



UNICEF STUDY GUIDE

WGS MODEL UNITED
NATIONS 2020



unicef

WGS MUN UNSC COMMITTEE
WOCKHARDT GLOBAL SCHOOL



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Introduction to the Chair & Vice-Chair

Chair: Aadesh Tikhey Patil



Hello delegates,

I am Aadeshh Tikhey Patil and I will be the chair of the UNICEF committee. I am a student of DP-1 at Wockhardt Global School. I wish we will work together to make an improvement in the issue of child labour and other problems faced by children globally.

Vice-Chair: Prashant Kumar Jha

Hello Delegates,

I am Prashant Kumar Jha and I will be the vice-chair of UNICEF committee. I hope you will enjoy the session with me. I am a student of MYP-5 at Wockhardt Global School. I have past 1-year experience of MUN. I hope we will find good solution to the child labour problems as well as the problem of children in areas that face war.





Letter from Chair

Dear Delegates,

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) committee of Wockhardt Model United Nation India, which is to be held on Zoom from Friday, 18/09/2020 to Sunday, 20/09/2020.

Besides academics, I spend most of my time working for UNICEF. I am eager to see you all at the conference. I believe that all of you are excited to be a part of this conference in which we will discuss about 'SAFETY OF CHILDREN AT THE TIME OF WAR WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CHILD LABOR IN SYRIA.' I wish that we will work in order to make an improvement in this area. Besides, it's you all who need to analyse the global issue which severely affects children, not only limiting to the Syrian Crisis, but also in other parts of the world where child labour and many other such issues can be solved by the peaceful discussion and cooperation of all the countries present in the committee. I hope we will find solutions and collaborate to contribute for a better future. Looking forward to seeing you. Thank you!

- Aadeshh Tikhey Patil
(Chair of UNICEF COMMITTEE)

Letter from Vice-Chair

Distinguished Delegates,

I welcome you to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) committee of WGS MUN 2020! I am thrilled to be a part of this committee and very eager to meet you all. It is our very first MUN and we have tried our best to give you one of the top most experiences of MUN. I hope that you enjoy the UNICEF committee. I postulate that you all are energized to be part of an intense 3 days conference where we will be discussing about one of the most prominent issues that are related to the 'SAFETY OF CHILDREN AT THE TIME OF WAR WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CHILD LABOR IN SYRIA'. I guess you all will have numerous solutions to the issues like child labour and problems faced by children at war. We would be looking forward to seeing a global solution which could be implemented at a local level. I hope you will make new friends and learn a lot from this conference. Looking forward to seeing you!

- Prashant Kumar Jha
(VICE-CHAIR of UNICEF COMMITTEE)



Introduction of the Committee



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), originally known by the name United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, was created by the United Nations General Assembly (UN-GA) on 11th December 1946 through the resolution 57(1) to provide emergency food and healthcare to children and mothers in the countries that had been devastated by

World War II. In 1950, UNICEF's mandate was extended to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries throughout the world. In 1953 it became a permanent part of the United Nations System, and the words "international" and "emergency" were dropped from the organization's name, though it retained the original acronym, "UNICEF".

UNICEF has 191 member countries as its members but didn't involve 9 countries that are Bahamas, Brunei, Cyprus, Latvia, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Singapore and Taiwan. The Executive Board is made up of 36 Member States, elected to three-year terms by the Economic and Social Council, with the following regional allocation: Africa (8 seats), Asia (7), Eastern Europe (4), Latin America and Caribbean (5) and Western Europe and Others (12).

UNICEF has many significant achievements. UNICEF was successful in improving children's lives all around the world and promoting the Convention on the Rights of Children. Also, UNICEF has made significant contributions like in 1982, the Child Survival and Development Revolution was launched by UNICEF as an effort to save more children through the implementation of four primary techniques; monitoring growth, supplying immunization, promoting breastfeeding, and providing oral rehydration therapy.

UNICEF has shifted its mandate to not only provide assistance and help for children living in countries devastated by war, but also to ensure that the rights of all children are fulfilled. The committee has played an important role in promoting the Convention on the Rights of Children, which now has become one of the most ratified conventions in the world. UNICEF is also widely known for its development programs that engage not only government organisations but also NGOs, private sectors and related stakeholders with the use of media and role models for campaigning their programs.



AGENDA

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AT THE TIME OF WAR WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CHILD LABOR IN SYRIA

Introduction to the Agenda

The protracted crisis has caused severe disruption in the formal and informal protection services provided to children causing many of them to become increasingly more vulnerable. In Syria, it is estimated that 5.3 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection needs. Child protection concerns that have been identified are related to documentation, child labour, early marriage and psychosocial stress. The number of children with disabilities has also increased with limited access to services they require.

In armed conflicts, children are often either deliberately targeted or not protected adequately or sometimes even both. The lives of Syrian children have been greatly affected by the conflict. Every day numerous violations of children's rights take place in areas such as health, education, protection, etc. Syrian children are regularly exposed to escalating violence and explosive weapon attacks. Some are forced to become child soldiers while others are pushed into the workforce to provide for their families.

The report of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, covering the period between November 2013 and June 2018, has verified 12,537 grave violations against children. 706 cases involve other issues of concern affecting children, such as deprivation of liberty and the military use of schools and hospitals. By the end of the reporting period, the United Nations had verified 1,291 grave violations against children committed in the first half of 2018.

Some of the key challenges faced by children in Syria include:

- The crisis has caused the emergence of numerous unaccompanied and separated children or children living with older/disabled caregivers, increasing the risk of exposure to violence.



- Experiencing conflict and displacement has caused chronic psychosocial distress to many children in Syria, affecting the emotional and social (psychosocial) wellbeing of children and adolescents.
- The drastic increase in out of school children and the increase in child labour, child marriage and child recruitment.
- Protracted and multiple displacements because of the conflict leading to a larger exposure to violence.
- The immediate and long-term risks of indiscriminate injury and/or death due to explosive weapons including all types of conventional weapons and mines.
- Challenges related to birth registration of children due to time and status constraints caused by the conflict.
- Lack of proper protection standards in temporary centres, shelters and juvenile centres.
- The lack of capacity of national institutions supporting child rights and protection mechanisms as a result of the disintegration in civil and social structures.





History of the Agenda

Before the civil war in Syria, Syrian children led a fairly prosperous life. Syria had a strong education system in place before the civil war, with almost 100% primary school enrolment and 70% children attending secondary school. According to the 2004 census, Syria's literacy rate was 79.6%: 86% of men and 73.6% of women were literate. In 2002, education was made compulsory and free from grades 1 to 9.

But due to a conflict between the Assad and rebellions, the Civil War started and is growing rapidly as both the parties are funded by different domestic as well as international allies. The lives of Syrian children have been greatly affected by the conflict. Everyday numerous violations of children's rights take place in areas such as health, education, protection and many more. Syrian children are regularly exposed to escalating violence and explosive weapon attacks. Some are forced to become child soldiers while others are pushed into the workforce to provide for their families.

The crisis has led to limited livelihood opportunities and plunged several million Syrians into poverty. Both in Syria and its neighbouring countries, Syrian children have been forced to become breadwinners for their families. Education systems have come under attack in Syria, as armed groups tend to see the targeting of schools, schoolchildren and teachers as military strategy. In addition, sexual violence against civilian populations has been characteristic of the Syrian conflict. Fear of such violence, which increases when perpetrators are not held accountable for their actions, has a debilitating effect on vulnerable populations. It can restrict the mobility of girls and women and can result in their staying at home and avoiding school.

Moreover, the war in Syria is characterized by multiple humanitarian law violations. The current situation specifically goes against humanitarian law that forbids direct or indiscriminate attacks on civilians, the destruction of hospitals, and requires all parties of the conflict to grant access to humanitarian aid. There are also numerous human rights violations amounting to war crimes or crimes against humanity.

In 2015, UNICEF identified 1500 individual cases of grave violations of children's rights in Syria, among which over 60% were cases of murders and maiming following the use of explosive weapons in inhabited civilian areas.





Moreover, children are also victims of repression by the regime. In 2014, the UN revealed that the Syrian regime detained and tortured children. According to Syrian domestic law, it is illegal to employ minors before they either complete their basic education or reach the age of 15 years — whichever comes first. Child labour was an issue in Syria prior to the war, but the humanitarian crisis that ensued has amplified the problem. In Syria as well as its neighbouring countries, children are now forced to work in conditions that are mentally, physically, and socially dangerous environments.

In Syria, children may be sent away from their families to other parts of the country or to neighbouring countries to generate income, avoid being recruited, or avoid being injured in the conflict. Families that struggle to meet their basic needs are sometimes forced to put their children out to work, marry their daughters early, or allow their children to be recruited by armed groups. Children work in agriculture, metal work, carpentry, restaurants, as well as sell items on the streets, wash cars, collect trash, or even beg.

In Syria, children (most of them boys) are forcibly recruited and used as soldiers by all parties of the conflict, often without the consent of their parents, and half of them being under the age of 15 years. These children play an active part in the fighting and can be used to kill, sometimes being assigned tasks that endanger their lives.

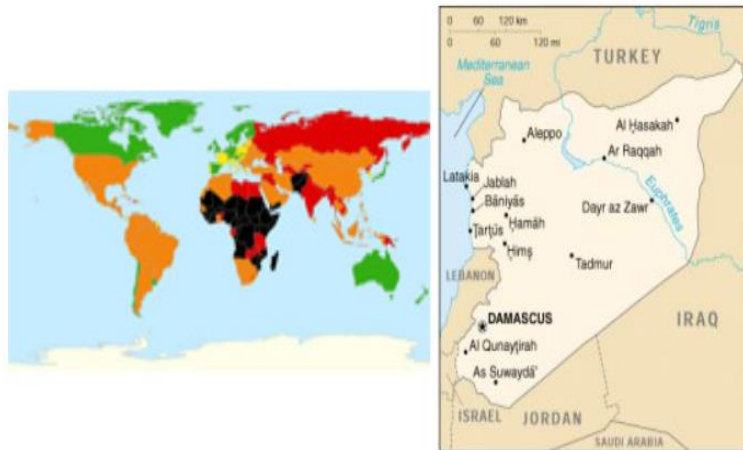
For refugee children the situation is equally dire. In 2015, according to the UN, 70% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon lived below the poverty line. In 2016, in Jordan, 90% of Syrian refugees lived under the poverty line, and 67% of families have contracted a debt (UNHCR). Since adult refugees are largely unable to work in the formal labour market in neighbouring countries, they are forced to rely on the informal sector, at the risk of being imprisoned, fined, or deported back to Syria. In such a desperate situation, they are forced to turn to their children for help. It is difficult to estimate the number of Syrian children refugees who work, because, among other reasons, families and employers hide the problem by fear of the consequences, but a report of UNICEF and Save the Children states that in 2015, 13 to 34% of children between 7 and 17 years old work in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan.

Child labour is not a problem in one country but it is a major problem in all the developing countries. In Afghanistan, Iraq, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Sudan, the return to school (or in some cases the first school experience of a child's life) has changed the number of children that are doing child labour. Even the children who go to school in war areas seem to have less psychological issues than the children in the same area who don't go to school.



Current Situation:

Increasingly complex and inter-linked protection needs continue to exist across Syria, resulting from a variety of situations ranging from direct exposure to hostilities, displacement, conditions in sites/collective shelters, and protracted displacement. Multiple and complex child protection risks continue to shape the lives of girls and boys throughout Syria. Continuous displacement, exposure to violence, deepening poverty and the persistent challenges in access and availability of services are taking a huge toll on children. Grave child rights violations remain a critical concern.



Realization of Children's Rights Index: 5,13/10

black level : Very serious situation

Population: 22,4 million

Pop. ages 0-14: 33,9 %

Life expectancy: 55,7 years

Under-5 mortality rate: 11 ‰



Actions Taken Previously:

Millions of Syrian children require some form of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF and its partners are on the ground in Syria and across the region working to protect children and to help them cope with the impact of conflict and to resume their childhood. This includes improving access to education and psychosocial support services to help children and caregivers to recover from trauma and to restore a sense of normalcy, as well as delivering critical humanitarian assistance in hard-to-reach areas.

Some of the programmes of UNICEF for the development of children are:

1. Development of SDG: - As the SDGs stands are getting fulfilled, the life of Syrian children is improving.
2. UNHRC has adopted the resolution of convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. The basic purpose of this resolution was to give the rights of the children in different countries.
3. The Syrian Government had also passed many laws in the favour of children but due to lack of their effectiveness, they are not being properly executed.
4. UNICEF and partners reached almost 180,000 boys and girls with psychosocial support (PSS) activities to mitigate the impact of the protracted crisis and support their emotional and psychosocial well-being.
5. UNICEF also supported awareness-raising on various child protection issues (prevention and response to violence against children, gender-based violence) for over 197,000 people.
6. Also, UNICEF provided mine-risk education (MRE) interventions as a lifesaving component promoting safe behaviour and providing skills and knowledge to over 800,000 people.
7. Working with partners, UNICEF continues to deliver assistance including hygiene kits, safe drinking water, and screening and treatment of malnutrition. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, UNICEF and partners have been sharing prevention and risk awareness messages and materials.
8. In 2019, UNICEF and its partners had done following things:
 - I. Screened 1.8 million children and women for acute malnutrition.
 - II. Improved water supply to an estimated 4.7 million people.



- III. Supported 1.5 million children with education services in formal settings.
- IV. Provided micronutrients to 1.25 million children and pregnant and lactating women.
- V. Vaccinated around 3.3 million children through polio campaigns.
- VI. Reached 1.9 million people with explosive hazards risk education.



RESULTS

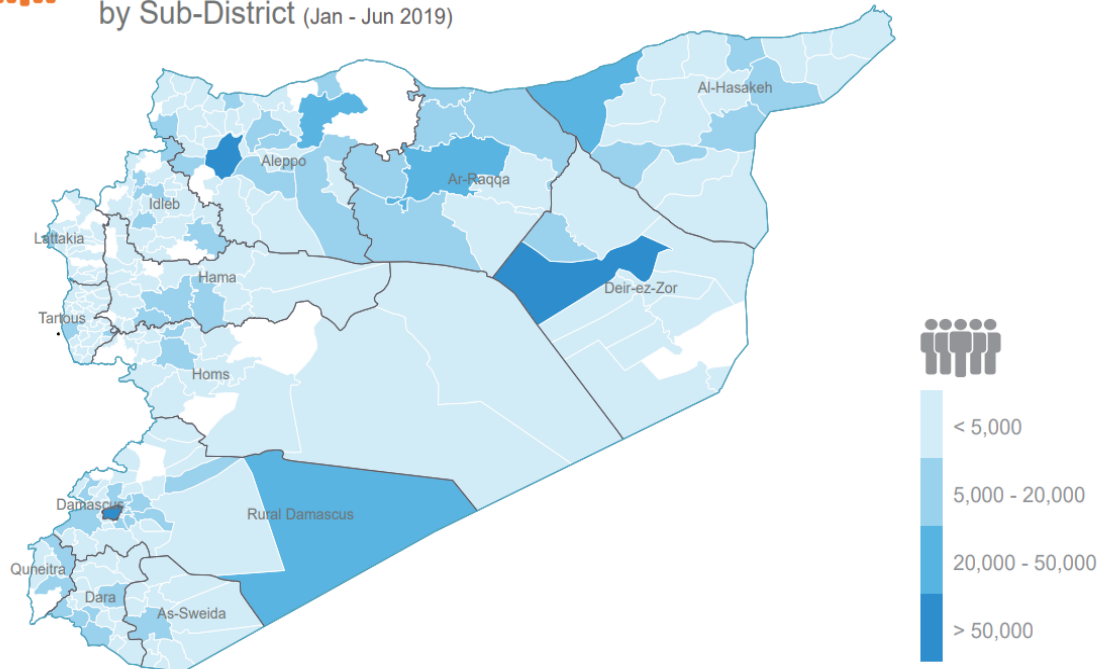
■ beneficiaries reached by UNICEF interventions (Jan - Jun 2019)
■ beneficiaries targeted (2019)

INDICATORS	RESULT	% REACHED	TARGET
1 Number of girls and boys engaged in structured and sustained child protection programming, including psychosocial support	180,000	52%	350,000
2 Number of women and men engaged in structured and sustained parenting programmes	30,000	60%	51,000
3 Number of girls, boys, women and men reached with explosive hazards risk education (MRE)	837,000	35%	2.4 m
4 Number of women, men, girls and boys reached by behaviour change communication (BCC) interventions for child protection issues	197,000	31%	630,000
5 Number of girls and boys received specialised child protection services including through case management	9,000	42%	22,000



PEOPLE REACHED

by Sub-District (Jan - Jun 2019)



\$ FUNDING STATUS

36.1 million required
16.5 million available



JAN - JUN 2019



Total number of people
reached by UNICEF child
protection interventions

1 m



HtR locations reached

154



People reached in hard to
reach locations by UNICEF
child protection interventions
(convoys and regular
programmes)

155,000



Beneficiaries (estimated)
served with essential child
protection supplies through
convoys

41,000



Case Study:

Nashabiya, rural Damascus, 24 July 2020 – “The children love recreational activities. Drawing, for instance, helps them turn the pain they have endured during the past few years into something beautiful and relieving,” says Mahasen, a primary school teacher and mother of five, as she points at her children’s drawings decorating the walls of their war-ravaged home in Nashabiya town of East Ghouta, rural Damascus.



© UNICEF/Syria/2020/Saleh
Left to right: Omar, 7, Safa, 10, Hala, 18 months, Marwa, 8, and Islam, 14.

In 2013, Mahasen, her -now late- husband and children fled escalating violence in their hometown of Nashabiya to Hamoriya, a safer neighboring town. Mahasen was a full-time stay-at-home mother and dedicated all her time to taking care of the children while her husband earned their living, working as a veterinarian.

“After arriving in Hamoriya, we built a decent life. I did not have to worry about anything else but raising the kids,” recalls Mahasen.

Little did she know that things were soon to change.



“In the blink of an eye life turned into hell,” she explained. In 2018, Hamoriya, the family’s newly-found haven, was caught in a spiral of continuing violence.

“We sheltered from fighting in the basement, until one day, shelling was so violent that it reached our underground hideout.”

That was the day Mahasen’s husband lost his life to violence, leaving her pregnant and with four children to care for.

“After the shell hit, I carried two of the children, Islam and Safa, rushing them out to safety,” says Mahasen. “I wasn’t sure where my other two -Omar and Marwa- were or if they were still alive. I couldn’t reach them.”

As soon as the shelling subsided, with the help of her neighbour, Mahasen headed back to the basement to rescue Omar and Marwa; she found them screaming under the rubble. Not long after, the mother fled again with her children to Damascus for refuge.

“After the incident, Omar remained totally mute,” says Mahasen. “He was becoming an introvert and developed frequent frantic episodes that led him sometimes to bang his head against the wall.”

Six months later, following a lull in violence in East Ghouta, Mahasen decided to move back with her four children and soon-to-be-born baby Hala to the family’s war-damaged house in Nashabiya.

“Although I kept showering him with love, Omar’s condition didn’t get any better for almost a year after. I didn’t know what to do.”

When Mahasen heard that a UNICEF-supported child protection team was visiting conflict-affected areas including Nashabiya, she took Omar over to see if they can help. He was immediately assigned to a case manager, who referred him to structured individual psychosocial support sessions to help him overcome his anxiety.

“The support given through the sessions has helped him a lot. He has retrieved his speech, became much more social and the episodes have become less frequent,”

Mahasen



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Omar, 7, participating in group psychosocial activities conducted by a UNICEF-supported mobile team in Nashabiya, East Ghouta.

Omar and his siblings have been participating in UNICEF-supported psychosocial support activities in Nashabiya, including group discussions on self-awareness, expression of emotions and communication with peers. The children have also benefitted from engaging in regular recreational activities designed to help them externalize their feelings and thoughts, such as drawing and handicraft making.

“I let them express themselves however they please. Enabling them to speak their minds in a peaceful and positive way will protect them from being influenced by all the violence going on around them.”

To Mahasen, the shift in her children’s attitude is visible on the walls of their home. Previously gray and grim, the children’s drawings have now turned the walls into colourful canvases.



© UNICEF/Syria/2020/Saleh

This year, so far, thanks to the generous contributions from the People of **Japan** and the **Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)**, UNICEF has been able to reach 2000 children with psychosocial support in rural Damascus.



Development Agenda and Expected Target/Resolution

UNICEF improves access to quality child protection services by investing in a combination of prevention and response strategies that enhance the resilience of children and communities. Strengthening community-based child protection and psychosocial interventions as a first-line emergency response to mitigate protection risks.

- Strengthening the capacity of national child protection actors is critical in the efforts to reach vulnerable children.
- We advocate ensuring that policy and legislative frameworks are child friendly, and that children victims or perpetrators benefit from a functional 'justice for children' programme.
- We engage and increase communities' capacities to protect children, through monitoring, community dialogue and behavioural change.
- We work with other UNICEF programmes, such as ADAP, Education, Social Protection, WASH and Health and Nutrition to ensure a functional referral system.



Questions resolution must answer

- 1) ***Ways through which we can control the child labour (in Syria as well as in different parts of world).***
- 2) ***What can be done if child labour is not illegalised in some territories?***
- 3) ***What consequences should governments impose for people who violate laws against child labour and child trafficking?***
- 4) ***If we control child labour, how can we help the countries economically because most of the child labour is done for betterment of the family?***
- 5) ***How can we improve the education of children in war zones?***
- 6) ***How can government help the children with education as well as job?***
- 7) ***In what way can we stop migration of small children?***
- 8) ***Ways through which different countries can help other countries to support the children of their countries.***
- 9) ***Ways in which the development of children in war zones should happen.***
- 10) ***Give detailed information about some programmes that can be held to generate awareness about child labour.***

Your resolution must not be only the above questions but also the essential causes of problems that children at war zones face and how they may be combatted.



Executive Board Suggestions:

- Focus on the problems faced by children at war zones.
- Prepare a Research Binder, so that you can refer when you are stuck.
- Familiarize yourselves with the agendas and the subtopics within; you will have a better understanding of what is being debated upon.
- Include your sources; it is always important to have facts with yourselves. (Remember you will lose points if you are caught without factual evidence.)
- Know your country's background and foreign policies on the matter at hand. You would never like to tie up with the country's enemy.
- Try to research more for factual information than conceptual ones.
- During MUN, do not use personal pronouns. Instead try to use 'Delegate of XYZ country would like ...'





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