

Committee: World Health Organization

Topics: Disease control in humanitarian agencies

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Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

Greetings from the World Health Organization, where discussions regarding the future of our planet and humanity takes place. I am Mia Wen, a junior in BASIS International School Park Lane Harbour, and it is to my utmost gratitude to serve as your chair in WHO. I have been involved in the MUN community for five years, and this is my third chairing conference. Despite not being the most experienced, I believe that my passion and past engagement in MUN will guide you through this conference and make it a memorable experience for you (hopefully).

Having acquired a well-rounded background knowledge from the course AP Environmental Science and attendance in other public health-related activities, WHO's topics are ones that I am familiar with and have debated multiple times in other tournaments. Even though the conference requires much less of an intensive debate, I ensure you that the process of forming specific blocs and caucuses would also be a very engaging experience surrounding these global environmental issues. As SCIEMUN 2023's WHO chair, I will always be there to provide help, so feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns. I wish you all the best of luck and I can't wait to meet all of you :)

Warm regards,

Mia Wen

Committee Background and Mission Statement

The World Health Organization, better known as the WHO, is a United Nations specialized organization in charge of international public health. It was founded on April 7, 1948, with the goal of fostering and organizing global collaboration in health concerns. WHO works on a decentralized basis, with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The organization works with its Member States, partners,

and other stakeholders to address diverse health concerns, provide knowledge, and advocate for policies and initiatives that enhance global health outcomes.

WHO has coordinated global efforts to address the earth's biggest public health challenges for the past half-century. Global collaborations have been instrumental in promoting healthcare, preventing disease outbreaks, and organizing immediate responses to public health crises, all while pushing for equal access to high-quality illness treatments. Global healthcare initiatives have advanced thanks to WHO's convening power and devotion in rigorous scientific research. In this conference, member states will discuss global solutions to transmission of infectious disease, impending outbreaks, and healthcare conditions in humanitarian agencies.

Topic Overview

Introduction

The global frequency, complexity, and endurance of humanitarian crises are growing, with increasingly negative consequences for many. Despite progress on improving conditions and lowering mortality rate over the last few decades, the prevalence of wars, political and economic instability, as well as crises, represent significant dangers to development progress. These difficulties imperil past accomplishments in enhancing the lives of civilians.

On a global scale it is estimated that one in every 45 people requires humanitarian help, the highest number ever recorded (UNICEF, 2019). Children in these situations are especially dependent on humanitarian help to guarantee their survival, growth, and development as vital members of their communities. In social settings, the disruption or absence of vital health services such as antenatal care, skilled childbirth attendance, essential newborn care, sick child care, routine immunizations, and management of common childhood illnesses such as diarrhea and respiratory infections can have disastrous consequences. Further, the COVID-19 epidemic has compounded these deprivations, expanding inequality in access to vital services and amplified existing imbalances in incalculable ways (UNICEF, 2019).

Humanitarian crises drastically raise the likelihood of infectious disease transmission and the prevalence of other health problems such as severe malnutrition (WHO, 2018). An effective disease monitoring system is critical for promptly recognizing disease epidemics before the severe outbreak raises the death toll by millions. Effective monitoring may be utilized to detect and preclude the diffusion of infectious disease in emergency situations, such as in circumstances like warfare or natural hazardous.

Previous Attempts to Mitigate Issue

Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) 1988

The World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, Rotary International, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and governments worldwide collaborated to launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. This initiative's main goal is to eradicate the polio disease globally while also constructing long-term control mechanisms for other vaccine-preventable illnesses. WHO actively supports polio control and eradication in humanitarian organizations and crisis-affected countries by leveraging its technical expertise, providing comprehensive support for vaccination programs, and reinforcing surveillance systems to effectively monitor disease transmission and progress.

International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005

The International Health Regulations (IHR) is a legally binding framework accepted by WHO member countries unanimously in 2005. Its primary goal is to avoid, identify, and respond to major worldwide public health crises. The IHR requires member nations to report particular disease outbreaks and public health incidents as soon as possible, to diligently improve their surveillance and response skills, and to work together in a tightly coordinated way during emergencies. This agreement makes a substantial contribution to the improvement of disease control efforts in humanitarian settings by aggressively encouraging early detection and enabling a rapid, coordinated response.

The Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control (GSATC) 2019

WHO established the Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control (GSATC) with the goal of strengthening and accelerating global efforts to reduce tobacco usage and tobacco-related diseases. This model plan offers governments a complete roadmap for adopting evidence-based therapies, enhancing legislative frameworks and enforcement, increasing public awareness, and promoting effective cessation programs. The primary goal of WHO is to counteract the catastrophic impact of tobacco-related illnesses, particularly in humanitarian organizations, by actively aiding nations in efficient GSATC implementation and protecting persons from the harmful effects of tobacco use.

Past WHO Summits and Conferences

Date	Events
2015 March 14th	World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 November 30th	Global Summit on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases
2017 December 5th	International Conference on Emergency Medical Teams
2018 October 25th	Global Conference on Primary Health Care

Bloc Positions

Yemen

Given the current crises and extensive conflict, Yemen recognizes the critical need of disease management in humanitarian organizations. The country encourages efforts by international agencies, such as WHO, to control disease outbreaks and help aid Yemen's healthcare requirements. Yemen's posture may have shifted over time as the conflict and humanitarian situation deteriorated, placing a greater emphasis on disease management. Further, diverse perspectives among interest groups and political parties may exist due to varying goals and resource allocation issues. The general public may prioritize accessible and effective disease control methods to address their urgent healthcare needs, whereas policy aims and strategic reasons may affect the government's approach.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Acknowledging the country's continuous violence, displacement, and insufficient healthcare infrastructure, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) acknowledges the crucial relevance of disease management in humanitarian organizations. The DRC's attitude is to be supportive of international organizations' attempts to combat disease outbreaks and satisfy the population's basic health conditions. The country suffers successive illness epidemics such as Ebola, malaria, and cholera, which added to the pressure on an already frail healthcare system. Internally, various interest groups or political parties may have varied perspectives on disease management in humanitarian organizations, with varying priorities and methods to healthcare. The general public's viewpoint is likely to prioritize accessible and effective disease control methods to alleviate their healthcare issues, whereas the government's attitude is likely to be affected by policy aims and strategic considerations. Due to the numerous and sporadic disease outbreaks experienced, disease management is of high significance to the DRC, with the goal of

minimizing the catastrophic impact of epidemics, improving public health, and alleviating the suffering of its people within the complex environment of protracted war and limited resources.

United States of America (USA)

As part of its commitment to global health and humanitarian aid, the United States acknowledges the importance of disease control in humanitarian organizations. The country's position is centered on assisting international agencies in combating disease outbreaks and providing critical healthcare services to afflicted communities. The United States has consistently displayed a commitment to disease management across time, emphasizing the need to solve public health emergencies and alleviate human suffering. Within the country, multiple interest groups or political parties in humanitarian organizations may hold opposing perspectives on disease prevention, affected by variables such as resource allocation and policy concerns. However, there is widespread agreement that the USA should prioritize disease control measures and offer extensive support to humanitarian groups operating in this field globally. The general public frequently supports effective disease control measures, recognizing the need of limiting disease transmission and minimizing its effects on afflicted people. The government's views are broadly shared by the general public, since the United States regards disease control in humanitarian organizations as an important part of global health security and a representation of its commitment to humanitarian principles. The issue is significant to the country because it helps to preserve public health at home and abroad, promote global stability, and display leadership in handling public health emergencies through international collaboration and humanitarian relief.

Finland

Finland lays a great focus on illness control, reflecting its commitment to global health and human rights. The country's stance is centered on assisting international efforts to control disease outbreaks, providing access to healthcare services, and promoting well-being for disadvantaged communities. Finland emphasizes the importance of efficient disease control methods in preventing disease transmission, containing epidemics, and alleviating human suffering. Finland's viewpoint is supported by a wide range of stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society groups, and the general public. Although several interest groups or political parties may have differing opinions on specific tactics or budget allocation, Finland's overall agreement is to emphasize disease management in humanitarian contexts. Finland is very invested in this issue since it allows the country to contribute to global health security, preserve human rights, and show solidarity and compassion to those in need. The dedication of Finland to disease control reflects its principles of equality, social justice, and humanitarian involvement, highlighting the necessity of collaborative effort in tackling global public health concerns.

Philippines

Given its susceptibility to natural catastrophes and dedication to public health, the Philippines acknowledges the critical relevance of disease management in humanitarian organizations. The country's position is centered on assisting local and international efforts to control disease outbreaks, provide humanitarian treatment, and protect the well-being of impacted communities. Various disease outbreaks in the Philippines, such as dengue and typhoid fever, have highlighted the need for comprehensive disease control methods. The country's position may have changed over time as a result of changing health concerns, developing illnesses, and lessons learnt from prior epidemics. Internally, there may be distinct interest groups or political parties in humanitarian organizations with varied perspectives on disease control, which may be impacted by variables such as resource allocation and addressing internal healthcare requirements. The general public, on the other hand, frequently highlights the significance of accessible and effective disease control methods to preserve public health and alleviate suffering. The government's views generally align with the populations, as the topic is critical to ensuring Filipinos' well-being, protecting public health, and effectively responding to disease outbreaks in humanitarian settings, which are frequently exacerbated by the country's geographical location and vulnerability to natural disasters. The Philippines prioritizes disease management because it coincides with its commitment to public health, disaster preparedness, and the overarching purpose of enhancing the health and well-being of its people.

China

Emphasizing its dedication to public health, worldwide collaboration, and its role as a major global power, China places value on disease control in humanitarian organizations. The country's attitude is concentrated on assisting in comprehensive measures to control disease outbreaks, enhance healthcare systems, and give humanitarian aid. China recognizes the interconnectivity of global health and the importance of collaborative effort in response to public health emergencies. China's stance is likely to have developed in sync with developing illnesses, lessons learnt from earlier outbreaks, and the country's expanding skills in public health and disaster response. Within the country, various interest groups may have differing attitudes on disease management in humanitarian organizations, reflecting China's varied population and diversity of ideas on resource allocation and international responsibilities. However, the government's opinions are often aligned with those of the general people, since illness management is regarded as critical to safeguarding public health, maintaining social stability, and assuring the well-being of its residents and other global communities. The issue is especially crucial to China, which aspires to be a leader in global health governance, to demonstrate international collaboration, and to position itself as a responsible global actor. The goal to protect public health, contribute to global health security, and fulfill humanitarian commitments drives China's commitment to disease control in humanitarian organizations.

Possible Solutions

Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure

Investing in the development, upkeep, and improvement of healthcare infrastructure in impacted areas may significantly improve disease management. This involves the construction of hospitals, clinics, labs, and surveillance systems, as well as the training of healthcare personnel and the provision of medical supplies and resources.

Enhancing Surveillance and Early Warning Systems

Implementing comprehensive monitoring systems and early warning methods can help detect and respond to disease outbreaks as soon as possible. Improving data collecting, analysis, and reporting skills, as well as building effective communication routes between humanitarian organizations, local healthcare professionals, and appropriate authorities, are all part of this effort.

Mobilizing Resources for Rapid Response

In humanitarian organizations, adequate finance and resource mobilization are necessary for successful disease management. Governments, international organizations, and private-sector groups may all contribute financial resources, medical supplies, and experience, allowing for rapid and coordinated responses during epidemics and emergencies.

Fostering Multilateral Collaboration

Coordination and collaboration among humanitarian groups, governments, local communities, and international organizations can strengthen disease control efforts. Sharing information, best practices, and resources, as well as establishing partnerships for collaborative planning, training, and response operations, are all part of this.

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