



2015 - 2016

Model Arab League

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers

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National
Council
on US-
Arab
Relations



Original draft by Emily Bless, Chair of the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers at the 2016 National University Model Arab League, with contributions from the dedicated staff and volunteers at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Honorable Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2015-2016 Model Arab League season and the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers. My name is Emily Bless and it is an honor and privilege to serve as your Chair for the National University Model Arab League Conference. I am a senior at Mercer University in Macon, GA pursuing a double major in International Affairs and French as well as a minor in Spanish. This is my fourth year participating in Model Arab League program and I am looking forward to all the great opportunities this year holds. I am so grateful for all the knowledge and debate I have gained from each of the conferences I attended and the opportunity to be a part of the 2014 Qatar Exchange Fellowship program. I encourage each of you to take advantage of all the opportunities you have through the Model Arab League program and to enjoy every conference you have the opportunity to attend.

The Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers is an integral part of the Arab League. The topics you will address below cover significant and current challenges faced by the region. As delegates, it is your role to find solutions and successfully create resolutions tailored to these issues, while still following your country's policies. I encourage each of you to research your country's policies on each individual topic as well as other challenges facing the region, so that you will arrive to the conference fully prepared.

I look forward to meeting you all and to a successful and productive Council.

Best of Luck,

Emily Bless

Topic I: Addressing literacy amongst Arab populations, with special emphasis on those in areas of conflict.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

Literacy, the ability to read and write, among citizens of the Middle East and North Africa region has dramatically increased in the past 50 years. The region has quadrupled its average level of schooling and halved its illiteracy rate; the Arab world has almost reached gender parity for primary education. The adult literacy rate rose from 59% in 1990 to 78% in 2010.¹ Though the rise in overall literacy is a major achievement for the Arab world, the region still struggles to achieve global literacy standards, especially in areas of heavy conflict.

Recent regional developments, such as the Arab Spring, the Syrian civil war, the Yemeni proxy war, and the rise of Daesh², have had negative impacts on the quality of many educational institutions. Many of the region's advances have been overshadowed by these conflicts. Seen as symbols of western influence, schools are oftentimes specifically targeted by extremists groups. This fact deters students from seeking an education. Additionally, if an extremist group is able to destroy a school, its students have no other schools to attend nearby. Perhaps the most pressing problem is the lack of education available to refugee populations. Refugees, after fleeing their home nations for fear of political or social persecution, settle in refugee camps located in neighboring nations. Although these camps are meant to be temporary, refugees often have no choice but to remain in these host nations for years. Although these camps offer basic amenities, most are unable to offer reliable schooling for children.

B. History in the Arab World

All Arab League members seek to offer public education to its citizens. In the past few decades, Arab nations have generally improved upon the number of educational opportunities available to citizens. In addition to primary education, governments have worked to improve access to secondary education. Arab nations have also increased the number of government scholarships for university levels students. The average Arab nation spends 5.3% of its overall GDP on the

¹ "Middle East and North Africa." *Education in the Middle East and North Africa*. The World Bank, 26 Jan. 2014. Web. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/mena/brief/education-in-mena>

² Throughout MAL Background Guides, we have attempted to simplify and clarify word usage in reference to the group known alternately as Islamic State, ISIS, ISIL etc. by consistently labeling it 'Daesh,' a widely used name derived from the group's Arabic acronym and one which the group itself despises.

investment of public education. Consequently, the literacy and educational attainment rates of the labor force dramatically improved in almost all countries.³

Besides the rise of conflict, one of the reasons Middle East nations struggle to provide education is the sheer number of school-aged children within their borders. The region's youth population, which encompasses all citizens under the age of 24, has been growing at an unforeseen rate. In the next fifteen years, the number of Arab children is expected to rise by 10 million. This poses a particular problem for Arab nations, as the demand for educational tools, such as schools, textbooks, and teachers, will increase dramatically. This phenomenon, known as the "youth bulge," will have drastic effects on literacy rates, unless countries are able to increase their supply of education.⁴

A lack of education has lasting effects on an individual's livelihood. Employers in the Arab world report that only about one third of newly graduated hires are prepared for the workforce. As globalization continues, companies have greater freedom in choosing who they hire, meaning that, if Arab citizens are unqualified for positions, companies may simply hire outside the Middle East region. This phenomenon could be detrimental to the Arab world's economy.⁵

C. Finding a Solution: Past Present and Future

While addressing the issue of literacy in the Arab world, the Council will need to consider both short-term and long-term solutions. Short-term solutions will be particularly beneficial to populations that already severely lack access to education. For example, founding schools in refugee camps will immediately deliver education to refugee populations. Long-term solutions might involve re-thinking a country's approach to its education system and how it is funded.

Attention should be paid to citizens living in conflict areas, because it is in these regions that access to education is most precarious. Delegates should discuss whether all member states are obligated to aid in providing education to all residents in the Arab world, or whether educational programs should be established domestically. The Council might consider developing educational initiatives specifically targeting minority ethnic or religious groups, as well as girls and women. Solutions should provide plans to continue the growth of literacy in both areas of conflict and in areas of peace.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

³ Zakharia, Zeena, and Lesley Bartlett. "Literacy Education in Conflict and Crisis Affected Contexts." US Agency for International Development, May 2014. Web.
<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2155/Literacy%20Education%20in%20Crisis%20FINAL.pdf>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

- What is the current education situation in your country? What is the ratio of boys to girls attending school?
- How have conflicts in the region affected the accessibility of education in your country?
- How is my country adapting to conflicts and providing education for all residents?
- Is your country home to refugees who are unable to access adequate education?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- What can the League do to address access to education in areas of conflict?
- What can the League do to maintain the rise in overall average literacy rate in all member states?
- How can the League prepare for the “youth bulge?”
- How can the League provide access to education to all residents throughout the region?

IV. Resources to Review

<http://www.worldbank.org/education/strategy/MENA-E.pdf>

<http://www.gial.edu/documents/gialens/Vol4-2/Magin-Arab-Illiteracy.pdf>

http://www.unesco.org/education/uie/pdf/country/arab_world.pdf

Topic II: Combating cross-border criminal activities with negative societal impacts including but not limited to human trafficking and drug smuggling.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

The Council will define a “cross-border criminal activity” as an illegal scheme carried out in more than one nation. This type of organized crime causes “negative societal impacts,” damaging a country’s economy, institutions, and reputation. Two of the most common cross-border crimes in the Middle East, which have plagued the region for centuries, are drug smuggling and human trafficking. “Drug smuggling” refers to the illegal transportation of drugs over international borders. Although precise data concerning illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption in the region is limited, the production of cannabis is known to be especially common. Morocco, Egypt, and Lebanon are major world producers of cannabis resin, and drug traffickers in these nations disseminate their products throughout the Middle East. Ongoing political instability in the region makes the Middle East especially vulnerable to illegal drug trafficking.⁶

“Human trafficking,” the illegal transportation and sale of human beings, constitutes another major cross-border crime in the Arab world. Human trafficking in the Middle East consists of the transportation and sale of migrant workers, children, and sex slaves. Migrant workers make up the majority of humans trafficked throughout the Middle East. The International Labor Organization estimates that 3.4 of every 1,000 individuals are forced to work against their will. Migrant workers are kept under duress in poor living conditions, are not compensated for their labor, and are unable to leave without severe punishment.⁷ Children are often trafficked and used as jockeys for camel racing in the region. These children are usually malnourished and are also kept in unacceptable housing facilities. Lastly, sex trafficking, though not as prevalent, does occur in the Middle East. Temporary marriages, which allow men to marry women for only a short period of time, are often used as a way to legally engage in prostitution. Many Arab nations do not exclusively prohibit sex trafficking, making it a difficult crime to punish under law.⁸

B. History in Arab World

⁶ “Middle East/ North Africa.” *Middle East/ North Africa*. International Drug Policy Consortium, 2014. Web. <http://idpc.net/policy-advocacy/regional-work/middle-east-north-africa>

⁷ “Overview: ILO Report on Human Trafficking in the Middle East.” Migrant-Rights.org, 3 Apr. 2013. Web. <http://www.migrant-rights.org/2013/04/overview-ilo-report-on-human-trafficking-in-the-middle-east/>

⁸ Dudley, Schuyler. “Monetary Issues in the Middle East and North Africa Region.” *Topical Research Digest: Human Rights and Human Trafficking* (2013): 2013. Web. <http://www.du.edu/korbel/hrhw/researchdigest/trafficking/MiddleEast.pdf>

Policymakers have identified a strong link between drug smuggling and terrorist organizations. The Drug Enforcement Administration has connected 19 of the 43 designated foreign terrorist organizations to the drug trade. After September 11, 2001, the United States was able to identify and prosecute many terrorist organization's private donors. In the absence of these funds, many groups have entered the narcotics market in order to supplement their revenue. These new funds help finance training, security, equipment, infrastructure, and recruitment.⁹ The al-Qaeda affiliates responsible for the 2004 Madrid train bombings funded this attack almost exclusively through their involvement in the drug trade.¹⁰

In April of 2013, the International Labor Organization convened its first Regional Conference on Human Trafficking in the Arab Region. The report highlighted the forced labor practices in the industries of agriculture, fishing, construction, and animal herding. The ILO interviewed trafficked migrant labors from all over the Middle East region. Migrant workers often fall victim to deceptive recruitment tactics, unaware of an employer's illegal tendencies. Trafficked individuals may live in dangerous conditions and work for more than 10 hours per day.¹¹ The report identified the Kafala system, in which migrant workers are sponsored by their employers, as a major enabler of migrant worker exploitation.¹² Employers maintain legal responsibility for their domestic workers, meaning they are allowed to restrict workers' movements and confiscate their passports. Thus, this system often prevents trafficked individuals from leaving their coercive employers.¹³

C. Finding a Solution: Past Present and Future

The 2013 ILO report on human trafficking in the Arab region outlined several policy suggestions to eradicate trafficking. One recommendation suggested labor ministries oversee the process of labor recruitment by recruitment agencies and handle worker allegations of employer abuse. Another suggestion involved granting workers immunity from the prosecution of illegal acts when their involvement was coerced. The ILO report also encouraged the establishment of an accreditation system, which would certify employment agencies known to promote fair labor practices.¹⁴

⁹ Braun, Michael. "Drug Trafficking and Middle Eastern Terrorist Groups: A Growing Nexus?" The Washington Institute, 25 July 2008. Web. <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/drug-trafficking-and-middle-eastern-terrorist-groups-a-growing-nexus>.

¹⁰ "Spain Train Bombings Fast Facts." CNN, 11 March, 2015. Web. <http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/04/world/europe/spain-train-bombings-fast-facts/>, and Braun, Michael. "Drug Trafficking and Middle Eastern Terrorist Groups: A Growing Nexus?"

¹¹ "Overview: ILO Report on Human Trafficking in the Middle East."

¹² "Tricked and Trapped: How Migrant Workers are Getting a Raw Deal in the Middle East." International Labor Organization, 9 Apr. 2013. Web. http://www.ilo.org/beirut/media-centre/news/WCMS_211162/lang--en/index.htm.

¹³ "Overview: ILO Report on Human Trafficking in the Middle East."

¹⁴ Ibid.

The Council will need to find solutions that target both human trafficking and drug smuggling together, as well as individual solutions that address the smaller sectors of each crime. For example, delegates might discuss measures that will tighten border security throughout the region. This kind of broad solution would make the transportation of drugs and humans more difficult, deterring smugglers and traffickers from participating in these illegal activities. These comprehensive solutions must be realistic and sustainable. The Council must identify more specific, individual solutions designed to tackle one type of cross-border crime. These might include some of the suggestions recommended in the ILO's report on human trafficking, such as the increased involvement of labor ministries in the recruitment process. Delegates might also consider implementing school programs teaching children how to best avoid child traffickers. Lastly, the Council should examine the links between terrorist organizations and the narcotics market and create new measures to combat the drug trade.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What kinds of cross-border criminal activities are prevalent in your country and countries surrounding yours?
- What has your country done to prevent and eliminate human trafficking and drug smuggling?
- Are there terrorist organizations operating in your country that are involved in the illicit sale of drugs?
- What institutions and organizations has your country worked with in order to prevent these criminal activities?
- Have your country's policies preventing smuggling and trafficking been successful?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- What overarching policies can the League implement to prevent cross-border criminal activities such as human trafficking and drug smuggling?
- What specific policies can the League implement to reduce the number of individuals affected by human trafficking?
- Do these policies need to be specific to different groups, such as sex slaves, children, and migrant workers?
- How do these criminal activities hinder the League's goals and the Arab world as a whole?
- How can the League work to decrease the incentives enticing terrorist organizations to enter the international drug trade?

IV. Resources to Review

[Human Trafficking in the Middle East](#)

[The Intersection of Middle Eastern Terrorist Groups and Drug Trafficking](#)

[Human Trafficking in the Middle East and North Africa Region](#)

Topic III: Considering the environments and conditions, which increase the risk of radicalization by and recruitment for extremist groups, and establishing tactics to prevent or counter them.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

The Council will define “radicalization” as the process by which an individual adopts increasingly extreme political, social or religious ideals and beliefs. Radicalized individuals disapprove of views besides their own and go to great lengths to achieve their extreme goals. They often organize into “extremist groups” in the hopes of forwarding their radical agenda. Aiming to increase membership, extremist groups recruit individuals from the poorest and most disorganized regions. Extremist groups prosper in areas that boast little legitimate government infrastructure. They set up their own governments and even provide necessities and amenities to their host population in order to retain support.¹⁵

Young men and women make up the demographic most susceptible to radicalization. Arab youth living in areas of civil unrest or war are especially vulnerable, because individuals in these regions are less likely to have legitimate opportunities. As unemployment in affected regions rises and individuals become increasingly discontent with their failing governments, extremist groups use convincing propaganda to recruit young members. These radical organizations gain supporters by identifying a common enemy and promoting the notion that extremism will help defeat said opponent. Young Arabs are attracted to extremist groups because they provide a sense of identity, belonging, and cohesiveness. A youth can become radicalized by a group of friends or online through a host of social networking sites.¹⁶

B. History in Arab World

While other demographics are also susceptible to radicalization, the increase of youth involvement in extremist organizations within the past decade is especially concerning. Any young person with access to the Internet can become radicalized via propaganda websites, radical forums on social media sites, and other online platforms frequented by extremist groups. Adolescents recruited by radical organizations can serve as soldiers, financiers, “lookouts,” or recruiters. In organizations such as Al-Qaeda, Daesh, and Al-Shabaab, Arab youth have been

¹⁵ Walter, Barbra. “Why Extremism Thrives in the Middle East Today.” *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 12 Feb. 2015. Web. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/02/12/why-extremism-thrives-in-the-middle-east-today/>

¹⁶Bizina, Margarita, and David Gray. "Radicalization of Youth as a Growing Concern for Counter-Terrorism Policy." *Global Security Studies* 5.1 (2014): n. pag. Web. <<http://globalsecuritystudies.com/Bizina%20Youth-AG.pdf>>.

recruited to carry out attacks on specific targets.¹⁷ Al-Shabaab in particular is suspected of reaching out to Somali-Americans online.¹⁸ Al-Qaeda and Daesh both produce propaganda videos to appeal to the youngest generation. Many of these videos depict young children expressing their allegiance to senior members, and some of these films are used to train new recruits.¹⁹

A study published by the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs in 2011 found that “the ability to find gainful employment and the ability to have freedom of movement (encampment vs. open camp policies)” are two factors helping to determine whether or not an individual succumbs to radicalism.²⁰ Arabs living in refugee camps have little access to both employment opportunities and freedom of movement. Because nearly all refugees living in camps are poor and reliant on others, they are extremely vulnerable to radicalization. As the number of Arab refugees grows, the threat of radical and extremist activity within refugee camps rises dramatically.

C. Finding a Solution: Past Present and Future

A possible solution to radicalization comes in the form of rehabilitation. Saudi Arabia recently established rehabilitation centers that use counterterrorism methods to de-radicalize extremists. Since these programs began in 2004, more than 3,000 men have graduated from the centers. Individuals are de-radicalized via religious education and psychological counseling; ultimately, the program is supposed to allow previously radical individuals to reintegrate into society. However, these programs are not always successful for each individual, as some return to their respective extremist organizations after graduation.²¹ The League might encourage research on such programs’ success rates and the continued development of treatment plans. It is important to accept that de-radicalization programs cannot successfully reintegrate every extremist back into society. However, as these initiatives are still in their infancy, they are worth exploring.

¹⁷ "Recruitment and Radicalization of School-Aged Youth by International Terrorist Groups." *Homeland Security Institute* (2009): n. pag. 23 Apr. 2009. Web. <<http://www.cleanitproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/2009-recruitment-and-radicalization.pdf>>.

¹⁸ Bott, Catherine. "The Internet as a Terrorist Tool for Recruitment and Radicalization of Youth." U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Science and Technology Directorate, 24 Apr. 2009. Web. http://www.homelandsecurity.org/docs/reports/Internet_Radicalization.pdf.

¹⁹ "Recruitment and Radicalization of School-Aged Youth." *Homeland Security Institute*.

²⁰ Martin-Rayo, Francisco. "Countering Radicalization in Refugee Camps: How Education Can Help Defeat AQAP." Working Paper, The Dubai Initiative, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, June 2011. http://belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu/files/Countering_radicalization-Martin-Rayo.pdf.

²¹ Taylor, Adam. "Saudi Arabia Says 12 Percent of Its ‘Rehabilitated’ Terrorists Have Returned to Terror." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 28 Nov. 2014. Web. <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2014/11/28/saudi-arabia-says-12-percent-of-its-rehabilitated-terrorists-have-returned-to-terror/>>.

The Council should focus on both preemptive measures that discourage the initial radicalization of youth, as well as reactive initiatives that aid in the de-radicalization process. Preventative programs might include counter-recruitment and counter-radicalization initiatives tailored to local populations. These initiatives should engage not only youth themselves, but also adults who can identify and address specific factors leading to radicalization. These preemptive programs must evolve with the young audiences that they are intending to reach, meaning they must adapt to the latest forms of technology used to recruit youth.

Because they provide an opportune recruitment environment, extremist groups are likely to take advantage of refugee camps. The Council must thus consider how best to counter radicalism among refugee populations. Solutions might include increasing refugee freedom within camps. Providing job training in camps might also encourage refugees to seek legitimate employment opportunities instead of radicalism. Lastly, the Council should consider providing better education in refugee camps, especially to members of the youngest generation. This solution may counteract extremist groups' attempts to recruit new members.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- How has radicalization affected your country?
- What are the environments and conditions most likely to lead to radicalization?
- What tactics are radical organizations using to recruit youths?
- Which populations within your country are most vulnerable to radicalization?
- Does your country host refugee populations? If so, are these refugees being recruited by radical organizations?
- What specific policies has your country enacted intended to combat and prevent radicalization?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- What can the League do to prevent youth involvement in and recruitment to extremist groups?
- What policies can the League enact that will deter radicalization within refugee populations?
- How can education play a role in counteracting radicalization?
- Can and should the League support attempts to de-radicalize extremists through rehabilitation programs?

IV. Resources to Review

[Youth Involvement in Violent Extremism](#)

[ISIS and the Institution of Online Terrorist Recruitment](#)

[Countering Radicalization in Refugee Camps: How Education Can Help Defeat AQAP](#)

[The Internet as a Terrorist Tool for Recruitment and Radicalization of Youth](#)

[What is ISIS' Appeal For Young People?](#)

Topic IV: Examining disparities in access to healthcare in order to protect against and prevent epidemics and outbreaks.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

“Healthcare” refers to the maintenance and improvement of physical and mental wellbeing through the provision of medical services and supplies. An individual’s access to healthcare greatly improves his/her living conditions and quality of life. According to a World Bank report, the Middle East’s health challenges are becoming increasingly similar to those of western nations. For example, though communicable diseases have declined in the past few years, non-communicable diseases are actually on the rise. These diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, are causing premature death and disability. In addition, preterm births and maternity complications continue to plague the Middle East. The number of individuals diagnosed with psychiatric diseases, such as depression, is increasing as well. The World Bank’s report, published in 2013, identified high blood pressure, obesity, and poor diets as some of the Middle East’s most concerning health challenges.²²

Throughout the Arab world, access to healthcare has generally increased in the past decades. However, the issue of healthcare equity is still very relevant in the region. Although healthcare might be available to a majority of a population, some groups still have restricted access to medical care. This is especially relevant to individuals living in rural regions, where medical facilities, as well as pharmaceuticals, are scarcer and often difficult to reach.²³

The Middle East remains vulnerable to an “epidemic,” the widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community or region. The spread of a communicable disease throughout the Middle East could affect millions of individuals. The region needs a strong healthcare system in order to prevent, and possibly treat, epidemics.

B. History in Arab World

²² "In Middle East and North Africa, Health Challenges Are Becoming Similar to Those in Western Countries." *In Middle East and North Africa, Health Challenges Are Becoming Similar to Those in Western Countries*. World Bank, 4 Sept. 2013. Web. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2013/09/04/middle-east-north-Africa-health-challenges-similar-western-countries>

²³ Al-Abbadi Bpharm, Ibrahim. "POLICY ANALYSIS - Health Care Equity Issues in Middle East." *POLICY ANALYSIS - Health Care Equity Issues in Middle East*. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, 10 Nov. 2008. Web. <http://www.ispor.org/news/articles/july09/hce.asp>

The discovery of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) has caused increased concern for the possibility of a widespread epidemic in the Middle East. The viral disease, first detected in Saudi Arabia in 2012, kills about three or four out of every 10 individuals diagnosed. The disease is transmitted through the spread of a patient's respiratory secretions. Animals, especially livestock, often carry the disease and are able to infect humans. Although the spread of the disease has been relatively controlled as of yet, the lack of a vaccination suggests that an outbreak in a highly populated area could lead to a more widespread epidemic.²⁴ Infectious diseases are more easily spread in large cities, as well as refugee camps. Refugees living in close quarters, sharing water and nutritional sources, are especially at risk for the spread of communicable diseases. A few cases of one disease could become a camp-wide epidemic if not treated and eradicated quickly.

Since the 1950s, the Middle Eastern region has benefited greatly from modern medical practices such as immunizations, antibiotics, and general sanitation. The Arab population has thus grown rapidly, as the region has seen a decline in infant mortality. In the 1950s, almost 200 deaths occurred for every 1,000 live births; this rate has fallen to around 50 deaths for every 1,000 live births. As its population increases, the Middle East has struggled in recent decades to provide healthcare to its citizens. Expanding healthcare to serve a larger population will be quite expensive, especially as the large youth population in the region begins to age. With a growing population, the Middle East is also expanding its citizens' access to reproductive health. These services include the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and safe childbearing practices. Most Middle East nations provide family planning information as part of their primary health care services.²⁵

C. Finding a Solution: Past Present and Future

Delegates should discover ways to strengthen healthcare policies and access to healthcare throughout the Middle Eastern region. Particularly, the Council should identify solutions to improve access to healthcare in rural areas. These might include League-wide initiatives to increase the number of medical facilities in these regions, or individual state policies intended to improve transportation to and from existing healthcare facilities and pharmaceutical distribution centers. In addition to providing access, the Council should develop policies that expand resources for Arabs suffering from mental illnesses. Lastly, the League should identify the

²⁴ "Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web. <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/about/index.html>.

²⁵ Roudi, Farzaneh. "Population Trends and Challenges in the Middle East and North Africa." *Population Trends and Challenges in the Middle East and North Africa*. Population Reference Bureau, n.d. Web.

<http://www.prb.org/Publications/Reports/2001/PopulationTrendsandChallengesintheMiddleEastandNorthAfrica.asp>

regions within the Middle East in which epidemics are most likely to occur. Specifically, the Council should consider how diseases might spread quickly through refugee camps and how the League can prevent epidemics from infecting refugee populations.

II. Questions to consider in Your Research

- What are the Healthcare policies and systems in your country?
- Which populations within your country are particularly lacking in access to healthcare facilities?
- How could your country improve healthcare in your country?
- Which populations are at particular risk for the spread of communicable diseases such as MERS?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- How can the League strengthen healthcare policies and access?
- Which healthcare policies should be adopted by all member states, and which policies should be specific to certain nations?
- What healthcare initiatives can the League institute to improve access to mental health facilities and medications?
- How can the League limit the spread of communicable diseases in particularly at-risk populations such as refugees?

IV. Resources to Review

- <http://www.economist.com/events-conferences/emea/health-care-middle-east-north-africa>
- <http://www.hcmena.com/>
- <http://www.kantarhealth.com/docs/datasheets/mena-key-diseases--syndicated-reports.pdf?sfvrsn=12>
- [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)60025-8/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)60025-8/abstract)