



## **Background Paper**

**Committee:** The Economic and Social Council

**Topic:** Discuss The Protection And Welfare Of Children In Conflict-Affected Areas, Including Issues Such As Child Soldiers, Displacement, And Access To Education

**Chairs:** Malak Talamas Ayala and Camila Lilieth Cisneros Botello

The protection and well-being of children who are living in war and combat zones is an important and quite delicate issue that involves millions of children. The United Nations Security Council has identified and condemned six grave violations against children in times of war: murder and maiming of children, recruitment or use of children in armed forces and armed groups, attacks on schools or hospitals, rape, kidnapping, and denial of humanitarian needs. Between 2005 and 2022, more than 315,000 violations against children were counted, and many more remain unregistered.

Around the world, thousands of minors are enlisted to fight in military conflicts, The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports that over 93,000 children are confirmed to have engaged as military soldiers in the wars between 2005 and 2020. Attacks against children continue to increase every day. The number of countries experiencing conflict is higher than in 30 years, resulting in more than 30 million children being affected by the conflict. Many of the children end up enslaved, trafficked, used as soldiers, abused, and exploited and others live without formal immigration status or access to education and medical care, leaving them at their mercy in other countries where they end up living on the streets or in worse situations this children's are most commonly from countries like Afghanistan, Angola, Iraq, Liberia, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda or Yemen Most of them are African countries or countries that are constantly at war or recently where children end up as soldiers or dead by survival.

UNICEF estimated that 450 million kids live in a conflict zone, these are children under the age of 18 who are recruited and used in armed forces or groups. They are forced to become soldiers, often enduring physical and psychological abuse. The impact on their lives is devastating, as they are robbed of their innocence and exposed to violence and brutality. Efforts need to be made to address the issue of child soldiers and provide them with the necessary protection and support to rebuild their lives. It is proven that the majority of children who are affected end up dead or in other countries being abused or living on the streets. Children are being indirectly affected by wars that make the lives of children in different ways depriving them of their children and sometimes ending their lives.

So far, there has been international action such as the campaign “Children, Not Soldiers” To achieve a global consensus that child soldiers should not be used in conflicts. The campaign aimed to strengthen political will and international support to end once and for all the recruitment of children by state security forces in conflict situations. At the time of the launch, the countries concerned by the campaign were Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen the countries that suffer the most from child soldiers. Under the United Nations, UNICEF is responsible for the reintegration of former child soldiers and its priority is to prepare them for reintegration into civilian life. Psychosocial support, education, and training are important aspects of reintegration programs. Attempts to reunite children with their families and communities are essential, but awareness-raising and reconciliation efforts may be necessary before children return home.

Children, the future of the world, are constantly put in danger, the international community must create a strategy to prevent children from being used as soldiers or ending up in worse conditions. Attending delegations must look for a plan that solves current cases of child violence and prevents future ones. The health and well-being of currently affected children should be a priority. We wish you the best of luck delegates.

\*\*\*This paper needs to be rewritten in formal language. It also needs to be revised to be informative and unbiased! CITATIONS ARE LACKING, and that is a huge problem!

Remember that background papers help delegates understand the topic: its history (hence-*background* paper), its relevance and impact in the international community, and aid with potential sources of information.

*Works Cited*

“UNICEF’s Change Agenda for Protecting Children in Armed Conflict.” *UNICEF*,  
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*The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross - International Review Of ...*,  
[international-review.icrc.org/sites/default/files/S0020860400019872a.pdf](http://international-review.icrc.org/sites/default/files/S0020860400019872a.pdf)

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## **Background Paper Topic B**

**Committee:** United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

**Topic:** Children's Rights In Conflict Zones and Their Protection In Emergencies

**Chairs:** Camila Lilieth Cisneros Botello and Malak Talamas Ayala

“In 2022, 468 million children worldwide lived in areas affected by armed conflict” (*Save the Children*). Children nowadays are constantly being affected by wars, natural disasters, humanitarian crises, and diseases, and it requires a coordinated response from every country to diminish the vulnerability levels. Child protection in emergencies (CPI) corresponds to the actions taken after a disaster to ensure children’s well-being. When responding to an emergency the main priorities should be: avoiding further exposure for children, impartial humanitarian assistance, respect for their ideologies, and neutrality in conflicts. UNICEF is responsible for attending to the necessities that children may present after disasters.

Children must be assisted carefully and countries must ensure that they fulfill their necessities in the short and long term. Child protection in emergencies involves multiple parts and resources, therefore, cooperation is a key factor in this topic. In the aftermath of conflict and disasters children are severely negatively impacted, which reaffirms the importance of the matter. Children can be often affected by injuries, which if not treated properly can lead to lifelong disabilities. Displacement can be another of the outcomes of an emergency, meaning separation in families and a higher exposure to vulnerability and violence. After separation, children become prone to acts of violence, physical and sexual abuse, emotional and psychological distress, and child labor. Addressing these issues is crucial to safeguard the well-being and future of children, encouraging countries to prioritize attention to children in such situations.

Child protection issues in conflict zones and emergencies have a long historical trajectory, dating back centuries. However, the formal recognition and efforts to address these concerns gained interest notably after World War I and World War II. During these global conflicts, the large devastation highlighted the vulnerability of children in war-torn landscapes. The aftermath of World War II ended with organizations like UNICEF, which initially focused on providing emergency relief to children affected by the war. The Geneva Conventions, developed in the aftermath of World War II, included provisions safeguarding children affected by armed conflict. Since then, global awareness relating to child rights has continued to evolve.

Currently, countries like Afghanistan, Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Nigeria, and Sudan are categorized as the most dangerous places children can live in due to conflict. It is estimated that “1 in 6 of the World's Children Live in a Conflict Zone” (*Save the Children*). Over time, there have been many treaties to ensure children’s rights, like The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which took effect in 1990 where they established “the basic principles in protecting children in emergencies.” The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2000 and more recently “In 2012, the UNICEF-led Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), comprised of more than 500 child protection international experts from 14 organizations, launched the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action (CPMS).” (*Child Protection in Emergencies*)

The focus of this debate should center around creating a strategy to adequately support children in the aftermath of emergencies, emphasizing communication and building awareness, child protection monitoring, and preparing children to know how to respond to an emergency. Debate how to proportionate well-trained staff to every affected area and develop plans on collecting information such as documentation and analysis of damages to provide more organized care. We recommend you be fully aware of your country’s situation and know your allies. We wish you the best of luck delegates.

## Works Cited:

Child Protection Rapid Assessment Toolkit - IFRC.

[https://pqi.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-11/cpra\\_english-en.pdf](https://pqi.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-11/cpra_english-en.pdf)

*These countries in conflict are the worst places to be a child.* Save the Children.

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/worst-conflict-affected-countries-to-be-a-child#:~:text=1%20in%206%20of%20the,number%20in%20over%20a%20decade>.

*History of a logo.* UNICEF.

<https://www.unicef.org/about-unicef/unicef-logo-history#:~:text=1946,fund%20of%20the%20United%20Nations>.

Child protection in emergencies - UNICEF.

<https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/media/961/file/Child-protection-toolkit.pdf>