



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



UNICEF: Child Malnutrition

Hello! My name is Cynthia Leong and I am your head chair for the upcoming 34th Annual MVHS MUN conference. I am currently a junior, and this is my first year participating in the MUN program. Nonetheless, I have been to a few conferences locally and will be attending the BMUN (UC Berkeley) conference later in March. In school, I am a part of CSF, Key Club, NHS, Science Olympiad, and many more but it would be too boring to read the whole list so I'll just stop there. Outside of school, however, I truly appreciate any extra nap time I can get, and if I'm not sleeping, you can catch me hanging out with my friends at the beach or cramming in last minute volunteer hours and homework. I love the color blue, or any color for that matter, and enjoy going to Denny's in the middle of the night because there's no bad time to get pancakes. Anyways, I really hope your experience at our conference will be a great one! I am looking forwards to meeting all of you very soon.

I. Background

Suffering from malnutrition means lacking the nutrients required for proper development and health. The effects of this are being underweight, having a stunted growth, and many more serious health problems. People who do not consume enough food over an extend amount of time will eventually reach malnutrition. This is a global issue, affecting people all around the world ranging from developing to developed countries. Being undernourished can make a person more susceptible to infectious diseases as a result of a weakened immune system. Especially in places with poor sanitary practices, children can contract diseases from anyone around them. In an area with underdeveloped healthcare, malnutrition can go as far as killing those affected. This issue also affects growth in children because of nutritional deficiencies. They may not grow up to an average size or be drastically underweight. Limited bone growth, bad memory, and poor performance in school or in a social setting are some other negative impacts resulting from undernourishment. When countries do not have the resources to feed their children, they will most likely grow up with disabilities which will pose as a problem in the long run when they become the new work force but do not have the ability to perform simple tasks like the previous generation.

II. UN Involvement

There have been multiple organizations within the United Nations that have been established in order to solve the problem of child malnutrition worldwide. For example, there is the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which helps eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. In addition, there is the World Health Organization (WHO), The World Food Programme (WFP), as well as many others. The UNICEF organization has also partnered with WHO in order to provide food, or at least nutrients, to children and families who do not have access to it. Ending child hunger is one of the main priorities of the UN and has actually set a successful Millennial Development Goal that decreased the total number or starving children around the world. In addition this, on April 1, 2016, the UN proposed another resolution called the "UN Decade of Action on Nutrition", which will run from 2016 to 2025. The focus of this plan is to



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eradicate hunger worldwide by ensuring access to more sustainable and healthier diets worldwide. The UN calls upon the WHO, FAO, UNICEF, and WDF to help achieve the goal of solving undernourishment, being underweight, and stunted growths in mostly children five years of age and younger. With the new resolution in effect, the total number of malnourished children will hopefully decrease dramatically within the decade.

III. Possible Solutions

Since malnutrition is continuing globally, it is difficult to make a big difference quickly. Therefore, privileged people should donate little amounts of money. Organizations such as UNICEF work to reduce nutrient deficiencies by taking money that is donated and feeding people who need it. With just a few cents, children can receive food packets that are enriched with vitamins and nutrients. To actually acquire the money to distribute all the food, citizens around the world would have to donate first. A fast way to achieve this is to start a social media trend like the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge to spread awareness all over the globe. Since this makes the general population aware of what is going on in areas of poverty, they will be motivated to not only donate, but to even go out and do something about it. There are many other creative ways to resolve this issue, but bringing awareness should be the first priority in attempting to fix it. There are even small organizations already existing who are dedicated to helping out causes such as child malnutrition that can collaborate with bigger organizations to bring change.

IV. Country Bloc Positions

African: There are high levels of malnutrition in this area, which poses a threat to child survival and development. Around half of deaths as a result of malnutrition has been due to this issue.

Western: This region does not suffer from malnourishment as others, and the problem is apparent mostly in those who are in a lower socioeconomic level compared to other individuals.

Asia/ Pacific: This region has had the most remarkable progress made in the last decade. However, many countries still have a high percentage of children under five who are underweight, concentrated mainly in South Asia.

Europe: The rate of malnutrition is fairly low in Europe, and is mainly due to poverty in the citizens of the countries, but not spread out across the whole country as with other regions.

Middle East: This area has a problem with the establishment of basic civil rights which interferes with the rate of malnourishment negatively. Therefore, the issue needs to be resolved in the Middle East.

V. Questions to Consider

1. What are the immediate issues in your country leading to malnutrition?
2. How are children being treated in your country?



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3. Does your country have any resources they can use to solve the issue?
4. Is the country secluded in any way that prevents outside help?
5. In what ways can your country increase food supply without depleting financial resources?
6. Are there any previous resolutions that can be revised to fit your country's needs?

VI. Works Cited

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