

BIMUN XXIII



UNICEF B

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United Nations Children's Emergency Fund



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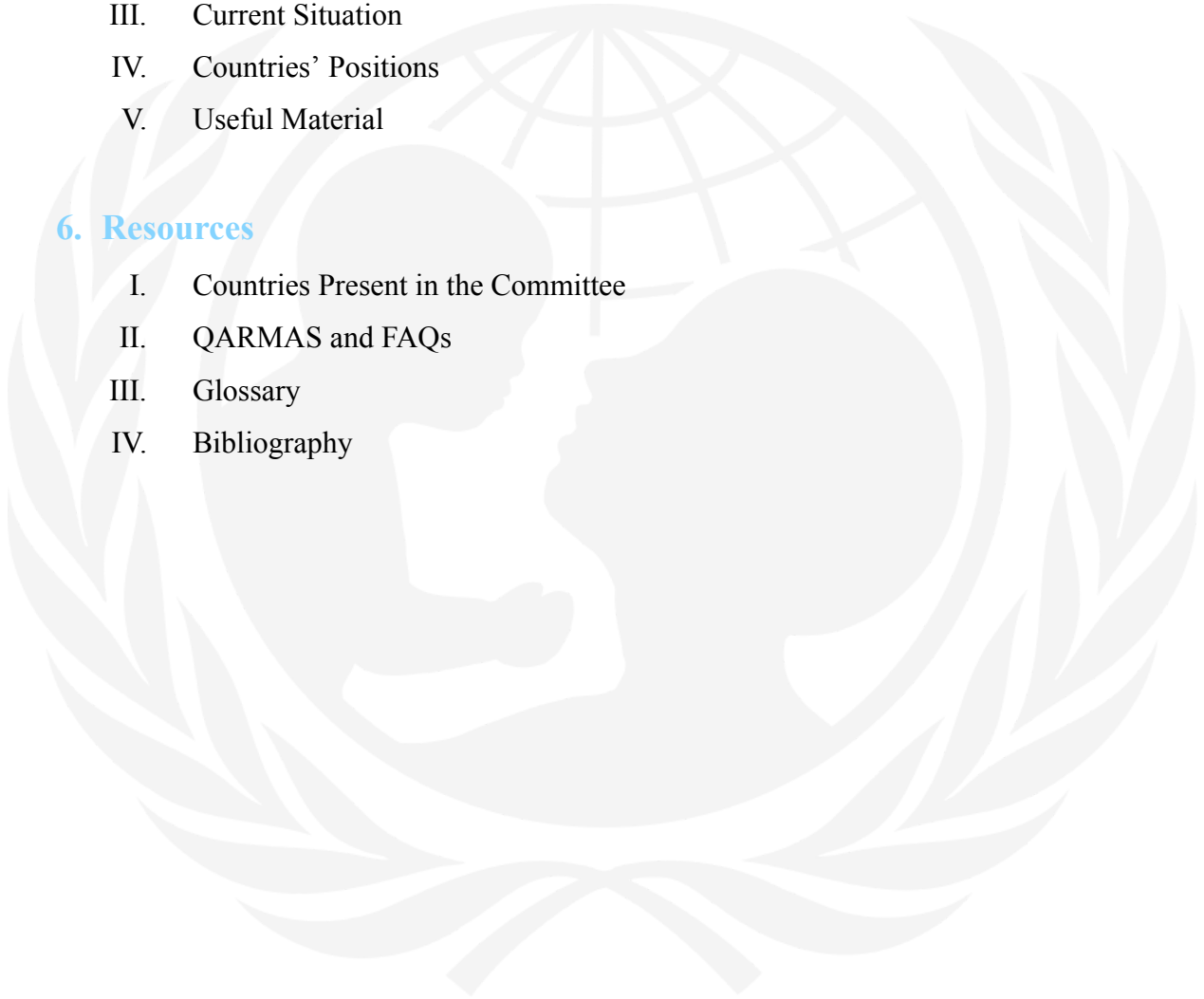


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## 1. Words by The Presidents

### I. Words by President Hernández

Dear Faculty advisors, Sponsors, Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

"Some people look at the world and say, why? Others look at the world and say, why not?"

— George Bernard Shaw.

It is a pleasure for me, along with my co-president, to have assumed the responsibility as president of UNICEF B. Our motivation stems from the desire to foster a just and equitable society, even amidst the challenges of violence, poverty, and discrimination that surround us. Today, we are confronted with these social realities, recognizing them as legacies of the past that persist into the present, and it is up to us to make it our future, only if we allow exclusion and indifference to obstruct our path toward peace and social development.

While it is challenging to confront the obstacles of a world marked by conflict, our commitment to contribute to overcoming the barriers of inequality and exclusion must be greater. We trust and are confident that you will give your utmost effort, showcasing your cognitive and productive abilities. Let us embrace the challenge of eradicating hunger, poverty, and war, ensuring that this aspiration becomes not merely a utopian ideal but a tangible goal that sparks positive transformations in all our lives.

At UNICEF B we will seek out opportunities to deepen our understanding of societal realities, including the origins of differences and the persistence of inequality. Our goal is that this model allows us to show the role we represent in society, of not conforming about why it happens and situations exist, but about taking advantage of the capacity that each of us has to improve the world. As presidents, we are committed to providing the support and assistance needed to create an unforgettable and impactful experience for everyone involved. I am sure that each of you will make the most of this opportunity for us to promote tolerance, embrace diversity, and foster respect for others. Only through these efforts can we build a society based on rights.

I hope to count on each of you for this purpose because your words and actions truly make a difference.

"Anyone who thinks they're too small to make a difference has never tried falling asleep with a mosquito in the room." — Dalai Lama

Laura Marcela Hernández Suárez

**President of UNICEF B.**



## II. Words by President Murgas

Dear sponsors, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

"To truly cultivate peace in this world, and to wage a genuine war against conflict, we must start with the younger generation." — Nelson Mandela

It is an honor to extend a warm welcome to you all to the latest iteration of Bimun XXIII. As for myself, Maria Margarita Murgas, serving as your UNICEF B president, I consider it a privilege to nurture the future leaders of our society, recognizing that every decision we make daily holds the potential for significant societal change.

Together with my co-president Laura Hernandez, I anticipate from each of you delegates the utmost dedication and preparedness to translate your abilities into action, captivating others with your proposed solutions. It is crucial that you push yourselves, evolving into the men and women of tomorrow capable of reshaping our world to address the myriad challenges it faces, safeguarding humanity from the turmoil wrought by senseless conflicts.

Above all, I encourage you to approach this model with confidence and self-assurance, utilizing every tool at your disposal to become an enhanced version of yourselves and leave an indelible impression on this esteemed platform.

I count myself fortunate to serve as your president in the UNICEF B Committee, and I stand ready to assist you as we embark on this remarkable journey known as Bimun. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at the UNICEF email: [unicef@bimun.edu.co](mailto:unicef@bimun.edu.co).

Maria Margarita Murgas,  
**President of UNICEF B.**



## 2. Information About the Committee

### I. Introduction to UNICEF

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund was established in 1946, as a result of the tragic events of World War II, and it has reached more than 191 countries ever since, changing children's lives from all around the world. It became a standing committee on the



agenda of the United Nations in 1953. Later on, the Child Rights Convention was created, which would become the main reference of the committee, emphasizing that children have the same rights as adults and also taking into account that minors have not reached their full physical and mental development and therefore require special protection. The convention was signed on November 20, 1989, and entered into effect on September 2, 1990.

Before, during and after humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF is on the ground, bringing life-saving help and hope to children and families, always maintaining an impartial and non-political perspective. UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. Guided by the Convention of the Rights of the Child, UNICEF pursues to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behavior towards children.

The committee's work has been carried out through a combination of program cooperation with national governments, project design and initiatives, rigorous research and in-depth analysis of the situation of minors in areas such as Child Protection and Inclusion, Child



Survival, Education, Politics, Social, Gender, and Innovation for Children. Always with a special concern for the impact on children and the different social and economic policies that are applied in order to deal with the problems related to them.





### 3. Topic A: “Humanitarian Emergency in Gaza, Focused on the Violation of Children's Rights Amidst the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.”

#### I. Introduction to the Topic

The Gaza Strip is a densely populated Palestinian territory that has been affected by an Israeli **blockade** for several years. This blockade has created a serious and critical situation, causing a serious humanitarian crisis that has led to many people, including children,



having their fundamental rights violated and suffering from shortages of food, water, electricity, and medical care. These clashes that can be seen frequently between Israel and Palestinian military groups have caused many injuries and deaths, creating a situation of desperation for the civilian population

The violence that occurs in the territory of Gaza has been intense and has caused numerous civilian victims, including children. According to UNICEF, in a report dated October 24, 2023, it stated a balance of 2,360 children died and 5,364 injured as a result of the attacks in Gaza, that is, more than 400 children are killed or injured every day.



According to Adele Khodr, Regional Director of UNICEF, “The killing and mutilation of children, the abduction of minors, attacks on hospitals and schools, and the denial of access to humanitarian aid are serious violations of children's rights.” Likewise, this violence has led to a





large number of people losing their homes and being displaced, which has increased the humanitarian crisis in the region.

Almost 2.3 million people live in the Gaza Strip, where around 50% of the population are children. One of the most significant problems faced in this territory is the serious and pressing lack of water, this is due to the fact that most of the water supply systems are seriously affected or have stopped working for various reasons, such as lack of fuel or damage suffered by critical production, treatment, and distribution infrastructure and as a result of this, the water production capacity only reaches 5% of the usual daily production.

According to UNICEF, "The conflict that has continued to intensify in recent months has turned the **Gaza Strip into the most dangerous place in the world for children.**" This is because many boys and girls have been exposed to intensely painful situations and have witnessed horrors that no child should witness.



There have been approximately 1.7 million internally displaced people due to the war, and half of these are children. This is caused because families desperately searching for a safe place or shelter are forced to move to very small and saturated areas that lack basic services such as water and in these places, it is not easy or possible to find in an accessible way the food and protection that these people require and the few foods that are available are not enough to satisfy the nutritional needs of children and, as a consequence, thousands of boys and girls suffer from diseases and malnutrition.

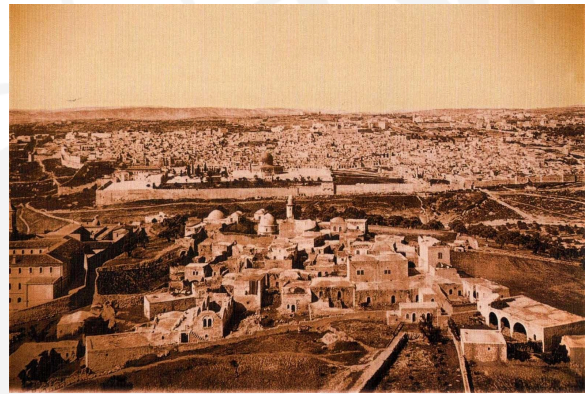


## II. Historical Context

This conflict has an ample history that has been evident for centuries.

Over the centuries, various empires have conquered the region, including the Assyrians, the Persians, and the Hasmonean kings of Judea, known as the Maccabees. In 1517 this territory fell into the hands of Napoleon and the **Ottoman Empire**. Then, Great Britain passed and obtained this territory during the First World War, forming part of the British Mandate of Palestine.

During the Ottoman Empire, Gaza was inhabited mainly by Muslim Arabs at the beginning of the 20th century. After the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 began, the Israeli army bombed 29 towns in southern Palestine, causing tens of thousands of Palestinians to flee to the Gaza Strip. Among these wars occurred the Six-Day War in 1967 where Israel occupied the Gaza Strip, along with the West Bank and other territories.



Despite the **Oslo Accords** in 1994 where the Palestinian Authority assumed civilian control of Gaza, Israel remained in control of the borders and airspace. After these peace talks failed, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon withdrew his settlements and military forces from Gaza in late 2005, but Gaza continued rocket attacks on Israel and the Palestinians claimed that Israel still has control over Gaza through the skies, waters, and entry points even though Israel assures that these measures are necessary for security. These confrontations between these territories have continued to the present day, when the cause of the attacks in the Gaza Strip is the armed group called Hamas.



The war for Israel's independence occurred, known as the **Arab-Israeli War**. Egypt took control of Gaza. In 1967, after the **Six-Day War**, Israel took control of Gaza.

**Oslo Accords:** ended with the first Palestinian **Intifada** and in 1994 the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel agreed to the withdrawal of Israeli troops from most of Gaza in 1994, which would take place in 2005.

After pledging to work together in a unity government, Hamas and Fatah, which was the other main Palestinian faction, clashed with each other and **Hamas ousted Fatah and took control of the Gaza Strip.**

**Operation Cast Lead:** Following continued rocket attacks on southern Israel, the Israeli military launched Operation Cast Lead on **December 27**, which lasted three weeks and included a ground offensive against Gaza.

**Operation Pillar of Defense:** The Israeli army kills the head of Hamas militant operations, Ahmed Jabri, through airstrikes against terrorists and their infrastructure in Gaza. After eight days of violence, a ceasefire came into effect.

Hamas and Fatah swear a unity government, and Israel called on the United States and other nations to continue rejecting Hamas.

**Operation Protective Edge:** After a series of kidnappings and murders in Gaza and Israel, Israel declared the start of Operation Protective Edge on July 7, beginning a 50-day war.

Israel and Hamas confront each other with heavy bombing, in a dramatic escalation that after **11 days** leaves 250 dead in Gaza and 13 in Israel.



Hamas fired thousands of rockets at Israeli cities on **October 7** and is advancing into Israeli territory. There, Hamas murdered more than 1,400 people, and took up to 150 hostages. Israel declared war and launched **Operation Iron Swords**, attacking Hamas and Islamic Jihad targets in Gaza. In addition, blocking the supply lines of necessities to the population of Gaza, such as fuel and water.

### III. Current Situation

Due to the blockade that Israel imposed on the Gaza region, people in Gaza face desperate living conditions and food shortages as the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues.

The amount of fighting being witnessed in the Gaza Strip is having a catastrophic impact on children and families. The number of children dying on a large scale is alarming, more than 14,000 have died in the current conflict and thousands more have been injured. Hundreds of thousands of children have been victims of displacement and have been denied the right to those basic services for life. They do not have sufficient access to water, food, fuel, and medicine.



Hundreds of thousands of children seek refuge in the city of Rafah, a city near the Egyptian border, which is the southernmost exit and entry point to the Gaza Strip. Most of these children are sheltered in tents or in informal and unstable housing. UNICEF expresses that there is no longer any safe place for children in Gaza: "Rafah is now a city of children, who have nowhere safe to go in Gaza". This is because everything is destroyed, and the conditions do not exist for these children to live.



More children have died in Gaza in recent months than in four years of conflict worldwide. At least 12,300 children have died in Gaza as of March 12, 2024, and 12,193 worldwide between 2019 and 2022.

Children go through traumatic experiences that cause high rates of anxiety, lack of sleep, and other traumas that are likely to have long-term developmental consequences. One of the many threats they face is famine, and many of them are already dying from malnutrition and disease.



Currently, UNICEF as well as the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and many other organizations are urgently calling for an immediate ceasefire, the delivery of humanitarian aid, and the release of all refugees, especially children. In addition, massive psychosocial support to alleviate the traumatic effects of war on children.

#### IV. Countries' Positions

##### Israel

Israel is one of the most important authors of this conflict. It supports Palestinian autonomy but views military groups such as Hamas as threats. Israel accepts and supports the concept of a **two-state solution**, but no solution has been defined, and it views Gaza as an enemy territory that is controlled by terrorists rather than a future Palestinian state, which is why Israel says blocks perpetrated against Gaza are necessary to prevent the entry of weapons and materials that could be used to attack Israelis, thus controlling air, sea, and land access to Gaza.





## Egypt

Egypt has expressed concern about the violence and has advocated for the opening of humanitarian corridors and the delivery of aid to the affected population in Gaza.



Egypt has frequently acted as a mediator between Israel and Palestinian factions, including

Hamas. Since Egypt shares a border with the Gaza Strip, controlled by Hamas, it provides humanitarian aid in Gaza, although it has a firm position regarding not allowing the **forced displacement** of Palestinians to its territory, seeking to protect its borders and be able to avoid possible negative repercussions on its national security.

## Saudi Arabia

It is the biggest and richest actor in Western Asia. He has offered diplomatic and financial support to Palestinian groups, always supporting their cause. Saudi Arabia has always maintained informal relations with Israel and does not tolerate the actions that Israel takes against Gaza, thus accusing Israel of committing "inhuman crimes." The country seeks an end to Israel's actions and an immediate ceasefire, against Israel's will.





## Iran

Iran has played a key role in this conflict by providing weapons, funding and training to groups such as Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas through the **Revolutionary Guard**. This has greatly contributed to the violence evident from Palestine towards Israel.

Iran does not directly control Palestinian militants, but its support has been crucial in the conflict. Furthermore, Iran has maintained an offensive and unfriendly posture towards Israel, considering it as an enemy. Iran's supply of weapons and funds to Palestinian groups has provided a significant impact on the conflict.



## V. Useful Material

### Videos

- “Executive Director Catherine Russell on need for Gaza ceasefire and release of hostages / UNICEF.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0JhL5xCIEs&t=9s>

### Documents and Websites

- “8 questions to understand why Israelis and Palestinians are fighting.”

<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/articles/cd1dk2079rgo>

- “Children take the hardest blows of violence in Gaza.”

<https://www.unicef.org/es/historias/ninos-llevan-golpes-mas-duros-violencia-gaza>

- “UNICEF calls for an immediate ceasefire and sustained and unimpeded access for humanitarian aid.”

<https://www.unicef.org/es/comunicados-prensa/victimas-infantiles-gaza-cada-vez-mas-mancha-nuestra-conciencia-colectiva>



- “Protection of children due to humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Palestine”

<https://www.solidaridadsi.org/es/que-hacemos/proteccion-de-la-infancia-por-crisis-humanitaria-en-gaza-palestina>

- “Displaced children in Gaza.”

<https://www.unicef.org/es/historias/infancia-desplazada-en-gaza>

- “Gaza Territory Chronology.”

<https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2023/10/24/cronologia-del-territorio-de-gaza-de-sanson-y-dalila-a-los-combates-entre-israelies-y-palestinos/>

- “Children in Gaza need life-saving support.”

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

- “Gaza: Number of children killed higher than from four years of world conflict.”

<https://turkiye.un.org/en/263401-gaza-number-children-killed-higher-four-years-world-conflict>

- “Who are they key players in Israel - Palestine conflict.”

<https://www.indiatoday.in/interactive/immersive/israel-palestine-conflict-saudi-arabia-arab-countries-hamas-war-peace-agreements/>





## 4. Topic B: “The Subjugation of Minors in the Middle East by the Taliban, Along with the Violation of Children's Rights, Including Their Coerced Recruitment into the Organization.”

### I. Introduction to the Topic

In recent years, the plight of children living in regions under Taliban rule in the Middle East has garnered global attention. The Taliban, an extremist group wielding considerable power in parts of Afghanistan and beyond, has been widely criticized for its systematic suppression of **children's rights** and their **coercion** into joining the organization's ranks.

The Taliban is a militant group known for its strict interpretation of Islamic law, which often translates into severe restrictions on personal freedoms, particularly for minors. Under Taliban rule, children are subjected to various forms of oppression, ranging from limited access to education and healthcare to forced recruitment into the organization's armed forces.



One of the most serious violations of children's rights perpetrated by the Taliban is their coerced recruitment of minors into their ranks. Children, some as young as ten years old, are typically forced or manipulated into becoming soldiers, suicide bombers, or laborers for the group's activities.

This exploitation not only robs children of their innocence but also perpetuates cycles of violence and conflict, trapping them in a cycle of despair and hopelessness. Moreover, the **subjugation** of minors by the Taliban extends beyond recruitment into armed conflict. Girls, in particular, face severe restrictions on their freedom, and are regularly denied access to education



and healthcare.

**Child marriage** is also prevalent in Taliban-controlled areas, with young girls being forced into unions against their will, robbing them of their childhood and subjecting them to physical and emotional harm.

## II. Historical Context

The Taliban first emerged as a significant political and military force in the early 1990s, amidst the chaos and power struggles following the **withdrawal of Soviet forces** from Afghanistan. Their strict interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia, became the foundation of their rule, characterized by the imposition of harsh and repressive social policies, particularly concerning women and children.

During the Taliban's first regime from 1996 to 2001, they enforced a highly conservative interpretation of Islam, which severely restricted the rights and freedoms of women and children. Girls were banned from attending school, women were forced to wear the burqa in public, and strict gender segregation was enforced in all aspects of



society. Furthermore, the Taliban imposed severe punishments for perceived violations of their interpretation of Sharia, including public executions and amputations.

The events of September 11, 2001, dramatically altered the course of Taliban rule. Following the terrorist attacks on the United States orchestrated by the **Al-Qaeda** network, which had been given sanctuary by the Taliban in Afghanistan, the U.S.-led coalition launched a military intervention to oust the Taliban from power. This intervention, known as Operation Enduring Freedom, led to the collapse of the Taliban regime and the establishment of a new



government in Afghanistan.

Despite their initial defeat, the Taliban continued to wage an insurgency against the Afghan government and international forces, regaining strength over the years. Throughout this period, they continued to violate the rights of children by forcibly recruiting them into their ranks. Many children, particularly boys, were coerced or manipulated into joining the Taliban's ranks as fighters, suicide bombers, or support personnel.



### III. Current Situation

Following their takeover of Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban have consolidated their control over much of the country, establishing governance structures and institutions in areas under their control.

The Taliban's return to power has raised significant concerns both domestically and internationally, particularly regarding human rights, women's rights, and the treatment of minorities. Despite their claims of adopting a more



moderate approach, reports continue to emerge of violations of human rights, including restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and the media. Moreover, there are ongoing reports of targeted violence against women, activists, and journalists.



Internationally, the Taliban's rule has been met with a mix of condemnation, caution, and engagement. While some countries have engaged in dialogue with the Taliban and provided humanitarian assistance, others have maintained a cautious stance, demanding concrete actions to uphold human rights and ensure inclusive governance.

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan remains dire, with millions of people facing food insecurity, lack of access to healthcare, and displacement due to conflict and instability. The Taliban's control over aid distribution channels has raised concerns about the equitable delivery of humanitarian assistance and the protection of vulnerable populations, including children.



Children in Afghanistan remain highly vulnerable to grave violations, despite an overall decrease in grave violations compared to the last reporting period, following the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban. The lack of access to basic services, protracted conflict, displacement, extreme poverty, food insecurity, lack of livelihood opportunities, and natural disasters have increased children's vulnerability to recruitment, sexual violence, school drop-out, and unsafe migration, including forced return from Pakistan.

#### **IV. Countries' Positions**

##### **Afghanistan**

The situation is exacerbated by the Taliban's failure to adhere to international conventions and standards that protect children's rights, leading to a lack of legal support and necessary capacities to address these violations. The Taliban's actions, including the





recruitment of children into combat, have been a clear violation of international humanitarian law, further highlighting the urgent need for intervention to protect the rights of minors in Afghanistan. With the reinstatement of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, there is even greater concern regarding the fate of children in the country, given the group's history of human rights violations.

## China

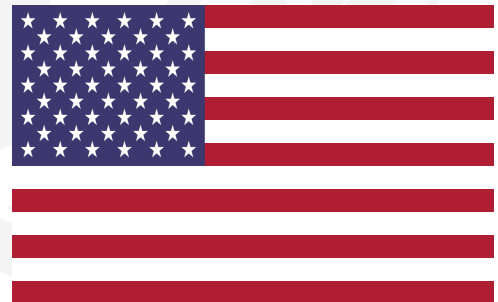
China maintains hopes of exploiting copper in the Afghan region of Mes Aynak. Their interest in conducting counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan stems from the activities of extremist groups, notably the Uighur extremists in Xinjiang and the Islamic Party of Turkestan. China, which shares a small border with Afghanistan, is apprehensive that if



the Taliban were to seize control of the entire country, Islamist groups would strengthen, potentially crossing the border and exacerbating issues in the Xinjiang province.

## United States

The United States has underscored the paramount importance of safeguarding children from harm and ensuring their active participation and consideration of their needs in the pursuit of sustainable peace endeavors. It unequivocally calls upon the Taliban and all involved parties to uphold and respect the fundamental rights of children, including the indispensable rights of girls to education and safeguarding from all forms of violence and exploitation.





## Iran

It has come to light through numerous credible sources and intelligence reports that the Quds Force of Iran has been surreptitiously channeling substantial financial resources and providing extensive military assistance to fuel the activities of the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan. This covert support has led to a notable expansion of its operational presence within the country, posing significant challenges to stability and security in the region.



## V. Useful Material

### Videos

- [▶ Afghanistan Crisis Explained for Kids - Behind the News](#)
- [▶ Who are the Taliban? | Start Here](#)
- [▶ How the Taliban Took Over Afghanistan. Again. | Start Here.](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiDbX1CZCac>

- [▶ Why al-Qaeda are still a threat 20 years after 9/11 | Start Here](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uod1RAyJaxg>

- [▶ Who are the TTP \(Tehrik-i-Taliban\)? | 5 Minute History Episode 10](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8l0fOdVSKVY>

- [▶ What Is the Taliban's New Afghanistan Like?](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkFzXZVTxJo>



## Documents and Websites

- The Challenges Facing Afghans with Disabilities

[Asfandyar Mir on Why ISIS-K Attacked Moscow | United States Institute of Peace](#)

- Afghanistan: Taliban Child Soldier Recruitment Surges

[Afghanistan: Taliban Child Soldier Recruitment Surges | Human Rights Watch](#)

- Afghanistan: UN human rights experts warn of bleak future without massive turnaround

[Afghanistan: UN human rights experts warn of bleak future without massive turnaround | OHCHR](#)

- Afghanistan: UN experts call on the Taliban to immediately halt public floggings and executions

[Afghanistan: UN experts call on the Taliban to immediately halt public floggings and executions | OHCHR](#)

- Afghanistan: UN experts call for immediate action to stop escalating humanitarian catastrophe

[Afghanistan: UN experts call for immediate action to stop escalating humanitarian catastrophe | OHCHR](#)



## 5. Topic C: “Problems regarding sanitation and hygiene in African countries due to the climate emergency and its impact on children.”

### I. Introduction to the Topic

The climate emergency is an existential threat that looms large over the future of our planet, with its effects reverberating across every corner of the globe. While its impact is universal, it is often the most vulnerable among us who bear the brunt of its consequences. Among these vulnerable groups, children in African countries face particularly acute challenges when it comes to sanitation and hygiene in the face of the climate crisis.

Africa, a continent of diverse ecosystems and rich cultural heritage, is also home to some of the world's most pressing developmental challenges. Amidst these challenges, the climate emergency acts as a multiplier, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and straining already fragile systems. Nowhere is this more evident than in the realm of sanitation and hygiene, fundamental components of public health and human dignity.



At the heart of the issue lies the interplay between climate variability and the availability of clean water, a cornerstone of sanitation and hygiene. Across vast swaths of Africa, changing weather patterns manifest in erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and intense floods. These extremes disrupt the availability and accessibility of clean water sources, leaving communities—especially children—exposed to the risks of waterborne diseases and poor hygiene practices.

Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires holistic and adaptive approaches that center on the needs of children and communities most affected by the climate crisis. Investing in





resilient infrastructure, sustainable water management, and climate-smart agriculture is essential for building adaptive capacity and mitigating the impacts of the climate emergency on sanitation and hygiene. Community-based adaptation initiatives, coupled with efforts to empower local stakeholders and promote education, offer pathways to resilience and sustainable development even in the face of adversity.

As we confront the urgent realities of the climate emergency, it is imperative that we prioritize the protection and well-being of children, ensuring that they have access to clean water, safe sanitation facilities, and the knowledge to practice good hygiene. Only through concerted action and collective resolve can we build a future where every child in Africa—and beyond—can thrive in a healthy and sustainable environment, resilient to the challenges of a changing climate.

## II. Historical Context

During the colonial era, much of Africa's infrastructure, including sanitation systems, was established to serve the needs of colonial powers rather than indigenous populations. Consequently, many communities were left with inadequate sanitation infrastructure that struggled to accommodate growing populations.



This legacy continues to influence the accessibility and quality of sanitation services in African countries today. Following independence, many African nations faced economic and political challenges that hindered investments in sanitation and hygiene infrastructure. Limited resources, coupled with competing development priorities, resulted in neglected sanitation systems and insufficient access to clean water and sanitation facilities for large segments of the population. These challenges persist, contributing to the ongoing struggle to provide adequate sanitation and hygiene services.



Inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene practices have long been linked to public health challenges in Africa, including the spread of **waterborne diseases** such as cholera, diarrheal infections, and neglected tropical diseases. These health challenges disproportionately affect children, who are more vulnerable to the consequences of poor sanitation and hygiene practices. Addressing these health challenges requires comprehensive approaches that prioritize investments in sanitation infrastructure, hygiene education, and access to clean water.



Over the past few decades, Africa has experienced rapid **urbanization**, with millions of people migrating from rural areas to cities in search of better economic opportunities. This rapid urban growth has strained existing sanitation infrastructure, leading to overcrowding, inadequate waste management, and increased health risks, particularly in informal settlements or **slums**. Urbanization has further highlighted the need for improved sanitation and hygiene services to support growing urban populations.

### III. Current Situation

In recent years, there has been increased international attention on improving sanitation and hygiene in Africa through initiatives such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 6, which aims to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all.





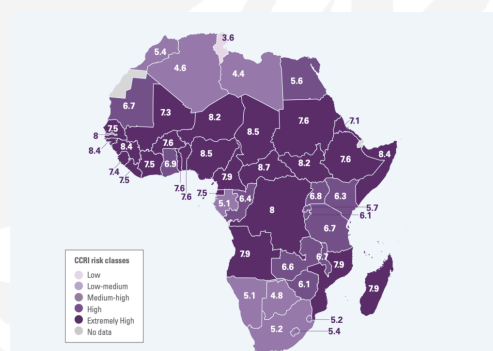
Despite these efforts, progress has been uneven, with many African countries still facing significant challenges in achieving universal access to sanitation and hygiene services.

Collaboration between governments, civil society organizations, and international partners is essential to address the complex and interconnected issues surrounding sanitation and hygiene in Africa.

Many regions in Africa continue to face water scarcity, exacerbated by the climate emergency. Erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and increased temperatures contribute to dwindling water sources, making access to clean water a significant challenge for millions of people. This scarcity not only affects drinking water but also hampers sanitation and hygiene practices, further exacerbating health risks, especially for children.



Poor sanitation and hygiene practices contribute to a range of health challenges in Africa, including the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera, diarrheal infections, and parasitic infections. Children are especially vulnerable to these diseases, which can lead to malnutrition, stunted growth, and cognitive impairments. The climate emergency exacerbates these health risks by increasing the prevalence of waterborne diseases and complicating efforts to provide adequate healthcare services in affected areas.



Despite the challenges, there are promising innovations and initiatives aimed at improving sanitation and hygiene in African countries. These include the use of technology for water purification and waste management, community-led sanitation initiatives, and behavior



change campaigns promoting good hygiene practices. Additionally, partnerships between governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector, play a crucial role in driving progress towards universal access to sanitation and hygiene services.

## IV. Countries' Positions

### United Kingdom

Recognize that this is a problem of great importance. This country has taken several measures to address these issues, especially for the well-being of children.



They have created a priority area in their international development agenda that focuses on water, sanitation, and hygiene (**WASH**) where they seek to help by focusing on addressing the needs of children and the most vulnerable populations affected by this issue.

### Germany

Germany is involved in this difficulty by helping with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in developing countries, including African ones. Germany is very important when it comes to financing these projects, as it is a very important donor for WASH projects in Africa. Additionally, participate in international fairs showing your work and support for other organizations.





## Australia

Australia provides **Official Development Assistance** (ODA) for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects in developing countries such as some in Africa. But despite this, Australia's contribution to these projects has decreased in recent years.



Between 2015 and 2021, only around a fifth of Australia's ODA for WASH goes to the least developed countries, and most of Australia's ODA for WASH does not reach the least developed countries in Africa that need it most, and this has been evident recently.

## Italy

Italy has contributed to initiatives such as the WASH program through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) which is a regional organization in the Horn of Africa. Recently the Italian government launched a project called "Plan Mattei" which is a program for the development of Africa and its objective is to boost economic ties and stop migration.



Although this is the objective of this project, there is some concern that this program uses funds that are intended for climate and development projects in investments in fossil fuels, leaving in doubt Italy's commitment to mitigate these problems that arise, present in these regions.



## V. Useful Material

### Videos

- [Climate-Induced Drought Grips Horn of Africa](#)
- [Climate change or politics? - Why Madagascar is going hungry | DW Documentary](#)
- [What is Climate Change? Explore the Causes of Climate Change](#)
- [Unsafe water, hygiene and sanitation kills 1000 children under 5 every day | UNICEF](#)
- [The Importance of Access to Clean Water and Sanitation in Promoting Public Health](#)
- [Flight for Life: A Climate Migrant Story | Global Lens](#)

### Documents and Websites

- [Delivering climate-resilient water and sanitation in Africa and Asia](#)

#### [Delivering climate-resilient water and sanitation in Africa and Asia](#)

- [Climate Change and Health Preparedness in Africa: Analyzing Trends in Six African Countries](#)

#### [Climate Change and Health Preparedness in Africa: Analysing Trends in Six African Countries - PMC](#)

- [Africa to drastically accelerate progress on water, sanitation, and hygiene](#)

#### [Africa to drastically accelerate progress on water, sanitation and hygiene – report](#)

- [Africa faces rising climate-linked health emergencies](#)

#### [Africa faces rising climate-linked health emergencies](#)

- [Horn of Africa: Climate-related health crisis worsens as disease outbreaks surge](#)

#### [Horn of Africa: Climate-related health crisis worsens as disease outbreaks surge](#)

- [Addressing Africa’s extreme water insecurity](#)

#### [Addressing Africa’s extreme water insecurity](#)

- [Effects of household access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services on under-five mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

#### [Effects of household access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services on under-five mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

- [“Italy launches ‘ambiguous’ Africa plan fuelling fears over fossil fuels role.”](#)



[Italy's Africa plan raises concerns about fossil fuels](#)





## 6. Resources

### I. Countries Present in the Committee

1. Arab Republic of Egypt
2. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
3. Commonwealth of Australia
4. Democratic Republic of the Congo
5. Federal Republic of Germany
6. French Republic
7. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
8. Hungary
9. Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan
10. Islamic Republic of Iran
11. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
12. Italian Republic
13. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
14. Palestine Liberation Organization (Representative of the)
15. People's Republic of China
16. Republic of Iraq
17. Republic of Lebanon
18. Republic of the Sudan
19. Russian Federation
20. State of Israel
21. State of Qatar
22. Syrian Arab Republic
23. United Arab Emirates
24. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
25. United States of America





It is important to note that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the Representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization do not possess a right to vote, since neither of the mentioned are member states of the United Nations, and thereby of the UNICEF committee.

## II. QARMAS and FAQs

### Topic A

1. What is your delegation's position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that is taking place in Gaza?
2. Mention a case of a boy or girl whose right has been violated in the Gaza region due to this conflict.
3. What type of measures does your delegation consider should be taken to protect and ensure the rights of children who are affected by this conflict?
4. Is your delegation playing a role in providing humanitarian aid and support to children affected by the conflict in Gaza? And if so, what is he contributing?
5. What does your delegation propose to end this war?
6. Is Israel's blockade of Gaza acceptable or necessary? Why?
7. What measures do you think should be taken so that water and medicine supplies can enter the Gaza region?
8. Is the concept of a two-state solution the best option to end this conflict? Why?

### Topic B

1. What is your country's view on the impact of Taliban subjugation of minors on the education and development of these children?



2. Determine what type of precautionary measures is your country taking to protect children affected by Taliban subjugation?
3. What kinds of resources can your country propose to help children who have been released from Taliban ranks reintegrate into society?
4. Which of the types of children's rights are most often violated by the Taliban in these regions?
5. If your country is currently involved in war, how would you ensure that children are not involved? What measures would your country apply?
6. Your country is taking appropriate measures to prevent the use of children in war conflicts? What kind of measures?
7. How does your country contribute to helping children affected by the Taliban in Afghanistan?
8. How can the international community effectively engage with local actors and communities to protect children's rights in Afghanistan, considering cultural sensitivities and power dynamics?

## Topic C

1. Are the measures being taken to combat this problem the best? Why?
2. Is your country taking measures to combat this problem? If so, what measures is your country taking?
3. What organizations are involved in mitigating sanitation and hygiene problems in developing countries?
4. What are the main threats and challenges that children face in situations of poor hygiene and climate problems?



5. Could some countries benefit from getting involved in financial aid? As?
6. Who are the most affected by this problem?
7. What is the area of Africa where the most significant negative climate impact is evident?
8. Does your country collaborate with any international organization to provide humanitarian aid? If so, which one?

### III. Glossary

#### Topic A

- **Blockade:** the act of actively preventing a country or region from receiving or sending out food, supplies, weapons, or communications, and sometimes people, by military force.
- **Ottoman Empire:** Was a major medieval/early modern empire that controlled much of Southeast Europe, Western Asia and North Africa between the 14th and early 20th centuries.
- **Oslo Accords:** were a series of agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) signed in the 1990s that established the foundation for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- **Intifada:** the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The first intifada lasted from 1987 to 1993, and the second began in 2000.
- **Revolutionary Guard:** a branch of the Iranian military, founded in 1979 to defend Iran's Islamic Revolution.
- **Forced displacement:** is an involuntary or coerced movement of a person or people away from their home or home region.
- **Two-state solution:** proposed framework for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by establishing two states for two peoples: Israel for the Jewish people and Palestine for the Palestinian people



## Topic B

- **Children's rights:** the right to speak out and express opinions, as well as rights to equality, health, education, a clean environment, a safe place to live and protection from all kinds of harm.
- **Shaira:** the religious law of Islam is seen as the expression of God's command for Muslims and, in application, constitutes a system of duties that are incumbent upon all Muslims by virtue of their religious belief.
- **Subjugation:** the act of defeating people or a country and ruling them in a way that allows them no freedom.
- **Child marriage:** child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child.
- **Coercion:** the use of force to persuade someone to do something that they are unwilling to do.
- **Withdrawal of Soviet forces:** A powerful group of Communist republics (= countries without a king or queen) including Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, and 11 others that existed in Europe and Asia from 1922 to 1991: The Soviet Union was one of the most centralized regimes in the world.
- **Al-Qaeda:** Al-Qaeda in Arabic means "the base". It is an outlawed terrorist organization dedicated to attacking Western interests around the world and toppling governments in Asia and Africa, governments it considers too close to the West and insufficiently Islamic.
- **Armed Conflict in states:** arises whenever there is fighting between States or protracted armed violence between government authorities and organized armed groups, or just between organized armed groups. An international armed conflict arises when one state uses armed force against another State or States.
- **Non-state armed groups:** are individuals or groups that are wholly or partly independent of governments and which threaten or use violence to achieve their goals.



## Topic C

- **Waterborne diseases:** illnesses caused by microscopic organisms, like viruses and bacteria, that are ingested through contaminated water or by coming in contact with feces.
- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** A term used to collectively describe access to water, sanitation, and hygiene that are crucial to human health and well-being.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** is the adjustments societies or ecosystems make to limit the negative effects of climate change or to take advantage of opportunities provided by a changing climate.
- **Urbanization:** the process through which cities grow, and higher and higher percentages of the population come to live in the city
- **Slums:** a very poor and crowded area, especially of a city
- **Official Development Assistance:** It is the main financial instrument of international development public policy focused on improving the living conditions of people living in Southern countries and achieving international sustainable development goals.
- **Hygiene Promotion:** a systematic attempt to adequately promote personal, domestic, environmental and food hygiene practices that prevent or mitigate the transmission of diseases.

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