

**COMMITTEE:** World Health Assembly (WHA)

**QUESTION OF:** Improving maternal health systems to address heightened birth mortality rates in LEDCs

**SUBMITTED BY:** Guatemala

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Kyrgyzstan, South Korea, United Kingdom, Botswana, Pakistan, Romania, France, Vietnam

**THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY,**

*Noting that* limited access to healthcare facilities, trained medical personnel, and essential medicines contributes significantly to maternal deaths in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs),

*Acknowledging* the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.1, which aims to reduce global maternal mortality to fewer than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030,

*Recognizes* the rights and values of pregnant women and infants,

*Acknowledging* the need for economic and medical aid to LEDCs,

*Recognizing* the persistent inequalities in maternal healthcare access, particularly in low-income countries,

*Recognizing* the importance of trade between LEDCs and other countries to improve economic well-being,

1. Requests all member states to collaborate with governments and health organizations including the World Health Organization (WHO) to expand access to essential maternal health care services and economic aid to less economically developed countries (LEDCs), through ways including but not limited to:
  - a. utilizing funds through various ways including but not limited to:
    - i. purchasing and distributing essential medicines, nutritional supplements, and emergency kits to pregnant women
    - ii. enhancing technology regarding the use of high-frequency sound waves in local hospitals
    - iii. conducting studies to identify key challenges, including barriers to accessing maternal health services, and design relevant solutions
    - iv. establishing and maintaining UN-managed organizations with the goals of tracking maternal health and childbirth trends by collecting data and identifying areas that require the most intervention
  - b. establishing accessible and free healthcare centers for underserved populations, including but not limited to:
    - i. offering access to essential health services

- ii. recruiting and training volunteers from health organizations to staff these healthcare centers and provide professional care
    - c. strengthening supply chains that promote and ensure fair, efficient, and timely access to vaccines and medicines by creating a task force comprised of health system experts, from NGOs and nations that conduct tasks such as but not limited to:
      - i. analyze and laying out current supply chain methods that are used across nations, as well as previous supply chain methods in past pandemics and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of specific supply chains
      - ii. gathering data from efficacy of the current supply chains used by the nations which include data not limited to percentages of vaccines and medical supplies thrown away due to mishandling, speed of the process in specific parts of the supply chains;
- 2. Addressing the major causes of maternal mortality in ways including but not limited to:
  - a. implementing policies to provide access to safe abortion services by national laws, through ways including:
    - i. subsidizing comprehensive training for healthcare providers on safe abortion practices
    - ii. developing subsidized awareness campaigns to inform women of their reproductive rights and available services regarding abortions in their country
  - b. establishing comprehensive sexual education programs to prevent unwanted pregnancies or cases of sexual violence, in ways not limited to:
    - i. integrating sexual education into school curricula, focusing on healthy relationships and consent
    - ii. providing training for educators on delivering sensitive and accurate sexual health information
    - iii. creating referral systems linking survivors to mental health resources and legal support
    - iv. training healthcare providers to address the needs of sexual violence survivors sensitively;
- 3. Calls for funding to be allocated to items and programs including but not limited to:
  - a. financial support from nations included in the WHA, as well as charity funding organizations including the Medicine for All People (MAP) International under the supervision of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) through ways including but not limited to:
    - i. developing user-friendly online platforms and websites for secure international donations to fund maternal health initiatives in LEDCs

- ii. facilitating direct financial transactions between donor countries, organizations, and maternal health programs in LEDCs
  - b. the improvement and expansion of ease of communication in rural areas through ways including but not limited to:
    - i. expansion of technologies that aid in communication, including an increase in cell tower coverage in LEDCs
    - ii. increasing road infrastructure quantity and quality
  - c. facilitating the development of clinics and healthcare services in LEDCs to serve more underdeveloped and rural communities, through ways including but not limited to:
    - i. organizing specialized workshops in local hospitals and health care centers that focus on maternal health, including prenatal, childbirth, and postnatal care techniques
    - ii. collaborating with and fund new mentorship programs where medical professionals can guide and train local medical staff to enhance their skills
  - d. subsidizing the cost of medical care to increase the availability of safe healthcare in LEDCs, through ways including:
    - i. improving facilities and programs for public education to improve and standardize the available information surrounding this topic
    - ii. improving pay for caretakers and other medically related professions, investing in the training of midwives, obstetricians, gynecologists, and healthcare workers by establishing international networks for the training of these medical professionals
  - e. add maternal healthcare into standard first aid training as one of the healthcare services in LEDCs for more urgent situations;
- 4. Encourages international organizations including Doctors Without Borders (MSF) to contribute to local hospitals and health centers in LEDCs to improve maternal healthcare systems through ways including but not limited to:
  - a. implementing comprehensive training programs for local healthcare professionals through ways including but not limited to:
    - i. organizing specialized workshops in local hospitals and health care centers that focus on maternal health, including prenatal, childbirth, and postnatal care techniques
    - ii. establishing mentorship programs where experienced doctors guide and train local medical staff to enhance their skills
    - iii. conducting periodic evaluations and assessments of health care services to identify gaps, track progress, and implement targeted corrective measures to improve care quality
  - b. providing necessary resources and incentives for volunteers through ways including but not limited to:

- i. offering competitive salaries, scholarships, loan forgiveness, or additional benefits to encourage more volunteers to serve in under-resourced areas
  - ii. promote public-private partnerships to enhance the availability of educational materials, tools, and resources to aid volunteers in delivering high-quality training and care
  - iii. providing housing, transportation, and insurance to help volunteers work effectively in challenging environments;
- 5. Encourages all member states to collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) and relevant organizations including the International Medical Corps (IMC) to promote public awareness of maternal health through ways including but not limited to:
  - a. leveraging visual and digital media to spread knowledge about the issue of poor maternal healthcare in LEDCs through ways including but not limited to:
    - i. utilizing social media platforms including Youtube, Instagram, X (Formally Twitter), TikTok, and Douyin to reach a broad audience
    - ii. publishing informative articles and advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and medical journals
    - iii. broadcasting television and radio commercials
  - b. organizing physical campaigns and events to foster direct community engagement through ways including but not limited to:
    - i. organizing oral presentations, interactive sessions, and demonstrations in public spaces to raise awareness about maternal health and promote understanding of safe pregnancy and childbirth practices
    - ii. hosting community workshops to provide in-depth education on maternal health, including prenatal care, and childbirth safeties
  - c. facilitating knowledge sharing between member states on successful maternal health strategies including but not limited to:
    - i. organizing regular international conferences to discuss best practices and innovations in maternal health
    - ii. develop an online platform for member states to share resources and success stories;
- 6. Advises all member states to strengthen and implement laws and policies that safeguard maternal health, and prevent unwanted pregnancies including but not limited to:
  - a. expanding access to safe abortion and promoting inclusive maternal healthcare policies including but not limited to:
    - i. providing comprehensive post-abortion care, including counseling and reproductive health services
    - ii. incorporating community feedback into policy-making to design laws and programs targeted to the specific needs of local populations

- b. protecting maternal health rights through policy enforcement including but not limited to:
  - i. enforcing policies that ensure access to emergency obstetric care and family planning services
  - ii. implementing laws that protect women's right to receive quality health care during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum recovery
  - iii. establishing a regulatory framework to monitor and hold accountable health care facilities that fail to meet maternal health standards
  - iv. enforcing the rights to the access of family planning methods, and contraceptives to any human who needs and or requests it.