



Topic A: Protecting Displaced Children's Rights in Armed Conflict

UNICEF



OLINMUN

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I. INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),

During this debate, you will discuss the current topic: **Protecting Displaced Children's Rights in Armed Conflict.**

Millions of children are forced to leave their homes for a place defined by violence, lack of resources, and inhumane conditions. These children are extremely vulnerable to being recruited by armed groups, child labor, or human trafficking.

UNICEF is deeply concerned about this issue and expects meaningful results from this debate, whose objective is to find effective solutions to the problem.



Welcome to the Olinca Model United Nations (OLINMUN) 2026.

Yours sincerely,

LINMUN

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NOTE: We highly recommend you thoroughly read the following document and the Conference Handbooks since they will provide an overview of the topics discussed and will allow you to acquire crucial information about the rules of procedure.

II. OVERVIEW

A. COMMITTEE'S BACKGROUND

After the devastation left by World War II, in 1946, the United Nations General Assembly acted upon creating the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to provide aid and to improve the overall welfare of children and women, particularly mothers, under emergency situations. In 1953, UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations System, changing its name to the United Nations Children's Funds, although keeping the acronym. Nowadays, the UNICEF headquarters are in New York, United States and has offices in Budapest, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, Belgium, Japan and in the Republic of Korea.

UNICEF has spread to over 190 countries and territories and works with several partners around the world to promote policies and expand access to services that protect all children. The committee has helped reduce child mortality by approaching the most vulnerable children in different areas. It also supports quality learning for every child, especially those in greatest danger of being left behind due to conflicts that prejudice their integrity, reducing child poverty and shielding them from its lifelong consequences. It is of greatest importance that UNICEF continues working to reach children and families with lifesaving aid and long-term assistance.

B. COMMITTEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

For over 75 years, UNICEF has been working on ensuring children's rights and for the well-being of every child. Throughout the years, society has faced different conflicts that have put these two goals at risk. UNICEF has been at the front lines of various humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, and natural disasters, while also being able to reach more than 191 countries and territories.

As for more recent achievements, UNICEF worked as the main support in many humanitarian emergencies, most importantly the organization was part of major

interventions regarding the Ukraine and Russia's conflict, the floodings in Pakistan, and severe drought in Ethiopia.

III. PROTECTING DISPLACED CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Armed conflicts around the world continue to expose millions of children to extreme levels of violence, instability, and deprivation. As wars intensify and new crises emerge, children are increasingly forced to grow up in environments marked by insecurity, displacement, and the absence of basic services. According to UNHCR (2024), children represent approximately 40% of the global displaced population—over 132 million children who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or humanitarian emergencies. These children depend almost entirely on humanitarian assistance, yet the conditions they face severely weaken their physical, emotional, and cognitive development.

Displaced children are among the most vulnerable populations in the world, especially in regions where protection systems are ineffective or nonexistent. Without adequate safeguards, children face a high risk of being recruited by armed groups, forced into labor, exploited, abused, trafficked, or separated from their families (Human Rights Watch, 2024). The psychological impacts are equally severe. Repeated exposure to violence, instability, and loss often results in long-lasting trauma, affecting their mental health and overall well-being. Many of these children also lack civil documentation—such as birth certificates or identification—which restricts their freedom of movement, denies them legal status, and makes it significantly harder for them to access education, healthcare, or social protection.

Although an international legal framework exists to safeguard displaced and conflict-affected children, the implementation of these protections remains inconsistent. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) guarantees every child access to education, healthcare, protection, and development, regardless of their legal or displacement status. Similarly, the Geneva Conventions explicitly prohibit attacks on civilians and require

special protections for children during situations of armed conflict. However, in many conflict-affected regions—particularly where governments are unstable or institutions have collapsed—monitoring, enforcing, and implementing these legal commitments is extremely challenging.

Around the world, several ongoing conflicts highlight the scale and urgency of this issue. In Ukraine, more than 3.5 million children have been displaced or separated from their families. Beyond the dangers of conflict, harsh winters expose children to severe health risks, while the destruction of schools, hospitals, and basic infrastructure leaves them without education, medical care, and safe shelter. The collapse of essential services significantly lowers their quality of life and risks their long-term development.

In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, displacement remains the most pressing danger for children. UNICEF reports that over one million children have faced repeated emergency evacuations and prolonged periods without adequate shelter. Restricted humanitarian access—combined with the destruction of homes, schools, and hospitals—has left many without medical treatment, psychosocial support, or education. Constant exposure to violence, combined with insufficient systems of protection, has resulted in widespread trauma, making clear the gaps between international commitments and actual conditions on the ground.

Across Africa, including the Sahel, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan, children continue to suffer some of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. Armed groups frequently recruit minors, health systems are overwhelmed by disease outbreaks, and widespread hunger threatens millions. The absence of robust civil registration systems leaves many children without legal identity, increasing their risk of trafficking, exploitation, and statelessness. Geographic isolation and insecurity further restrict humanitarian access, making it difficult to deliver lifesaving services to affected communities.

Protecting displaced children in armed conflicts requires a combination of immediate humanitarian relief and long-term structural reforms. Ensuring access to education,

adequate nutrition, psychosocial support, clean water, healthcare, and safe living conditions is crucial to restoring dignity and safeguarding their futures. At the same time, the international community must strengthen monitoring mechanisms, promote responsibility for violations against children, and reinforce legal protections to ensure that displacement never justifies the denial of a child's fundamental rights.

IV. KEY POINTS FOR DEBATE

1. Protection of children
 - a. Assess the impact of armed conflict on children's physical and emotional well-being.
 - b. Discuss the role of reintegration programs in supporting displaced children's recovery and development.
2. Provision of basic needs
 - a. Explore realistic solutions to provide consistent access to food, clean water, shelter, and quality healthcare.
3. Access to legal documentation
 - a. Address the lack of identification among displaced children.
 - b. Evaluate how the absence of documentation limits access to education, healthcare, and freedom of movement.
4. Application of international and national laws
 - a. Ensure fair application of child-protection laws.
 - b. Evaluate mechanisms to protect the safety and rights of displaced children in conflict zones.
5. Exposure to violence
 - a. Assess the impacts of violence on the development and growth of displaced children.
 - b. Propose strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and prevent exploitation and abuse.
6. International agreements and long-term solutions

- a. Identify strategies to guarantee citizenship, safety, education, and long-term stability for displaced children.
- b. Discuss international funding and cooperation for reintegration and protection programs.

IV. ANNEXES

A. LIST OF COUNTRIES

- 1. Afghanistan
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. Canada
- 4. Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 5. France
- 6. Germany
- 7. India
- 8. Indonesia
- 9. Israel
- 10. Malaysia
- 11. Myanmar
- 12. Norway
- 13. Pakistan
- 14. Palestine (observer)
- 15. Philippines
- 16. Russian Federation
- 17. Sudan
- 18. Thailand
- 19. Ukraine
- 20. United Kingdom
- 21. United States of America



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