Unmasking Sanctions "Shadow on Health"

Unveiling the Shadow

- Providing a comprehensive assessment of the impact of unilateral sanctions, means of their enforcement and over-compliance on various aspects of the right to health, including access to healthcare, vaccination, prevention of deceases, access to tests, medicine, medical equipment.
- Addressing the issue of the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the SDG 3, including maintenance and development of the healthcare system, and impact on the most vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, those suffering from rare and severe deceases, children, women, older persons.
- Considering the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the availability of medical assistance in emergency situations, as well as the efficacy of humanitarian exemptions.

Lifelines Disrupted: Direct impact on the right to health

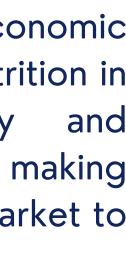
- Access to medicine and medical equipment: Unilateral • Poverty and nutrition: Unilateral sanctions have led to economic crises and soaring poverty, severely impacting healthcare and nutrition in sanctions cause severe shortages in essential medicines, medical equipment, software etc especially for chronic and life-threatening affected countries, causing widespread food insecurity and undernourishment, particularly harming women and children, making conditions. Unavailability of vaccination result in outbreaks of preventable deceases like measles, polio, tuberculosis etc. people to sell even provided subsidized medicine at the black market to Restrictions have drastically reduced the availability of necessary buy food. supplies, resulted in the growing mortality rates and human suffering among Epidermolysis Bullosa and Thalassemia patients due to • Clean water, sanitation, access to energy, environment: insufficient medical provisions. Unilateral sanctions lead to electricity and fuel shortages, causing water
- Availability of healthcare: Unilateral sanctions damage healthcare systems, affecting medicine procurement and delivery, pollution and occupational health challenges. and increasing mortality rates. They hinder the development of healthcare systems, including healthcare facilities, emergency • **Transportation:** Poverty, unavailability of transportation system, diesel, transportation, qualified doctors. It also undermines possible roads and vernicles prevent people from getting to hospitals preventing them from getting necessary health care. emergency and pandemic response.

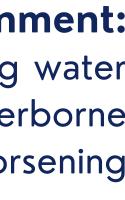
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights Alena F. Douhan



Invisible Barriers: Indirect impact on the right to health

and sanitation systems to collapse and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. They also deprioritize environmental projects, worsening







Protection of vulnerable groups

- People with disabilities and those with severe diseases: Unilateral sanctions disproportionately harm people of these groups, leading to multiplied mortality rates and reduced life expectancy.
- Women and children: Unilateral sanctions lead to increased maternal and infant mortality due to shortages in medical assistance, essential medicines, and nutritional care. These sanctions exacerbate malnutrition and health risks among children, while women face heightened vulnerabilities, including increased risks of human trafficking and economic exploitation.
- Other populations like refugees, older persons.

Recommendations

- authorized by the UN Security Council, considering humanitarian concerns in both imposition and application.
- healthcare, food, water supply, and sanitation, ensuring the survival and well-being of populations.
- essential goods for health services and critical infrastructure support.
- donors, humanitarian organizations shall not be subjected to penalties to deliver essential goods.
- entities to monitor and study the impacts of unilateral sanctions on health, especially for vulnerable groups.

READ FULL REPORT: IMPACT OF UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES ON THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

Impact in emergency situations and humanitarian aid

 Unilateral sanctions significantly hinder healthcare and humanitarian aid delivery. Complex and unclear sanctions regulations, ineffective humanitarian exemptions, and over-compliance issues impede timely and efficient emergency responses, often shifting humanitarian efforts from needs to risk assessment. This complexity is exemplified in the response to the 2023 earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, where sanctions-related challenges obstructed critical relief efforts.

• Review and Lift Unnecessary Sanctions: Sanctioning states and organizations should reassess and lift measures not

• Exempt Critical Infrastructure from Sanctions: Unilateral sanctions should not impact essential services like

• Minimize Over-Compliance and Protect Human Rights: States are obliged to implement all necessary measures to prevent over-compliance and ensure that private businesses within their jurisdiction do not infringe upon the right to health or other human rights abroad. Businesses shall avoid zero-risk policies and over-compliance, particularly concerning

• Facilitate Access to Essential Goods and Services: Licensing procedures should not hinder the provision of medicine, vaccines, and essentials for health and sanitation Pharmaceutical, medical equipmen and other companies,

• Engage in International Cooperation and Monitoring: Encourage states under unilateral sanctions to provide detailed information on all types of sanctions induced challenges to UN entities and mechanisms, and urge WHO and other

