Delegate Name: Ananya Girish

Country: Ethiopia

Institution: Indian School Al Ghubra

Topic: Providing Stable Medical Supplies to Regions in Need

***“In order to have good health care, you need a patient, and you need a health care provider – Benjamin Carson”***

Ethiopia is in the northeastern Africa, part of the horn of Africa. Ethiopia is known for its diverse ethnic groups, with more than 80 different languages spoken throughout the country. Ethiopia has alliances with Russia, China, Türkiye, South Korea, India, UAE, Check Republic, USA, EU based on sharing expertise, financial supports, transfer of technology, education etc. Health-care services are lacking essential medical supplies, and in some cases infrastructure has been severely damaged. Ethiopia's Tigray runs out of medical supplies amid health crisis. More than 22 million people were estimated to need humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia in 2022. Lack of fuel prevents distribution of critically needed medical supplies in Tigray region. UNOPS [United Nations Office for Project Service] is strengthening the resilience of healthcare systems around the world, using more than $18 million in funding from the government of Japan. WHO [World Health Organization] has been permitted to deliver medical supplies to Tigray, Ethiopia, for the first time since July 2021, but there is no fuel to distribute them to health centres.

As a country with significant resource constraints, a fair and efficient health priority setting should be at the cornerstone of Ethiopia’s commitment to attain universal health coverage by 2035. Pre-donation assessments utilized to understand equipment needs are recognized by the World Health Organization to more effectively address medical supply. Through the MDG era, creating access to basic primary health care services and building community ownership have been the main priorities of the health sector that resulted in a significant improvement of the population health status and the achievement of most of the health related MDG’s Attaining Universal Health coverage (UHC) by 2035 is the direction for Ethiopia’s health sector development through guaranteeing access to all the essential services, for everyone in need, while providing protection against financial risk. UNICEF [United Nations International Childrens Emergency Fund] vaccinated over three million children aged 6-59 months (about 5 years) against measles and provided over 2.5 million children (about twice the population of Hawaii) and women access to primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities Decisions for priority setting are made at the national, regional, district, and service delivery levels. At the macro level, Ethiopia has a health policy which emphasizes on health care decentralization and prioritization of health promotion, diseases prevention and basic curative service.

The representative of Ethiopia would suggest the following changes like, to improve cargo facilities and build more ports to import more and better medical supplies from other parts of the world at a lower cost. By partnering with the private sector, investing in rational drug use and using common systems and KPIs [Key Performance Indicator], Ethiopia can get medicines to patients on time and save lives. As the illiteracy rate is also high in Ethiopia, the unhealthy macroeconomic environment created in the last 2 decades or so, that has made a major impact on the education and expertise level in the continent. In the light of this, the delegate of Ethiopia with respect to developments in the medical field seeks to improve both manpower and the education system.

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