

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
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WIMUN NEW YORK 2026

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

ENSURING HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTING WELL-BEING
FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

Simulation: Commission on Population and Development

Welcome to WIMUN New York 2026,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the Commission on Population and Development in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Health is about much more than curing diseases. It is about creating the conditions for people to live with dignity and thrive throughout their lives. In the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this is captured in SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

A major global challenge is that half the world's population still does not have access to essential health services. Many people also face very high medical costs that push families into poverty. While progress has been made in fighting infectious diseases like HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis, there are still big gaps in areas like maternal and child health, mental health, and non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer). The COVID-19 pandemic made these gaps even worse and showed how unequal access to health care remains.

A key approach is Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which means that everyone should have access to the care they need—prevention, treatment, and long-term support—without suffering financial hardship. UHC depends on a strong primary health-care system which brings services close to communities and emphasizes fairness and continuity. Given that much of the world's population still lacks access to health facilities for basic services, the success of this approach requires primary health care to be expanded at community and household levels.

Access to medicines and treatments is also a huge issue. Some successes have been achieved—for example, prices for HIV and malaria treatments dropped due to international cooperation. But medicines for other diseases, especially non-communicable ones, are still too expensive in many countries. Policies like improving supply chains, joint purchasing across countries, and supporting local production are also being explored.

Money is a major barrier. In 2019, more than 344 million people living in extreme poverty faced health costs that could push them deeper into poverty. Some solutions include reducing out-of-pocket payments, protecting the poorest with government-financed programs, and exploring international debt relief or innovative financing tools to help low-income countries invest in health.

An important lesson from COVID-19 is that health systems must be prepared and resilient. Emergency preparedness cannot be separate from routine health services. Integration can save lives and resources. For example, while billions are needed each year to prepare for pandemics, investing in stronger everyday health systems is one of the best ways to also be ready for crises.

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Recent emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have underscored the critical importance of integrating emergency preparedness and routine health services to build more resilient and effective health systems. Lessons learned emphasize that preparedness should be a fundamental part of daily healthcare operations in order to maintain essential services and prevent interruptions to routine health services, such as immunizations and chronic disease management, during emergencies so that routine health issues do not escalate into public health crises during a disaster. Integrated planning encourages health systems to store supplies and medicines that would be needed during public health emergencies and develop staffing strategies to maintain core operations when faced with sudden surges in demand.

Health does not exist in isolation. Clean water, safe housing, good nutrition, education, and decent work all shape people's well-being. That's why progress requires governments to coordinate across sectors—health, education, environment, and social protection—so that people's needs are addressed in a holistic way.

This topic is about understanding how health systems and social conditions affect populations at every stage of life. The key questions are:

- How can countries expand universal health coverage fairly and sustainably?
- How can international cooperation make medicines, vaccines, and health technologies more accessible?
- How can health systems be made more resilient to pandemics, climate change, and other crises?
- How can policies in areas like education, food, and housing better support health and well-being across the life course?

Key Points and Main Issues

In discussing the theme of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, delegates must focus on balancing universal health coverage, primary health care, rights-based approaches and climate resilience. Health policies should be inclusive, resilient and aligned with demographic realities and emerging global threats. This framework will help ensure that population and development strategies remain effective, accountable and capable of addressing evolving challenges. Here are some of the key points and main issues delegates need to understand:

Universal Health Coverage and Equity

- **Persistent inequalities:** Women, girls and marginalized communities still lack access to basic health services and often pay high out-of-pocket costs.
- **Coverage gaps:** Reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health services are more accessible to wealthy and educated populations, leaving low-income regions behind.
- **Underfunded systems:** Around 400 million people lack essential care, and many are pushed into poverty due to health expenses.

Recommended actions:

- Recognize universal health coverage as a fundamental human right and integrate it into national development strategies.
- Develop social protection schemes and targeted subsidies for low-income households to reduce out-of-pocket costs.
- Expand domestic resource mobilization and equitable financing mechanisms to support health systems.

Primary Health Care and Resource Allocation

- **Hospital-centric models:** Many countries prioritize hospital-based care, overlooking cost-effective, community-based primary health care.
- **Logistical weaknesses:** Rural and remote facilities face delays and shortages because of inadequate infrastructure and funding.
- **Climate and crisis disruptions:** Disasters and climate-related shocks disrupt immunization and essential services, exposing supply-chain vulnerabilities.

Recommended actions:

- Reorient health systems toward comprehensive primary health care with preventive services and community health workers.
- Strengthen supply chains and logistics through public-private partnerships, digital tools and pre-positioned reserves.
- Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure and emergency preparedness, especially for Small Island Developing States and fragile settings.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- **Maternal mortality:** About 800 women die each day from preventable pregnancy and childbirth complications.
- **Gender discrimination:** Gender disparities and harmful practices such as child marriage, female genital mutilation and denial of contraception undermine women's health and autonomy.
- **Political pushback:** Conservative backlash against sexual and reproductive health and rights threatens progress and consensus.

Recommended actions:

- Make sexual and reproductive health services including contraception, safe abortion and comprehensive sexuality education an integral part of UHC packages.
- Address gender-based violence and harmful practices through laws, education and community engagement.
- Invest in trained midwives and community health workers, particularly in underserved regions, to ensure safe pregnancies and childbirth.

Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing

- **Rapid ageing:** The global population aged 60 and over is projected to rise by 72 % by 2050, while fertility rates decline.
- **Youthful populations:** Many low-income countries still have youthful demographics and need to invest in health and education to harness the demographic dividend.
- **Unpaid care:** Older adults' care often relies on unpaid work by women, creating social and economic burdens.

Recommended actions:

- Adopt a life-course approach to health, integrating adolescent, reproductive and geriatric services into policy planning.
- Expand long-term care services, social protection and pensions while recognizing unpaid carers and promoting gender equality.
- Use demographic data to forecast workforce needs and plan training and infrastructure for ageing societies.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

Data, Accountability and Governance

- **Data gaps:** Lack of reliable, disaggregated health data hinders evidence-based policymaking.
- **Weak oversight:** Inadequate accountability mechanisms can lead to misallocation of funds and undermine trust.
- **Digital risks:** While digital health innovations offer opportunities, they raise concerns about cybersecurity and privacy.

Recommended actions:

- Invest in civil registration, health information systems and population surveys to produce timely and disaggregated data.
- Strengthen regulatory and oversight bodies, including anti-corruption measures and community feedback mechanisms.
- Develop ethical guidelines and robust cybersecurity standards for digital health technologies.

Climate Change and Health

- **Poverty and inequities:** Climate change may push an additional 132 million people into extreme poverty, exacerbating health inequities.
- **Disease burden:** Rising temperatures and extreme weather increase vector-borne and water-borne diseases and disrupt food systems.
- **Environmental degradation:** Pollution and biodiversity loss threaten livelihoods and undermine progress on health.

Recommended actions:

- Integrate health into national adaptation plans and ensure climate finance supports health system resilience.
 - Develop surveillance and early warning systems for climate-sensitive diseases and disasters.
 - Foster cross-sectoral collaboration between health, environment, agriculture and disaster management agencies.
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Universal access to high-quality, affordable health services crucial – Commission session

2025

Summary: This 2025 UN press release summarizes debates at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development on ensuring universal access to affordable, high-quality health services. The Chair emphasized that health is a human right, but many health-related targets remain off track and women and girls still face violence and lack autonomy. Delegates called for resilient, equitable health systems, data-driven decision-making and renewed investments in midwifery and community health workers.

Beyond survival: Health and well-being for every child

2025

Summary: The UNICEF “Beyond survival” program commits to ensuring that all children in Europe and Central Asia have access to high-quality health, nutrition, and developmental support so they can survive and thrive. It emphasizes strengthening primary health systems, expanding access to immunization, nutrition services, and home-based care, and addressing mental health and emerging challenges like climate impacts and inequities in underserved groups.

Resilient and Sustainable Health and Community Systems

2025

Summary: The Global Fund describes how strong health and community systems are essential both to ending diseases like HIV, TB and malaria and to preparing for future health threats. Their investments support critical areas: health workers (formal and community), labs, disease surveillance, data systems, medical oxygen, supply chains, and waste management. The Global Fund commits large grants to build these systems, especially in marginalized communities, with a clear focus on equity and preparedness.

[Expert group meeting on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages – overview](#) **2024**

Summary: In October 2024, the UN Population Division convened an expert group meeting to prepare for CPD58. The meeting emphasized that health is a fundamental human right established in the WHO Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Experts reviewed evidence and experiences, stressing investments in health infrastructure, personnel training and integration of health policies with broader development strategies.

[SDG Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being](#) **2024**

Summary: UNICEF's "SDG Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being" outlines the ambition to ensure healthy lives for everyone at every age. It covers key areas like maternal and child health, disease control, universal health coverage, and access to essential medicines. UNICEF focuses on indicators such as under-five mortality, neonatal mortality, and skilled birth attendance to track progress. The page emphasizes that reaching the hardest-hit populations is central to closing health gaps.

[Joint statement by UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS and UN Women calling for sexual and reproductive health and rights for all](#) **2024**

Summary: This joint statement affirms that sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are essential to human rights and universal health coverage. The agencies note that although progress has been made - such as more women using contraception and reduced maternal mortality - recent obstacles (from COVID-19, conflict, inequality, climate change) threaten this progress. They call on governments, donors, and civil society to expand SRHR services within health systems, eliminate stigma, advance gender equality, and ensure that no one is left behind, especially marginalized women, girls, and those in conflict-affected settings.

[UN Member States approve new political declaration on universal health coverage](#)

2023

Summary: This 2023 General Assembly news article documents the adoption of a political declaration proclaiming universal health coverage as a human right. It notes serious health gaps exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including a shortage of ten million health workers, and highlights that primary health care is the foundation of resilient health systems.

[Good health and well-being \(SDG 3\) – United Nations Sustainable Development](#)

2023

Summary: The official SDG 3-page notes that progress on child mortality and neglected tropical diseases has slowed due to pandemics and crises. It highlights inequalities in health coverage reproductive - maternal and child health services remain higher among wealthier, more educated populations - and stresses that universal health coverage is essential. The page cites concerning numbers: 260,000 women died from pregnancy and childbirth in 2023, and non-communicable diseases killed 18 million people under 70 in 2021.

[The Global Fund's Unique Contribution to Universal Health Coverage and Stronger Health Systems](#)

2023

Summary: This brief reviews how the Global Fund helps countries make progress toward universal health coverage (UHC). It shows that 3.1 billion people still lack meaningful health coverage, and 2 billion are at risk of extreme health costs. The document argues that fighting diseases like HIV, TB, and malaria and building resilient health systems go hand in hand. It details contributions in areas like workforce development, labs, supply chains, governance, and digital health. It also outlines opportunities to expand impact by integrating more health system functions and boosting domestic investment.

Good health and well-being – UNDP policy brief

2022

Summary: UNDP's brief notes that life expectancy has risen and HIV and malaria deaths have halved, yet the world is off track to meet health-related SDGs. It points out that 400 million people lack basic health services and 40 % lack social protection. The brief calls for multisectoral, rights-based approaches and highlights the need to end violence against women and girls.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

2022

Summary: UN Women's SDG 3 page explains that 830 women die every day from preventable pregnancy and childbirth complications. It discusses gender disparities and unpaid domestic work that limit women's health and outlines UN Women's work with governments and NGOs to improve health services, end harmful practices and empower women.

MNCH Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Brief

2021

Summary: The brief highlights that although there have been large gains in maternal, newborn, and child health over recent decades, serious inequalities persist across and within countries, and the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened them. The brief notes that most maternal deaths occur in low- and lower middle-income nations, and that conflict zones see higher increases in maternal mortality. The document calls for stronger health systems, equitable access to quality services, and investments to protect world health gains from further setbacks.

SRHR: An Essential Element of Universal Health Coverage

2020

Summary: This UNFPA document argues that sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) must be an integral part of universal health coverage (UHC). It shows how SRHR services - such as contraception, maternal care, safe abortion where legal, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections - are essential for individual well-being and societal development. The report highlights challenges including gaps in services, financial barriers, inequalities, and policy limitations. It offers policy guidance to integrate SRHR into health systems, strengthen government commitment, and ensure no one is left behind in accessing these vital services.

Investing in maternal, newborn and child health **2020**

Summary: This meeting report argues that the usual ways to meet Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 (reducing child and maternal deaths, achieving reproductive health) are not enough. The report shows how effective, evidence-based interventions for reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) offer high social and economic returns. It warns that financial and equity gaps in health spending limit progress, especially during economic crises—urging governments to increase, better allocate, and target investments in RMNCH.

When is Universal Health Coverage good for attaining universal Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights?

2019

Summary: This UNFPA article from its East and Southern Africa office argues that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) must include sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to be truly universal. It notes progress in contraceptive use, maternal mortality reduction, and legal reforms in the region, but warns many SRHR services remain excluded from health benefit packages. The article calls on countries to integrate SRHR into UHC policies, prioritize equitable access, and ensure financial protections so that care does not impose hardship.

SDG Briefing Note 6: Universal Health Coverage **2018**

Summary: This briefing note explains how universal health coverage (UHC) means that all people can get needed health services - prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and care that relieves pain and improves comfort - without financial difficulties. It discusses challenges such as service gaps, quality of care, and financial protection, and proposes policy approaches to expand UHC, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

Maternal health gets a new boost in Liberia **2017**

Summary: This UN Women feature story describes how installing solar lighting systems in 26 clinics and five Maternal Waiting Rooms across Liberia has improved maternal health outcomes. The article notes that, in remote areas, midwives often had to deliver babies without electricity. Solar lights enabled safe deliveries at night and enhanced motivation among health workers, demonstrating how simple infrastructure investments can save lives.

German statement during the 58th session of the 2025 United Nations Commission on Population and Development

Summary: German youth delegates at CPD58 condemned global failures to protect women and girls. They noted that a woman or girl dies every two minutes from preventable pregnancy and childbirth causes and criticized child marriage and denial of contraception, framing these as violations of fundamental human rights.

National statement of Tuvalu at CPD58 **2025**

Summary: Tuvalu's statement commended the CPD theme and reaffirmed its commitment to SDG 3. The minister stressed building resilient, equitable health systems and highlighted efforts to improve health services despite climate-related vulnerabilities.

United Kingdom national statement at CPD58 **2025**

Summary: The UK youth delegate emphasized the inclusion of young people and warned against roll-backs in women's and girls' rights. The statement advocated comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and respect for adolescents' autonomy, urging governments to address barriers such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Statement by Norway at CPD58 **2025**

Summary: Norway expressed concern over pushback against gender equality and LGBTI rights, arguing that sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential components of universal health coverage. It called for integrating SRHR into UHC and for meaningful youth participation in decision-making.

Joint statement delivered by Sierra Leone on behalf of 78 governments at CPD58

2025

Summary: This cross-regional statement acknowledges progress in maternal and child health but warns of persistent inequalities and calls for equitable access to services and comprehensive primary health care. It urges investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights and highlights the need for resilient health systems and digital innovations.

Sweden's national statement at CPD58

2025

Summary: Sweden aligned with the European Union and emphasized investing in universal health coverage that includes sexual and reproductive health and rights. This statement highlights Sweden's investment in maternal care and community health workers, as well as stressed gender equality as a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Remarks by President Lula at the WHO investment round

2024

Summary: President Lula called for increased investment in vaccines and health systems, criticizing global spending on warfare and advocating reallocating resources toward disease prevention. He reaffirmed Brazil's commitment to strengthening health systems and global cooperation.

China's healthcare reform tasks for 2024

2024

Summary: China outlined plans to enhance primary healthcare, reform public hospital payment systems and improve medical insurance to reduce costs and wait times. The reforms include expanding digital health services and community-level care as part of its universal health coverage drive.

Remarks by Dr Ayele Teshome at the East African UHC conference

2024

Summary: Ethiopia's State Minister Dr Ayele Teshome prioritized universal health coverage, preventive care and early treatment at a regional conference. He highlighted the importance of collaboration among East African nations to share best practices, resources and expertise to improve health outcomes.

Australian Department of Health – National Preventive Health Strategy 2021–2030

2021

Summary: Australia's ten-year plan sets clear, research-based goals to lower chronic diseases. It focuses on creating healthy environments, encouraging healthier habits, and getting different sectors to work together to reduce risks from childhood to old age.

[AU and WHO renew strategic partnership to strengthen health security and universal health coverage](#)

2025

Summary: In May 2025 the African Union and WHO renewed their strategic partnership. The updated memorandum focuses on health security, universal health coverage, local pharmaceutical manufacturing and digital innovations, reflecting a determination to move from aid dependency to health sovereignty.

[G7 Health Ministers' Communiqué](#)

2024

Summary: The G7 Health Ministers' communiqué issued in October 2024 reaffirms the right to the highest attainable standard of health and commits to advancing universal health coverage through prevention policies, primary health care and innovation. It recognises sexual and reproductive health and rights, stresses pandemic preparedness and highlights investing in resilient health systems.

[World Bank Group aims to expand health services to 1.5 billion people by 2030](#)

2024

Summary: The World Bank Group announced a plan to support countries in delivering quality, affordable health services to 1.5 billion people by 2030. The strategy focuses on expanding care across the life course, reaching remote areas and reducing financial barriers. The Bank notes that around two billion people face severe financial hardship when paying for care, and that climate, pandemics and conflicts exacerbate inequality.

[Protecting everyone, everywhere, from the financial burden of climate change on health](#)

2024

Summary: In this COP29 Health Day statement, the UHC2030 co-chairs warn that climate change threatens health and exacerbates inequities. They observe that two billion people already face financial difficulties paying for health care and warn that climate change could push an additional 132 million people into extreme poverty by 2030. The statement calls for universal health coverage to protect populations from climate-induced health risks and stresses climate-resilient health systems.

New PAHO report warns of unmet healthcare needs in the Americas

2024

Summary: This 2024 PAHO news release summarises a report finding that more than one-third of the Americas' population experiences unmet healthcare needs, disproportionately affecting poorer communities. It calls for prioritizing primary health care as the cornerstone of universal health coverage and notes that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed health system vulnerabilities.

Universal Health Coverage Day message – Eastern Caribbean

2024

Summary: Issued by the UN multi-country office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, this message emphasizes that universal health coverage is the foundation for equitable societies and resilient economies. It highlights challenges faced by Small Island Developing States and stresses strengthening primary health care and disaster-resilient systems.

Soroptimist International blog: The 58th Commission on Population and Development

2025

Summary: Bette Levy of Soroptimist International reflects on CPD58, reporting it has an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and sustainable development. She notes that the commission often ends without consensus and stresses the role of civil society in shaping outcomes.

Population Connection: Special report on CPD58

2025

Summary: Population Connection reports on its participation at CPD58, noting that the commission monitors implementation of the 1994 Cairo Programme of Action and centres women's empowerment and reproductive health rights. The organisation delivered statements and hosted a side event, apart from criticising a U.S. statement rejecting the 2030 Agenda.

World Youth Alliance update: No consensus reached at 58th Session on Population and Development

2025

Summary: The World Youth Alliance, representing a pro-life viewpoint, reports on CPD58 and observes that negotiations broke down, preventing a consensus document. The article criticises certain Member States for promoting rights deemed contrary to family values and highlights the U.S. delegation's denunciation of the 2030 Agenda and "gender ideology".

Population Matters: "Fragile Futures – Speaking up for children's lives in a changing world"

2025

Summary: Population Matters presented its "Fragile Futures" report at CPD58, warning that child deaths could exceed UN projections due to climate change and conflict. The article argues that risks to children's lives will increase as climate change accelerates and calls for greater investment in health systems and environmental protection.

[World Heart Federation statement at the UN multi-stakeholder hearing on universal health coverage](#)

2023

Summary: The World Heart Federation's 2023 statement notes that the world is off track to achieve SDG 3 and that circulatory diseases are the leading cause of death. It calls for involving people with non-communicable diseases in decision-making, investing in primary health care and including cost-effective interventions in national universal health coverage packages.

[Universal Health Coverage targets leave behind the most vulnerable](#)

2023

Summary: MSF warns that many Universal Health Coverage (UHC) plans neglect the most vulnerable people - those in crises, migrants, the poor, and marginalized groups. The article argues that UHC strategies tend to focus on long-term system reforms rather than immediate access to essential care for those in need. It calls for UHC plans to abolish user fees for critical services, include protections for marginalized groups, and create plans for health access during emergencies.

[Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All \(SDG3 GAP\) – overview](#)

2019

Summary: The SDG3 GAP overview explains that the plan, launched in 2019, brings together 13 multilateral health, development and humanitarian agencies to accelerate progress on health-related SDG targets. Agencies commit to align their ways of working, strengthen collaboration and provide efficient support to countries.
