



## Topic B: Rohingya Children Refugee Crisis

UNICEF



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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: **Rohingya Children Refugee Crisis**

About half a million children are growing up in the largest refugee camp. Here, they not only depend on humanitarian help but also have limited access to basic human rights, such as water, food, shelter, education, and healthcare. Additionally, children live with constant violence and the uncertainty of not having citizenship. Children deserve the opportunity to live a stable, dignified life.

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



Yours sincerely,

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Head of Committee of UNICEF

**Natalia Santos Cepeda**

Chair of UNICEF

**Juan Pablo López Arce**

Moderator of UNICEF

**Annie Schmidt Córdova**

Deputy Chair of UNICEF

**NOTE: We highly recommend you thoroughly read the following document and the Delegate Handbook. We expect they will provide an overview of the topics discussed and 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. ROHINGYA CHILDREN REFUGEE CRISIS

The Rohingya crisis remains one of the most persistent and severe humanitarian emergencies in the world. The refugee settlements host more than 1.4 million people, with approximately 60% being children. Many of these children have spent their entire lives in displacement, knowing no reality outside the confines of overcrowded camps, uncertainty, and rights deprivation.

The crisis intensified in 2017, when violent military operations in Myanmar triggered the mass displacement of more than 740,000 Rohingya people into Bangladesh. However, the roots of the crisis date back to 1982, when Myanmar passed a citizenship law that effectively declared the Rohingya stateless by excluding them from the country's list of recognized ethnic groups. This decision denied them access to basic rights such as education, employment, healthcare, freedom of movement, and political participation. Decades of discrimination, marginalization, and repetitive waves of violence since the 1990s have created a cycle of instability and trauma that continues today.

The living conditions in the refugee camps remain severe. These settlements are composed of temporary shelters with limited infrastructure—especially vulnerable to natural disasters such as monsoon floods and cyclones. In 2022, severe flooding affected over 200,000 refugees, damaging homes and contaminating water sources. Access to clean water and proper sanitation is extremely limited, contributing to outbreaks of diseases including cholera and dengue. Medical care is insufficient, with an estimated one doctor per 10,000 refugees.

Malnutrition is widespread, threatening the development of more than 100,000 children. Education is equally compromised: UNICEF reports that around 500,000 Rohingya children lack access to formal, quality schooling due to a shortage of trained teachers,

restricted curricula, and insufficient learning spaces. Beyond physical hardships, the psychological toll is immense—approximately 70% of Rohingya children experience psychological distress, often linked to witnessing violence, surviving attacks, or losing family members.

Girls and women face heightened risks of sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, and trafficking. Without legal recognition or citizenship, Rohingya children remain vulnerable to abuse and discrimination, with no formal protections or pathways to secure their future.

Although numerous humanitarian organizations and NGOs support the Rohingya population, the scale of the crisis requires far greater international commitment. Sustainable solutions must include economic support, political cooperation, and long-term planning. Ensuring access to education, healthcare, food, clean water, and opportunities for growth is essential not only for meeting immediate needs but also for securing a dignified and stable future for Rohingya children.



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#### **IV. KEY POINTS FOR DEBATE**

1. Global awareness and surveillance
  - a. Addressing international cooperation to ensure that Rohingyas can rely on humanitarian assistance for basic humanitarian needs.
  - b. Must increase funding, political pressure and humanitarian resources.
2. Protection of children
  - a. Addressing protection to children from malnutrition, lack of education, sexual or gender based violence and exploitation.
3. Access to citizenship and systematic discrimination
  - a. Denial of citizenship results in lack of access to education, health, rights, employment and any freedom of movement.
  - b. Lack of legal documents to prove citizenship is due to displacement and violence.

4. Law enforcement and recognition
  - a. Possible establishment of international investigations or tribunals to ensure security and children rights protections.
  - b. Equal law enforcement and recognition.
5. International Agreements
  - a. Long-term solutions must guarantee citizenship, safety, education, and stability for Rohingya children.
  - b. International funding and support for aid and development programs.
6. Regional cooperation and diplomatic engagement
  - a. Role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and neighboring states in conflict resolution.
  - b. Diplomatic pressure to stop violence and ensure safe repatriation.

## 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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