

Hilton 2021

World Health Organization

Committee Overview

Malnutrition of Babies in Chad

Access to Gender Reaffirming Surgery

Impact of COVID-19 on Teen Depression

Committee Description

The purpose of the World Health Organization will be to solve the most pressing global health issues by applying research, knowledge, and collaboration between other delegates to come up with long-term solutions.

The World Health Organization will be run Harvard Style, which means that resolutions should not be written until the start of the committee. Delegates possessing pre-written resolutions will not be considered for an award. Although it is strongly advised to research all four topics to make the committee productive, every delegate must at least write one position paper to be considered for an award. Position papers must be emailed to the chairs two days prior to the start of committee. Delegates are recommended to have an understanding of how each health problem impacts their nation and the world while focusing on long term solutions.

Chairs

Savannah Bornheim | savannahab@icloud.com

Hello Delegates! My name is Savannah Bornheim. This is my third time chairing and my eighth conference. I'm a senior at Pittsford Sutherland High School where I am also on the tennis, masterminds, and math teams, and the president of the Latin club. Outside of school I love Irish dancing and playing soccer. I am so excited to meet all of you and feel free to email me with any questions!

Lekhana Guttula | Lekhanaguttula.14@gmail.com

Hello delegates! My name is Lekhana Guttula. I'm a senior at Brighton High School and this is my first time Chairing and my fourth year in Model UN. Outside of MUN, I'm involved in student council and play tennis. I am looking forward to a great conference!

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Malnutrition of Babies in Chad



Chad has one of the highest levels of hunger in the world and 66.2 percent of its population live in severe poverty. It is ranked 187th out of 189 countries in the 2019 Human Development Index. Conflict and the climate crisis worsen the hunger and poverty in Chad. Since it is surrounded by countries at war, Chad suffers from environmental degradation and rapid desertification, leaving its residents among the most affected by the global climate breakdown. Many depend on farming and livestock for their livelihoods but advancing agricultural practices is challenging as rain patterns are changing and droughts are frequent. Since Chad ranks near the bottom on every global measure of poverty, health or economic development, it is difficult for the nation to address malnutrition.

Almost half the women of reproductive age have anemia and many women die during childbirth. This poverty among women leads to infants being underfed and having a lower survival rate. For children under 5, 39.8% experience stunting (when a child has a low height for their age) and 33.3% experience wasting (low weight for a child's height). Both percentages are higher than the regional average and the world average.

Despite aid from various organizations, progress towards many nutrition targets is minimal. Displaced people and other poor communities are dependent on humanitarian assistance for survival. According to the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan, 4.3 million people rely on humanitarian assistance, yet only 2 million are targeted with adequate support.

How do we address the structural issues to prevent future malnutrition? What can be done to help children that have already suffered from malnutrition? How can WHO ensure aid is provided to people in all areas of Chad, especially rural communities?

Sources:

<https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/middle-africa/chad/>

<https://www.wfp.org/countries/chad>

<https://www.borgenmagazine.com/malnutrition-in-chad/>

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Access to Gender Reaffirming Surgery



As more people globally are opting to forgo procedures to affirm their identities, many countries are still far behind regarding what they've done for transgender rights. 13 countries still criminalize transgender people and only a limited number of countries allow people to legally change their gender. Thus already limiting the ability of transgender people to access gender reaffirming surgeries. This leads to a high prevalence of gender dysphoria, which can make individuals feel worthless and that they can't be helped, leading to mental health issues and a lower quality of life.

In more progressive countries, there are expanding options for the transgender community. Surgeries such as vaginoplasty, scrotoplasty, chest ("top")

surgery, and voice surgery are becoming more common. However, individuals that proceed with the surgeries of their choice usually must pay an extreme amount. Most health insurances do not cover all the procedures that one may need to feel like themselves.

Even if one has money, getting gender reaffirming surgery is considered taboo in many countries and religions. For example, in Malaysia Islamic conservatism in 1983 resulted in a *fatwa* that banned Muslims (and others) from genital-altering surgery, increasing stigma and discrimination. Many other strict religious factions are against transgender surgeries, increasing the stigma and barriers.

How do we address the taboo and discrimination related to this topic? What can WHO do to make surgeries accessible to more people? What ways can WHO address this without infringing on national sovereignty?

Sources:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamiewareham/2020/09/30/this-is-where-its-illegal-to-be-transgender-in-2020/?sh=197cb3ec5748>

https://journals.lww.com/prsgo/fulltext/2020/08000/barriers_to_gender_affirming_surgery_consultations.37.aspx

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4983682/>

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Impact of COVID-19 on Teen Depression



The recent pandemic has taken a huge toll on the mental health of people, especially teens. The pandemic lifestyle has disrupted many teenagers' normal daily routines as well as increased parental pressure, uncertainties, and many other mental health problems as a result of the isolation. Socialization is especially important during adolescence as that is when the “social brain”, an intricate network of areas in the brain that activate in social interactions, is being developed. Without this, it becomes harder to understand the feelings and perspectives of others and to communicate.

Forty-six percent of parents say their teen has been showing signs of a new or worsening mental health condition since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. From a six month follow up survey done by nearly 300 students, over 50% of the students reported they were facing challenges created by the pandemic.

With virtual learning environments becoming the usual, staring at a screen for a long period of time does not help the issue. Also, with no need to commute to school, it can be very easy for teenagers to be stuck at home or in their room all day. Because of this, they have a higher chance of messing up their sleep schedules as blue light suppresses the release of melatonin, a hormone that naturally causes one to feel sleepy.

How do we adapt to this lifestyle while taking precaution into consideration? How can WHO apply these to everyone, rich or poor? What can be done to increase awareness of this problem?

Sources:

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20210315/pandemic-has-harmed-mental-health-of-teens#1>

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/what_teens_gain_when_they_contribute_to_their_social_groups

<https://healthier.stanfordchildrens.org/en/teen-mental-health-during-pandemic/>