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Topic A: "Denying Children Access to Humanitarian Aid in Conflict Zones."



Welcoming letter

Welcome you to our CFMUN X edition. We are beyond pleased to have you as a part of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund Committee (UNICEF). Throughout these days, we will be focusing on discussing and finding solutions to the critical issues that affect children worldwide UNICEF's mission is to protect the rights and improve the lives of children globally, and your participation here plays a crucial role in achieving that goal.

As delegates, your unique perspectives and ideas will contribute to the success of this committee and ultimately promote positive change on a global scale. Remember, the goal is not only to represent your assigned country's interests but also to prioritize the well-being and rights of children worldwide.



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I. Committee Background

UNICEF, which stands for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, was established in 1946 as an international organization dedicated to improving the lives of children worldwide. It works to protect and promote the rights of children globally. Its mission is to ensure that every child has a fair chance in life, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Topics discussed include ensuring access to quality healthcare, education, nutrition, clean water, sanitation, protection from violence and exploitation, and the right to participate in decisions that affect them. It also provides humanitarian aid and support during crises such as natural disasters, conflicts, and health emergencies (UNICEF history, n.d.).

II. Introduction to the Topic

Denying children access to humanitarian aid in conflict zones is a deeply concerning issue that has severe consequences for the well-being and survival of children in these challenging circumstances. In conflict-affected areas, children are often the most affected by violence, displacement, and the disruption of essential services. So, turning down this access is just aggravating their suffering, leaving them vulnerable to malnutrition, disease, lack of education, and psychological trauma.

This also violates their basic rights, as established by International Law. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that: "Every child has the right to life, survival, development, and an adequate standard of living." Governments, armed groups, and other stakeholders have a responsibility to uphold these rights and, no matter what, ensure humanitarian access for all children (UNICEF, n.d.).

III. Evolution of the Topic

Denying access to humanitarian aid in conflict zones can be a complex and difficult issue. However, it's important to prioritize the safety and well-being of children in such situations as well as ensuring that their basic needs are met, regardless of the circumstances.

One of the six grave violations that the UN Security Council has identified and denounced is the denial of humanitarian access during a conflict, when there is an armed conflict and civilians—including children—are in dire need of aid, humanitarian access is essential.

This access being denied has been more frequent in recent times and is now recognized as one of the biggest obstacles to aid efforts.



The United Nations recorded more than 4,100 instances of children being denied access to humanitarian aid in 2020. Millions of children in armed conflict-affected nations lack access to food and medicine, putting them in danger of starvation and illness.

Children living in countries at war have come under direct attack, have been used as human shields, killed, maimed, or recruited to fight. Between 2005 and 2022, more than 315,000 grave violations were verified against children, committed by parties to conflict in more than 30 conflict situations across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. The actual number is undoubtedly far higher (UNICEF, n.d.).

IV. Relevant Events

A. Panorama

The denial of humanitarian access to civilians, including children, and attacks against humanitarian workers assisting children are prohibited under the 4th Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocols and may amount to a crime against humanity and a war crime.

The UN verified more than 3,930 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access to children in 2022. The denial of humanitarian assistance to civilians trapped or displaced by conflict has always been a reality, but it is increasingly being used as a tactic of war, examples abound of children trapped in besieged areas, or deprived of access to food, water, and medical assistance, including vaccines.

(UNICEF., n.d.).



B. Points Of View

The reasons for denying humanitarian aid to children can vary depending on the context. Several postures of relevant countries where the situation is currently happening are:

Syria: Children are suffering greatly as a result of the ongoing conflict in their country, with many of them going without food and access to basic services. Even though the Syrian government and its allies have tried to help, there have been times when access has been denied or restrictions placed on humanitarian organizations, making relief efforts more difficult.

(The New York Times,2023)

Afghanistan: The absence of humanitarian aid in this conflict-ridden country has had an impact on children as well. In an effort to help those in need, the Afghan government and foreign organizations have worked hard, but there have been times when access to vulnerable populations has been restricted because of security issues or other obstacles in the nation. (Aljazeera, 2023)

Iraq: Providing humanitarian aid to children affected by conflict has proven to be extremely difficult in Iraq, especially during the fight against ISIS. While the Iraqi government has been working to address these issues with the help of international organizations, the delivery of aid has been hampered by bureaucratic bottlenecks and security concerns. (Aljazeera, 2023)



Ukraine: Children have endured terrible humanitarian conditions as a result of the conflict in the country's east, including restricted access to healthcare and education. Aid supplies have been allegedly obstructed, access to some areas restricted, and aid being used as a political leverage tool by both the separatist forces and the Ukrainian government.

(The New York Times, 2023)

Israel: Israel's policies towards the Gaza Strip have come under fire for limiting supplies, including aid for the needy, to the region. While some believe that these restrictions are necessary for security, others believe that they will negatively impact the well-being of Gaza's children and general populace. (The New York Times, 2023)



V. UN and External Actions

A. UN Actions

The issue of denying children access to humanitarian aid in conflict zones has evolved over time, with significant attention being paid to this problem at the international level. One crucial milestone in the evolution of this topic is the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989.

The UNCRC is an international human rights treaty that sets out the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children. It provides a comprehensive framework for protecting children in various situations, including armed conflicts. Article 38 of the UNCRC specifically addresses the rights of children affected by armed conflict, emphasizing the need for their protection and access to humanitarian assistance.

It has facilitated discussions among governments, aid organizations, and civil society, urging them to recognize and prioritize children's well-being in times of crisis.

Furthermore, the UNCRC has influenced the development of international humanitarian law (IHL). IHL aims to protect civilians, including children, during armed conflicts. It establishes rules and principles to ensure the provision of essential humanitarian aid and services to affected populations. Denying children access to humanitarian aid in conflict zones contravenes the principles of IHL, and the UNCRC strengthens the accountability of state and non-state actors for such actions. (UNICEF, n.d)

B. External Actions

The problem of preventing children in conflict zones from receiving humanitarian aid has changed over time, as a result of numerous initiatives and events that have brought attention to this problem.

A lot of important projects and campaigns have been launched over the years to guarantee that kids can receive humanitarian aid. The Safe Schools Declaration is one such effort that asks for the defence of educational institutions and their student bodies in times of armed conflict, as well as the facilitation of the continuation of instruction and the provision of humanitarian aid to impacted children.

The Secretary-General's annual reports on Children and Armed Conflict have been essential in recording the abuses committed against children in conflict areas and offering suggestions to improve their safety and ability to receive humanitarian aid.

Furthermore, Save the Children and other organizations' Voices of Children and Armed Conflict campaign raises awareness among lawmakers and the public while amplifying the voices of children impacted by armed conflict and advocating for their rights, including access to humanitarian aid (Andrew,2018)



VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, the denial of humanitarian aid to children in conflict zones is a complex and deeply troubling issue. While countries may have various reasons and points of view for limiting or denying aid, it is essential to prioritize the well-being and protection of children, as enshrined in international humanitarian principles.



VII. Committee Focus

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund committee must reach a consensus on how to overcome the denial of humanitarian aid to children. Saving their lives, defending their rights, and helping them get out of dangerous situations must be put forward, and consideration of the economy of all countries must be present during the debate. When considering the possible solutions to the committee's topic, the following points must be considered:

- How can immediate access to humanitarian aid be ensured?
- Is your country affected by this matter, and if so, what is it doing to solve this?
- How can child protection measures be strengthened?
- What are the ways in which sustainable funding for humanitarian aid be secured?
- How can sustainable development be promoted in conflict-affected areas?



VII. Participation List

- Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- French Republic
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Japan
- People's Republic of China
- Republic of Albania
- Republic of Colombia
- Republic of Croatia
- Republic of Iraq
- Republic of Madagascar
- Republic of Malawi
- Republic of the Sudan
- Russian Federation
- State of Israel



- Syrian Arab Republic
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America

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