



# HYGENE SHORTAGE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



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# 1. Letters

## 1.1. Letter from Secretary-General

Dear Participants,

It is with great enthusiasm, pride, and excitement that I cordially invite you to the 2026 United Nations Conference, MAFENMUN'26. I would like to share my excitement and pride at serving as your Secretary-General for MAFENMUN'26. This conference, through simulated diplomacy, international cooperation, and approaches to addressing global issues, not only prepares delegates for the challenges they will face in the future but also serves as an inspiring event that fosters an objective perspective on events, problem-solving skills, and analytical thinking.

This perspective will enable you to develop different approaches to global issues. Regardless of your country or background, our goal is to ensure you have unforgettable experiences and create wonderful memories within your field.

As a team, we will be by your side in every way and in every area where you need us throughout these three days.

MAFENMUN'26 will be a space where friendships are formed, characterized by moderation and mutual support, and fostering a broad perspective. On behalf of the entire team, I welcome you all once again and wish you a joyful event. Watching your passionate arguments throughout the conference will be an unforgettable moment for us.

Best Regards,  
Secretary-General  
Özge ÖZÇELİK.

## 1.2 Letter from Under Secretary General

Dear delegates,

I am glad that you are all part of the WHO Committee. As your Under Secretary General, I am honored to be a part of the committee and this exciting conference. Unlike my academic assistant, I put a lot of effort into writing this Study Guide. I hope you don't get bored while reading it and doing your work.

In this committee, you will discuss and develop solutions through collaboration under the agenda item "Addressing Healthcare System Deficiencies in Developing Countries." I expect each of you to actively participate in the discussions, taking your country's policies into consideration.

In addition, at this conference, you'll not only develop your critical thinking and teamwork skills, but you'll also have a great time and make good friends.

I would like to congratulate all my delegates in advance for their hard work. I wish you the best of luck and hope you have a wonderful time throughout the conference. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Under Secretary General  
Ayşegül Mina Şimşek

### 1.3. Letter from Academic Assistant

Distinguished delegates of the WHO committee,

It is so honorable to be the Academic Assistant in the WHO committee. In this committee, you will face global problems, important issues and many entertainment memories while facing the educational experiences simultaneously. I would like to warn you that this is not just a simulation, but a great chance for you to experience a formal, international organisation's process. I wish you all a great adventure for the forthcoming conference. If you have any questions or doubts in your mind, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,  
Academic Assistant  
Mehmet Hakan Karakaya  
For Contact: [mhakankarakayaffcl@gmail.com](mailto:mhakankarakayaffcl@gmail.com)

## **2. Introduction of the committee**

### 2.1. History of the World Health Organization committee

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that focuses on international public health. The WHO was officially established on April 7, 1948. This day is celebrated as World Health Day every year.

After the Second World War, many countries realized that global health problems could not be solved by one country alone. Since diseases spread rapidly across borders, international cooperation became even more crucial. Consequently, countries decided to establish an organization dedicated to improving global health conditions.

Other international health organizations existed before the establishment of the WHO. However, these organizations were not strong enough to effectively manage global health issues. At the United Nations Conference held in San Francisco in 1945, countries such as Brazil and China proposed the establishment of a new international health organization. As a result, the Constitution of the World Health Organization was signed in 1946 and officially came into force in 1948.

The WHO's headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland. Today, nearly all countries in the world are members of this organization. The WHO works to combat diseases, improve health systems, support vaccination programs, and respond to international health emergencies.

Throughout its history, the WHO has achieved many important successes. One of its greatest achievements is the eradication of smallpox. The organization has also played a significant role during global health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the WHO continues its work toward its primary goal of improving health for all people.

## 2.2. Functions of the committee

The World Health Organization (WHO) works to improve global health and support countries facing health challenges. One of the organization's primary missions is to prevent and control diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and COVID-19. The WHO also supports vaccination programs and provides emergency health assistance during crises and outbreaks.

Another important function of the WHO is to strengthen health systems in member countries. The organization helps countries improve their hospitals, train healthcare workers, and increase access to medicines and medical equipment.

The WHO also conducts research and shares critical health information with governments and international organizations. Additionally, the WHO promotes international cooperation to improve health services, reduce health inequities, and protect public health worldwide.

## **3. Agenda Item: Addressing Healthcare System Deficiencies in Developing Countries**

### 3.1. Definitions and Key Words

#### **Healthcare System:**

A healthcare system is the organization of people, hospitals, services, and resources that provide medical care to a population.

#### **Developing Countries:**

Developing countries are nations with lower levels of industrialization, income, and healthcare development compared to developed countries.

#### **Healthcare Infrastructure:**

Healthcare infrastructure includes hospitals, clinics, laboratories, medical equipment, and other facilities needed to provide healthcare services.

#### **Medical Supply Chain:**

The medical supply chain is the system used to produce, transport, and distribute medicines, vaccines, and medical equipment.

**Public Health:**

Public health refers to the protection and improvement of people's health through education, disease prevention, and healthcare services.

**Humanitarian Aid:**

Humanitarian aid is assistance provided to people affected by poverty, conflict, natural disasters, or health emergencies.

**Vaccination:**

Vaccination is the process of giving vaccines to protect people from infectious diseases.

**Health Inequality:**

Health inequality refers to unfair differences in access to healthcare services between different groups of people or countries.

**Conflict-Torn States:**

Conflict-torn states are countries seriously affected by war, violence, or political instability.

**Global Health Cooperation:**

Global health cooperation is the collaboration between countries and international organizations to improve healthcare worldwide.

### 3.2. Background of the Agenda Item

Access to healthcare is recognized as one of the most fundamental human rights; however, many developing countries still face challenges in providing equitable and effective healthcare services to their populations. In many regions, weak healthcare infrastructure, inadequate medical equipment, a shortage of trained healthcare workers, and limited financial resources remain major obstacles. These issues directly impact the quality and speed of medical care, particularly for low-income communities.

One of the biggest challenges is the disparity between rural and urban areas. In cities, hospitals, clinics, and specialist doctors are generally more available and accessible. However, in rural and distant areas, people often have to travel long distances just to access basic healthcare services. This delay can make treatable illnesses more disparities create a serious problem. consequence, health care inequalities create a serious problem in terms of differences in quality of life between different regions within the same country.

In addition, countries affected by armed conflict face even more serious challenges. In places like Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan, health systems have generally been damaged or completely destroyed. Hospitals have become targets of attacks and have been unable to

function, leading to disruptions in medical supply chains and making it difficult to deliver humanitarian aid. This situation causes severe shortages of medicines, vaccines, and essential health services, putting the lives of millions of people at risk.

Global health emergencies have also exposed these weaknesses. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that even developed countries can face challenges when health systems are not fully prepared. Many countries have experienced shortages of intensive care beds, oxygen, protective equipment, and vaccines. It has also highlighted how essential global cooperation is for responding quickly and effectively to health crises.

Another important factor is public health concerns. In many developing countries, preventable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and cholera still cause high death rates. The unequal provision of maternal and child health services also leads to preventable deaths. Expanding vaccination coverage, ensuring access to clean water, and providing basic health education remain of vital importance.

Today, the World Health Organization plays a key role in supporting global health efforts. The organization helps countries strengthen their health systems, enhance their emergency response capabilities, and expand access to essential medicines and vaccines. It also supports the concept of Universal Health Coverage, which aims to ensure that all people can access the health care they need without facing financial hardship.

### 3.3. Introduction to the Agenda Item

Healthcare systems are among the most critical factors for a country's development and public health. Strong health systems help people access medical care, prevent diseases, and improve living conditions. However, many developing countries continue to face serious health challenges due to poverty, weak health infrastructure, shortages of healthcare personnel, and limited access to medicines and medical equipment.

In recent years, global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts, and economic instability have further worsened these health challenges. Millions of people living in developing countries still struggle to access hospitals, vaccination programs, clean water, and basic health services. These issues exacerbate health inequities and negatively impact economic and social development.

Today, international organizations such as the WHO continue to support global health cooperation and encourage countries to strengthen their health systems.

### 3.4. Reasons for deficiencies in the health systems of developing countries

Many developing countries face serious challenges in their health care systems. These shortcomings stem from economic, political, and social factors that prevent people from accessing health care services. Weak health care systems not only affect public health but also slow down a country's economic and social development.

One of the major causes of inadequacies in healthcare services is poverty and limited financial resources. Many developing countries lack sufficient government funding to build hospitals, train healthcare workers, or provide modern medical equipment. Due to low healthcare budgets, hospitals are often overcrowded and lack essential resources such as medicines and vaccines.

Another major issue is the shortage of healthcare workers. In many developing countries, there are not enough doctors, nurses, and other healthcare personnel to meet the needs of the population. Low wages, poor working conditions, and a lack of educational opportunities are forcing many healthcare workers to migrate to developed countries in search of better career prospects.

This situation weakens healthcare systems and creates significant health inequalities between countries.

Weak healthcare infrastructure is also a major problem. In rural areas of developing countries, access to hospitals or clinics is often limited. People living in villages may have to travel long distances to receive medical treatment. In some regions, hospitals lack electricity, clean water, or modern medical technology, which reduces the effectiveness of healthcare services.

Political instability and armed conflicts also damage healthcare systems. In countries experiencing conflict, such as Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, and South Sudan, hospitals and healthcare infrastructure have been damaged due to war. Armed conflicts also restrict access to humanitarian aid and make it difficult for governments to provide healthcare services to their populations.

Furthermore, developing countries often face challenges in the medical supply chain. Due to transportation issues, economic crises, or difficulties in international trade, medications, vaccines, and medical equipment may not reach hospitals. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many developing countries experienced shortages of vaccines and medical supplies, highlighting the importance of strong global health cooperation.

Ultimately, rapid population growth and a lack of education are also having a negative impact on the healthcare system. In some countries, healthcare services are not developing as quickly as the population is growing. At the same time, low levels of education can reduce public awareness of hygiene, vaccination, and disease control.

### 3.5. Economic Inequality in Healthcare Services in Developing Countries

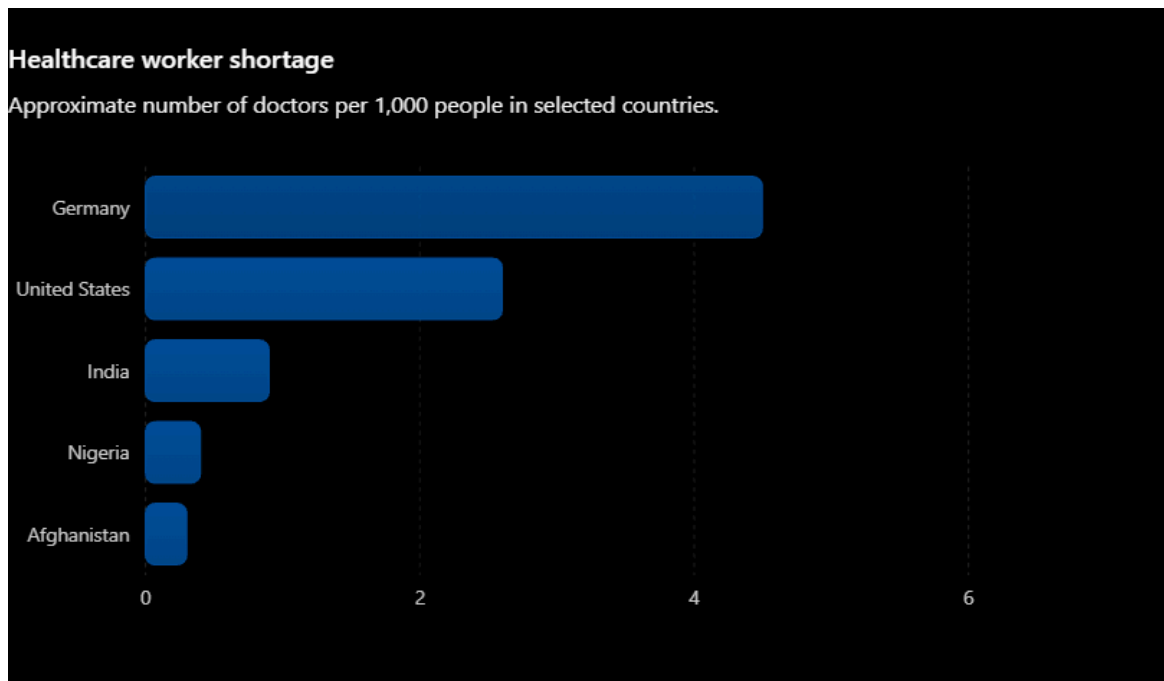
Economic inequality is one of the major issues affecting health systems in developing countries. Millions of people living in poverty cannot afford medical treatment, medication, or hospital services. As a result, many people are unable to access adequate health care and continue to suffer from preventable diseases.

In many developing countries, healthcare services are not distributed equally between the wealthy and the poor. People with higher incomes generally have easier access to private hospitals, modern medical equipment, and experienced doctors. However, low-income families are often dependent on overcrowded public hospitals that lack medications, healthcare personnel, and basic medical resources.

Economic inequality also exists between urban and rural areas. While large cities generally have more hospitals, clinics, and healthcare professionals, healthcare infrastructure in rural areas may be limited. In some villages, people must travel long distances to reach the nearest hospital or health center. This situation worsens health inequalities and makes it difficult for the rural population to access healthcare services.

Another key issue is the high cost of medicines and healthcare services. Many developing countries rely on imported medicines and medical equipment; this can lead to rising costs during economic crises or global emergencies. Due to limited financial resources, governments may struggle to improve their healthcare systems or provide free healthcare services to their citizens.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the effects of economic inequality in healthcare. While many developing countries faced shortages of vaccines, hospital beds, and medical supplies, wealthy countries had better access to healthcare resources.



The estimated numbers of doctors per 1,000 people in selected countries. The graph illustrates the difference in the number of healthcare workers between developed and developing countries.

### 3.6. Medical Supply Chain and Equipment Shortages in Developing Countries

Many developing countries face serious challenges in their medical supply chains and healthcare equipment systems. Hospitals and health centers often struggle to access sufficient supplies of medicines, vaccines, and medical supplies. These shortages undermine the quality of healthcare services and make it difficult for patients to access treatment.

One of the primary causes of these issues is limited financial resources. Many developing countries are unable to produce medical supplies in enough quantities and rely on imported medications and equipment from other countries. During economic crises or global emergencies, the prices of these products can rise, making it difficult to purchase them.

Transportation and infrastructure issues also impact the medical supply chain. Inadequate road systems, a lack of storage facilities, and weak transportation networks can delay the delivery of medicines and medical equipment, particularly in rural areas. As a result, hospitals may run out of critical medical supplies needed for emergency care and disease prevention.

Another key issue is the unequal distribution of medical resources. While large hospitals in urban areas typically receive more equipment and medications, small clinics in rural areas

face severe shortages. This situation exacerbates health inequities and limits access to healthcare for people living outside major cities.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the weaknesses in global medical supply chains. During the pandemic, many developing countries faced shortages of vaccines, masks, oxygen supplies, and hospital beds. International competition for medical resources has further exacerbated the challenges in healthcare for low income countries.

### 3.7. International Aid and Global Health Cooperation

International aid and global health cooperation play a significant role in improving health systems in developing countries. Many low-income countries face serious health challenges, such as weak health infrastructure, a shortage of healthcare workers, and limited access to medicines and medical equipment. Because of these challenges, support from international organizations and developed countries has become crucial.

Organizations such as the WHO, UNICEF, the Red Cross, and the World Bank provide humanitarian aid and financial support to countries with inadequate health services. These organizations assist governments in upgrading hospitals, supporting vaccination programs, distributing medical supplies, and responding to health emergencies.

Global health cooperation has become even more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many countries have worked together to share vaccines, medical research, and health resources. International cooperation has helped countries respond more effectively to the pandemic and reduce the spread of the disease.

International aid and global health cooperation play a significant role in improving health systems in developing countries.

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### 3.8. Rehabilitating Healthcare Infrastructure in Conflict-Torn States

Armed conflicts, civil wars, and political instability have severely damaged health systems in many developing countries. In countries experiencing conflict, hospitals are often damaged, there are shortages of medicines, there is a lack of healthcare personnel, and access to humanitarian aid is limited. These problems lead to public health crises and prevent millions of people from accessing basic health services.

Countries such as the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Yemen, South Sudan, and Afghanistan have faced serious health challenges due to prolonged armed conflicts. In most of these countries, hospitals, clinics, and health centers have been damaged or completely destroyed during military attacks and acts of violence. As a result, civilians often cannot access services such as emergency care, surgery, and vaccination programs.

One of the most significant consequences of conflict is the breakdown of health infrastructure. Electrical systems, water supplies, sanitation services, and transportation networks are often damaged during war. Without these systems, hospitals cannot function effectively.

In some areas, healthcare facilities may lack clean water, electricity, or sufficient medical equipment to properly treat patients. This situation increases the spread of infectious diseases and weakens public health conditions.

Another major issue is the shortage of healthcare personnel in conflict zones. Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers may leave their countries due to insecurity, violence, and poor working conditions. While some healthcare workers fall victim to attacks during conflicts, others migrate to safer countries. This leads to a shortage of healthcare personnel and reduces the accessibility of healthcare services for the local population.

Conflicts also negatively impact medical supply chains. During war, roads, airports, and transportation systems may become unsafe or unusable, which can prevent medicines and medical equipment from reaching hospitals and clinics. In many countries affected by conflict, shortages of vaccines, oxygen supplies, surgical instruments, and essential medications become widespread. During humanitarian crises, these shortages can lead to increased mortality rates and suffering among the civilian population.

In addition, millions of people living in conflict zones are forced to leave their homes and become refugees or internally displaced persons. Refugee camps and temporary shelters often face overcrowding, poor hygiene conditions, and limited access to healthcare. These conditions increase the risk of outbreaks. Children, the elderly, and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable during such crises.

International organizations and humanitarian aid groups play a significant role in rebuilding healthcare infrastructure in countries affected by conflict. Organizations such as the WHO, UNICEF, the Red Cross, and Doctors Without Borders provide emergency medical assistance, vaccination programs, and medical supplies to affected populations. Additionally, they assist governments in rebuilding hospitals, training healthcare workers, and improving healthcare services following conflicts.

However, the reconstruction of healthcare systems is a long and arduous process. Many countries continue to grapple with poverty, political instability, and a lack of financial resources even after conflicts have ended. Health systems in conflict-affected countries must be restructured. This is necessary not only to improve public health but also to support peace, economic recovery, and social stability. Strong health systems can help communities recover from war and provide better living conditions for future generations.

#### **4. Key country roles**

##### **United States of America**

The United States is one of the leading contributors to global health programs and humanitarian aid. Through organizations such as USAID and partnerships with international agencies, the country provides financial support for vaccination campaigns, disease prevention programs, and health care development projects in many developing countries. Thanks to its financial resources and medical expertise, the United States plays a significant role in discussions aimed at improving health systems.

##### **People's Republic of China**

China is a key player in global health cooperation. It has provided financial support for health infrastructure projects, supplied medical equipment, and supported health programs in many developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia. China is also one of the world's largest producers of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies.

## **Republic of India**

India faces challenges in the healthcare sector due to its large population and regional disparities. While significant progress has been made in healthcare services in urban areas, many rural communities still struggle to access healthcare. India is also one of the largest producers of affordable medicines and vaccines.

## **Federal Republic of Nigeria**

Nigeria faces many of the health challenges common to developing countries. The country is grappling with issues such as a shortage of healthcare workers, inadequate infrastructure, and inequities in access to medical services. Epidemics and maternal health issues continue to affect millions of people.

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has repeatedly experienced outbreaks of diseases such as Ebola, measles, and cholera. A weak healthcare infrastructure, political instability, and limited access to healthcare services have created challenges for public health.

## **Republic of Yemen**

Years of armed conflict have severely damaged Yemen's healthcare system. Hospitals, clinics, and medical facilities have either been damaged or lack basic supplies. Millions of people face difficulties accessing healthcare, clean water, and medicines.

## **Republic of South Sudan**

South Sudan has one of the weakest health care systems in the world. Prolonged conflict, poverty, and inadequate infrastructure have limited access to health care. Many communities rely heavily on international aid organizations for medical assistance.

### **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

Afghanistan continues to face serious challenges in the health sector due to political instability, poverty, and humanitarian crises. Many people living in rural areas have limited access to hospitals and trained healthcare personnel.

### **People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Bangladesh has made significant progress in the areas of healthcare and vaccination programs over the past decade. However, rapid population growth, poverty, and pressure on the healthcare infrastructure continue to pose challenges.

### **Republic of Chad**

Chad faces serious health challenges, including a shortage of medical facilities, healthcare personnel, and essential medicines. A large portion of the population, particularly in rural areas, has limited access to healthcare services.

### **Republic of Türkiye**

Turkey has significantly improved its healthcare infrastructure through healthcare reforms and investments. In addition, the country has provided medical assistance during humanitarian crises and is hosting millions of refugees in need of medical care.

### **Federal Republic of Germany**

Germany has one of the world's strongest healthcare systems and is a major supporter of international health initiatives. Through financial contributions, medical research, and development programs, Germany helps many developing countries improve access to healthcare and their healthcare infrastructure.

## **Republic of Haiti**

Haiti has a weak healthcare system with a limited number of hospitals, healthcare workers, and access to essential medications. Many people, particularly those living in rural areas, face difficulties accessing basic healthcare services. The country is also struggling with poverty, which limits access to treatment. Additionally, recurring natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes have damaged the healthcare infrastructure and made reconstruction difficult.

## **5. Question to be answered**

**1-What are the main reasons for healthcare system deficiencies in developing countries?**

**2-How can governments improve healthcare access for people living in rural and low-income areas?**

**3-What can be done to reduce shortages of healthcare workers, medicine, and medical equipment?**

**4-How can international aid and global health cooperation help strengthen healthcare systems in developing countries?**

**5-What measures can be taken to rebuild healthcare infrastructure in conflict-torn states?**

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