31st Annual

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

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Esteemed Delegates,

I'm pleased to welcome you to the 31st annual Brigham Young University Model United Nations Conference (BYUMUN). My name is Brad Grisenti, and I will be your director for the Human Rights Council (HRC II) this year. I look forward to working with you! I'm a senior at BYU majoring in Political Science (with an International Strategy and Diplomacy emphasis) and minoring in Asian Studies. I spent the summer conducting research investigating the influence that international organizations and trade networks have on worldwide capital punishment policies. After graduation, I plan to attend law school and study international law.

This year, the Human Rights Council will deliberate on the topic of: *Improving International Response to Major Health Crises in Africa*.

The purpose of the HRC is to ensure all people, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation, have basic rights that enable them to have the opportunity for a positive life, free from violence and oppression.

This background guide will serve as an outline and a starting point for you to research these topics. It should not replace your individual research efforts, but instead, act as a springboard for your innovative solutions. The resolutions created at the UN affect the entire world. I hope you can treat this conference as an opportunity to prepare yourself to also influence the world one day. Be sure to prepare in such a way as to be able to clearly express your ideas and your country's positions. The more confident and knowledgeable you are in discussing your topics, the more effective you can be as a delegate. Delegates, I wish you the best of luck as you study and prepare.

Sincerely,

Brad Grisenti
Director
Human Rights Council II
bradgrisenti@gmail.com

BYUMUN
120 HRCB – Provo, UT 84602
801.422.6921
byumun@byu.edu

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
KENNEDY CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Committee History

"When the fundamental principles of human rights are not protected, the center of our institution no longer holds. It is they that promote development that is sustainable; peace that is secure; and lives of dignity."
– Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Formation of the Council

The United Nations has always been focused on protecting the rights of others, and the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948 was the most important step toward that shared goal.[1] This famous document outlines important political, cultural, social and economic rights held by all people. The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) was created from what was originally the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR). The UNCHR was formed in 1946, and it established the international legal framework for dealing with fundamental human rights and freedom issues, as outlined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.[2] The UNCHR also acted as a forum for countries, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and individuals to voice their concerns. However, the UNCHR faced complaints that the organization included states that possessed poor human rights records.[3]

The HRC that we know today was formally created on March 15, 2006, with Resolution 60/251 *Human Rights Council*. This resolution declares that "the Council shall be responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner."[4] This resolution also established the following: the Universal Periodic Review, which is an annual report of human rights violations of Member States; the Advisory Committee, which serves as a think-tank of how best to address human rights violations throughout the world; and the Complaint Procedure, which gives voice to individuals and organizations to bring attention to human rights abuses and violations by addressing them to the Council directly.

The HRC carries the responsibility of ensuring quick and effective responses to the many human rights violations that take place throughout the world. In such cases, Member States that sit on the HRC can either create mandates or treaty-based committees with specifically appointed experts in order to find a solution and to swiftly end the abuse of human rights that are taking place.[5] The Council also makes efforts to work with governments, legislatures, courts, and other institutions to protect human life and keep Member States accountable to previously established norms and mandates.[6] The HRC is committed to ensuring that all human life is protected.

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[1] Ibid.

[2] About Council" OHCHR, accessed October 1, 2020. ps://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/ HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx .

[3] "Yemen Report," Human Rights Watch, accessed October 1, 2020. https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/yemen

[4] UNHCR, *Resolution 60/251 Human Rights Council*. 15 March 2006. https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/502/66/PDF/N0550266.pdf?OpenElement.

[5] Ibid

[6] UNHCR, *Who We Are: Mission Statement.* http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/BriefHistory.aspx

The HRC is composed of 47 Member States, each of which holds its position for a three-year term. No Member State can remain on the Council for more than two consecutive terms, totaling up to 6 years maximum.[7] Thus, the composition of the HRC is constantly changing as new Member States are introduced. Member States are elected to the council based on their commitment to combatting human rights violations. To encourage diversity in the representation of the HRC, the Council requires quotas from specific geographical regions. As it currently stands, there must be 13 African States, 13 Asia-Pacific States, 8 Latin American and Caribbean States, 7 Western European and other States, and 6 Eastern European States.[8]

The HRC has achieved a series of major accomplishments since its inception, as its efforts to bring human rights violations to justice have increased with greater global cooperation and awareness. In its 20 years of existence, the HRC has fought to ensure rights for all people, including women, children, citizens with physical or mental disabilities, and members of differing sexual orientations.[9] The Council has also created various peacekeeping missions to aid in conflict areas and provide relief to those trapped or affected by oppressive regimes, civil or foreign wars and conflicts, or institutionalized forms of discrimination. Recently, such action was taken in Libya following the fall of President Muammar Gaddafi.[10]

In future efforts, the HRC will continue devoting itself to protecting all human beings. However, the HRC does face challenges in responding to various human rights violations, as many violations are committed by non-state actors acting outside of the standards set by the HRC and Member State governments. Additionally, many nations, even those that are members of the HRC, disagree about the correct way to address the underlying principles of the Universal Declaration when, for example, the exercise of some rights may conflict with other rights. While these are challenges that the Council will face in the future, it will continue to fight for the fundamental rights of all people, no matter their race, gender, sexual orientation, income, or country of origin.

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[7] UNHCR, *Membership of the Human Rights Council.*
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Membership.aspx.
[8] Ibid
[9] UNHCR, *The 20th Anniversary of OHCR—20 Human Rights Achievements.*
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/OHCHR20_Backup/Pages/Achievements.aspx.
[10] Ibid

Annotated Bibliography

"Mission Statement." OHCHR | Mission Statement. Accessed July 06, 2017.
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/MissionStatement.aspx.

This is a brief but effective explanation of the missions and goals of the Human Rights Council and what they aim to accomplish.

"UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL." OHCHR | Welcome to the Human Rights Council. Accessed July 06, 2017.
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx.

This gives a detailed look at the beginnings of the Human Rights Council and the way it stands today. It outlines the programs it contains and the various resolutions and documents that were created to fulfill its mission.

"Who We Are: Brief History." OHCHR | Brief history. Accessed July 06, 2017.
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/BriefHistory.aspx.

Provides a very brief look at the origins of the council. This is a summary of the history and not as detailed is other sources.

"60/251. Human Rights Council." General Assembly. March 15, 2006. https://documentsdds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/502/66/PDF/N0550266.pdf?OpenElement

The most important resolution that helped start the Human Rights Council and details all that the Council can do, in accordance to the resolution passed by the General Assembly. It outlines the problems in the world and how the council aims to change and combat those problems.

"UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP." OHCHR | Membership of the Human Rights Council. Accessed July 06, 2017.
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Membership.aspx.

This outlines the makeup of the Membership of the Council. Greater detail is included as to who is in the council and the terms it details.

"UNHCR 20 Accomplishments." OHCHR | Human rights achievements. Accessed July 06, 2017. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/OHCHR20_Backup/Pages/Achievements.aspx.

This is a short outline of the many accomplishments that the Council has had in the 20 years since its inception. It gives light as to the many things that the Human Rights Council has been able to achieve in a short amount of time and shows the path the Council will take so they can continue to help individuals in various parts in the world.

I. Increased Response to Health Crises in the African Region

"It is my aspiration that health finally will be seen not as a blessing to be wished for, but as a human right to be fought for."
– Kofi Anna, Former United Nations Secretary-General

Introduction

In March of 2014, Western Africa reported the first initial outbreaks of the Ebola virus in what quickly became the deadliest outbreak of the virus since it was discovered in 1976.[11] In the 21 months that followed, it was declared that the deadly virus took the lives of 11,315 people from six West-African countries. In what had started in a small town in the country of Guinea, the virus quickly became an epidemic that spread to six other African countries and reached parts of Western Europe and even the United States.[12] As the disease tore through the African region, the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council (through Resolution 69/1 and Security Council Resolution 2177) established the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) to send financial, logistical, and human resources to Western Africa.[13] While the response to the crisis was overall successful, the world was left to wonder if the catastrophic outbreak could have been prevented or, at least, better contained.

These types of health crises and epidemics are not unique nor are they rare in the African region. In 2012, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), 61.7% of all deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa, totaling to 5.9 million, were due to perinatal, nutritional, maternal fatalities and other communicable (transmittable) diseases.[14] This number is catastrophic, especially when taking into consideration that these communicable diseases, such as malaria, dysentery and HIV/AIDS, are very preventable. In more-developed Member States, deaths by such diseases are extremely low as great strides have been made in the eradication of such diseases both through prevention of outbreaks and improved care when people do become ill. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the leading causes of death in Africa are Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), lower respiratory tract infections, diarrheal diseases, malaria, and strokes.[15]

Maternal mortality rates are a major cause of concern in Africa. The maternal mortality rate in Africa is the highest in the world at 200,000 deaths per year, over two-thirds of worldwide maternal deaths occur in Africa each year.[16] Additionally, infant mortality is extremely high in Africa.

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[11] BBC News, Ebola: Mapping the Outbreak. 14 January 2016. http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa28755033.
[12] Ibid
[13] Global Ebola Response, UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). http://ebolaresponse.un.org/un-mission-ebola-emergency-response-unmeer.
[14] Africa Check, Factsheet: The Leading Cause of Death in Africa. https://africacheck.org/factsheets/factsheetthe-leading-causes-of-death-in-africa/.
[15] Ibid
[16] UNICEF, Maternal Mortality, September 2019. https://data.unicef.org/topic/maternal-health/maternal-mortality/#:~:text=Sub%2DSaharan%20Africans%20suffer%20from,maternal%20deaths%20per%20year%20world wide.

Throughout the world, 3 million newborns die each year, along with 2.6 million stillbirths, with Africa accounting for more than half of both statistics.[17] In 2018, 1 in 13 children in sub-Saharan Africa died before their fifth birthday. That death rate is fifteen times higher than that of children in Europe.[18] Globally, it is estimated that approximately 830 women die every day from complications resulting from pregnancy and childbirth—deaths that could have been prevented—with a plurality of these deaths consistently occurring in Africa.[19] While these numbers have gradually decreased over the years, the number is still far too high, and resources are readily available to preserve the lives of women and their children during pregnancy, delivery, and early childhood.

The United Nations is taking action to provide quick, effective, and intelligent responses to various health crises in the world, culminating with the Global Health Crises Task Force. Created in July 2016, the task force monitors the implementation of the recommendations given by the High-level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises.[20] Among the many responsibilities the task force has, it is primarily working to strengthen infrastructure in Member States so that future health crises may be prevented. Those efforts include securing adequate finances for responding to health emergencies and involving local communities to get involved in preventing health epidemics in the future.[21] However, significant improvement must be made to respond to the various health crises the occur every year. The people and nations of Africa have actively worked with the UN in seeking international cooperation in finding solutions to the health crises it faces.

Sexual Health and Maternal Care

In Africa, the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to disproportionately impact the region as compared to others in the world. While Africa has approximately17% of the world population, it accounts for over two-third (25+ million) of the people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide.[22] In 2015 alone, it was estimated that 800,000 people died from HIV/AIDS in Africa.[23] There are many reasons why HIV/AIDS has such serious impacts in the African region, and the UN is working with a number of governments and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. In 2013, UNAIDS set a new goal, referred to as 90-90-90 goals for treatment for all. The goal was for 90% of all people with HIV to know their HIV status; 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV to receive antiretroviral therapy (ART); and 90 % of people receiving ART to have viral suppression by 2020.[i24]

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[17] Ibid

[18] World Health Organization, More Women and Children Survive Today than Ever Before – UN Report. 19 September 2019. https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/19-09-2019-more-women-and-children-survive-today-than-ever-before-un-report

[19] World Health Organization, Maternal Mortality. November 2016. http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs348/en/.

[20] United Nations, Global Health Crises Task Force. http://www.un.org/en/global-health-crises-task-force/.

[21] Ibid

[22] World Health Organization, HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet. July 2020. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hiv-aids.

[23] World Health Organization, Number of Deaths due to HIV/AIDS. http://www.who.int/gho/hiv/epidemic_status/deaths_text/en/.

[24] UNAIDS. 90-90-90: An ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic. 2014. https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/90-90-90_en.pdf.

It is now 2020, and these goals have not been met, but the African region has made strides in that direction. According to UNAIDS, as of 2019, 87% of people with HIV in southern and eastern Africa and 68% of people with HIV in west and central Africa know their HIV status. Of those diagnosed, 58% in west and central Africa and 72% in eastern and southern Africa are receiving ART. The least progress has been made on HIV suppression--only 45% of those living with HIV in west and central Africa and 65% in eastern and southern Africa are experiencing viral suppression.[25]

However, some key reasons include a low use of contraceptives, sex education gaps, and access to viral suppression drugs. Most healthcare and sex education services are geared toward women, which may be one reason that, while use of contraceptives has increased overall in Africa, the most common types of contraceptives used are those "controlled" by women, such as injectables, as compared to those "controlled" by men, such as condoms.[26] Contraceptives controlled by women can prevent pregnancy but not sexually transmitted infections. Worldwide studies show that, of those infected with HIV, women are more likely than men to seek treatment due to better "health-seeking behaviors." That more men who are positive are not seeking treatment actually puts women in Africa at greater risk, contributing to the higher incidence of HIV among women.[27]

As a 2020 joint report by the WHO and UNAIDS shows that where there is a high incidence of HIV and other STIs, contraceptive services need to be combined with STI-prevention counseling for not only women but also men.[28] Increased contraceptive use can help decrease maternal mortality since unplanned pregnancies themselves pose potential dangers for individuals, particularly young girls in Africa. According to the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), a teenager in Sub-Saharan Africa has a 1 in 40 risk of dying during her pregnancy or childbirth, compared to 1 in 3,300 chance of a teenager living in Europe.[29]

Women in Africa experience significant challenges during pregnancy and childbirth due to a lack of adequate health care services. The World Health Organization reports that women living in poverty are less likely to have a skilled nurse, midwife or doctor present during delivery than a wealthy woman living in a developed country.[30] Additionally, only 40% of women in low

[25] UNAIDS. Factsheets: Regional Factsheets, *Eastern and Southern Africa* and *Western and Central Africa*. 2019. https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/.

[26] Center for Strategic and International Studies. The World's Largest HIV Epidemic in Crisis: HIV in South Africa. April 2019. https://www.csis.org/analysis/worlds-largest-hiv-epidemic-crisis-hiv-south-africa; *see also* UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Contraception Use by Method 2019 Report. https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/files/documents/2020/Jan/un_2019_contraceptiveusebymethod_databooklet.pdf

[27] UNAIDS>. Women living with HIV are more likely to access HIV testing and treatment. October 2020. https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/october/20201005_women-hiv-testing-treatment.

[28] WHO. The value of integrating HIV prevention and contraceptive services. June 2020. https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/05-06-2020-the-value-of-integrating-hiv-prevention-and-contraceptive-services.

[29] UN African Renewal, Improving Maternal Health in Africa. December 2014. http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2014/improving-maternal-health-africa.

[30] World Health Organization, Maternal Mortality. November 2016.

income countries have visited doctors for check-ups the number of times recommended by healthcare professionals that will properly screen potential problems for the mother and her child.[31] Poverty, distance to hospitals, lack of information and inadequate services in Africa are among the many reasons women do not receive the proper care they need during pregnancy.

Communicable Disease Prevention

A significant amount of deaths in Africa are the result of communicable diseases—the top three causes of death are lower respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, and diarrheal disease.[32] Easily spread and transmittable, these diseases are extremely preventable, yet they claim the lives of millions every year. The World Health Organization reports that more than 94% of deaths attributed to malaria occur in Africa, and 67% of those were children.[33] Additionally, waterborne disease such as dysentery and cholera can prove extremely lethal to young children. It is estimated that 1 in 10 children's death in 2017 was attributable to a diarrheal illness.[34] The lack of access to clean water and adequate sanitation systems to properly remove human waste are the main cause of diarrheal disease in developing nations.

In an effort to eradicate communicable diseases, the World Health Organization, in cooperation with the United Nations, set the goal to end malaria permanently in their Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030.[35] Efforts from the United Nations and charity organizations have taken steps to provide life-saving immunization to African children, as 20% of them do not have access to these vaccinations that will help prevent premature death caused by diseases such as measles, meningitis and yellow fever.[36] This shows a collaborative effort to prevent diseases in young children and to provide them the opportunity for a full and healthy lifestyle. However, children continue to be victims of disease and greater effort must be taken to improve child and adolescent health.

Sustainable Development Goals and International Action

In accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to solve various world problems by the year 2030, the United Nations has made efforts to ensure the opportunity of all people to have healthy lives, regardless of age, gender or country of origin.[37] One of the

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs348/en/.

[31] Ibid

[32] World Health Organization. *The State of Health in the WHO Africa Region*. p 16. https://www.afro.who.int/sites/default/files/2018-08/State%20of%20health%20in%20the%20African%20Region.pdf.

[33] World Health Organization. *Malaria Factsheet 2020*. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria.

[34] Our World in Data. More than half a million children die from diarrheal disease each year. Dadonaite, B, 2019. https://ourworldindata.org/childhood-diarrheal-diseases.

[35] World Health Organization, World Malaria Day 2016: End Malaria for Good. http://www.who.int/campaigns/malaria-day/2016/event/en/.

[36] World Health Organization, 1 in 5 Children in Africa Do Not Have Access to Life-Saving Vaccines. http://www.afro.who.int/en/media-centre/afro-feature/item/7620-1-in-5-children-in-africa-do-not-have-accessto-life-saving-vaccines.html.

[37] United Nations, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3.

focuses of this SDG is to ensure sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) for all people and to give women power in what they decide to do with their sexuality and health. UNICEF reports that 70% of surveyed women in Malia, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria expressed they have no say in decision-making pertaining to their own sexual health.[38] The SDGs aim to reverse that trend and give greater power to women to make their own health decisions, instead of their spouse, family members or parents.

By the year 2030, the United Nations has aimed to ensure sexual and reproductive-health services, reduce the global maternal mortality rate, and end the AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics (along with many other communicable diseases) that claim the lives of millions every year.[39] The World Health Organization has also launched a program in developing strategies toward ending preventable maternal mortality (EPMM). These programs aim to provide greater health programs to women during their pregnancies and adequate services to women during childbirth so personnel can properly respond to health emergencies that could prove fatal if no healthcare professional were present.

Conclusion

Currently, Africa is joining with the UN to focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus far, Africa has seen lower COVID incidence rates than many other regions of the world. It has responded quickly to COVID. However, even as (at least as of this writing) its COVID numbers remained relatively low, there were concerns that DOVID would exacerbate the other health risks Africa faces. In June, the UN Secretary General stated, "COVID-19 aggravates long-standing inequalities and deepens hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability to disease. Millions could be pushed into extreme poverty. Tourism, remittances and demand for Africa's commodities are already declining, and the opening of the trade zone has been delayed."[40]

While significant improvement has been made pertaining to the health crises in Africa, there is still much work to do to prevent premature death. In accordance to the beliefs of the HRC, every human being innately deserves a life of dignity and freedom, but health crises in Africa rob individuals of their right to live a happy life. The SDGs are explicit in the efforts to prevent and, in some cases, completely eradicate certain health epidemics throughout the world. It is the responsibility of Member States to take action in providing all people proper healthcare, education, infrastructure, and technological services to give them an opportunity to live a fulfilling life.

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[38] UN African Renewal, Improving Maternal Health in Africa. December 2014. http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2014/improving-maternal-health-africa.
[39] United Nations Development Program, Goals 3 Target. http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-3-good-health-and-wellbeing/targets/.
[40] UN Africa Renewal. UN Secretary-General: *Africa's response to Covid-19pandemic has provided valuable lessons for the rest of the world*. Guterres, A. 5 June 2020. https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/coronavirus/secretary-generals-op-ed-policy-brief-impact-covid-19-africa.

Questions to Consider:

1. What actions can Member States take to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals in disease prevention?

2. What already existing technologies or programs can help individual Member States take their own action in disease prevention?

3. What can the Human Rights Council do to make healthcare more accessible to people regardless of where they live?

4. What type of action should Member States take in order to reach those who are most vulnerable and most likely to contract disease?

Annotated Bibliography

"Ebola: Mapping the outbreak." BBC News. January 14, 2016. Accessed July 07, 2017.
http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28755033**.**

This gives a short synopsis of the impact of the Ebola epidemic that took place in 2014. It details the countries that were affected and compares this outbreak to outbreaks that occurred in the past. It gives an idea of the types of health emergencies countries in Africa experience.

"FACTSHEET: The leading causes of death in Africa." Africa Check. Accessed July 07, 2017. https://africacheck.org/factsheets/factsheet-the-leading-causes-of-death-in-africa/.

This website goes into extensive detail on the many types of diseases and deaths the countries and people in Africa experience. It also compares the causes of mortality to more developed countries and makes it clear that Africa is lagging in ending deaths caused by preventable, communicable diseases.

"Global Health Crises Task Force." United Nations. Accessed July 07, 2017.
http://www.un.org/en/global-health-crises-task-force/**.**

Created by the United Nations, the Global Health Crises Task Force was appointed in order for the UN to more quickly and effectively respond to health emergencies in the world. This website will detail their goals and what they aim to do, and how they plan on achieving their goals to end premature deaths caused by illness and disease.

"Global HIV and AIDS statistics." AVERT. June 27, 2017. Accessed July 07, 2017.
https://www.avert.org/global-hiv-and-aids-statistics**.**

In studying the HIV and AIDS crises, this website goes into extensive detail of the spread and impact of the virus and how the African region is disproportionately affected by the spread of this disease. It details what has been and is being done in order to help those effected and prevent it from being spread to others. It also gives country-specific overviews of how HIV/AIDS is affecting individual countries.

"Goal 3 .:. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." United Nations. Accessed July 07, 2017. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3.

This details the problems the world is facing in regard to various health crises. It details the health issues the world is facing, from mental health to infectious diseases like malaria, along with infant and maternal mortality rates during her pregnancy and childbirth.

"Goal 3 targets." UNDP. Accessed July 07, 2017.
http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-3-goodhealth-and-well-being/targets/.

In response to the issues the world is facing, this website goes into detail of what Sustainable Development Goal 3 is and what the United Nations hopes to accomplish by the year 2030. This details very clear goals the United Nations and Member States have set in order to eliminate premature deaths as a result of disease throughout the world.

"Improving maternal health in Africa | Africa Renewal Online." United Nations. December 2014. Accessed July 07, 2017. http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2014/improving-maternal-healthafrica.

Africa Renewal, in collaboration with the United Nations, outlines the problems women face in the world when it comes to pregnancy and the maternal needs that follow. It also draws attention to the significant number of infant deaths that occur due to inadequate and improper healthcare services that can be prevented through proper action.

"Low use of contraception among poor women in Africa: an equity issue." WHO. February 01, 2011. Accessed July 07, 2017. http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/4/10-083329/en/.

The World Health Organization outlines the low use of contraceptives of women in Africa in a detailed study that incorporates women from all different regions and income levels. This shows that poverty is the main cause of the lack of access to contraceptives, which can improve the health of men and women throughout the world. Macleod, Catriona.

"Africa: Why Sexuality Education in Schools Needs a Major Overhaul." AllAfrica.com. May 26, 2016. Accessed July 07, 2017. http://allafrica.com/stories/201605261130.html.

In response to the growing number of teenage pregnancies in Africa, the author explains what should be done in order to improve the education system in primary schools in Africa to teach young boys and girls how to safely participate in sexual relations that prevent the spread of disease and decrease the likelihood of unplanned pregnancy.

"Maternal mortality." World Health Organization. November 2016. Accessed July 07, 2017. http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs348/en/.

The World Health Organization explains the challenges women face when they are pregnant and the obstacles they must overcome while childbearing and during delivery. It outlines why the mortality rate among women and infants is so high and what steps have and must be taken in order to lower these premature deaths.

"Number of deaths due to HIV/AIDS." World Health Organization. Accessed July 07, 2017. http://www.who.int/gho/hiv/epidemic_status/deaths_text/en/.

This report by the World Health Organization brings light to the major impact the spread of HIV/AIDS is having on people throughout the world, particularly among the African people. While it notes that rates are decreasing, it makes it clear that action must be taken in order to end the spread of the disease.

"Onward to 2030: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals." Guttmacher Institute. December 06, 2016. Accessed July 07, 2017. https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2015/10/onward-2030-sexual-and-reproductivehealth-and-rights-context-sustainable-development.

This article particularly focuses on the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and how they will help improve the sexual health of women and young girls through the world. It outlines the reforms that will occur as a result of a global effort to put power into women's hands to take the lead in their health decisions.

"Strategies toward ending preventable maternal mortality (EPMM)." World Health Organization. Accessed July 07, 2017. http://who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/maternal_perinatal/epmm/en/.

The World Health Organization gives a very extensive and broad report as to how the world can help save millions of women from death as a result of their pregnancy. It makes it clear that women should not have to die for the choice of having a child, nor should her child be at risk of premature death.

"The African Regional Health Report: The Health of the People." WHO. Accessed July 07, 2017. http://www.who.int/bulletin/africanhealth/en/.

This details the various health crises the African region continually deals with. It is short but it gives a quick understanding of the devastating impact disease has on the African population.

"UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) | Global Ebola Response." United Nations. Accessed July 07, 2017. http://ebolaresponse.un.org/un-mission-ebolaemergency-response-unmeer.

The Ebola crisis in 2014 caught the attention of the United Nations and this website outlines what the United Nations did in response to it. This can give an idea of how the UN and Member States should respond to future health crises.

UNAIDS. 90-90-90: An ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic. 2014. https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/90-90-90_en.pdf.

A review of the state of the AIDS epidemic in 2013 that led to the formation of the 90-90-90 goals, explaining why those targets will have impact on transmission and eradication of HIV/AIDS.

UNAIDS. Factsheets: Regional Factsheets, *Eastern and Southern Africa* **and** *Western and Central Africa***. 2019. https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/.**

UNAIDS has compiled statistics for each world region, including key HIV/AIDS prevalence, treatment, and risk group indicators.

"Water-Borne Diseases: Cholera and Dysentery: Epidemic Dysentery." Infoplease. Accessed July 07, 2017. https://www.infoplease.com/science/health-and-body/water-bornediseases-cholera-and-dysentery-epidemic-dysentery.

In detailing the high number of deaths that occur as a result of communicable disease, this article explains that children are largely the ones most effected by waterborne disease and what can be done to bring sanitation and clean water to all people.

"World Malaria Day 2016: End malaria for good." World Health Organization. Accessed July 07, 2017. http://www.who.int/campaigns/malaria-day/2016/event/en/.

Following the vein of communicable diseases, the World Health Organization details its efforts to get rid of malaria in the world. Malaria takes millions of lives every year in Africa, primarily children.

"1 in 5 children in Africa do not have access to life-saving vaccines." WHO. Accessed July 07, 2017. http://www.afro.who.int/en/media-centre/afro-feature/item/7620-1-in-5-childrenin-africa-do-not-have-access-to-life-saving-vaccines.html.

This research by the World Health Organization outlines the serious issues that result from improper vaccination to children in Africa. It also explains how, through global cooperation, millions of children can gain access to life-saving immunizations that will prevent premature death.