

Saint Ignatius College Prep

SIMUN XVI

Saint Ignatius Model United Nations



Chicago, IL

November 4, 2017

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ben Waverley, and I, along with my political officer, Jason Kinander, will be chairing the World Health Organization for SIMUN XV. We will be discussing two very important, relevant issues, the sustainability of water and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Both topics have several potential outcomes and serious consequences if they are not treated correctly. Through the World Health Organization's priorities of creating health systems and dealing with both communicable and noncommunicable diseases, great progress towards solving the issues of both of these topics can be achieved within this committee. I look forward to seeing all of the solutions and hard work on display at the conference, and I would like to wish all delegates good luck in pursuing solutions following the policies of their respective nations.

Sincerely,

Ben Waverley

Hello delegates,

My name is Jason Kinander and I am the Political Officer for the World Health Organization for SIMUN XV. I look forward to seeing lots of good discussion, ideas, and success during our committee sessions, hopefully solving these two issues in the end. Thank you and good luck!

Delegations:

Argentina

Australia

Belgium

Brazil

Chile

China

Cuba

Ecuador

Ethiopia

Finland

Germany

Hungary

Iran

Iraq

Jordan

Kuwait

Lithuania

Madagascar

Mexico

Morocco

New Zealand

Pakistan

Qatar

Russian Federation

Rwanda

South Africa

Syria

Turkey

UK

US

Topic A: Water Sustainability and Sanitation

History:

Water sustainability is an issue that many parts of our world have dealt with numerous times in the past. Ever since the first urban civilizations were created along streams with clean

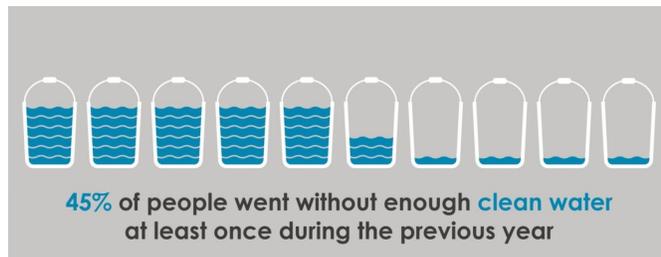


drinking water, clean water has been the foundation behind all human existence. For centuries, there has been talk amongst people around how water should be distributed and how it should be ensured

that everyone receives a healthy amount of drinking water. Both political and economic obstacles have come about that has historically prevented certain areas of the world, mainly Africa, from having sustainable sources of clean water.

Current Issue:

The issues with water sustainability today are more severe than they have been at almost any time in our world's history. Currently, 663 million people are living without clean water to drink or cook with. Because of this, almost 300,000 deaths of children under five due to lack of clean water or diseases caused by it. That is equivalent to one child every two



minutes. However, Africa is where most of these problems are taking place. Almost half of all healthcare facilities in Africa don't even have access to safe water, which is detrimental to the people that are treated in these facilities everyday. In addition, almost a third of all people

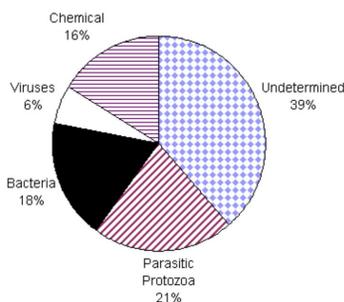
worldwide don't have access to a proper toilet because of the lack of water in their areas.

Obviously, these issues are an international crisis that all nations should see as a top priority for the safety of both their people and all people around the globe.

Related Diseases:

Hepatitis A, Typhoid Fever, Cholera, and Amoebic Dysentery are among the most dangerous diseases that a lack of clean water can cause. Hepatitis A involves inflammation of the liver, including symptoms of fever, diarrhea, nausea, and stomach pains. To make matters worse, Hepatitis A sometimes involves victims experiencing no symptoms, which means that people affected by the disease might not even realize that one of the body's most important organs is being infected by a virus. Typhoid fever is the infection from *Salmonella*, a bacteria that invades the gallbladder and parts of the digestive system. The fever is especially dangerous because again, some people experience no symptoms of the dangerous bacteria in their bodies and can

Causes of Waterborne Disease Outbreaks in the USA, 1991-2000



become carriers of the disease without even knowing it.

Cholera is a severe case of diarrhea that can lead to dehydration and even possibly death if it goes untreated for a long period of time. Finally, Amoebic Dysentery is an infection of the intestines caused by a parasite that travels through unsanitary water and food. Each one of

these diseases can find a victim by the simple consumption of unclean water, and with the amount of people in need of clean water, there are quite a few victims that need proper treatment if their lives are going to be preserved. To make matters worse, almost 40% of all deaths caused by water are from unknown causes. This is mainly because the facilities in many of the areas

where water sanitation is at its worst don't have the technology to even understand why somebody is dying. Because of the amount of deadly disease that it causes, water sanitation and sustainability should be a top priority of every country that is concerned about their people.

Questions to Consider:

-How can the World Health Organization ensure that all people have access to sanitized water?

-What are some short-term and long-term solutions to bringing clean, drinkable water to everyone?

-Is there any new technology that can be developed to economically sanitize water that is currently undrinkable?

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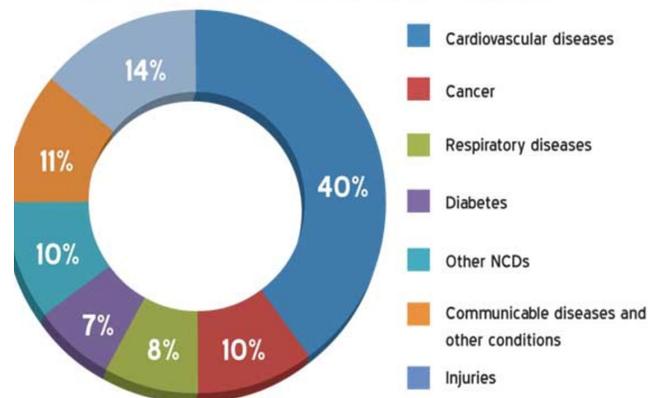
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Topic B: Noncommunicable Diseases

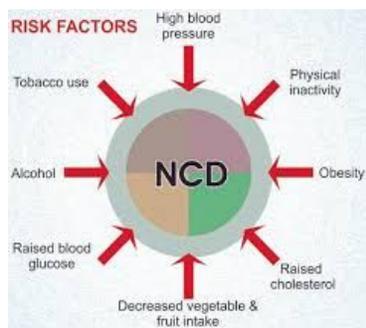
Overview:

Noncommunicable diseases have been an issue for centuries. Countless scientists and doctors have made an effort to find a cure for these seemingly random diseases that occur in people, but not much progress has been made in terms of cures. There are four main types of NCDs: cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. Between the four types, over 31 million people a year are victims of an NCD and end up passing away. On a global scale, NCDs are one of the primary sources of death, accounting for over 70% of all deaths each year.



Causes and Risk:

The main causes of noncommunicable diseases are actually preventable. Four causes that are all preventable include the overuse of tobacco, overuse of alcohol, unhealthy diets, and



physical inactivity. These actions all raise blood pressure and raise blood glucose, increasing the risk of obtaining and NCD, especially a cardiovascular one. Therefore, under typical circumstances, the healthier the person, the lower the risk of an NCD. In terms of risk, everyone of all ages and countries can

obtain an NCD. Almost half of all NCD-related deaths are premature deaths of those between the ages of 30 and 69. Even though developing a cure for NCDs is difficult, a few changes in lifestyle can greatly reduce anyone's risk to obtain an NCD.

Socioeconomic Impact:

NCDs are also directly linked with poverty, as over 80% of the 15 million people that die prematurely every year are under the poverty line. They are also preventing many initiatives to decrease poverty worldwide, for NCDs more greatly affect lower-class areas of a region. Even though causes like obesity and overuse of tobacco and alcohol are dangerously linked to NCDs, the opposite is just as dangerous. A lack of proper food or water can also cause diseases, including NCDs. The link between poverty and NCDs is detrimental to a country's economy, for the more people that are in poverty, the more NCDs that are obtained, and the more a government and individual households must spend on healthcare. Finally, the dangerous link between poverty and NCDs is also a problem in developing and underdeveloped nations where proper healthcare is a rarity, which only adds more chances for deaths from NCDs.

Links Between Topics:

The two topics of water sustainability and NCDs are closely related in many ways. Many NCDs can be developed from a lack of clean water or proper food, so providing a solution to water sustainability would be a great first step to preventing NCDs around the globe. Poverty is also a central issue within both topics. NCDs are statistically determined to occur more in the areas of a region that are more impoverished, and NCDs cause more deaths in impoverished areas because of the lack of infrastructure to provide health care. If more infrastructure to ensure

medical safety of all people is developed in impoverished nations, then both of these issues can be solved more easily.

Questions to Consider:

- How can the socioeconomic impacts of NCDs be addressed by WHO?
- How can WHO help prevent NCDs in both the short-term and the long-term?
- Is education of the causes of NCDs or research into cures for them more important? Which one will help establish a more long-term solution?

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