World Health Organization (WHO)

Non-Communicable Diseases

Albania

Albania is a country in Europe bordering the Mediterranean Sea, with a population of 2 897 000. On November 8, 1941 the Albanian Communist Party was founded, and Albania became communist. After protests in 1989 and reforms made by the communist in 1990, the People’s Republic was dissolved, and the Republic of Albania was founded. After communism fell in December 11, 1990, the economic system fell along with the country. The effects of this can be seen today, as Albania is among the poorest countries in Europe.

One major issue that affects both Albania and the world would be the growing of non-communicable-diseases (NCDs). The 4 main types of NCDs would be cardiovascular, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes. NCDs kill 38 million people each year, accounting for 63% of all deaths. This is over half of the world’s annual deaths, yet there tends to be a focus more on other health areas. Overall, NCDs are relatively underfunded compared to other health areas. 63% of countries identify international donations as an important source of funding for NCD care, but do not actually receive the adequate assistance when requested. Bilateral donors provide only 11% of NCD funding. However, this is because of the limited advocacy on NCDs. Donors perceive that there is no effective, clear-cut way for treating NCDs, and this shies away donors from donating. With limited funds, NCDs will continue to be a problem for all countries in the world. If we do not act soon, NCDs could become the leading cause of deaths, as it is estimated that NCDs will become the leading cause of deaths by 2030.

One huge problem that comes with the NCD crisis would be its effect on low- and middle- income countries (LMIC). As LMIC continue to improve communicable disease management, NCDs start becoming more prevalent in these countries. 80% of deaths caused by NCDs are from LMIC. With Albania being among the poorest countries in Europe, this has become a major issue for our country. The delegation of Albania would highly favor covering the growing problem of Non-Communicable Diseases with respects to the factors of LMIC often falling victim to these NCDs. NCDs are estimated to account for 89% of total deaths in Albania (all ages, both sexes). A possible solution would be striving for increased funding. With the current amount of funds that the NCD cause has, we will not be able to ever find a solution. One main step to fixing this would be raising awareness for NCDs. Increased awareness, would lead to increase donations, and overall increased funds, which would benefit the delegation of Albania, and many other countries with similar economic struggles.