

GESMUN-MDP UNICEF BACKGROUND GUIDE

AGENDA-ADDRESSING CHILD MALNUTRITION AND HEALTH



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- A. Letter from the Executive Board
 - A.1 Introduction
 - A.2 What is a Background Guide
 - A.3 Introduction of the Agenda
- B. Suggestions for research
- C. Point to remember and suggested basics
- D. About UNICEF
- E. UNICEF Agenda
 - E.1 Agenda- Overview
 - E.2 Details of agenda
 - E.3 Case Study 1 (Gaza conflict)
 - E.4 Case Study 2 (Russia-Ukraine war)
 - E.5 Case study 3 (Africa)
- F. Role of Procedure
- G. Research Links

A)LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates! We are very pleased to welcome you to GESMUN-MDP 2024 UNICEF. We are honoured to serve you as your Executive Board for the duration of this conference.

We promise you a very enriching debate that you've never experienced before and we are glad to have you on board!!

The background will provide you with a bird's eye view of the gist of the issue. However, it must be noted that the background guide contains only certain basic information that may form the basis for the debate and your research.

You are the representative of your allotted country, and we hope you put in wholehearted efforts to research. All the delegates should be prepared well to make the committee's direction and debate productive.

UNICEF focuses on combating child malnutrition and improving health. Through its efforts, UNICEF aims to reduce child mortality and promote overall well-being.

Remember, a thorough understanding of the problem is the first step to solving it. Delegates are highly recommended to do a good amount of research beyond what is covered in the Guide. The guide cannot be used as proof during the committee proceedings under any circumstances.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Board at any moment before or during the conference if you have any questions concerning the agenda or the rules of procedure. We are always ready to help you during the conference.

Looking forward to working with each and every one of you towards the guarantee of a productive debate in this MUN, which is intended to provide a more comprehensive insight into the working and functions of UNICEF.

Best Regards,

Executive Board,

Your Chair Akshay Bonagiri,

Vice chair Anjana Avasarala,

B. SUGGESTIONS FOR RESEARCH

- The content of your research is to be related to the agenda and should not divert the main attention of the debate
- The content should come from official websites. Refrain from using Wikipedia for research as the platform is open for public editing.
- Note the source of your information should be with you as the EB can ask you for proof of the information you present in session.
- You can refer to the links provided at the end of the background guide for research(not to be presented as proof of information)
- Document your information and organize it effectively so it is readily available for you during the session.
- The content in your speeches should be relevant to the agenda and your country.

C. POINTS TO REMEMBER AND SUGGESTED BASICS

- Internet access will not be provided, delegates are required to bring their own internet banks or hotspot.
- Downloading your content for quick access is suggested
- The session is formal and delegates are required to attend it in formal attire unless informed otherwise
- Most importantly have a productive, fun and informative experience!

D. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II. Our mandate was clear: to help children and young people whose lives and futures were at risk – no matter what role their country had played in the war. What mattered to UNICEF was reaching every child in need, protecting children's rights to survive, thrive, and reach their full potential.

Look into <https://www.unicef.org> to know more!!

E. About the agenda:

Child malnutrition remains a significant global health challenge, with various forms adversely impacting children's health, development, and survival. Efforts by international organizations, particularly UNICEF and WHO, focus on addressing these issues through comprehensive strategies aimed at improving nutrition and overall health outcomes for children.

1. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child(1989):

In 1989 something incredible happened. Against the backdrop of a changing world order world leaders came together and made a historic commitment to the world's children. They made a promise to every child to protect and fulfil their rights, by adopting an international legal framework – the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Look into: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

to know more about the convention!!

2. *UNICEF Conceptual Framework on Maternal & Child Nutrition:*

The UNICEF Conceptual Framework on the Determinants of Maternal and Child Nutrition is a guiding structure developed to address and prevent malnutrition in all its forms. This framework emphasizes the multifaceted and interconnected factors that contribute to malnutrition, encapsulating issues such as food security, healthcare, and educational opportunities

For more information look into this pdf:

<https://www.unicef.org/media/113291/file/UNICEF%20Conceptual%20Framework.pdf>

CASE STUDY 1 (UNICEF OPINION ON GAZA CONFLICT):

- The conflict in the Gaza Strip is taking a catastrophic toll on children. More than 14,000 children have reportedly been killed, according to the latest estimate by the Palestinian Ministry of Health; thousands more have been injured. There are no safe spaces. All of Gaza's children have been exposed to the traumatic experiences of war, the consequences of which will last a lifetime.
- Around 1.9 million people – about 9 in 10 of Gaza's population – are estimated to have been internally displaced. Half of them are children. They do not have enough access to water, food,

fuel and medicine. Their homes have been destroyed; their families torn apart. Many children have been displaced multiple times, and have lost homes, parents and loved ones. They need to be protected, along with the remaining services that they rely on, including medical facilities and shelter.

WHAT UNICEF CALLING FOR?

1. An immediate and long cease fire.
2. Safe and unrestricted humanitarian access to and within the Gaza Strip to reach affected populations wherever they are, including in the north. All crossing should be open to rehabilitate infrastructure and necessities
3. Immediate and safe release of abducted children and end violence against children.
4. Respect
5. Urgent medical facilities to be provided and children to be evacuated along with their families.
6. Continued protection of children and families along with evacuation programs.

<https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/children-gaza-need-lifesaving-support>

CASE STUDY 2 (Ukraine-Russia war):

- The ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War began in February 2014. Following Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity, Russia occupied and annexed Crimea from Ukraine and supported pro-Russian separatists fighting the Ukrainian military in the Donbas War. These first eight years of conflict also included naval incidents and cyberwarfare.
- In February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine and began occupying more of the country, starting the biggest conflict in Europe since World War II. The war has resulted in a refugee crisis and tens of thousands of deaths.

Reasons for Russian Aggression:

Economic Factors:

Russia, considering the economic significance of Ukraine, sought Ukraine's membership in the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC), which is a free trade agreement that came into being in 2015.

With its huge market and advanced agriculture and industrial output, Ukraine was supposed to play an important role. But Ukraine refused to join the agreement.

Geo-Political and Strategic Factors:

Russia claims that the eastward expansion by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) which they call "enlargement", has threatened Russia's interests and has asked for written security guarantees from NATO.

NATO, led by the U.S., has planned to install missile defence systems in eastern Europe in countries like Poland and the Czech Republic to counter Russia's intercontinental-range missiles.

How is Russia-Ukraine war effecting children:

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has had a profound and devastating impact on children in Ukraine, affecting their physical safety, mental health, and access to education

1. Casualties: -

The war has resulted in alarming casualties among children, with nearly 2,000 reported killed or injured since the conflict escalated in 2022, according to UNICEF. These figures represent only assessed cases, and the actual numbers are believed to be higher due to difficulties in gathering accurate data in conflict zones.

In a concerning trend, the number of child fatalities has risen by almost 40% in recent months, highlighting the ongoing risks children face in this environment

For more info:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2024/05/19/nearly-2000-children-killed-or-injured-in-russias-war-on-ukraine/>

2. Mental health impacts:-

The mental health of children affected by the Russia-Ukraine war has become a pressing concern, with numerous studies indicating a significant rise in anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This mental health crisis stems from their continuous exposure to traumatic events, including violence, loss, and instability. Understanding these effects is crucial for developing appropriate interventions and support systems.

For more info:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/12/ukraine-russia-childrens-futures-under-attack-as-russian-aggression-in-ukraine-continues-to-restrict-schooling/>

3. Malnutrition in children:-

The conflict has disrupted food supply chains, increased food prices, and diminished access to essential nutritional resources. As a result, children in Ukraine and other affected regions are at a heightened risk of malnutrition, which can have serious long-term consequences on their health and development.

The war has severely disrupted food supply chains, impacting the availability of staple foods essential for children's nutrition. Ukraine and Russia together account for nearly one-third of the world's wheat exports and a significant percentage of other agricultural products.

CASE STUDY 3-AFRICA

- Child malnutrition in Africa remains a critical issue, affecting millions of children, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa has one of the highest levels of child malnutrition globally.
- Children in the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda) are living through an unprecedented large-scale crisis of hunger, displacement, water scarcity, than 7 million and insecurity. More children under the age of 5 remain malnourished and in need of urgent nutrition support, and over 1.9 million children are at risk of dying from severe malnutrition.

- As the region comes out of one of the worst droughts in 40 years, vulnerable communities have lost cattle, crops, and entire livelihoods over the past three years of failed rains.
- Across the region, 23 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. The number of severely malnourished children seeking treatment in the first quarter of this year remains much higher than last year.
- Major outbreaks including cholera, measles, malaria, and other diseases are ongoing across the region, worsened by extreme weather conditions and fragile health systems. Food prices remain high in local markets, burdening children and families
- Malnutrition contributes significantly to child mortality, with about 45% of all child deaths being linked to malnutrition.

HOW IS UNICEF HELPING?

- UNICEF focuses on providing immediate nutrition interventions, including the delivery of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition.
note: RUTF-a nutritious peanut paste and highly effective treatment for severe acute malnutrition.
- UNICEF is also accelerating efforts to improve access to safe water and sanitation and strengthen delivery of primary health care services including child immunization, among other emergency interventions.

UNICEF calls for an urgent response to the growing child malnutrition crisis exacerbated by factors like poverty and conflict

UNICEF's calls to action also involve mobilizing global funding and support to meet the pressing needs of malnourished children and their families, particularly in crisis-hit regions.

Links:

<https://www.unicef.org/esa/press-releases/horn-africa-over-7-million-children-under-age-5-remain-malnourished-across-ethiopia>

<https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/child-health#:~:text=About%2045%25%20of%20all%20child%20deaths%20are%20linked%20to%20malnutrition.%20Children%20in%20sub%20DSaharan%20Africa%20are,5%20than>

F. ROLL OF PROCEDURE

The Role of Procedure is the procedure to be followed during the session. The formality and terms to be understood during the session are listed below :

- **Roll Call** : It is a basic attendance that takes place before every session to ascertain the number of delegates in committee
- **Voting Stance** : During the roll call delegates will be asked for their voting stance being given two options 'present and voting' or 'present'

- **Agenda** : The Agenda is the topic on which the session will unfold. It is the problem being discussed.
- **Decorum** : The session is strictly formal and delegates are required to maintain decorum and follow stated rules.
- **Motion** : A delegate is free to direct the debate in any particular direction. This action is called a motion.
- **General Speakers List (GSL)** : This contains the order of the speakers who have been granted the permission to express their views in committee.
- **Modulated Caucus** : Besides the agenda, a sub topic of the agenda is also discussed during the conference.
Modulated Caucus is a discussion about the sub topic in the specified time frame.
- **Unmodulated Caucus** : Delegates are allowed to leave their seats and converse with fellow delegates during unmodulated caucus, they focus About the agenda:
- **Amendment**: Any changes made to the draft resolution is called an amendment.

G.RESEARCH LINKS

MORE ABOUT UNICEF

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

<https://www.unicef.org/media/113291/file/UNICEF%20Conceptual%20Framework.pdf>

MORE ON GAZA CASE STUDY

<https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/children-gaza-need-li>

MORE ON UKRAINE RUSSIA CASE STUDY

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2024/05/19/nearly-2000-children-killed-or-injured-in-russias-war-on-ukraine/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/12/ukraine-russia-childrens-futures-under-attack-as-russian-aggression-in-ukraine-continues-to-restrict-schooling/>

MORE ON AFRICA CASE STUDY

<https://www.unicef.org/esa/press-releases/horn-africa-over-7-million-children-under-age-5-remain-malnourished-across-ethiopia>

<https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/child-health#:~:text=About%2045%25%20of%20all%20child%20deaths%20are%20linked%20to%20malnutrition.%20Children%20in%20sub%2DSaharan%20Africa%20are,5%20than>

THANK YOU