

Country: Colombia

Committee: WHO (World Health Organization)

Topic: Addressing ethical dilemmas and operational challenges in organ harvesting, including compliance with national and international rules and legal requirements



Nowadays ethical dilemmas and operational challenges in organ harvesting is an important topic for everybody. In our country Colombia, organ harvesting and transplantation are governed by a set of national regulations designed to prevent illicit organ trafficking while maintaining ethical and safe transplantation practices. Our country's organ transplant protocols and allocation are managed by the National Health Institute (NHI), which oversees compliance with rules to ensure organs are distributed fairly and not subjected to illegal practices. Also the Colombian legal framework aligns with several international protocols on organ donation and transplantation. Colombia's organ transplant processes comply with global ethical standards like those outlined in the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. These frameworks stress prohibiting any financial gain from organ donation requiring informed consent and ensuring the fair allocation of organs.

However, despite these, Colombia has some problems arising from infrastructure deficiencies. One of these problems is challenges and compliance in armed conflict. Colombia's long history of internal conflict has required special protections against the illegal removal of organs in conflict settings. International humanitarian law prohibits the forcible removal of organs from civilians and non-combatants. These protections are in line with the Geneva Conventions and aim to protect human rights and dignity even in situations of war. However, organ trafficking networks are difficult to intervene in. They are clandestine, irregular and not structured like traditional armed groups. Because they operate in secrecy, they are difficult to trace, which complicates international response. These structural problems make it difficult to effectively stop illicit organ trafficking networks. Another problem is organ transportation and allocation difficulties. Colombia's geography and health infrastructure complicate the logistics of organ transportation. Due to the mountainous terrain, many organs need to be transported quickly by air. Although transport coordination is overseen by the INS, there are structural gaps in the coverage of immunosuppressive drugs, especially for economically disadvantaged populations.

We want to find solutions to these challenges by discussing. First of all we should solve the security and organ access issues in conflict zones because organ transport and allocation during armed conflict poses a complex set of challenges often severely restrict access to healthcare systems, infrastructures and personnel. As for the organ transportation problem safe green corridors can be established so that medical supplies including organs can move freely thus ensuring that medical aid and organ transportation can move safely.

Then, we must find a solution to the challenges of organ allocation which are at least as important as organ access in conflict zones. Because in places such as Colombia, where conflict rates are high the need

for organ transportation is high. This requirement creates an environment of competition between people and causes other conflicts. The process of organ allocation is fair and efficient. In order to manage these processes properly international health organizations should supervise these processes and the establishment of multidisciplinary committees consisting of medical professionals, ethicists and humanitarian representatives to ensure that decisions are made can help solve such problem.

As the delegation of Colombia we are hoping to find permanent solutions in this committee.

Sources:

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10921909>

<https://www.ctsnet.org/article/lung-transplantation-challenges-colombia-interview-eric-vinck>

<https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-023-00561-6>