

Even the littlest can kill

By Jaeden Ellis

There are many diseases we have discovered throughout the existence of mankind, and many more to be discovered. Some of these diseases have the chance of wiping humanity off the face of the earth, while some just give you a little sore throat and a cough. Globally today, there are countries fighting a disease called the Ebola virus; a virus that could kill thousands in months or even weeks. With an 88% fatality rate, Ebola has proven itself to be a formidable disease, taking the lives of many since 1976 with multiple outbreaks across the globe. This week at Model United Nations San Antonio, delegates collaborated to discuss this growing epidemic.

There are multiple countries trying to contain and cure the virus such as Kenya, Niger, Madagascar, Chad, Republic of Congo and many other countries in Africa. Kenya is trying to help keep the virus in one place so they can cure and or stop any other outbreak in other countries like said here, "Put the infected people in quarantine camps so the disease won't spread". Kenya also wants to educate people on Ebola and how to prevent it from infecting them "Give people the basic knowledge of Ebola and how to avoid it and teach them proper sanitation."

The effectiveness of vaccines was discussed between countries, but the MMR vaccine is so far the most efficient against Ebola and the RSV vaccine helps protect you against the virus so you have less chance of getting it. All these countries are giving their all to fight this virus.

But there are many barriers to fight this virus. Many will be infected and most countries fighting this battle do not have the financial needs to enact solutions; schools to teach people about Ebola would cost a lot and same with quarantine sites. Some countries were thinking of fast and inhumane ideas that involve low-income ways to get rid of Ebola; the Central African Republic was one of them saying that everyone infected should be taken somewhere isolated and be left for dead. This topic was a huge debate of Kenya saying "That is violating human rights" but the Central African Republic came back with "Forcing people out of their homes to go to quarantine sites is violating human rights as well." Slowly everyone joined and somewhat agreed with what the Central African Republic was saying but there was still one major problem: the people had rights and what if they didn't want to leave their home? Sudan then came up with an idea "How about we self isolate the people that are infected so they get what they want and we don't violate anyone's rights and let the ones that want treatment to go to the quarantine camps?" Most countries agreed to that and liked Sudan's ideas, but there was still a problem of whether this solution prevents outbreaks and more infection until a proper cure is discovered.

There were many new solutions that were good like the delegate of Chad which said: “Give more rural and poor areas access to computer technology to find out how to avoid Ebola and if you are infected how to contact a person to get you help”.

There were many many ideas on how to solve or slow down the Ebola virus some ideas, some bad and some good. Ebola is rapidly infecting and killing people and it's only a matter of time before we can't contain or control it anymore. Something needs to happen before mankind is fighting a microscopic war between life and death. Only time is on our side but not forever.