

Health, Education, Development & Global Security

By Eliot SOREL MD*

Health and education are essential for sustainable development across low-, middle-, and high-income economies. Health, education, and development together as a well-integrated cluster are essential to global security.

Huge disparities abound among nations regarding these dimensions accompanied by poverty, creating and contributing to the seeds of disaffection, exclusion, anger, and decreasing the threshold for violent, antisocial behavior globally.

The World Bank initiative on buttressing the role of *education* as one of the tools of poverty eradication is commendable. It must be accompanied by similar initiatives focusing on closing the *health gap*, a challenge well documented by Sir Michael Marmot, the President of the World Medical Association, in his most recent book, *The Health Gap*. The health gap, regrettably prevails in the world, decreases life expectancy, the quality of life and undermines the countries economies.

At the most recent UN Security Council session in New York on 16-17 December, presided by US Secretary of State John Kerry, the Council unanimously adopted a joint Russian-American resolution for a political solution to the ongoing Syrian conflict that had killed more than 250,000 and displaced more than 4 million people impairing their health, education and undermining the regions economies. A kindred political will and convergence was displayed at the Climate Change accords in Paris, France. Both initiatives renew hope in new possibilities for political solutions to benefit humankind.

We urgently need a similar political will to design, allocate the necessary resources and execute an implementation plan for a comprehensive global initiative *a la Marshall Plan* focusing on health, education and development to enhance life, wellbeing and global security for all nations, across the life cycle and across economies.

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