

LEAGUE PHASE MOTION 3:

SDG3 should be the world's top priority

The world today faces a wide range of urgent challenges, from conflict and climate change to poverty and inequality. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared plan for addressing these global issues, making improvements for people and the planet. Good health and wellbeing are the focus of SDG3, and some argue that they underpin progress across all the other goals. Should SDG3 therefore take precedence over every other international priority, or should the efforts be focused elsewhere?

Proponents of this motion might argue that good health is the foundation upon which all other development depends. Healthy populations are better able to learn, work and contribute to their communities, helping to reduce poverty and strengthen economies. Supporters may point to the importance of tackling infectious diseases, improving maternal healthcare, expanding access to vaccines and medicines, and addressing the growing mental health crisis. They may also argue that investing in health systems improves resilience against future pandemics and benefits every nation, regardless of income level.

On the other hand, opponents might argue that no single Sustainable Development Goal can be considered the world's top priority because global challenges are deeply interconnected. They may suggest that focusing on poverty, quality education, gender equality or climate action are equally essential for improving health outcomes in the long term. Furthermore, governments often face difficult budget decisions, and prioritising healthcare above all else could divert resources from infrastructure, education or environmental protection. The opposition may also suggest that a single global priority is unrealistic, when countries have such different needs.

Good health affects every aspect of human life, but it is also shaped by social, economic and environmental conditions. Considering the competing demands facing governments and international organisations, should SDG3 truly be the world's top priority?

Debate it!



Where can I learn more?

1. Watch Concern's explainer video on the SDGs
2. Learn more about a life-saving healthcare app here
3. Use the Concern Debates Trello Board
4. Listen to our Debating Development podcasts
5. Find our SDG lesson resources on our website
6. Continue your learning with our Speak Act Do programme

What can I do next?

Raise awareness

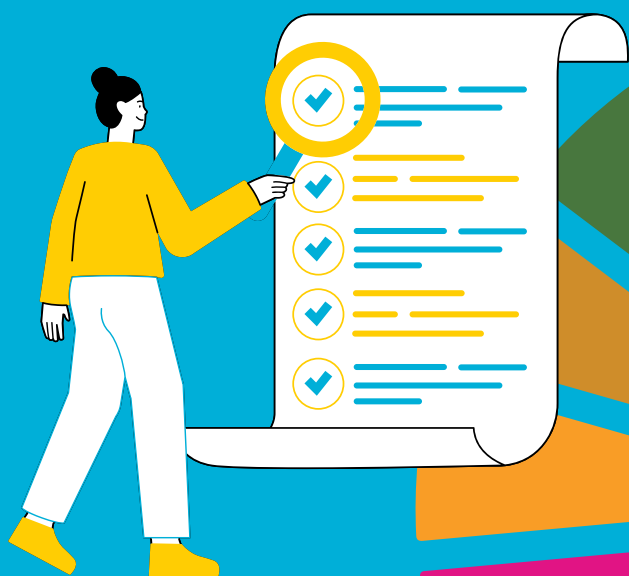
Organisations like Irish Heart Foundation have campaigns like this one

Join a campaign

Support a project with Mental Health Ireland or another organisation

Connect with others

Joining a group or volunteering is a great way to improve your wellbeing. Why not check out our alumni programme Concern Connect!



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

