

UNIT 2:

Lesson 2: Child Survival — Problems and Solutions

Suggested Class Time: 90 Minutes

Objectives:

- To consider some of the challenges to child survival;
- To explore several of the simple effective and affordable solutions to these challenges.

Session Plan:

- Learning about Solutions: 45 Minutes
- Group Presentations: 35 Minutes
- Wrapping Up: 10 Minutes

Vocabulary:

dehydration, immunization, insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs), malaria, micronutrient, nutrients, oral rehydration salts (ORS), oral rehydration therapy (ORT), pneumonia, under-five mortality rate (U5MR), undernutrition

Tip: Definitions for these Vocabulary items are in the Glossary on page 38 of the *Youth Report*.

Materials Needed:

- *Child Survival: A Global Challenge*: Chapter 2
- Newsprint/Chalkboard/Whiteboard
- Markers

Learning About Solutions

Directions

1. Have students read page 12 of the *Youth Report*. Facilitate a general discussion about the information in the chart.

Tip: If time permits, create an overhead of page 12 and cover columns 2 and 3, showing only column 1. Ask students to speculate about why each item in column 1 is a problem. Then reveal and discuss the information in columns 2 and 3.

2. Divide students into four groups to report on inexpensive, simple solutions to life-threatening problems described in the *Youth Report*, Chapter 2. Assign malaria to Group 1; preventable diseases (such as measles) to Group 2; undernutrition to Group 3; and lack of safe drinking water to Group 4. Groups can find information in the Solving Problems chart in the *Youth Report*.

Group Presentations

Directions

Ask the groups to report their findings. Encourage students to use creative presentations methods including a skit or a panel discussion.

 **Tip: If possible, extend the preparation time so students can develop presentation formats, such as a song, a series of drawings, or a large mural.**

Wrapping Up

Directions

1. Facilitate a group discussion on these three questions (from page 20 of the *Youth Report*):
 - What are three major causes of under-five child deaths around the world?
 - Which intervention [solution] did you find most interesting?
 - Why do you think it has been so successful?

Extension Activities: Combating Childhood Diseases

1. **Looking Back:** Many of the diseases currently affecting young children in some developing countries were once problems in this country. Refer small groups of students to page 36 of the *Youth Report* and encourage them to investigate a disease that is no longer a major cause of death for children in the United States. The disease could be polio, smallpox, or another infectious disease.

For each disease, students should answer these questions: What steps were taken to solve the problem? For polio, students can access information from the Smithsonian Institution's website at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/polio/americanepi/index.htm>.

2. **What Was It Like?** Invite students to interview older family members or friends about their memories of polio or other contagious childhood diseases in the early to mid-20th century and report their findings to the class.