

Country: Nigeria

Committee: WHO (World Health Organization)

Agenda Item: Adolescent health in developing countries



Nigeria is a Federal Republic located in the West African region. With a population of 230 million people, it is the most populous country in Africa. By 2050, it is expected that the country will become the fourth most populous country in the world. The country is a multinational state, containing more than 250 ethnic groups and 500 distinct languages. The oil, coal and tin sectors are the biggest sources of income in the country. Despite having the largest economy in Africa, the country ranks low in the Human Development Index and it is one of the most corrupt nations in the world. According to the World Poverty Clock, the country has the highest number of people living in extreme poverty with 71 million people. The country got its independence in 1960. Nigeria is one of the founder countries of the African Union and a member of the United Nations.

Adolescent health is a global issue, and it is especially a big concern in developing countries. Adolescents in developing countries often face challenges that may obstruct their access to the necessary healthcare services. Education, culture and financial situations have a big influence on adolescent health in developing countries. 1.2 million adolescents die every year; due to accidents, infectious diseases, suicide, cancer and other reasons. Improving the adolescent health in developing countries would most certainly decrease the number of yearly deaths. However, adolescents in developing countries are deprived from opportunities that could provide them maintain their health and development. This is mostly due to poverty, as the access to healthcare is deeply connected with financial situations.

Nigeria recognizes the significance of investing in the health and development of adolescents. The country has a National Adolescent Health Policy which was developed in 2007 and revised later on. The key objectives of the policy include increasing the access to quality health service, promoting healthy lifestyle, coping with illnesses and disabilities and informing adolescents and others about adolescent health. The policy acknowledges the unique challenges faced by adolescents and aims to provide effective support for their health needs. Nigeria has also made commitments to some initiatives and agenda. These include the Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The UHC's objective is to provide needed health services of quality for all people without any financial trouble.

