



WMUN II

UNICEF

Cathy Arockia Raj

Co-Chair

Aksh Kansal

Co-Chair

Letter from the Chairs:

Welcome to this year's Wilder Model United Nations Conference. You are participating in the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, co-chaired by Aksh Kansal and Arockia Catherine Arockia Raj.

Aksh Kansal is a 7th grader in the GYSA program at L. Douglas Wilder Middle School, and this is his first year as a chair for Wilder Model United Nations. He is in the National Junior Honor Society, rubix-cube club, and the chess club. He also plays piano and tennis as his specialties.

Arockia Catherine Arockia Raj is a 7th grader in the GYSA program at L. Douglas Wilder Middle School, and this is also her first year as a chair for Wilder Model United Nations. She is completing the Trinity College London Grade 1 Examination in Piano. She enjoys journaling, drawing, and writing short-stories.

In this committee, we will be focusing on the continuity of service in humanitarian crises and protecting and including children with disabilities. We encourage you to research and collect background information relating to the topics given as well as the person you are assigned. Papers will also be checked for AI usage, and if AI is found, you will be exempt from awards. We also ask that the information you provide is correct and there are no personal opinions or biases. Your background information can be used for your position paper, which will help you understand your role and the topics better; turning in a position paper is optional, but is imperative to be considered for awards. All position papers must be cited with MLA 9 formatting, or the said paper will be flagged for plagiarism. Along with the quality of your position paper, the chairs will also take your contribution to the overall debate into consideration, and delegates must be remarkable in both areas to be eligible for awards.

If there are any questions or concerns, please email wildermodelun@gmail.com to contact chairs. We look forward to having you as a delegate in our committee, and hope that your preparation goes well!

Your Chairs,

Arockia Catherine Arockia Raj and Aksh Kansal

WMUN

L. Douglas Wilder Middle School Model UN

UNICEF

Specialized Agencies

Topic I: The Continuity of Service in Humanitarian Crises

Topic II: Protection and Inclusion of Children with Disabilities

Committee Overview:

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, also known as UNICEF, is a subsidiary organ in the General Assembly of the United Nations focussed on protecting the rights and lives of families worldwide. UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories across the world, attempting to provide support in areas such as healthcare, education, nutrition, child protection, and much more. This committee is aiming to continue their service in humanitarian crises, as well as protect and include disabled children. These issues are currently being threatened by minimal funding and violence and/or discrimination towards those with disabilities.

Topic 1:

The Continuity of Service in Humanitarian Crises

Across the globe, countless humanitarian crises demand immediate action from the United Nations and other international organizations. In the 21st century, approximately 10% of these crises have reached a critical tipping point, prompting urgent attention and resources around the world. Over the last decade, escalating tensions have resulted in significant political divisions, economic downturns, and widespread human suffering, with far-reaching negative impacts on children in communities internationally.

Humanitarian emergencies, ranging from natural disasters, to armed conflicts, and pandemics. All disrupting critical services that are essential for the survival and well-being of children and their futures. These services include healthcare, education for kids, nutrition, and protection from violence and exploitation. The continuity of these vital services is crucial not only for addressing immediate needs but also for fostering long-term resilience in vulnerable populations.

For example, Sudan is currently grappling with severe challenges that affect its children's quality of life. The average life expectancy in the country stands at only 68 years, reflecting the dire health and living conditions faced by many including the children. In 2022, a staggering 34.45% of Sudanese youth were unemployed, leaving them without the means to provide for their basic necessities. This alarming statistic highlights the urgency of addressing such humanitarian crises, as the implications extend beyond immediate survival; they threaten the very fabric of society and hinder future generations from achieving their full potential in life.

Another sobering example is Yemen, which has been embroiled in conflict for several years now, leading to one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world at this time. Millions of children in Yemen face severe malnutrition, and access to clean water and medical care is critically limited. Reports indicate that around 24 million people, including an estimated 12 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance. This dire situation illustrates the importance of maintaining service continuity during crises, as without intervention, the future of an entire generation hangs in the balance.

Over the years, UNICEF has played an extreme role in providing immediate humanitarian aid to children globally. While also working to restore and maintain essential services and goods children lose during crises. The organization has implemented various strategies to ensure that children and families receive the support they need, even in the most

challenging times and circumstances. However, these efforts require substantial amounts of funding and collaboration between governments, NGOs, and community partners.

UNICEF is planning to implement a new plan globally, the UNICEF Strategic Plan. This plan will reach over 73 million children internationally, but there is one problem, funding. UNICEF is currently appealing for \$7.66 billion USD dollars in aid from countries around the world. Though the United States of America was and still is a generous donor for UNICEF, the American government has cut \$142 million dollars from core funding, which UNICEF claims to be a “profound setback” for themselves. The Japan Committee for UNICEF is the biggest donor in recent times; donating \$145 million dollars in USD. However, this is not even close to reaching the essential goal of \$7.66 billion dollars in USD. Delegates must find solutions to fund the UNICEF Strategic Plan, and more importantly, protect children around the world.

The UNICEF Strategic Plan should speed up all advancements toward any child-related SDGs. The plan is set from 2026-2029 and UNICEF is planning to have reached a large amount of SDGs by 2030. This plan will provide resources to enhance service delivery during crises, internationally. It calls for increased investment in humanitarian preparedness and response in countries, highlighting the need for flexible funding mechanisms that can be deployed in emergencies and crises. Additionally, leveraging data and evidence for decision-making is a crucial aspect of the plan, enabling UNICEF to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging needs in communities.

As part of its commitment to accountability and transparency, the Strategic Plan also includes benchmarks and performance indicators to monitor progress toward achieving its goals internationally and checkpoints along the way. Regular assessments and evaluations will help UNICEF and its partners understand what works, replicate successful models, and

continuously improve interventions in humanitarian contexts.

UNICEF's Strategic Plan serves as a guiding framework for ensuring that services remain accessible and effective despite the adversity and challenges faced along the path. By prioritizing the health, education, protection, and equitable opportunities of children, UNICEF aims to mitigate the impact of crises on posterity and build resilience within affected communities and even countries. As the committee addresses these critical issues, it is vital to align discussions with the strategic goals set forth in this plan, emphasizing the collaborative efforts required to sustain services and uphold the rights of children worldwide.

Questions to Consider:

- 1. What innovative funding strategies can UNICEF leverage to ensure the timely implementation of its Strategic Plan by early 2026?**
 - 2. How can UNICEF adapt its programs to mitigate the impacts of the anticipated \$142 million budget cut from the U.S. while ensuring continuous support for children in need?**
 - 3. How can UNICEF enhance its approach to meet the diverse and unique needs of children in various contexts, particularly in crisis situations?**
 - 4. What creative fundraising approaches can UNICEF adopt to mobilize resources for its humanitarian efforts, especially during times of fiscal uncertainty?**
 - 5. How does UNICEF proactively address gender inequality and discrimination within its humanitarian programs to ensure equitable outcomes for all children?**
-

Topic 2: Protection and Inclusion of Children with Disabilities

Over the years, multiple children have been born with disabilities. While some families accept this obstacle and graciously take these poor children into their lives, others throw them out, with the now-abandoned child never understanding a true family. UNICEF is aiming to keep these children safe and included to eliminate this threat once and for all with their Humanitarian Action for Children, or HAC appeal.

As of late 2025, one out of six children roughly 16% of children aging from 3-17 have some sort of intellectual disability. Education Cannot Wait or ECW, an organization collaborating with UNICEF, has estimated that over 17 million disabled children are out of school due to their disabilities.

Another way to view this alarming notice, is that disabled children make up over 20% of “crisis-affected children”. UNICEF also says that they noticed that the more extreme the disability is, the more likely a child will be shunned from any educational opportunities. It is also important to note that depending on the disability, sometimes proper schooling can be extremely expensive, which caregivers may not be able to provide for.

Due to their disabilities, parents have higher difficulty finding care rather than parents with non disabled children during crises. ECCP survey data shows that parents face numerous barricades to care for their disabled children , including “lack of slots, scheduling challenges, and concerns about quality.” Parents have to change jobs, and receive help from people like extended family, child care centers, special

education schools, and nurses from home health aide to provide care for their children. Parents with disabled children are also 3 times as likely to have job disruption rather than ones with non-disabled children.

UNICEF states that they are launching an appeal. The 2026 Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal is aiming for “over 9 million children with disabilities”. This appeal is taking action in over 130 countries and territories. This plan aims to provide support to families including ones with disabled children globally providing life saving aid throughout crises. By using funding from donations it plans to provide education, economic protection, health care, nutrition, protection of rights, and social and behavior change.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA has specific country targets such as Afghanistan and Ukraine. OCHA is estimating that over 14 million people are in need of healthcare in Afghanistan, and people with disabilities (along with children) make up over 7 million (almost half of the total number in Afghanistan).

In Ukraine, over 160,000 children are diagnosed with a disability. Seeing that Ukraine is a conflict-zone, UNICEF has helped save millions. At the end of 2022, over 50,000 children with disabilities were saved, and that number continues to grow.

UNICEF must find ways to fund the HAC appeal, and collaborate with other organizations in order to protect children with disabilities. Other organizations that have this motive include OCHA and ECW.

Another organization that is dedicated to including disabled children are the Special Olympics. These “olympics” are for disabled people only, allowing them to be truly included, especially in the physical aspect. The Special Olympics are to be held in the summer of 2026, around the same time the HAC appeal will have already made a difference.

On December 13, 2006, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, or otherwise known as the CRPD. The CRPD states that rather than being seen as “objects” in need of medical assistance, they are to be seen as “subjects” that are allowed to assert their individual rights, and become active members of society.

The CRPD also allows those with disabilities to make choices for their individual lives according to their free and informed knowledge. However, people violate the CRPD in war zones, by leaving those with disabilities behind in conflict zones and treating them unfairly. Not only does this depressing occurrence happen in war zones, but in daily life as well.

Delegates must find ways for UNICEF to possibly collaborate with other organizations and to fully fund the HAC appeal. It is rare for an appeal to be funded immediately, so delegates must work with utmost speed yet caution.

Questions to Consider:

- 1. What are possible policies that could be implemented to assist caregivers economically?**
- 2. How could UNICEF and other organizations such as OCHA and ECW collaborate together to assist more disabled children in conflict-zones?**
- 3. How can UNICEF completely fund the Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal in order to be funded completely by 2027?**
- 4. How could the Special Olympics collaborate with UNICEF to promote inclusion for disabled children affected by conflict-zones?**
- 5. What other organizations could possibly help fund the Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal or provide economic protection for caregivers of disabled children?**

Works Cited

Education Cannot Wait. GLOBAL ESTIMATES 2025 UPDATE.

www.educationcannotwait.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/global_estimates_advocacy_brief_en.pdf.

Galan, S. "Largest Donors to UNICEF 2022." Statista, 28 Nov. 2025,

www.statista.com/statistics/1455160/top-ten-core-donors-unicef/.

Gupta, Hemant. "High Rates of Unemployment among Youths in Sudan - the Borgen Project."

The Borgen Project, Hemant Gupta, 17 Apr. 2024,

borgenproject.org/unemployment-among-youths-in-sudan/. Accessed 8 Jan. 2026.

Human Rights Watch. "Human Rights Watch." Human Rights Watch, 2025, www.hrw.org/.

Accessed 19 Jan. 2026.

IFRC. "International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies." International

Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 2025, www.ifrc.org/. Accessed 19

Jan. 2026.

njohnson. "6 Urgent Humanitarian Crises around the World." World Relief, Wisconsin Blog, 10

Dec. 2024, worldrelief.org/6-urgent-humanitarian-crises-around-the-world/. Accessed 8

Jan. 2026.

Novoa, Cristina. "The Child Care Crisis Disproportionately Affects Children with Disabilities."

Center for American Progress, 29 Jan. 2020,

www.americanprogress.org/article/child-care-crisis-disproportionately-affects-children-disabilities/. Accessed 21 Jan. 2026.

“Statistics on Developmental Disabilities – Georgia HOPE.” Gahope.org,

gahope.org/statistics-on-developmental-disabilities/. Accessed 21 Jan. 2026.

UNICEF. “Education Cannot Wait, UNICEF and Strategic Partners Announce US\$2.5 Million

ECW First Emergency Response Grant during High-Level Mission to Haiti with Total

ECW Funding Topping US\$15.8 Million.” Unicef.org, 2024,

www.unicef.org/press-releases/education-cannot-wait-unicef-and-strategic-partners-announce-us25-million-ecw-first.

---. “Inclusion of Children with Disabilities.” Unicef.org, 2018,

www.unicef.org/belarus/en/inclusion-children-disabilities#programme-solution. Accessed 21 Jan. 2026.

---. “Inclusion of Children with Disabilities | UNICEF.” Wwww.unicef.org,

www.unicef.org/belarus/en/inclusion-children-disabilities.

---. “UNICEF Impact in Ukraine.” UNICEF USA, 2025,

www.unicefusa.org/stories/unicef-impact-ukraine.

---. “UNICEF Integrated Budget, 2026–2029 (Second Regular Session 2025).” Unicef.org, 2025,

www.unicef.org/executiveboard/documents/unicef-integrated-budget-2026-2029-srs-2025

---. “UNICEF Launches 2026 Humanitarian Appeal.” Unicef.org, 2026,

www.unicef.org/emergencies/launch-2026-humanitarian-appeal.

---. “UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029 (Second Regular Session 2025).” Unicef.org, 2025,

www.unicef.org/executiveboard/documents/unicef-strategic-plan-2026-2029-srs-2025.

UNICEF USA. "Statement from UNICEF USA President and CEO, Michael J. Nyenhuis, on the Vote Approving the Proposed Rescissions Package." UNICEF USA, U.S. Fund for UNICEF, 17 July 2025, www.unicefusa.org/press/statement-unicef-usa-president-and-ceo-michael-j-nyenhuis-vote-approving-proposed-rescissions. Accessed 8 Jan. 2026.

---. "UNICEF USA." UNICEF USA, 10 Dec. 2025, www.unicefusa.org/media-hub/reports/Humanitarian-Action-Children-2026. Accessed 21 Jan. 2026.

United Nations. "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities." United Nations, 2006, social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd.

WHO. "Sudan." Datadot (WHO), WHO, 2023, data.who.int/countries/729?scrlybrkr=dc7a1392. Accessed 8 Jan. 2026.

World Bank. "World Bank Group - International Development, Poverty and Sustainability." Worldbank.org, 2025, www.worldbank.org/ext/en/home. Accessed 19 Jan. 2026.

World Food Programme. "World Food Programme." World Food Programme, 2023, www.wfp.org/. Accessed 19 Jan. 2026.