

Global Leaflet 4: Health



promoting global learning in schools

Resources:

Garlake, Teresa
21st Century Debates, Global Debt, The Impact On Our Lives

Debt and how it affects the less developed countries health wise (recommended section is "the Effects of Debt on Health")
Heinemann Library (2003), ISBN: 0739860356

Wallis, Jeremy
What's At Issue? Rich or Poor

Looking at why some countries are wealthier than others and the effects (recommended section is "Health and Inequality")
Oxford Heinemann (2001), ISBN: 0431035563

Whelan, Jo
Health Issues, Diabetes

Everything you need to know about diabetes
Raintree (2002), ISBN: 0739852205

Dallas, Dorothy; Jenks, Jane; Patilla, Barbara; McLaren, Graham

Health for you
Explores all aspects e.g. sexual health, diet and illnesses
Shire (1994), ISBN: 9780747802594

Murray, Steve
Help!, HIV and AIDS

Your Questions Answered
Heinemann (2004), ISBN: 9780435898830

Connolly, Sean
Need to Know, HIV and AIDS

Heinemann (2003), ISBN: 978043109803

The Global Dimension and London Grid for Learning

For information on teaching about vital global issues

The screenshot shows the HEC Global Learning Centre website interface. At the top, there are logos for 'Humanities Education Centre', 'Local 4 Global London and South East Regions', and 'DFID Department for International Development'. Below these are navigation tabs for 'The GRID', 'Search', 'eSafety', 'Global Interactives', 'Global Topics', 'Webquests', 'Global Home', 'Overview', and 'HEC Home'. A main menu includes 'Water', 'Trade', 'Waste & Recycling', 'Food', 'Transport', 'Rights of the Child', 'Homelessness', 'Refugees & Asylum Seekers', 'Women', 'Energy', 'Tourism', and 'Health'. The 'Health' section is highlighted. Below the main menu, there are several content boxes: 'Events & Actions', 'Global Dimension', 'Online Activities', 'Topic Case Studies', 'Topic Overview', 'Online Resources', 'School Case Studies', 'Organisations and Contacts', and 'Resources' (Videos, games, books).

visit www.global.tower-hamlets.lgfl.net

We use: <http://tinyurl.com> for any oversized URL's.

Websites:

<http://tinyurl.com/d3bnzg>

For teachers, lessons plans and short activities exploring global health issues. May be appropriate for secondary school children.

Global Health council: <http://tinyurl.com/d2yqkm>
Information on newly emerging and re emerging health issues.

Kids health: <http://tinyurl.com/ddr24p>
Good website for Primary school kids, to learn about nutrition and different health queries about the body.

Avert: www.avert.org
This site has a range of quizzes on AIDS and Sexual Health matters, also includes global statistics and information about the virus.

www.healthlink.org.uk
Information on AIDS and issues of previous newsletters are available online. Includes articles linked worldwide on illnesses such as TB, and other issues such as poverty and disability.

www.aidsaction.info
This site is useful for carers, workers, and educators. This site includes practical information on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections. You can view different sections of booklets covering topics such as HIV and safe motherhood.

www.officialdocuments.co.uk
Have a look at any document relating to health straight from the House of Commons.

www.nutrition.org.uk
Information on diet, nutrition, food and illnesses like Diabetes, in the BNF Schools and Education section.

www.thebody.com
Information on AIDS, the policies and the treatments on a global scale.

NHS: www.nhs.uk
Information on the NHS Board and health issues.

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/health/healthyschools
Gives information on healthy schools and the every child matters paper. You can also view the Public health white paper, Healthy Living Blueprint for Schools and the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services.

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www.globalfootprints.org

Within the UK there has been a call to recognise the importance of health within education. For example, initiatives such as the Healthy Schools campaign and the release of papers such as the Every Child Matters document have forced many educational institutions to revise their policies on health. This has led to the increase of physical educational facilities and exercise and to the decrease of junk food.

The issue of health is a wide spread global issue. It affects many places around the world and not in ways that many seem to think. The issue of health goes beyond that of the minor sufferings of the flu and cold viruses in the North and way beyond our simple notion of AIDS in that of the third world. In fact the most of biggest global health threats go under the title of preventable of curable diseases e.g. Malaria, Tuberculosis, and Measles, obesity, chronic illnesses and acute lower respiratory infections. The global health council have reported that in the year 2000 injuries caused by road accidents, poisoning, interpersonal violence and war only accounted for nine percent of the world deaths and twelve percent of the global burden of disease. The issues surrounding these health threats are that of contaminated water, over crowded cities, sanitation, interaction with concentrated animals and birds, global human movement, change of environment and climate e.g. global warming and deforestation. In 2004 there were 14.6million existing cases of Tuberculosis.

"We shall not finally defeat AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, or any of the other infectious diseases that plague the developing world until we have also won the battle for safe drinking water, sanitation and basic health care." Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General

However the effect of these issues on a person's health does largely depend on where in the world a person is situated. Often it is a case of access to food, water and health care that seem to be the main factor when discussing global health issues. Limited access to these amenities, often result in curable or preventable conditions Tuberculosis (TB), Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. For example issues such as water contamination and AIDS do not affect the North and the South in the same way.

Events

March 24	World Tuberculosis Day
April 7	World Health Day "Working together for health"
April 25	World Malaria Day
October 10	World Mental Health Day
December 1	World AIDS Day

The North have the means to provide their people with the relevant medication to prolong life for as long as possible with minimum suffering or set up water companies that will work to ensure the water that is being used for drinking, washing etc is not contaminated or can even use the natural resources of other countries and ship in bottled water from other parts of the world if need be or even to sell as a mere commodity. Whereas people in the South do not have the means or the capital to do this and so often suffer from painful long-term suffering and eventually death of diseases such as AIDS or suffer from preventable diseases such as Cholera, Yellow Fever or Typhoid.

"Many people, most of them in tropical countries of the third world, die of curable diseases.... Malaria, tuberculosis, acute lower respiratory infections in 1998, these claimed 6.1 million lives. People died because it doesn't pay to keep them alive."
Ken Silverstien, Millions for Viagra. Pennies for Diseases of the Poor. The Nation, July 19, 1999

However, with that said there is reason to believe that change in people's circumstances around the world can change. For example, the Global Health Council have reported that in countries such as China, India, Nepal and Peru there have been successful control systems put in place to help claim back many of the lives lost to deadly infections such as Malaria, Tuberculosis (TB) and many of the childhood illnesses. These control systems range from insecticide treated nets to prevent the spread of Malaria to the provision of appropriate vaccinations. As a result of such efforts an estimated one in two deaths caused by Malaria can be saved with access to relevant treatment. More than a million lives have been saved from a death caused by TB in the last decade. Also, since 1977 the amount of children world-wide receiving vaccinations has risen from 5 to 75% today, which has meant that three million children survive the threat of childhood diseases world wide each year.
Source: www.globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=228

Global Context

"Improvements in health are essential if progress is to be made with the other Millennium Development Goals"
Dr LEE Jong-wook — Director-General, WHO

In September 2000 eight goals were set up to improve the state of the world and its global affairs by 2015. The goals were developed from the UN Millennium Declaration which was endorsed by 189 countries.

Millennium Development Goals targets on the subject of health between 1990 – 2015 are:

- To reduce child mortality by 2/3
- To reduce maternal mortality by 3/4
- To halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other major diseases

Case Study: Tuberculosis (TB)

A deadly new strain of Tuberculosis (TB) has recently been discovered in Johannesburg, South Africa known as extreme drug resistant TB and has so far claimed 52 out of 53 patients lives within weeks of them becoming infected. The new strain of TB has appeared to be not only resistant to principal TB drugs but also against the second line defences. Paul Nunn, coordinator of the World Health Organisations (WHO) drug-resistance unit claims 'we are now on our last defences against tuberculosis'.

Latvia as well as South Africa is one of the areas to be affected by this new strain TB and so there is a threat of a European TB outbreak if the new strain is completely drug resistant. However, the strain was detected last month among patients in the Kwazulu - natal region. In light of this new discovery, WHO is planning to hold an emergency meeting in Johannesburg to discuss possible rapid diagnosis to this new strain. However, problems still remain as the few drugs that are still effective against the drug resistant TB are expensive and can be toxic.

'Fears of 'extreme' new TB strain, Robin McKie, Science editor, The Observer 03.09.06
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuberculosis>

Case Study: Leprosy

Leah Pattison and Usha Patil work closely with women who suffer from leprosy in India. Over half a million people are infected with leprosy every year, the largest number of sufferers are found in India. The stigma attached to the condition, particularly for women, can lead to being ostracised from the community and family but also a refusal to allow sons to marry women suffering from the affliction.

The stigma has such an affect that many do not confess to having the condition until deformity sets in and it is too late. Pattison says 'In India now there's such pressure on women to be perfect, and having leprosy means they are not. So they hide it to the point where nerve damage sets in and deforms them.' Pattison and Patil also go further into exploring other problems that women face e.g. HIV/AIDS, mental illnesses and abuse through a charity they are setting up called Women in Need International.

Sources:

- Pariah's comfort, Sue Summers, Telegraph Magazine August 2006
- What is Leprosy, <http://tinyurl.com/db7dds>
- Leprosy Today, www.who.int/lep/en

Case Study: Cholera

Cholera is a disease spread by water or food that has been contaminated with faeces. Bacterium from raw sewage waste, which has been released into waterways, affects any food and water that comes into contact with.

In the 1880s Europe experienced outbreaks of cholera but this was halted once problems to do with hygiene and water systems were highlighted. Although Cholera is not usually spread from person to person outbreaks are fast spreading around the Third World in places such as India and Sub Saharan Africa and South America due to problems with sanitation and contaminated water systems.

Cholera is a huge concern as it highlights issues such as high mortality rates, sanitation, water, food and even trade, all of which can be affected due to the contamination of food washed or living in affected water systems.

<http://tinyurl.com/d9hgm7>

www.unicef.org search for articles on Cholera Outbreak

Case Study: Malaria

While malaria has been virtually eliminated in the developed world, the disease is still present in over 100 countries, threatening 40% of the world's population. Each year there are 300–500 million new cases and one to two million deaths from malaria. Over 90% of cases occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Since the early 1980s, an estimated 40 million people worldwide, most of them children under five, have died of malaria. Those who survive multiple bouts of malaria can experience retarded physical and mental development, poor educational performance and greater vulnerability to other diseases.

The developing world is currently undergoing a crisis in malaria medicines. The rapid development of drug resistance has made many existing medicines ineffective. At the same time, some of the newer medicines have severe side-effects, and most are much more expensive than older treatments, often putting them beyond the reach of patients.

The lack of new treatments is a direct result of insufficient research being carried out. Although there are millions of people affected, most of them are poor people living in poor countries, and so do not represent a profitable market for pharmaceutical companies.

The result is that malaria in developing countries is often treated with drugs that are no longer effective, and people with resistant malaria cannot access the treatment that could save their lives.

www.actnow.com

Starter Points and Classroom Activities

Classroom activities

Make a pyramid collage mural of all the food they eat at home and discuss the implications of not eating healthy foods.

You can search for other illnesses and their causes on www.bbc.co.uk/health/conditions

Primary

These activities are from the health promotion division in Wales, www.healthschool.org.uk

<http://tinyurl.com/aljfh2>

Classroom activities on healthy eating

<http://tinyurl.com/c3v5xy>

Activities that promote exercise in the classroom

<http://tinyurl.com/brwnrs>

Classroom activities on keeping healthy and favourite foods

Hannah's story - my sister too

This story is about young people and HIV/AIDS and is in strip cartoon graphic style for young people of 13 to 18 years old.



Download the five page story and follow up activities as pdf's by visiting www.unicef.org.uk and search for 'Hannah'.

Assembly Ideas

Primary Assembly for World Health Day (7 April)

An Oxfam suggestion for promoting world AIDS day about fighting the prejudice against AIDS. An assembly for Primary Schools to tie in with World Health Day which takes place on 7 April every year.

Visit www.unicef.org.uk search for 'World Health Day' to download the assembly.

The assembly focuses on Article 24 - celebrating rights met and building awareness of rights not met.

The assembly is one of a collection of 21 assemblies for primary schools which tie in with UN days throughout the year.



The picture is from *For Every Child* available to purchase from www.unicef.org.uk

Assembly for World AIDS Day (1 December)

An assembly for citizenship in secondary schools to tie in with World AIDS Day, which takes place on 1 December every year. This is a double-page spread that you can download from the 104-page book *Under the UN Flag: Assemblies for Citizenship in Secondary Schools*, which contains 45 different assemblies.

Visit www.unicef.org.uk search for 'World Aids Day' to download the assembly.

Research tells us that teachers think assemblies are a key place to talk about citizenship. The assembly readings in the book give the work of the UN a human face, provide factual information, and illustrate how the UN is such an important organisation for the poorest people on the planet, and one which everyone should know about and support.

The stories are truly global, and ideas for follow up are provided. There are suggestions for making your assemblies more participatory, and also how pupils can be directly involved. The most relevant articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are given for reference. Children's rights make the fact that we live in a global society immediately real for children and young people, as they equate their own rights, and lack of them, with those of children in all cultures and societies across the world.