

Forum: The Citizen forum on inequalities

Theme: How to reduce inequalities at different scales?

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Marital status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Married/in a relationship<input checked="" type="radio"/> Single<input type="radio"/> With children, if so, how many:	Level of education <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Primary<input type="radio"/> Secondary<input checked="" type="radio"/> University
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1. How does the theme of inequalities concern you?

As a 59 years old Cuban doctor, I can see firsthand the inequalities in healthcare in different countries. Indeed, I often go into humanitarian aid in disadvantaged areas. There, I can see how much people suffer from a lack of good healthcare and medications. For example, according to the World Health Organization, Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) like cancers or heart strokes are the leading causes of non-pandemic caused deaths at 75% deaths globally. 80% of all of them are in low and middle-income countries. In fact, in Cuba, which is the country with one of the best healthcare systems in the world, the lack of medical supplies due to the USA's embargo sometimes imposes restrictions and difficulties. And that's the case in many other countries, as a study from World Vision shows that in 2021, almost half of the world population didn't have access to essential medical support. In comparison, in some more developed countries, such as in Europe, medications are much easier to obtain. It is even more irrational when we know that the climate, infrastructure, and rules make it less likely for Europeans to fall sick, while in most developing countries, malnutrition and uncontrolled urbanization make sickness too common.

2. What do you suggest at your level?

To overcome this inequality, some solutions could be implemented. First of all, medication and other medical equipment should be more accessible to everyone. And

to achieve this goal, a worldwide institution should be created in order to monitor sustainable medication production and distribution, while making sure that said medication goes to people in need and is not stolen and/or used as drugs. Secondly, to make doctors a more common resort, remote consultations could be developed to make it easier to treat illnesses. The mentioned institutions could also build facilities with an internet connection to discuss with doctors from all over the world. However, prevention is better than a cure, so improving the hygiene and environment in developing countries would make it significantly less likely for people to fall sick there.

To achieve these goals, implementing ceramic filters could be used to remove bacteria from water. It is indeed not too expensive and would make a huge difference, even though it is not perfect, as it doesn't remove viruses, for example. So, placing these filters in homes or water cleansing facilities could be a cheap and effective way to protect people from bacteria. Secondly, to prevent pollution, renewable energy would be beneficial, like placing solar panels in North African countries with more sun exposure. Furthermore, in many homes, people inhale smoke from coal or wood combustion, which creates numerous health problems. Using technologies like BioLite would not be too expensive while still making a huge difference. Indeed, this technology uses a mechanism called gasification. It transforms wood into gas and then burns it, using almost every resource of the wood. That way, wood consumption would significantly decrease while the user's health would improve. Distributing this technology to homes with the most inhabitants would change the lives of thousands of people.