

**WHO(World Health Organization):**  
**1.Illegal Organ Trade**

Over the past 60 years, organ transplantation has been used as a medical intervention for organ-failure and is considered one of the greatest medical discoveries of the 20th century. Unfortunately, today many patients die before receiving a transplant due to a lack of organ availability. The discrepancy between the supply and demand of organs is rife across the globe. Most donations come from living or deceased people who have elected to be organ donors; however, despite the rise in number of organ failure most people are reluctant to become organ donors themselves, resulting in a shortage of organs. Consequently, certain patients, especially from developed countries, will travel to foreign countries to illegally buy

organs in hopes to save their lives. This is also known as transplant tourism. The World Health Organization estimates that 5-10% of kidney transplants, the most common transplant procedure, are from organ trafficking. Furthermore, according to Global Financial Integrity, the illegal organ trade generates \$600 million to \$1.2 billion in profits annually, with desperate patients paying up to \$200,000 USD for a kidney. Organ trafficking is considered an organized crime. Major players include recruiters, transporters, hospital/clinic staff, medical professionals, contractors, brokers and other middlemen. Organs are usually harvested illegally and trafficked in one of three ways: victims are coerced into giving up an organ, victims agree to sell their organ but are defrauded, or victims of vulnerable or impoverished populations are treated for a supposed illness (which may or may not be a legitimate concern) and have organs removed without the patient's permission. Trafficking in the organ trade is prohibited under the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, and almost every country in the world has outlawed the sale and trade of human organs. The organ trade thrives on the notion of the rich wanting immortality and the poor needing money. Whereas countries that import organs are generally economically and socially advanced, those countries that tend to export organs are often impoverished and underdeveloped. WHO has disapproved of the unregulated commercialization of the organ trade that exploits the poor and increases health inequalities, all while posing great risks to patients at either end of the deal.

**2. Drug Affordability and patents**

Pharmaceutical products aid in the protection, maintenance and restoration of health, and thus have greatly progressed modern medicine. However, there is a major health crisis regarding drug accessibility and affordability. Health inequities have resulted in the unfair deaths of many people worldwide simply because they could not afford their treatment, and consequently the average life expectancy in developing countries is 23 years lower than developed countries. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals focused on accessibility to affordable essential drugs in developing countries in target 8.E. , but in 2011, the World Health Organization, WHO reported that high-income countries -16% of the world population - accounted for 78.5% of total global expenditure on pharmaceuticals. Many attribute this inequity to the actions of selfish pharmaceutical companies, unstable political states, and capitalist free markets. Patents give pharmaceutical companies monopolies over lifesaving drugs, and companies abuse this to inflate to price exceedingly. Underdeveloped countries often lack the infrastructure to properly support a pharmaceutical industry, or products are heavily taxed. Governments are not implementing policies to strengthen public health care systems or initiatives to develop a new generation of drugs. The industry is corrupted even on the retail level as the lack of access gives certain outlets exclusivity to high-demand drugs. With rising patients numbers worldwide, it is pressing to establish health policies that protect access to fundamental health care.