levels. UNICEF works to bring practical solutions to women and children on a daily basis.

IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic

At least half of the world's population cannot obtain essential health services. Each year, large numbers of households are being pushed into poverty because they must pay for health care out of their own pockets. Infectious diseases are all the more frequent and serious, with children suffering from malnutrition and/or having no access to clean drinking water. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are the most affected by this issue. The United Nations, since its inception, has been actively involved in promoting and protecting good health worldwide. Leading that effort within the UN system is the World Health Organization. At its outset, it was decided that WHO's top priorities would be malaria, women's and children's health, tuberculosis, venereal disease, nutrition, and environmental pollution. In 2014, The biggest documented outbreak of the Ebola virus struck West Africa.¹ The WHO Secretariat activated an unprecedented response to the outbreak, deploying thousands of experts and medical equipment, mobilizing foreign medical teams, and coordinating the creation of mobile laboratories and treatment centers. In 2016, WHO announced zero cases of Ebola in West Africa.⁴ Improving the health of children is also one tool among many in the fight against poverty. Healthy children become healthy adults; people who create better lives for themselves, their communities, and their countries. Improving the health of the world's children is a core UNICEF objective and should remain a priority.

V. References and Research Resources

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3. (n.d.). Right to Health around the Globe. Retrieved from <https://www.humanium.org/en/right-to-health>
4. (n.d.). World Bank and WHO: Half the world lacks access to essential health services, 100 million still pushed into extreme poverty because of health expenses. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/12/13/world-bank-who-half-world-lacks-access-to-essential-health-services-100-million-still-pushed-into-extreme-poverty-because-of-health-expenses>
5. Moore, E. A., & Thomson Reuters Foundation. (n.d.). How can we improve access to healthcare in emerging countries? Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/11/how-can-we-improve-access-to-healthcare-in-emerging-countries/>
6. Pediatrics, C.O.C. (2016, April 1). Poverty and Child Health in the United States. Retrieved from <https://pediatrics.aapublications.org/content/137/4/e20160339>

VI. Note to the Delegates

Greetings Delegates,

We would like to thank you for participating in the UNICEF committee at MUNSA XXIV: Envision. We are looking forward to moderating UNICEF this year and meeting you all at the conference. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions.

Best Regards,

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