

## **CLEIMUN19**

“Collaboration in a Polarized World: Hope for the Future?”

A Research Report

COMMITTEE: World Health Organization (WHO)

QUESTION OF: Providing Health Care in Refugee Camps

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### **Introduction and background.**

A huge issue of our time is the vast amount of refugees that are coming from the Middle East and Africa. This is a pressing health issue due to the conditions that the refugees are enduring to migrate to get to safety. Many of these refugees then stay in refugee camps and need medical attention from the effects of the journey. This attention may not be given to the refugees from the host country and this is a pressing issue because of this. Therefore, something must be done to give these people the proper treatment that they deserve.

### **What is the Current Refugee Health Situation like?**

The health of the refugees compared from their home country are normal, worst due to the journey they had to endure. They have a higher risk of death once arriving to the host country due to their health situation from the difficult journey. The journey that they take makes them more susceptible to disease and illness that are fatal, “the most commonly reported causes of death include diarrheal diseases, measles, acute respiratory infections, malaria, malnutrition and other infectious diseases” (United Nations). STIs and HIV transmission have a higher risk found in refugee camps due to

engagement with sex workers, rape, and insufficient access to reproductive health services. Another facet of health in refugees is mental health. Some of the condition in refugee camps, there is a problem of mental health in refugee camps, “And last year in the Mae La camp in Thailand that serves refugees from Myanmar, 66 refugees attempted suicide and 28 refugees killed themselves over the course of two years” (Duke). These people come from violent places and experience trauma and they need aide in both physical and mental health. These problem are dependent of the particular refugee camp but there is a trend of worst conditions in the refugee camps not provided by the United Nations.

### **What are the Effects of the poor health of Refugees?**

These diseases that come from the camps are contagious and harmful to the host nations population. These conditions of these camps make these diseases easier to spread throughout the host nation. The bad health in the camps are also transmit to the citizens of the host countries. Improving access will help stop these poor health of the refugees and also the citizens.

### **Past Efforts to Solve this Problem.**

There has not been any auxiliary efforts to solve the problem of the healthcare other than establishing the camps initially.

### **Solutions to this problem.**

There are many solutions to solving the problem of healthcare in the refugee camps. Some of these solutions are already in place such as vaccine and medications that help fight infectious

diseases in these camps. These are already being enacted in the camps but other types of medical is still needed.

### **Helpful Links**

[\]http://www.uniteforsight.org/refugee-health/module1](http://www.uniteforsight.org/refugee-health/module1)

<https://sites.duke.edu/refugeementalhealth/2018/03/27/refugee-camps-poor-living-conditions-and-their-effects-on-mental-health/>