THE POWER OF THE 99% TO STOP CORPORATE CAPTURE OF OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS SHOWN THAT OUR RIGHT TO HEALTH IS PARAMOUNT.

FOR MANY, THIS PANDEMIC ADDED TO DAILY HARDSHIPS IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF MASKS AND OXYGEN TANKS!

MOM, CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

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MOM, CAN WE GO HOME NOW?
Especially for those living in conflict-affected areas...

...and for those most affected by structural inequalities.

For the 99% of us, our health is a common good - a fundamental right belonging to all!

The 1% has turned our right to health into a profit-making machine.

However, for a few: our health is a commodity.

Due to corporate capture of our government decision-making, our healthcare systems are becoming more and more fragile.

For decades, corporations have poured billions of dollars into influencing regulations and public policies to privatize essential public services.
Since healthcare is being run as a profit-making machine, pharmaceutical corporations operate under the free market. Economy logic: No profit = No investment.

To make this happen we will invest billions in malaria research?? Marketing!!!

That's why vaccines and treatments aren't getting to at-risk communities, and research often focuses on products that are profitable in rich countries.

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Decades ago, corporate capture was designed under the guise of "liberalisation" to monopolize and maximize profit through free trade agreements, structural adjustment programs, the International Monetary Fund, and other multi-stakeholder bodies.

For instance, twenty-five years ago Pfizer aggressively lobbied richer governments to put in place regulations to protect intellectual property rights and patents at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

* Trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights

Until civil society challenged corporate elites to put access to treatment for HIV/AIDS on the Global Political Agenda.

As a result, national and international patent protection policies started costing us our health. During the HIV/AIDS crisis, for example, Big Pharma captured the WTO and blocked the release of patents for life-saving antiretroviral medications, devastating many at-risk communities.
Today, the profit-making machine is running at full-speed!

At times of crisis, public emergency funding is primarily allocated to corporate elites while public services remain underfunded in violation of human rights!

Billionaire deals are made, left and right — with no transparency.

And once again, corporations deployed their economic diplomacy artillery at the WTO, ignoring global calls to waive intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments...

...refusing to voluntarily share their know-how and technology that could expedite vaccine manufacturing.

The grim truth is that if governments continue to prioritize profit over people, many at-risk communities may never be vaccinated.
OUR GOVERNMENTS ARE OBLIGATED TO ENSURE THE RIGHT TO HEALTH...

...FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION...

BUT BECAUSE OF CORPORATE CAPTURE...

MEANWHILE, THE INEQUALITY IN HEALTHCARE KEEPS WIDENING AND SEGREGATING CITIZENS INTO THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD HEALTH AND THOSE WHO CANNOT.

...THEY HAVE ALLOWED CORPORATIONS TO BECOME POWERFUL ACTORS MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT OUR HEALTH.
AROUND THE WORLD, THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC, RACIAL, AND GENDER INEQUALITIES, ARE EVEN MORE VULNERABLE TO THE DEVASTATING HEALTH EFFECTS OF FRAGILE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS, ESPECIALLY DURING A PANDEMIC.

BUT GLOBALLY, GROWING VOICES ARE DEMANDING THAT WE ARE RIGHTS-HOLDERS, NOT CUSTOMERS...

...AND ARE ORGANIZING TO BUILD THE FOUNDATION FOR A SOCIETY IN WHICH THE WELL BEING OF THE 99%...

...IS AT THE CENTER OF PUBLIC POLICIES AND OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

STAY TUNED FOR OUR NEXT EPISODES ON CORPORATE CAPTURE AND VISIT ESCR-Net.ORG TO LEARN MORE.

Thank you to ESCR-Net members challenging capture around the world, whose collective analysis and actions inform this comic.

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