



# South India FairGaze Inter-School Model United Nations 2023

## Background Guide

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### **World Health Organization(WHO)**

Agenda: Reviewing and Discussion Upon  
the Implementation of Immunization  
Agenda 2030 with Special Emphasis on  
LEDCs

#### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings Delegates,

Firstly, let me, on the behalf of the executive board, begin by welcoming you to the South India FairGaze MUN 2023. For many, this MUN may be a return to the immersive environment and excitement of a Model United nations conference. For most, it may be the first conference they attend. Either way, I assure you that this Executive Board and the Secretariat has, and is going to, work tirelessly to ensure an exceptional experience.

This background guide is more important than I can possibly express through words. I must stress, therefore, that it is read in its entirety and is understood deeply. I recognise

that most delegates at most conferences tend not to read background guides or pay much heed to it. I, myself, have found myself part of that group more times than not. This background guide, however, is not by any means conventional in its content or its purpose.

In terms of content, It has very little factual information about Immunization Agenda 2030(IA2030) and its related laws and agendas. Most guides would be along the lines of defining immunization, LEDCs and IA2030, current laws on the matter and a brief history of it. This guide, however, raises more questions and thoughts than answers and facts.

I fully appreciate that the demands I have made in this letter may be hard to comprehend exactly and that several discussions in this guide may be challenging to interpret and think about critically. I place a high premium on the understanding of the discussions in the background guide and of the agenda on a critical and intellectual level and would expect to see this in the committee. Therefore, I would strongly urge and recommend you to write to me or the Vice-Chairperson, as many times as required with as many substantive questions you may have or discussions you would want to have regarding the agenda's content both in and beyond the Background Guide.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference. As a conclusive repetition, please do read every word of this guide carefully and reach out regarding anything that comes to mind.

## The Executive Board

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. Founded in 1948, WHO is dedicated to the well-being of all people and guided by science. It leads and champions global efforts to give everyone, everywhere an equal chance to live a healthy life. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it has six regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide.

# INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

In an era where global health and well-being are of paramount importance, the implementation of effective immunization strategies holds significant promise in reducing the burden of infectious diseases. With the aim of achieving universal access to immunization and strengthening immunization systems, the World Health Organization launched the Immunization Agenda 2030. This ambitious agenda seeks to build on the progress made under the Global Vaccine Action Plan and further advance immunization efforts across the globe.

While the Immunization Agenda 2030 sets forth a comprehensive framework for enhancing immunization services worldwide, it is crucial to pay special attention to the challenges faced by the least economically developed countries (LEDCs). These countries often encounter unique obstacles that hinder the successful implementation of immunization programs, including limited resources, weak health systems, inadequate infrastructure, and socio-economic disparities.

This review and discussion will delve into the implementation of the Immunization Agenda 2030, with a specific emphasis on LEDCs. By examining the progress made, identifying the obstacles encountered, and exploring potential solutions, this analysis aims to shed light on the current status and future prospects of immunization efforts in LEDCs.

The review will begin by providing an overview of the Immunization Agenda 2030, highlighting its key objectives, targets, and strategies. It will then delve into the specific challenges faced by LEDCs in achieving these objectives, including issues related to vaccine availability, accessibility, affordability, and acceptance within their populations. The discussion will also encompass the role of international organizations, governments, and other stakeholders in supporting LEDCs' immunization efforts.

Additionally, this review will explore successful case studies and best practices from LEDCs that have made significant strides in implementing immunization programs despite resource constraints. By analyzing these examples, valuable insights can be gained into innovative approaches, partnerships, and strategies that have yielded positive outcomes in challenging contexts.

Furthermore, the review will underscore the importance of addressing the social, cultural, and behavioral factors that influence vaccine acceptance in LEDCs. It will explore the role of community engagement, health education, and addressing vaccine hesitancy as critical components of successful immunization programs.

Lastly, the review will conclude by summarizing the key findings, emphasizing the urgent need for sustained investments, increased collaboration, and tailored interventions to accelerate immunization progress in LEDCs. By prioritizing the immunization needs of the most vulnerable populations, the international community can strive towards equitable access to vaccines and improved health outcomes for all.

## **IMMUNIZATION AGENDA 2030:**

The Immunization Agenda 2030 is a global strategy launched by the World Health Organization in collaboration with other key stakeholders. It serves as a roadmap to guide countries and partners in advancing immunization efforts and achieving universal access to immunization by the year 2030. The agenda builds upon the achievements and lessons learned from the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) 2011-2020, with the goal of further accelerating progress in immunization coverage and equity.

The Immunization Agenda 2030 sets forth three strategic objectives:

1. Ensure that everyone, regardless of their location or socio-economic status, has access to immunization.
2. Increase the benefits of immunization across the life course, from infancy through adulthood and into older age.
3. Strengthen health systems and immunization programs to deliver vaccines effectively and sustainably.

To achieve these objectives, the agenda identifies key areas of focus and outlines strategic priorities. These include:

1. **Equitable access to vaccines:** The agenda emphasizes the importance of ensuring that vaccines are affordable, available, and accessible to all communities, particularly those in remote or marginalized areas. It aims to reduce disparities in immunization coverage within and between countries.
2. **Strong immunization systems:** The agenda recognizes the need to strengthen health systems to ensure the delivery of vaccines, including robust supply chains, effective monitoring and surveillance systems, and skilled health workers. It also emphasizes the importance of integrating immunization with other health services to optimize efficiency and effectiveness.
3. **Vaccine confidence and demand:** The agenda acknowledges the importance of building public trust in vaccines and addressing vaccine hesitancy. It aims to enhance communication and community engagement to ensure that individuals and communities are informed about the benefits and safety of vaccines.

4. **Research and innovation:** The agenda highlights the need for continued investment in research and development to advance new and improved vaccines, delivery technologies, and immunization strategies. It encourages the use of data-driven decision-making and innovation to address evolving challenges.
5. **Sustainable financing and partnerships:** The agenda emphasizes the importance of sustainable financing for immunization programs and the need for increased investments. It also calls for strong partnerships among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to leverage resources, expertise, and knowledge-sharing.

The Immunization Agenda 2030 serves as a global framework to guide countries and stakeholders in their efforts to ensure that everyone has access to life-saving vaccines. By addressing barriers, strengthening health systems, and promoting vaccine confidence, the agenda aims to reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases and improve global health outcomes.

## **WHAT ARE LEDCs**

LEDCs stands for "Least Economically Developed Countries." This term is used to categorize countries that face significant economic and social challenges, including poverty, low levels of industrialization, limited infrastructure, and weak institutional capacity. LEDCs often have a high percentage of their population living in poverty and struggle with inadequate access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water.

The classification of LEDCs is based on various criteria, including gross national income (GNI) per capita, human development index (HDI), and other socio-economic indicators. The United Nations and other international organizations utilize these criteria to identify and prioritize support for countries in greatest need of development assistance.

LEDCs are typically located in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa, parts of Asia, and the Pacific. Examples of LEDCs include countries like Afghanistan, Haiti, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and many others. These countries often face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development and improving the well-being of their populations.

Given their limited resources and developmental constraints, LEDCs often require targeted support and international cooperation to address critical issues such as poverty, healthcare, education, infrastructure development, and access to essential services. Efforts to improve immunization coverage and strengthen health systems in LEDCs are particularly vital to ensure the well-being and health security of their populations.

# RELEVANT LAWS

## **GLOBAL VACCINE ACTION PLAN(GVAP) 2011-2020**

The Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) 2011-2020 was a comprehensive strategy developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners to guide global immunization efforts during the decade from 2011 to 2020. The GVAP aimed to prevent millions of deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases and improve the overall effectiveness and reach of immunization programs worldwide.

The GVAP outlined six strategic objectives:

1. Accelerate control of vaccine-preventable diseases: The plan aimed to reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases by increasing vaccination coverage rates, particularly in low-income countries with the highest disease burden.
2. Introduce new vaccines and technologies: The GVAP emphasized the introduction and uptake of new and underutilized vaccines, such as vaccines against pneumococcal disease, rotavirus, and human papillomavirus (HPV).
3. Increase access to vaccines: The plan focused on improving vaccine access, availability, and affordability, particularly in resource-limited settings. This included strengthening supply chains, reducing vaccine prices, and expanding immunization services to underserved populations.
4. Strengthen immunization systems: The GVAP aimed to strengthen health systems and immunization programs by improving vaccine delivery, surveillance, and monitoring systems. It emphasized the need for skilled health workers, robust cold chain infrastructure, and effective data management.
5. Enhance immunization financing: The plan called for increased domestic and international financing for immunization programs to ensure sustainable and adequate resources for procurement, delivery, and monitoring of vaccines.
6. Accelerate research and development: The GVAP encouraged research and development efforts to advance new and improved vaccines, vaccine delivery technologies, and immunization strategies. It emphasized the importance of evidence-based decision-making and innovation to address emerging challenges.

Throughout the implementation of the GVAP, significant progress was made in expanding immunization coverage and reducing vaccine-preventable diseases globally. However, challenges such as inequities in access, vaccine hesitancy, weak health systems, and outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases highlighted the need for continued efforts beyond the GVAP's time frame.

The GVAP provided a crucial framework for collaboration and coordination among governments, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to advance immunization efforts. It served as a foundation for the subsequent Immunization Agenda 2030, which aims to build upon the achievements and lessons learned from the GVAP and further accelerate progress towards universal access to immunization.

## Case Study: Immunization in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Immunization in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) faces various challenges but is a critical public health intervention to prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases in the country. Despite these challenges, efforts are being made to improve immunization coverage and accessibility throughout the DRC.

1. **Disease burden:** The DRC has a high burden of vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles, polio, meningitis, yellow fever, and others. Outbreaks of these diseases can occur, particularly in areas with low immunization coverage and weak health systems.
2. **Access and infrastructure:** The vast size of the DRC, coupled with its challenging terrain and limited infrastructure, poses significant obstacles to delivering vaccines to remote and inaccessible regions. The lack of reliable transportation, inadequate cold chain storage, and weak health facilities can hinder the timely and effective distribution of vaccines.
3. **Funding and resources:** Limited financial resources allocated to the healthcare sector can impact immunization services in the DRC. Insufficient funding affects vaccine procurement, maintenance of cold chain systems, training of healthcare workers, and community outreach efforts.
4. **Conflict and insecurity:** The DRC has experienced prolonged periods of conflict and insecurity in certain regions. These circumstances disrupt healthcare services, displace populations, and limit access to immunization. Vaccination campaigns may be interrupted or compromised in conflict-affected areas.
5. **Vaccine hesitancy and misinformation:** Vaccine hesitancy and misinformation can contribute to lower immunization rates. Misconceptions, cultural beliefs, and a lack of awareness about the benefits of vaccination can affect vaccine acceptance among communities in the DRC.

To address these challenges, the DRC government, in collaboration with international partners and NGOs, is working to strengthen the country's immunization program. Efforts include:

1. Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI): The DRC has an established EPI that aims to provide routine immunization services to children. This program focuses on reaching underserved populations, training healthcare workers, and improving vaccine delivery and coverage.
2. Vaccine campaigns: The DRC conducts periodic vaccination campaigns to target specific diseases or age groups. These campaigns aim to rapidly increase immunization coverage, especially in areas with lower routine coverage rates.
3. Strengthening health systems: Efforts are being made to strengthen the overall health system in the DRC, including improving infrastructure, cold chain systems, supply chain management, and healthcare workforce capacity.
4. Community engagement and awareness: Advocacy and community mobilization campaigns are conducted to address vaccine hesitancy and increase community awareness about the importance of immunization. This involves engaging community leaders, healthcare workers, and local organizations to promote vaccine acceptance and uptake.
5. Support from international partners: The DRC receives support from international organizations, such as WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, and NGOs, in terms of technical assistance, funding, and vaccine supply to strengthen immunization programs.

While challenges remain, these efforts aim to improve immunization coverage and reduce vaccine-preventable diseases in the DRC. Continued investment, collaboration, and community involvement are crucial to ensuring equitable access to immunization services and achieving optimal vaccination rates throughout the country.

## CONCLUSION

I hope that this background guide, though not conventional in nature in terms of a general background guide, has been an interesting and thought-provoking read. The purpose of this background guide was not a factual introduction. It was an intellectual introduction. Discussions at Model UNs are often reduced to dry debates and disagreements about the status quo. Model UNs, however, must aim to not debate the status quo but formulate a universal future. To do so, it is imperative to think about the agenda not from a factual perspective but intellectually. This must be the aim of the committee.



# RESULTS THE COMMITTEE MUST STRIVE TO

## ACHIEVE

1. Formulate new laws on immunization with regard to current world problems such as COVID-19 and monkeypox, while taking into consideration the economic status of LEDCs.
2. Formulate new action plans that are effective and practical.
3. Deliberate how the health conditions can be improved in LEDCs.
4. Deliberate how immunization of the whole world, including the least economically developed countries can be brought about.
5. Formulate a draft resolution after thorough deliberation on the agenda.

## LINKS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

[Explaining the Immunization Agenda 2030](#)

[Vaccines and immunization](#)

[Technology is the key to transforming least developed countries. Here's how | World Economic Forum](#)

## POTENTIAL MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS

1. Growth and development in the health sector in accordance with the status of LEDCs
2. Deliberating more cost-effective and viable immunization strategies
3. Discussing how global immunization can be brought about
4. Factors that limit development in the health sector
5. The development gap between LEDCs and MEDCs
6. Coming up with solutions to achieve global immunization