Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 27th annual Brigham Young University Model United Nations (BYUMUN) High School Conference, and welcome to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) committee. My name is Chelsea Armstrong, and I will be your committee director for the BYUMUN conference this year. I am a junior at Brigham Young University and am pursuing a degree in Portuguese, as well as a degree in Political Science, with an emphasis in Global Development. I am currently a teaching assistant for the BYU Model United Nations Program, and this will be my second year working on the staff of the BYUMUN conference. I hope to attend law school after my graduation and study international law where I plan on working in international adoption law.

This year the discussion topics for The United Nations Children’s Fund are:

I. Combating Human Trafficking in Regards to Children
II. Disease Prevention and Health Education in Adolescents

The United Nations Children’s Fund discusses and strives to eradicate issues related to children on an international scale. Child trafficking is one of the most lucrative trades worldwide and one of the most pressing for a matter of years. We strive to design and formulate ideas on how we can stop this industry on a global scale. UNICEF also strives to give all children equal opportunities to be successful and healthy no matter the socioeconomic circumstance in which they are placed. For this very reason, it is important that health care becomes something that every child has access to and can afford. Also, as adolescents are educated, diseases may be prevented. The BYUMUN conference will allow for each of you to simulate UNICEF and take part in the discovery of new ideas on how to eradicate these global issues.

You should use this background guide as a basis for your research and a jumpstart for the basic knowledge necessary to understanding the topics. It will provide information as well as questions to ponder as you search for solutions to these international issues. Please take into account the role that your assigned Member State plays in the international sphere and their views and policies regarding the two topics.

If any questions arise in regards to the BYUMUN Conference or the United Nations Children’s Fund Committee, please feel free to e-mail me at the address cited below. Be sure to practice your public speaking, negotiation and leadership skills. I am excited to work with each of you and wish you all the best of luck in your preparation and research.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Armstrong
Director, United Nations Children’s Fund
Chelsea.lynn03@gmail.com
United Nations Children’s Fund Committee History

“A future – and a world – in which every child has a fair chance in life. The chance to live and to grow strong. To play and to learn. To reach the fullness of adulthood willing and able to pass the same fair chance on to the next generation. This is the world we imagine for children... The story of our constant drive to become an ever-more innovative and efficient organization, making the best use we can of all the resources entrusted to us... Ultimately, these pages tell the story of the children we serve. Our story is their story. Their future, the future of the world.”

-Anthony Lake

Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund

History

The United Nations Children’s Fund was created in the December of 1946, by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 57(I) to serve as a provider of clothes, food and health care for children affected by World War II. Many children, especially in Europe, were faced with famine and disease. It was estimated that up to 50% of children in Europe died before they reached their first birthday due to a lack of clothing, shelter, and nourishment. UNICEF became an organization that provided supplies to those children that were in desperate need. Some of these relief projects were: providing tuberculosis vaccinations to 14 million children, donating millions of pounds of cotton to European governments to be made into diapers and infant clothing, donating over 2 million pairs of shoes and boots so that children may attend school in the winter and providing over 400 million pounds of milk to malnourished children all before 1951. Due to the success of the program, UNICEF became a permanent member of the United Nations in 1953. The first leader of the United Nations was an American investment banker named Maurice Pate, a man who had worked closely with U.S. President Hoover after WWI in providing relief across Europe. Pate had accepted the job as the executive director of UNICEF under the pretense that he would help all children in the world. He placed the relief efforts of children above politics and refused to discriminate based on international relations or conflicts. Ever since that day, UNICEF has strived to help all children in need.

Their jurisdiction became indefinite and they started operating in countries all over the world providing the basic necessities for all children that they could reach. However, the most pivotal moment in UNICEF’s history was in 1959, when the General Assembly adopted the Declaration


2 Ibid.


5 Ibid.
of the Rights of a Child.\textsuperscript{6} The Declaration\textsuperscript{7} was ratified on November 20, 1959 and set the standards for the\textit{Convention on the Rights of the Child}\textsuperscript{8} which was passed by the General Assembly and would serve as the foundation for all of UNICEF’s future work. The Convention bound these states to international law and holds them accountable to act in the best interest of the child. The Convention would furthermore define children, “as human beings with a distinct set of rights instead of as passive objects of care and charity.”\textsuperscript{9} In May of 2002, a Special Session\textsuperscript{10} of the General Assembly was held in order to call attention and re-organize the goals created at the World Summit for Children in 1990\textsuperscript{11}, which had followed shortly after the\textit{Convention on the Rights of the Child} in 1989. This Special Session had over 7,000 participants\textsuperscript{12} and followed up on the effectiveness of the Convention heretofore mentioned.

The executive board is made up of 36 Member States\textsuperscript{13} which are elected to three year terms each. The Economic and Social Council decides who will be placed on the executive board every year in April/May and rotates the countries dependent upon region and when they were last on the board. Each region receives a certain number of seats. These are distributed as follows: Africa (8 seats), Asia (7 seats), Eastern Europe (4 seats), Latin America and Caribbean (5 seats) and Western Europe and Others (12 seats).\textsuperscript{14} The executive board works to provide council and policy guidance to both the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

UNICEF programs and efforts are present in approximately 190 countries\textsuperscript{15}, states and territories. UNICEF efforts are currently not present in the Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco and Singapore due to a lack of support for the help that UNICEF is willing to offer in these specific countries.\textsuperscript{16} UNICEF is mandated by the General

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item[6] Ibid.
\item[8] Ibid.
\item[9] Ibid.
\item[10] "Special Session on Children - UNICEF." \textit{Special Session on Children - UNICEF}.
\item[12] Ibid.
\item[14] Ibid.
\item[15] Ibid.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
Assembly, and as stated in the mission statement, exists in order, “to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.”\(^1\) In 2014, UNICEF published a Strategic Plan 2014-2017\(^2\) for the development of UNICEF which focuses on: Young child survival and development, basic education and gender equality, HIV AIDS and children, child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse, policy advocacy and partnerships for children’s rights and humanitarian action.\(^3\)

Each member of UNICEF is given one vote. A simple majority by those Member States which are present and voting is required for any legislation to pass.\(^4\) In the event of a tie, a re-vote is required. If there is another tie, then the legislation automatically fails.\(^5\) These are the regulations which are accounted for during voting procedure in the United Nations Children’s Fund.

UNICEF has played a very large role in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established in 2000 by the General Assembly. Out of the 48 indicators of progress for the MDGs, 13 of them are run by UNICEF. These include areas in each goal, but an extra emphasis is placed on Goal 4: reducing child mortality and Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.\(^6\) There are five different areas of focus associated with UNICEF. Each one of these areas of focus is used to strengthen the development of specific MDGs. These five areas are: young child survival and development, basic education and gender equality, HIV/AIDS and children, Child Protection, and policy analysis, advocacy and partnerships for children’s rights.\(^7\)

### Annotated Bibliography


This site provides a cohesive measure of what the "Convention on the Rights of a Child" is and further describes its purpose. It goes into detail about what the CRC has already

\(^{1}\) "UNICEF's Mission Statement." \textit{UNICEF}.


\(^{3}\) Ibid.


\(^{5}\) Ibid.


\(^{7}\) Ibid.
accomplished and how it can be better implemented in countries. It was ratified by the General Assembly in the name of the United Nations Children’s Fund.

"Fifty Years for Children." Fifty Years for Children. United Nations Children’s Fund, n.d. Web. 11 Aug. 2016. <http://www.unicef.org/sowc96/50years.htm>. This article goes into detail about the creation of UNICEF. It covers the first 50 years of history of the committee and the accomplishments that were achieved at the time. This article provides a more defined background of the beginnings of UNICEF.

"Information by Country." UNICEF. United Nations, n.d. Web. 11 July 2016. <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/>. UNICEF provides a complete list of each Member State in the committee. It further describes the programs that are active in each state. The countries that don't have programs currently are also listen and mentioned.

"Members." UNICEF. United Nations, n.d. Web. 11 July 2016. <http://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/index_42661.html>. UNICEF shows the list of Member States that make up the Executive Board within the committee. It also contains the number of seats per region that are allotted in the committee. There also contains a calendar with the countries that were previously a part of the board.


"OurHistory." UNICEF. United Nations, 2015. Web. 11 July 2016. <http://www.unicef.org/about/who/index_history.html>. This is a simple timeline of major/key events that took place during the history of UNICEF. The dates start from the year 1946 and proceed until the year 2002. Key meetings and decisions are mentioned in the timeline.


This covers the topics during the “United Nations Special Session on Children.” It gives a brief summary and provides explanation of the proceedings of the meeting. The end of the article includes a briefing on what other information is contained on the website and how it can be helpful for readers to understand the Special Session better.


The UNICEF Executive Board created a strategic plan of action for the years 2014-2017. The broad objectives of the plan are outlined here. There are also attached documents that expand the plan’s ideas further.


This page is the mission statement of UNICEF. It uses easily understandable language in the context so that there is no misunderstanding the goals of UNICEF. It is comprised of nine separated thoughts and ideas.


This article is yet another page about the history of UNICEF from the time of its emergence to the 1990s. Topics covered are company history, key dates and company perspectives. Also the basic contact information for UNICEF is included.


UNICEF includes very basic and simple information surrounding the “World summit for Children 1990.” The Summit was the largest gathering of world leaders to date and had a very large and lasting impact on UNICEF.
I. Combating Human Trafficking in Regards to Children

“In this great land of the free we call it [child] trafficking. And so long as we don’t partake in the luxury, ignoring slavery is of no consequence. It is much easier to look away and ignore the victims. The person who ignores slavery justifies it by quickly deducting the victim is a willing participant hampered by misfortune.”

-D’Andre Lampkin

Introduction

According to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the term “trafficking of persons” means:

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

Every year, 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children are sold across international borders and it is estimated that 50% of these victims are children. Human trafficking is classified as the second most lucrative industry falling in between illegal drug trade and illegal arms trade. This most likely will change in the coming years as globalization plays a key in the international network. As globalization increases, the border controls become more relaxed, technological innovation that aids in trafficking increases and increased migration and international trade creates easy targets and methods of transportation. Globalization allows for better communication internationally and locally between traffickers and the buyers of child victims. Cell phones allow for traffic rings to be easily established and the internet allows for online purchasing to occur. It is estimated that 76% of the purchases for sex with underage girls, meaning under the age of 18, originates on the internet. With the mass amount of refugees migrating to Europe, there is a large amount of human capital available during this time of crisis.

In order to stop this multimillion dollar industry, laws, policies and legislation must be enacted and, furthermore, enforced. Every child deserves a life of happiness and freedom from fear. To accomplish this, the children must be given a voice. It is up to Member States to act in the name of the children so that they can be given the aid and saved from the evils that overtook them. It is found that children that end up in the trafficking sphere often do not receive an education. It is also found that they are more likely to have a negative outlook on life which can lead to many damaging physical and mental side effects. A child that was once a part of the trafficking


26 Ibid.
industry is much more likely to develop mental disorders, substance abuse, learning difficulties as well as other diversified and unfortunate consequences. The average life span of a victim is estimated to be seven years, and the deaths are caused by a series of different actions. Children remain in the trafficking circuit until they die or lose their worth as an employee for traffickers. The consequences due to the lack of aid by Member States is detrimental to millions of men, women and especially children, each year.

Types of Child Trafficking

There are different facets of child trafficking. The United Nations Security Council has identified six violations to the rights of a child: killing and maiming of children, recruitment or use of children as soldiers, sexual violence against children, attacks against schools or hospitals, denial of humanitarian access for children and the abduction of children.

Slave labor in regards to children has existed for centuries. There is an estimated 14.2 million people in the world that are victims of labor trafficking and currently there are an approximated 168 million child laborers in the world. These 168 million child laborers make up almost 11% of the child population and is comprised of 100 million boys and 68 million girls. About 50% of these children are engaged in hazardous work that is a danger not only to their health but livelihood as well. This hazardous work could include but is not limited to: dangerous mines, working with hazardous chemicals and pesticides, dangerous machinery or for long hours without breaks in harsh weather. The General Assembly passed Resolution A/51/492 which serves to promote and protect the rights of the child in regards to the exploitation of child labor. It calls for multilateral negotiations and cooperation in order to decrease and completely eradicate child labor. UNICEF has joined the International Labor Organization (ILO) in order to eradicate child labor. ILO Convention No. 182 strives to eliminate all forms of extreme child labor and has recently been successfully implemented specifically in Morocco, Bangladesh and Burkina Faso.

27 Ibid.
31 Ibid.
33 "Efforts to End Child Labour Must Focus on Education." UNICEF. United Nations.
34 Ibid.
Among many cultures, there lies a stigma that once a child has been a part of the sex trafficking circuit, they cannot return to their homes. This could be due to the child’s shame, embarrassment or people’s misunderstanding. Many people believe that a child trades sex or other services for money on their own accord. This, coupled with mental illness such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), creates a barrier between children and society. Society has a negative perception of those who are a part of the trafficking ring. Many times when a child escapes from their captors, they are seen as shameful in their home societies and are rejected by their own people. Integration is necessary for the development of the child. The Human Rights Council (HRC) passed resolution 11/3, *Trafficking in persons, especially women and children*,\(^{35}\) which strives to include Member States that haven’t signed or ratified documents and legislation that promotes the enforcement of previously passed resolutions and documents. Also, they specifically cite the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime\(^{36}\) and calls Member States to promote the authority of said Convention.

Child soldiers, or using children for military purposes, is another form of child trafficking. Many drug and war lords manipulate children into joining forces. Although most child soldiers are used for combat, they may also be used to carry loads of weaponry, perform upkeep tasks for the group of soldiers, etc. Recently, the number of children used for suicide bombings is increasing rapidly. UNICEF defined a child soldier as one who is, “a child associated with an armed force or armed group refers to any person below 18 years of age who is, or who are, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies or for sexual purposes.”\(^{37}\) The International Criminal Court (ICC) states that it is illegal for a person under the age of 15 to be recruited and used for the purpose of war, and Human Rights Law claims that a child must be at least 18 for the minimum age for being recruited to be a soldier.\(^{38}\) The *Paris Principles*\(^{39}\) is a document created in February of 2007, by UNICEF that clearly defines the guidelines on children associated with armed groups or forces. It was written to protect children that are recruited to be child soldiers and to prevent new children from being recruited. However, it is rather difficult to enforce the document on an international scale due state sovereignty.

**The Role of the United Nations**


\(^{36}\) Ibid.

\(^{37}\) Ibid.

\(^{38}\) Ibid.

\(^{39}\) “THE PARIS PRINCIPLES: PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ON CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES OR ARMED GROUPS.” United Nations, 2007
The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)\textsuperscript{40} is the most ratified treaty in existence. 194 Member States have signed the treaty. It lays down internationally the laws and principles which are to be adhered to in regards to children. In terms of child trafficking, the Convention focuses on education, health, homeless children, legislative review and programs addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of children. It is a document that people all over the world look to and cite in order to promote the right of the child not only as property but as a human being. Its influence has been astounding in the international community. Indonesia serves as a prime example of how the CRC can help save children from exploitation and trafficking. Indonesia is classified by the world bank as a middle-income country.\textsuperscript{41} However, over 30% of women forced into sex work are below the age of 18, more than 120,000 children aged 10-14 are married and an estimated 3 million adolescents are working in hazardous environments.\textsuperscript{42} The CRC has recently been reevaluated and implemented in Indonesia on a government level and UNICEF has been encouraging the expansion and strengthening of the Child Protection Foundation in Indonesia. Due to the CRC, the number of children placed in these circumstances has dramatically decreased.

UNICEF endorses the organization Save the Children, a non-governmental organization that focuses of improving the lives of children internationally. Save the Children identifies five key characteristics of children that are at the risk of becoming trafficking victims: children who suffer from family violence and abuse, children who lack family support, children out of school, children that belong to an ethnic minority, and children who have been previously trafficked.\textsuperscript{43}

There is a large amount of data linking poverty and child trafficking, however, there exists very little legislation that has linked the two problems. The United Nations Development Programme published the \textit{Human Development Report 2009/51}\textsuperscript{44} which combines the two efforts in order to increase innovative thinking on the eradication of child trafficking. Many children are trafficked due to their own families selling them in order to gain a profit, help provide food for the other family members or other reasons. In order for this to be stopped, the \textit{Human Development Report 2009/51} claims that the price of schooling needs to be decreased, especially in developing countries, parents need to be helped with sending their child to school and children need to be provided with free meals at school in order to subsidize attendance.\textsuperscript{45} Though this will not

\textsuperscript{40} Ibid.


\textsuperscript{42} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{43} "ACTION TO PREVENT CHILD TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE: A Preliminary Assessment." (n.d.): 1-94. UNICEF.ORG.


\textsuperscript{45} Ibid.
prevent child trafficking as a whole, however, the number of poverty related trafficking cases will dramatically decrease if education becomes more readily available. For example, in Albania, there are high populations of Jevgijt children. These Roma children are taken out of schools at a young age in order to work for their families because of the standard Jevgijt cultural conduct.\footnote{46}

There has been reports of many of these children being trafficked internationally under the pretense of a better job in another country. UNICEF combats this by continuing to provide monetary support for children all around the world so that they may attend school. They have a sophisticated database that allows for anyone to donate on a monthly basis in order to get the public more involved in reducing child trafficking.\footnote{47}

**Conclusion**

The negative effects that trafficking causes upon children are detrimental to their livelihood. The average life span of a victim is seven years. Most of the deaths are caused by physical attacks, abuse, STDs, starvation, overdose or suicide.\footnote{48} There are physical consequences against those that are trafficked. If a child becomes a child soldier or is a part of intensive slave labor, then many different physical health effects are common if not imminent. If death is avoided, children often end up with injuries that effect their daily behavior and capabilities, such as spinal problems, missing limbs, etc. There are even more negative effects for those children that are a part of a sex trafficking ring. Then often have problems with their genital health that can inhibit their reproductive abilities later in life. There are, of course, physical health defects as well. Many children face anxiety depression, bi-polar and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).\footnote{49}

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly created 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).\footnote{50} These goals are meant to be accomplished by the year 2030. They are an extension from the MDGs established in 2000. The SDGs act as a common goal for every committee in the United Nations. UNICEF actively works towards accomplishing each one of these goals. Many of them are in direct accordance to with anti-child-trafficking efforts, such as goal four which aims to, “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.”\footnote{51} However, it is unlikely that SDGs such as goal four will be met by the year 2030, while there are children being trafficked on a global scale.
The solutions suggested for solving child trafficking are not as developed or researched as other issues. Poverty, hunger, the lack of health resources and education all play a part in the causation of child trafficking. There are millions of children around the world that are being denied their basic human rights. Member States are encouraged to search for solutions to solve this international problem. States should search through existing organizations and groups and find ways to disband their weaknesses and thereby strengthen them. States should find new innovative ideas that respect state sovereignty while enforcing international law. Topics and ideas that have been omitted previously should be discussed and clarified during session.

Questions to Consider

1. What role does globalization play in child trafficking? How can it be a disadvantage/advantage for the international community?
2. How can UNICEF better enforce the legislation that has already been passed in order to stop child trafficking? What are the main pieces of legislation that UNICEF has passed regarding child trafficking?
3. What challenges remain in regards to the buying and selling of children for the purposes of slave labor, sex work or child soldiers?

Annotated Bibliography


The General Assembly ratified document about the exploitation of Child Labour. This document was ratified on October 14, 1996. It clearly defines what child Labour is and how it needs to be prevented. They also break down their recommendations from an international level to a national level. International human rights are also defined.


UNICEF outlines a 94 page document that discusses how governments and Member States can prevent child trafficking. Specific case studies are mentioned as well as recommendations on how child trafficking can be eradicated. All terminology regarding the subject is clearly defined.


Here is the main global hub for all things regarding UNICEF. This website provides links, articles and press releases from UNICEF. There is a great deal of information located on this site. All initial research should begin here.
This site mainly focuses on human trafficking within the United States, however it provides useful statistics and information in regards to child trafficking. The negative consequences and displayed here. They also elaborate on the workings of child trafficking.

This page is specifically dedicated to the UN body of Children and Armed Conflict. This page clearly defines what a child soldier is and how they are recruited. It clearly explains how recruiting child soldiers is illegal under international law.

This site provides useful statistics about child trafficking. These statistics range everywhere from post-traumatic mental illness and the impact that trafficking has on a child. A large section is devoted to how runaways play a role in child trafficking.

This site provides a cohesive measure of what the “Convention on the Rights of a Child” is and further describes its purpose. It goes into detail about what the CRC has already accomplished and how it can be better implemented in countries. It was ratified by the General Assembly in the name of the United Nations Children’s Fund.

This article provided by UNICEF devotes its attention to the role that education plays in child labour. Education can be spread through communications and advertising as well as many different programs and mediums.

The main focus of this article is the case study of a young girl named Aklima. She was unable to attend school due to financial reasons, however because of UNICEF, she was able to return to school in order to pursue her education and dreams.

This is an insightful research paper written in 2009 to explain the relationship between trafficking of persons and human development. It expands this concept to include ideas for policy reforms in order to increase the well-being of people.


This is the human development report for 2015. This report by the United Nations Development Program is written each year to explain the labor and statistics gathered from the United Nations about human development so that they may analyze their progress and measure where they need room for improvement.


This resolution was ratified by the Human Rights Council (HRC) and focuses specifically on human trafficking of women and children. The resolution was ratified during the 11th session and 27th meeting in June of 2009.


There are currently 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are all listen on the website platform. You can access information about each topic and see what Member States have already accomplished in relation to the goals. It also discusses UNICEF’s role in the goals.


In February of 2007, the “Paris Principles” were written to defend children that were associated with armed forces and groups. These Principles take into account refugees and their situations. It also takes international law into account and explains the allocations against a person that recruits children for military usage.

This Document was put together by member states which participate in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime based out of Vienna, Austria. It strives to clearly define what the fundamental human rights are, and a means to ensure that members of the global community obtain those rights and pleasures. It reaffirms the Millennium Development Goals passed in 2000 by the United Nations General Assembly body and reaffirms the role that globalization plays on international crime, especially in regards to trafficking.
II. Disease Prevention and Health Education in Adolescents

“Education systems the world over have paid a heavy price for the failure of governments to invest in children’s earliest years. Like health systems worldwide that struggle desperately to cure illness and disease instead of investing in prevention, teachers and educational experts have wrestled with illiteracy, school avoidance and underachievement – forever playing catchup with problems that would have been significantly reduced if sufficient attention had been paid to children’s first years of life.”

-The United Nations Children’s Fund

Introduction

Every year, millions of lives are lost needlessly due to disease and a lack of health education. The sector of disease prevention and health education has progressed greatly over the past few years, however, with new diseases increasingly appearing, such as Zika and Ebola, new technologies and medicines are necessary. These diseases affect children in all states. The international community has developed many programs and institutions that are in place to educate youth and prevent disease. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) three is to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” As UNICEF strives to achieve this goal by the year 2030, new and innovative ideas are required. This SDG was developed due to the diseases that plague the world today. UNICEF strives to eradicate all disease and provide education for youth in order to create a world more beneficiary for children everywhere.

Social Media is one of the most accessible and reliable tools for spreading education, knowledge and insights in the health sphere. Many adolescents access their social media accounts every day. UNICEF has large presence on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube along with other mediums.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines an adolescent as the period of human growth that occurs between the time of childhood and adulthood from the ages of 10 to 19. Unfortunately, over 2 million out of the 35 million people living with HIV are adolescents, and of these 2 million, 56% of them are girls. HIV/AIDS is a disease that has long plagued many people, especially those in developing nations. Due to a lack of education within many areas, this number has remained constant and even increased over the years. More than 16,000 children and adolescents have lost their parents or caregivers to Ebola and 9.4 million children and adolescents are currently living in the Ebola affected areas of Africa. Children and adolescents

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52 Ibid.

53 “Adolescent Development.” WHO.

54 “Introduction to UNICEF’s Work on Statistics and Monitoring.” UNICEF.

comprise 20% of all cases of Ebola. These numbers are representations of real people that are living their lives differently now because of disease. Both of these diseases are preventable if the right procedures are put into place. Education is one of, if not the most powerful tool to implement in order to eradicate disease. Education can lead to an increase in awareness and therefore, preventive measures. Anthony Lake, the Executive Director of UNICEF stated, “We have an opportunity to replace these vicious cycles with virtuous cycles in which today’s poor children – if given a fair chance at health, education, and protection from harm – can, as adults, compete on a more level playing field with the children of wealthier backgrounds. Thus making not only their own lives better, but their societies richer in every sense of the word.” When we educate adolescents, we are in turn, helping the future generations as a whole.

**Disease Prevention**

There are an estimated 1.2 billion adolescents in the world today. Of those 1.2 billion, over 960 million of them live in developing countries. Therefore, there is a need for those that fall under this parameter to be cared for and treated according to their specific needs. Adolescents are known to receive the poorest quality of health care for the greatest cost. This means that adolescents are often forced to pay more money for their healthcare because they are seen as a larger risk. Then after paying more than other people, the quality of health care they receive isn’t as good as the quality of health care that others receive.

A lack of clean drinking water attributes to disease and poor health conditions. Every day, over 800 children die due to diseases caused by poor water quality and a lack of hygiene and sanitation. All of these detrimental consequences are preventable. Today there are 2.4 billion people who do not use improved sanitation and 663 million who aren’t able to access clean water sources. One of the most crucial steps towards preventing disease is to ensure that each child and adolescent has access to clean sanitation and access to water. Some diseases associated with unclean water are: Diarrhoea, Arsenicosis, Cholera, Flurosis, Guinea worm disease, HIV/AIDS, Intestinal worms, Malaria, Schistosomiasis, Trachoma and Typhoid.

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56 Ibid.


60 Ibid.

General Assembly Document A/69/856 was created for the sole purpose to move towards the eradication of AIDS by 2030. The document calls for a strengthening of international cooperation as they strive to increase the overall quality of health around the world. However, in order for AIDS to stop, preventative action must take place. In the 2011 UNAIDS report, every Member State that ratified the document established that they would make treatment, care and support readily available for all. Member States also were called to share technologies and successful systems in order to increase international implementation. The year 2016 marks 35 years since the discovery of HIV/AIDS and 15 years since the General Assembly of the United Nations declared HIV/AIDS an issue of national security. Although these are accomplishments, there needs to be a greater urgency placed on the issue at hand that so readily affects the lives of millions of people.

WHO claims that disease prevention forces will strengthen as the initiatives start:

• Involving adolescents and the global health community in shaping its content and in setting a standard by which adolescents can help in holding countries accountable
• Highlighting policies and interventions that address multiple outcomes, risk factors and determinants and therefore give better value for money
• Guiding priority setting in various epidemiological contexts and providing options for implementation based on approaches that have been successfully applied in countries
• Proposing tracer indicators for health and other sectors to monitor their performance vis-a-vis adolescent needs

Health Education

Pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, measles, HIV/AIDS and malnutrition are the main causes of death of children in developing nations. Many of these illnesses are preventable through the right measures such as sanitation and immunization. There are over 30 million children that are not immunized. One of the contributing factors for this is a lack of education for why it is important for people to be immunized. There is simply a misunderstanding or lack of information available.

As stated previously, education is the key in order to prevent disease and decrease the rate of transmission when applicable. A study done of adolescents in Zambia found a dramatic decrease

63 Ibid.
66 Ibid.
in HIV-prevalence rates amongst those who had a medium or higher level of education and an increased prevalence rate amongst those with a lower level of education. The more educated a person is, the more likely that person is to protect themselves during situations when diseases such as HIV could be contracted. There are thousands of young women who have not heard of AIDS, or if they have heard of it, they believe that it is transmitted through mosquitos. Also, the more educated an adolescent is, the more time they are knowingly spending in school rather than purposefully in the streets. In regards to HIV/AIDS, a study done by UNICEF showed that girls with a higher level of education tended to delay engaging in sexual intercourse and were more likely to require their partners to use contraceptives such as condoms.

The year 2016 is an interesting year in regards to Zika virus as well. There is no cure or any form of treatment currently. The virus has been spreading quickly throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. There are cases as well in the United States. Zika does not segregate between children and adults, however, there are many problems surrounding how quickly the virus is spreading. Zika is spread by mosquitos and through sexual intercourse. Therefore, teenagers are very susceptible to contract the virus. UNICEF has a plan to fight the Zika virus and has already communicated with over 200 million people in South America about the dangers of Zika. Communication is the greatest challenge with developing countries. Through increased communications, education becomes more readily available. UNICEF has increased the funding requirement from $13.8 million USD to $24.1 million USD in order to expedite the process of reaching out to educate adolescents and create a vaccine for future prevention.

There are, however, many circumstances that keep adolescents from attending school. Often times, the children stay home in order to tend to the sick or work in order to feed their families. There are also many areas around the world where the schools are places where adolescents fall victim to inhumane circumstances. For this reason, reforms must be set into place to allow for more attendance and learning. Some of these reforms started by UNICEF are: “making school schedules more flexible; holding schools responsible for safeguarding children against sexual harassment; enforcing laws protecting girls from rape and sexual abuse; and empowering children so that they are able to avoid risky behavior.” The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracks schools, including those in tribal areas, and assesses the quality of the health care and preventive measurements that are in place. They publish the reports and publish them online. This program is currently only functioning in the United States, however, there have

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67 THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT OF EDUCATING GIRLS The Benefits of Educating Girls Are Long Estab-

UNICEF.

68 Ibid.


70 Ibid.

71 “School Health Profiles.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 09 Dec. 2015
been results that could have an international impression on the community. This creates an accountability to accompany the already-passed legislations.

**Conclusion**

The funding for these programs is steady, however, it has been recently estimated that it will take Sub Saharan Africa until 2129 to achieve universal primary education if progress is not accelerated.\(^2\) Therefore, it is up to the international community to push these projects further in the most cost-efficient way possible. The adolescents are the future generation, therefore it is the responsibility of those who currently have means and authority to improve their standard of living so that the future generations may pass along the successes and reach even further through innovation.

**Questions to Consider**

1. What role does UNICEF play in the eradication of disease and increased levels of health education for adolescents? Could they increase their role in society? How so?
2. What are the different diseases that affect the different parts of the world? How does this change the way the United Nations looks at solutions and innovative ideas?
3. How can funding be increased and distributed fairly throughout the international community?
4. What is the balance between state sovereignty and accountability?

**Annotated Bibliography**


This UNICEF document focuses on adolescence and the different ways that adolescents differ from people in different stages of their lives. The adolescent brain has different chemical balances compared to children and adults, therefore, they need to be considered in their own category when analyzing issues.


This article solely focuses on the development that adolescents experience between the ages of 10 and 19. It explains which moments are key parts of who a child becomes and the importance of the family unit.

Just as it is more useful to give women micro-loans, it is more useful for Member States to education girls. Girls are more likely to give back to future generations the things that they learned and the assets that come along with the knowledge.


Children are amongst those who are most effected by disease, especially in developing countries. This contains statistics and figures about children who have been influenced, in one way or another, by Ebola.


Specific diseases are listed here that have the greatest effect on the population. It goes into specific information about each disease and the best way to handle it. It also discusses the importance of not immunizing your child.


Here is the main global hub for all things regarding UNICEF. This website provides links, articles and press releases from UNICEF. There is a great deal of information located on this site. All initial research should begin here. It also includes labor statistics.


Anthony Lake, the Executive Director of UNICEF, wrote this report. In it he talks about how we should provide education for everyone. He writes about how each child deserves to have an equal shot at life.


The Center for Disease Control and Prevention goes into detail about different school's health profiles. Each rating is based off of a scale. It provides very pertinent information about specific schools. It goes as far to talk about health care as well in the attached articles.

There are currently 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are all listen on the website platform. You can access information about each topic and see what Member States have already accomplished in relation to the goals. It also discusses UNICEF’s role in the goals.


This report emphasizes the importance of providing universal access to HIV prevention treatment, care and support. It ranges from HIV to AIDS as well as different geographical locations. This report was written in 2011.


UNICEF focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene on this page. It discusses especially sanitation and how it can save the lives of many. There is also a problem with everyone’s access to water. Some people put in a great amount of time and strength.


UNICEF focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene on this page. It discusses especially sanitation and how it can save the lives of many. This article also specifically goes into specific diseases and their symptoms.


Here is a simple outline of the response that UNICEF has to the Zika virus. It includes statistics about communication and how many successes they have. They also outline their specific goals for funding and humanitarian efforts.