



Chair Report

UNICEF

Chair:

The primary role of UNICEF is 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.

<https://www.unicef.org/>

REPORT: Equal Access to Pediatric Care

Introduction

Medical Knowledge and breakthroughs have increased greatly through the discovery of cutting edge technology in recent years. However, still to this day many children do not receive or have access to medical care at a young age. Due to a lack of medical care, many children die or receive complications due to preventable diseases. In fact, UNICEF reported 5.3 million children under age five died in 2018 and of those approximately 1.5 million of these deaths are caused by vaccine-preventable diseases.

UNICEF has advocated for medical care for all children. But this feat cannot be done by only a non-profit organization. Many countries have been able to implement a universal health care plan within their respective countries, however, not every country's population can afford to pay for health care. In addition, many children have no control over the economic or social situation they're born in to. Understanding the global landscape and perspective of a child may be a vital component to consider when tackling this topic.

General Overview

The Medical field and health care improved leaps and bounds, yet many children are still denied the right to receive medical care. This especially true when considering immigrant children. When considering immigrant families fleeing from conflict-ridden countries, children's health are often neglected due to a lack of resources and awareness.



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Malaria, a preventable and curable disease, kills an estimated 1,200 children day according to Unicef. Children account for half of all suspected cholera cases in Yemen. In many endemic countries, children under 5 accounts for more than half of the global incidence and deaths. Despite the health efforts to eradicate preventable diseases, many children have died to a lack of treatment and available pediatric care.

Pediatric care for many children may be as significant as life and death. Youngest children face the highest risk of death. In 2018 alone, an estimated 6.2 million children and young adolescents under age 15 died, mostly from preventable causes. Of those 6 million, newborn accounted for 2.5 million deaths. The lack of medical care in developing countries affects children the most.

Many countries have been able to implement Universal health care plans. For instance, countries such as Finland and Denmark have been able to offer their residents UHC. However, there is a cost the citizens have to pay. While our committee has focused on pediatric care, it is important to view different health care approaches. When considering a solution for equal access to pediatric care understanding the global landscape and where the people are most affected by lack of pediatric care. Countries within sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries struggle to maintain a high pediatrician to population ratio mainly due to lack of funding and a low native medical profession turnout rate.

Another important factor to consider when drafting and formulating resolutions is how sustainable is the solution once the countries or NGOs have withdrawn assistance. Providing funding for medicine and foreign medical assistance can only be provided in an infinite amount.

UNICEF has set programs such as immunization and health programs that have to ensure global health coverage on a community level. Despite tremendous efforts by UNICEF we still have children who are denied the opportunity to receive medical care. When considering to create a solution on attaining or attempting to attain equal pediatric care make sure to consider the currently established programs within UNICEF and how countries can help advance those efforts on a global level.

When formulating different ways to resolve this issue, consider the following:

- Is my country unable to provide Equal Access to Pediatric Care?
- Has your country been involved with UNICEF?
- What is your country's stance on Universal Pediatric Care? Universal Health Care?
 - In some cases, countries may be opposed to Universal Pediatric Care or Universal Health Care, so remember to stay authentic to your country.



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- Is the solution I am proposing the same or similar to an already existing committee or program? If so how can I incorporate it or amended it to address our topic?

Major Parties Involved

The US who has been the origin of The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and its member pediatricians, dedicate their efforts and resources to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. The AAP has approximately 67,000 members in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and many other countries. Members include pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists. More than 45,000 members are board-certified and called Fellows of the American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP).

United Kingdom

The Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health in the UK has worked to improve child health worldwide, with cost effective, high impact programmes. They work with their membership of experienced paediatricians and other child health professionals as well as partner organisations.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan has been a country of notice in the issue of child health, having partnered with the UN in 2005 to combat the issue at hand. A recent analysis undertaken in Azerbaijan showed that anaemia affects about 40 percent of women and about a quarter of children in the country. It is estimated that the economic benefit of flour fortification would equal 11 times the cost of introducing fortification, a dividend that could have significant impact on the country's economic growth, as well as social development.

Country with the highest infant mortality rate: Afghanistan (110/1000)

Strongly involved parties: Union of National European Pediatric Societies and Associations; Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; World Health Organization

Timeline of Key Events

1989-UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

2003-Equity Project by the AAP & RCPC



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2005-5 year project between UNICEF and Azerbaijan

12 December 2012 Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

23 September 2019 The United Nations General Assembly held a high-level meeting on universal health coverage. ^[1]_[SEP]

Past Attempts at Resolving This Issue

(2003) The creation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has prompted the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health to work towards the Equity Project to address the issue of unequal access to pediatrics and to ensure the resolution of this issue

(23 September 2019) The United Nations General Assembly held a high-level meeting on universal health coverage. This meeting, held under the theme "Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World," aimed to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2012: Global health and foreign policy

Suggested Websites

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4978135/>
- <http://www.thirdculturemama.com/pediatricians-around-the-world/#.Xc9Rt-jYrnE>
- <https://www.news-medical.net/health/A-Brief-History-of-Pediatrics.aspx>
- <https://www.lonetreepediatrics.com/the-surprising-history-of-pediatric-service-around-the-world/>
- https://www.who.int/workforcealliance/members_partners/member_list/ipa/en/
- https://www.who.int/universal_health_coverage/un_resolution/en/
- <https://www.unicef.org/what-we-do>
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