



WHO Chair Report

Addressing the Global Health Crisis of
Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Chair: Theodor Hellauer

Deputy Chair: Joseph Whitener

Personal Statements

Chair – Theodor Hellauer

Most Esteemed Delegates of the World Health Organization, my name is Theodor Hellauer, and I will be serving as one of the Chairs of this Committee at MUNISS 2024. I am currently in ninth grade at Frankfurt International School, and I am 14 years old. MUNISS will be my twelfth conference, and my second time as a chair. Over the years, I have had the honor of serving in multiple committees and positions, such as being an Advocate in the International Court of Justice or being a panelist at THIMUN. I am certain that all of you can recall the COVID-19 pandemic, or formally SARS-CoV-2, and how halted society immediately. As delegates of this committee, you will have the possibility to come up with solutions that will have a clear goal to create partnership between nations and to be better prepared if there is another outbreak of such a pandemic. You will consider how to limit casualties and efficiently delivering much-needed aid. Furthermore, on our planet, there are countless examples of diseases like Cancer, Diabetes, or heart disorders, and this committee allows you to explore solutions with a goal to prevent suffering on a global scale. Finally, in so-called More Economically Developed Countries, (MEDC'S), we tend to take food for granted, whilst there were millions of deaths in LEDCs which can be traced back to malnutrition. In this committee, we urge you to find sustainable solutions to all these varied and vital issue. To our first-time delegates, don't hesitate to speak up! Your contributions are invaluable and we're here to support you every step of the way.

Thank You!



Deputy Chair – Joseph Whitener

Hello everyone, I am Joseph Whitener. This is my second MUN conference, first time as a chair, and I look forward to chairing you all. I am also 15 years old, and my hobbies mainly consist of football. I currently attend ISS and look forward to welcoming you all to our school through MUNISS I think you'll enjoy it here. This committee focuses on addressing critical global health issues under the purview of the World Health Organization (WHO). Delegates will delve into three primary topics: Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and Nutrition and Food Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Introduction

The Issue of Addressing the Global Health Crisis of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) essentially concludes to the point that we must find an adequate solution to treat individuals who are victims to diseases that are not passed on genetically or spread between individuals, but due to genetic alteration. Finding a supportable solution would conclude to fewer people would be forced to suffer under the severe consequences, which follow.

A Non-Communicable Diseases is a disease that per definition is a “group of conditions that are not mainly caused by an acute infection, result in long-term health consequences, and often create a need for long-term treatment and care. (Noncommunicable Diseases)”

Types of NCD’s can include “cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes. (Noncommunicable Diseases)”

Finding an agreeable, and adequate solution to this issue, is a requisite for not only the individuals who suffer under the NCD’s, the family members who are morally obliged to aid them, and the health care system. In most European nations, this is only a mere burden, however in a multitude of LEDC’S, families are unable to give palliative care, and in severe cases, the national or private health insurance is unable to help the individual effectively, if they are even able to detect it.

Glossary

Non- Communicable Diseases.

“Group of conditions that are not mainly caused by an acute infection, result in long-term health consequences, and often create a need for long-term treatment and care. (Noncommunicable Diseases)”

Risk Factors

“Something that increases risk especially something that makes a person more likely to get a particular disease or condition (Risk Factor)”

Prevention Strategies.

Designed to stop the spread or continuation of something.

Epidemiology

“Epidemiology is the study of the determinants, occurrence, and distribution of health and disease in a defined population. Infection is the replication of organisms in host tissue, which may cause disease. A carrier is an individual with no overt disease who harbors infectious organisms. (Epidemiology)”



Issue Explanation

As previously mentioned, it is obvious that nobody would want to voluntarily have an NCD. Cancerous cells are created when their cells mutate whilst reproducing, and overtime they grow, and eventually kill people. Heart Attacks, and raspatory issues are no better, and happen with mere signs in advance. NCD's are Lethal, according to the World Health Organization, NCD's cause 74% of all deaths in the world meaning that over 41 million people per year could survive if an adequate solution is found. "Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths, or 17.9 million people annually, followed by cancers (9.3 million), chronic respiratory diseases (4.1 million), and diabetes (2.0 million including kidney disease deaths caused by diabetes). (Noncommunicable Diseases)" However there is one solution which has proven to work in most cases, it is screening people for NCD's and doing palliative care. Palliative care is essentially specialized treatment for those individuals and is proven to help individuals with NCD's. Palliative care sounds good, however the problem is that most LEDC's, or citizens of LEDC's cannot afford to give this care.

To put it into perspective, 41 million people are dying due to NCD's, which is, to put it into perspective, the entire population of Poland. This simply shows that NCD's can cause enormous economic concerns. Because of this, the World Health Organization (WHO), has created a study outlining the causes of certain deaths, where one can be certain that it is the cause. "Tobacco accounts for over 8 million deaths every year (including from the effects of exposure to second-hand smoke) 1.8 million annual deaths have been attributed to excess salt/sodium intake. More than half of the 3 million annual deaths attributable to alcohol use are from NCDs, including cancer. 830 000 deaths annually can be attributed to insufficient physical activity. (Noncommunicable Diseases)".

Metabolic risk factors, such as obesity, high blood pressure or hyperglycemia (high blood glucose levels); and hyperlipidemia (high levels of fat in the blood), are causes which can make individuals more prone to NCD's, therefore promoting healthier lifestyles is essential.

On the level above that, there are factors which individuals cannot change, and are not to blame for that. One of them is the environment, because the WHO has found out that "Several environmental risk factors contribute to NCDs. Air pollution is the largest of these, accounting for 6.7 million deaths globally, of which about 5.7 million are due to NCDs, including stroke, ischemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer. (Noncommunicable Diseases)" Therefore finding a way to incentivize nations to promote better climate control would be a factor that minimizes the number of casualties.



(NCDs)

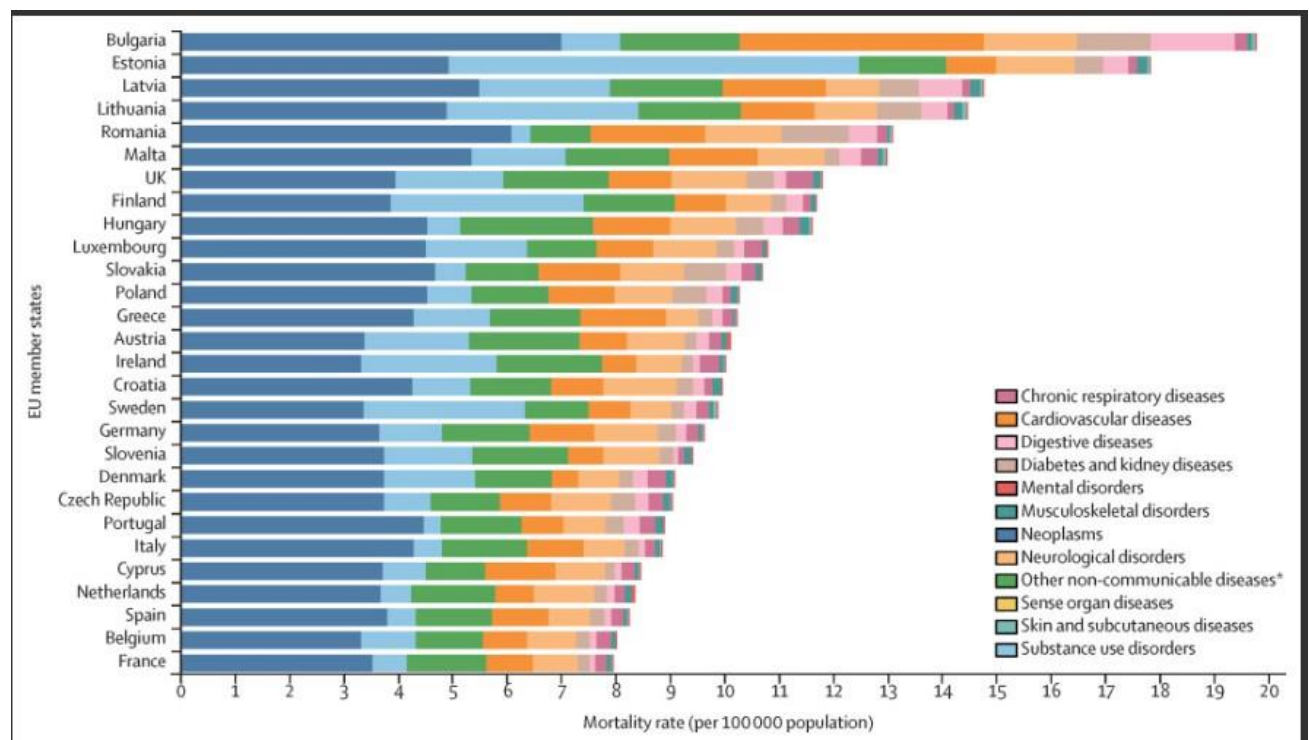
History of the Topic

Because this is a big global issue, the WHO has had a multitude of conferences in the past outlining ways to mitigate the number of casualties. “As part of the agenda, heads of state and government committed to develop ambitious national responses, by 2030, to reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment (SDG target 3.4). WHO plays a key leadership role in the coordination and promotion of the global fight against NCDs and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals target 3.4.

In 2019, the World Health Assembly extended the WHO Global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2020 to 2030 and called for the development of an Implementation Roadmap 2023 to 2030 to accelerate progress on preventing and controlling NCDs. The roadmap supports actions to achieve a set of nine global targets with the greatest impact towards prevention and management of NCDs. (Noncommunicable Diseases)”

Furthermore, on a historic basis, the Issue is only getting a lot of attention since 2009. This is because in 2009 the NCD Alliance was founded. The NCD Alliance mainly focuses on creating a Tobacco free world, improving health systems in nations to offer palliative care. Additionally, the NCD Alliance strives to aid individuals with NCD to get adequate and human rights conform treatment (Non-communicable Disease).

Moreover, the WHO has a budget which can be used to aid the families of individuals with NCD’s, seen as healthcare can be considered expensive for many people. The Diagram below comes from a long-term study which shows which nations in Europe are most vulnerable. The nations which are not as economically stable, mainly from eastern Europe, have more deaths per 100,000 citizens.



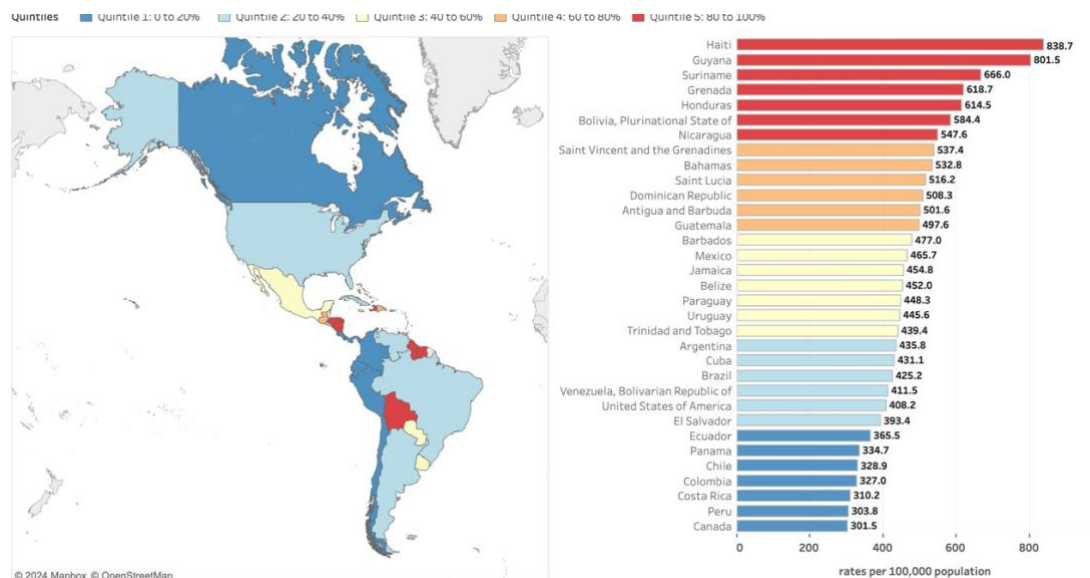
(Armocida et al.)

Any Previous Attempts

Many individual nations have invested millions into offering palliative care, or similar forms of treatment, however, there have only been few improvements made on a global scale, additionally only a few scientists have attempted to find solutions which individuals can afford.

The Fifty-third World Health Assembly, Geneva, 15-20 May 2000: resolutions and decisions, annex. This is an assembly which has focused on a multitude of medical crises, such as but not limited to NCDs. Interesting pages for this issue are WHA 53.16, WHA 53.17, 12.11, A53/14. This treaty set an early framework which the NCD Alliance builds on (FIFTY-THIRD WORLD).

Unfortunately, nations such as Haiti or Guyana have been historically challenged with this issue, over the last decade, they have had by far the most deaths.



(The burden)

The Treaty called Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: implementation of the global strategy, is quite brief, and is solely focused on finding a good solution. It has furthermore impacted a multitude of lives, because a special budget was put in place to 2013, as well as limiting the sale of tabaco, were actions with a mere positive effect. (Prevention and control).

Media Contribution

The media contributions for this issue are as follows, the quote comes from a study based around this concept and how social media can aid individuals.

“Facebook offers varied communication mechanisms by allowing participants to receive and share information, opinion, and advice; create open or closed groups to help motivate other users; alert public in real-time to critical product or policy information; reach a more diverse audiences; raise public engagement and social mobilization aimed at the public at]. YouTube can be used to promote health information using videos and dramas. The potential role of social media in NCD prevention and management includes patient health education and information sharing, psychological support, self-management, public health campaigns and health professional's capacity building. Social media offers the potential to support the prevention and management of NCDs in LMICs through different mechanisms. First, social media can play a significant role in improving health education and information sharing. Disease-specific knowledge (Islam et al.).”

When combining other studies, Oxford summarizes it quite concise, but detailed: “Media representations play a crucial role in informing public and policy opinion about the causes of NCDs.

We need to develop a common policy agenda to reduce NCD-related harm and enhance public health advocates’ abilities to use the media to promote effective public health policy. (The importance)”

With Millions of citizens dying per year, it is obvious that the public believes that adequate solutions must be found, and there are multiple sub-committees of the NCD Alliance, however the actions committed by some are in good spirit, but not taken well by the public.

Support for Health-Related Policy Measures

Now I am going to read a list of possible actions some people think the government [of this country] should take to help people in this country live healthier lives. Please tell me if you would SUPPORT or OPPOSE each one. If the law is already in place, please still tell me if you support or oppose it.

	% Support (5-country average)
Taxes on unhealthy products	
Higher taxes on high-sugar drinks like soda, fruit punch and lemonade	59
Higher taxes on tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars or chewing tobacco	66
Higher taxes on alcohol products	69
Laws restricting or prohibiting certain actions	
Laws that restrict specific actions, like smoking in public places	69
Laws that restrict specific actions, like banning advertising of harmful high-sugar foods and drinks to children	72
Laws to prevent companies from promoting unhealthy products like bans on advertising unhealthy foods or drinks, and removing processed fats from foods	72
Measures that empower the public	
Conducting media campaigns to promote healthy behaviors	91
Increasing access to healthcare services	93
Creating spaces to support a healthier lifestyle like public parks or safe walking routes	95

5-country average is not adjusted for population differences between the five countries (Colombia, India, Jordan, Tanzania and USA)

GALLUP MEASURING PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES SURVEY, 2021-2022 GALLUP

(Dugan)



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