



World Health Organization

Pharmaceutical Labs: Needs, Finance, Human Trials

Chairs:

Youssef Ghribi & Mounia Kharbouch

Dear Delegates,

Your chairs, Youssef Ghribi (youssef.ghribi@ast.ma) and Mounia Kharbouch (mouniakharbouch3@gmail.com), welcome you to Tangier MUN's first-ever World Health Organization committee! While this new committee may seem daunting, we will make sure all of you leave with an enjoyable experience. Since this year's topic is "Global Health Security" WHO is going to be one of the most important committees in this conference. Our topic will be Pharmaceutical Labs: Needs, Finance, Human Trials.

Topic Introduction

To extensively acknowledge the depth of the medical world, we must first analyze the importance of pharmaceutical labs. Pharmaceutical companies are critical in identifying, developing, and purifying medicines that are distributed on a global scale. Drug development in pharmaceutical analysis aims to manufacture and sell medications that have been previously identified by the medical profession.

It is understood that in order to manufacture the best medicines and drugs that ensure health and safety to our community, labs require a certain amount of finances and funding by nations. The World Health Organization Committee aims to ensure each individual country has the necessary supplies and funding it requires to guarantee the safety of its citizens. The Pharmaceutical industry is one that should not be neglected and dismissed and should instead be prioritized. Not only do pharmacists serve the public, but they also secure the quality of medicine, and pledge that the supply is within the law. These services include working collaboratively with physicians and other healthcare providers in recommending specific medications or changes in medications. Moreover, clinics have already begun giving people the vaccine, and a few months ago, the first dose was given to a set of human trials. When one volunteers in clinical trials, they are contributing to research that could bring new treatments one step closer to reaching patients across the world. The trial may not only help advance the science for diseases or illnesses, but could also make progress for related areas of science.

With Covid-19, the world has faced a pandemic unlike any other. Labs have been placed under extensive pressure and stress to develop a vaccine. We must first recognize the time shortage under which the vaccine has been created. The vaccine has been immensely rushed due

to the rising number of cases and death rates. Each nation has implemented its own lockdown procedures in order to contain the virus and lower the cases. Some, such as New Zealand have progressed and succeeded, while others such as The United States have failed and have spread the virus even more. The UN branch, WHO, has held significance unlike any other this year, and now, the goal is to prioritize pharmacies.

Background

The WHO committee will have several main issues to tackle in order to approach pharmaceutical labs from all different lenses. The main topics namely include:

- Pharmaceutical finance and resource allocation
- Vaccine monetization
- Vaccine safety and side effects
- Vaccine distribution

Pharmaceutical Finance and Resource Allocation

The magnitude and severity of the pandemic has caused a massive strain on the medical resources present to aid the public. Oftentimes tough decisions are made in order to decide how and when to ration resources. Ethical guidelines must be put in place to justify these difficult decisions. These ethical guidelines must set a precedent for all decisions that deal with the prioritization of resources.

Vaccine Monetization

The pandemic has pushed millions of families to the point of poverty. But not everyone seems to have been negatively affected by the Covid-19 Virus. The top 1% have managed to enormously benefit from the pandemic, from mask producing companies to entertainment providers, some billionaires have had up to a 500% increase in revenue during the pandemic. If left unchecked, vaccine production can also become one of these lucrative businesses that profit off of the suffering of the public. The main demand would come from areas with high infection rates. Therefore, it wouldn't be far-fetched to question if the suppliers would want the pandemic to continue in order to make more money. The WHO must decide if and how the vaccine should be

monetized and produced in order to help provide it for all in need while still allowing for the funds necessary for its production.

Vaccine Safety and Unexpected Side Effects

There is no denying the benefits and efficacy of vaccines. Different vaccines prevent up to 3 million deaths every year. On the other hand, considering the urgency of Covid and its high infection rate, vaccines had to be created in conditions that aren't optimal. Unlike most other vaccines, Covid vaccines were rushed, and some haven't been studied as meticulously. Today, hundreds of vaccines are being developed and are being tested on humans. While controlling the virus as soon as possible is a top priority, it is important to discuss how safe and thoroughly tested a vaccine should be before it is made available to the public. It may even be more crucial to discuss when a vaccine should be recalled if unexpected side effects emerge.

Vaccine distribution

The Covid-19 Global Vaccine Access (COVAX) aims to distribute 2 billion vaccine doses to the public, but until then the WHO must prioritize who gets the vaccines first. Presently priority has been given to essential workers such as staff in the healthcare, law enforcement, security, nursing homes, social welfare institutes, community services, energy, food, and transportation sectors, and overseas workers/students (49.7 million). Followed by older adults with underlying health conditions and pregnant women (563.6 million). Creating a hierarchy of who to prioritize will help decrease preventable deaths and deal with vaccine distribution as more vaccines are made available

Questions to Consider

- Who is most affected by the pandemic?
- How can the UN supply nations with the necessary funding?
- In what ways can healthcare workers stay protected even with disease outbreaks?
- Is it too early to distribute the vaccine?
- Should ethics and morals play a role in vaccine distribution?

- Is it right for human trials to occur despite not knowing the long-term effect of the vaccine?
- How have pharmaceutical laws and regulations either advanced or hindered the production of medical treatments?

WHO's response

As early as January 2020, the World Health Organization began releasing statements in response to the Corona outbreak that originated in the Wuhan Province, China. As the disease circulated globally, the organization continuously updated the public on the matter and what to do to contain it.

- **December 31st, 2019:** WHO's Country Office in the People's Republic of China picked up a media statement by the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission from their website on cases of 'viral pneumonia' in Wuhan, People's Republic of China
- **February 19th, 2020:** Weekly WHO Member State Briefings on COVID-19 began, to share the latest knowledge and insights on COVID-19.
- **March 3rd, 2020:** WHO issued a call for industry and governments to increase manufacturing by 40 per cent to meet rising global demand in response to the shortage of personal protective equipment endangering health workers worldwide.
- **March 25th 2020:** WHO also updated its operational planning guidelines to help countries balance the demands of responding directly to COVID-19 while maintaining essential health service delivery, protecting health care workers and mitigating the risk of system collapse
- **April 4th, 2020:** WHO reported that over 1 million cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed worldwide, a more than tenfold increase in less than a month
- **April 6th, 2020:** WHO issued updated guidance on masks, including a new section on advice to decision-makers on mask use by healthy people in communities
- **May 7th, 2020:** The UN launched an update to the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for \$6.7 billion to minimise the most debilitating effects of the pandemic in 63 low and middle-income countries.
- **September 10th, 2020:** Global leaders, including over 30 heads of state and ministers, committed to: provide sustained political leadership, advocate in support of the ACT-Accelerator Investment Case and work to ensure that all countries and populations have early, affordable and equitable access to the new vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics the ACT-Accelerator is pursuing.

- **November 6th, 2020:** WHO issued a Disease Outbreak News report on the SARS-CoV-2 mink-associated variant strain in Denmark

Please refer to this link: <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-covidtimeline>, for more information on WHO's response

**Please keep in mind that position and resolution papers are due no later than
March 31st 2020!**

Sources

- <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-covidtimeline>
- <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/recoverbetter>
- <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20210126190108880>
- https://www.pharmacist.com/sites/default/files/files/pharmacy_principles_HCR.pdf
- <https://bmcmmedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-021-01923-8>
- <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>