

# A healthy world?

## Exploring the causes of, and possible solutions to, global sickness

*A healthy world?* examines health problems across the world and raises questions about the reasons and possible solutions. The media give occasional coverage to these problems, but mostly ignore them until, for example, a British celebrity catches malaria and nearly dies. Meanwhile, 863,000 people die of malaria and 243 million suffer acute illness annually without much press attention. Young people are likely to support charities that aim to eradicate unnecessary sickness across the world, and this activity provides information about the breadth of the problem.

The activity can be used to supplement the suggestions in Unit 2 of *Citizenship through tutorial: a staff manual with activities for personal and social learning*, which examines a range of global issues.

The staff manual contains information, guidance and resources for citizenship activities on six topics:

- democracy and freedom
- global issues
- economy and employment
- education, learner voice and community participation
- rights, responsibilities and justice
- healthy, safe and cohesive communities.

All units in the staff manual make links to the outcomes of Every Child/Learner Matters. This activity is particularly relevant to the outcomes 'Be healthy' and 'Make a positive contribution'.

*Citizenship through tutorial: a staff manual with activities for personal and social learning* is available to order or download from <https://crm.lsnlearning.org.uk/user/order.aspx?code=090113>

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## Aims of the activity

The activity enables young people to:

- consider the wide range of health issues that affect the lives of many people around the world
- discuss the steps which might need to be taken to eradicate some of the problems
- plan some campaigning activity to help promote their ideas.

## Resources required

- Copies (one for each participant) of 'Fact Sheet 1' (page 3) and 'Fact Sheet 2' (page 4)  
(Source: the Global Issues website: [www.globalissues.org/print/issue/587](http://www.globalissues.org/print/issue/587))
- Access to websites.

## Running the activity

- Ask participants to work in pairs and give out 'Fact Sheet 1'. Ask them to discuss and to write down one possible cause for each fact.
- Put pairs into fours and ask them to share their thoughts on each fact.
- Give out 'Fact Sheet 2' and ask groups to match the relevant facts with those on 'Fact Sheet 1'. Ask for comments on these.
- Put participants back into their original pairs and ask each pair to select **one** of the six issues to research further. They could visit the website used as a source for this activity (shown above and also printed on each fact sheet) and then verify and add to the information using other websites (see suggestions listed below).
- Ask each group to suggest a strategy to tackle their problem and to plan a campaign to promote the plan.

## Relevant sites and references

**Millennium Development Goals:** [www.dfid.gov.uk/Global-Issues/Millennium-Development-Goals](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Global-Issues/Millennium-Development-Goals)

**World Health Organisation:** [www.who.int/topics/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/en/)

**Unicef:** [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

**WaterAid:** [www.wateraid.org/international/learn\\_zone](http://www.wateraid.org/international/learn_zone)

**Action for Global Health:** [www.actionforglobalhealth.eu](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu)

**Gates Foundation (tobacco):** [www.gatesfoundation.org/topics/Pages/tobacco.aspx](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/topics/Pages/tobacco.aspx)

**Gates Foundation (malaria):** [www.gatesfoundation.org/topics/Pages/malaria.aspx](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/topics/Pages/malaria.aspx)

**Gates Foundation (HIV/Aids):** [www.gatesfoundation.org/hivaids/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/hivaids/Pages/default.aspx)

*Getting the show on the road: skills for planning and running citizenship events*, QIA, 2006.

A book of activities that develop young people's organisational and interpersonal skills.

## Fact Sheet 1

1

**863,000 people die of malaria every year.**

2

33.4 million people are living with HIV.

3

Over 8 million children under the age of 5 die from malnutrition and preventable diseases, such as measles, each year.

4

**Tobacco kills 1 in 10 adults and is the second biggest cause of death in the world.**

5

At least 20 million children under the age of 5 are overweight globally.

6

1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to clean water.

## Fact Sheet 2

1

It costs less than \$1 to vaccinate a child against measles.

2

To fight malaria, a family needs to pay for insect nets, doctors' fees, anti-malaria drugs and transport to hospital when someone is infected.

3

**Tobacco use and poverty are linked. In some poorer countries, 10 per cent of income is spent on tobacco.**

4

Drug companies patent drugs that fight diseases such as HIV, so that in some cases the development of cheaper versions is not permitted by law.

5

*In many countries, people have to pay for access to water. It costs more for water in the slums of Manila than it does in London.*

6

**In the US, the average pre-school child sees three advertisements per day for high-calorie fast food.**

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