



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



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I. United Nations (UN)

I.I What is the UN?

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. Currently made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.

The UN has evolved over the years to keep peace with a rapidly changing world. But one thing has stayed the same: it remains the one place on Earth where all the world's nations can gather together, discuss common problems, and find shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.

I.II What is the purpose of the UN?

The United Nations itself is one part of the UN System. Cooperation between the UN and the other entities of the UN system is essential in order to achieve the purposes of the Organization laid out in the UN Charter.

Since its Charter was written, the United Nations has been mandated to do new work which was not envisioned at the time of its creation. The Organization has set goals to build a more sustainable world, and it has agreed to collective action to slow down climate change.

As the problems facing humanity have grown, the work of the United Nations has also grown.

I.III What does the UN provide?

The work of the United Nations covers five main areas:

- Maintain International Peace and Security
- Protect Human Rights
- Deliver Humanitarian Aid
- Support Sustainable Development and Climate Action
- Uphold International Law

II. The objective of COLUMUN

The COLUMUN is a role-play activity in which you will have the opportunity to represent a State Member of the UN in solving problems along with other members in order to maintain peace around the world and improve life quality. There are three very important things to consider:

1. The goal of each committee within the MUN is to work collaboratively to come up with a solution for the topic discussed in response to the challenges presented against the world or humanity in a diplomatic form.
2. Participants must assume the role of that country's diplomats and each delegation represents the views of "their" country, reflecting its national interests, rather than their own personal opinions on an issue.
3. . Delegates research their country's position on selected topics, paying particular attention to their country's perspective on the topics to be discussed at the MUN.

III. Committee

III. I What is the "committee" and their objectives?

- UNICEF involves everyone in creating protective environments for children. The agency is present to relieve suffering during emergencies, and wherever children are threatened, because no child should be exposed to violence, abuse or exploitation. UNICEF upholds the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

III.II History of the committee

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) is an organization created in 1946 to help children and mothers after the Second World War.

1. Creation (1946): After World War II, many children in Europe and China were suffering, so UNICEF began providing help to them. It was a program of the United Nations focused on helping children affected.

2. Expansion (from 1950): The need grew so UNICEF began working in regions like Africa, Asia and America. They made new programs to adapt them to the different children in the world.
3. Children (1979): UNICEF became a bigger organization. It started working harder to improve children's rights and well-being worldwide and not only in emergencies. They declared the International Year of the Child to raise awareness.
4. Children's Rights: UNICEF created the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted in 1989 by the UN. This document defines children's rights like education, health care and protection.

UNICEF continues its work over 190 countries, focusing on children's health, education, equality and protection. It helps children with less economical resources, violence, disasters, etc. The organization works to promote children's rights and improve their lives.

III.III Features (how many permanent members are there, where, when and under what circumstances are the sessions held,...)

Permanent Members:

Unicef is run by an Executive Board with 36 members. These members are chosen for a three-year by the UN General Assembly. The representatives are from different countries around the world. The Executive Board consists of 36 Member States, elected to serve a three-year term, with the following regional allocation of seats: Africa (8 seats), Latin America and the Caribbean (5), Asia (7), Eastern Europe (4) and Western Europe and other States (12).

- **In Asia:** Bangladesh, China, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Oman, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan.
- **In Africa:** Algeria, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, Senegal.
- **Eastern Europe:** Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Poland.
- **Latin America and Caribbean:** Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada
- **Western Europe and Others:** Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Iceland,

Ireland, Japan, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of América.

What is the executive board at Unicef?

The Executive Board is the governing body of UNICEF, providing intergovernmental support and oversight to the organization, in accordance with the general policy direction of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The Executive Board is serviced and assisted by the Office of the Executive Board Secretariat, which is responsible for maintaining an efficient relationship between the Executive Board and the UNICEF secretariat, as well as arranging site visits. land of the Executive Board. The Office provides technical and editorial services in relation to all documents, decisions, session reports and the Executive Board country program document archive relating to sessions and meetings.

How often does the executive board meet and where?

The Executive Board meets three times a year, in a first regular session (February), an annual session (June) and a second regular session (September). Executive Board meetings are held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

III.IV The advantages and disadvantages of the committee

Advantages :

- 1. Help to Areas of Extreme Poverty:** One of the advantages of UNICEF is its focus on helping the poorest and most disadvantaged areas of the world, especially in Africa. Through health, nutrition, and education programs, UNICEF works to improve the living conditions of children living in these areas.
- 2. Promotion of Children's Rights:** UNICEF is one of the leading organizations that promotes and defends children's rights worldwide. Through awareness campaigns and collaboration with governments and other organizations, UNICEF contributes to ensuring that children's rights are respected and protected.

- 3. Access to Quality Education:** UNICEF strongly believes in every child's right to receive a quality education. By building schools, training teachers, and implementing educational programs, UNICEF helps ensure that children have access to education that prepares them for a better future.
- 4. Fight Against Child Malnutrition:** Malnutrition is one of the major problems affecting children worldwide. UNICEF works in collaboration with other actors to prevent and treat child malnutrition, ensuring that children receive the necessary nutrients for proper growth and development.
- 5. Emergency Response and Humanitarian Crises:** Another advantage of UNICEF is its ability to respond quickly to emergencies and humanitarian crises. The organization works in coordination with other actors to provide assistance in cases of armed conflicts, forced displacement, natural disasters, and other situations that especially affect children.
- 6. Collaboration with Others:** UNICEF understands the importance of working in collaboration with others, such as governments, NGOs, and the private sector, to achieve a greater impact on children's lives. Through strategic partnerships, UNICEF can benefit from the resources and knowledge of others to expand its reach and effectiveness.
- 7. Gender and Equity Focus:** UNICEF adopts a gender and equity approach in all its programs and actions. This means striving to ensure that all children, regardless of their gender or socio-economic circumstances, have the same opportunities and rights.
- 8. Long-term Work:** An additional advantage of UNICEF is its long-term focus. The organization not only provides immediate assistance, but also works on programs and projects that have a lasting impact on children's lives, contributing to their well-being and holistic development.
- 9. Funding and Resources:** UNICEF has strong funding and resources, which allows it to carry out its programs and projects worldwide. Through donations from governments, businesses, and individuals, UNICEF can fund health, education, protection, and other programs for the benefit of the most vulnerable children.

Disadvantages

1. Resource Limitations

Although UNICEF has resources, it faces limitations in terms of funding and human resources. This can make it difficult to implement programs in certain areas or respond quickly to large-scale humanitarian emergencies.

2. Dependence on Donations: UNICEF relies heavily on donations to finance its programs and projects. While this ensures its financial independence, it can also make the organization vulnerable to changes in donation patterns or a lack of consistent funding.

3. Bureaucracy and Slow Decision-making: As an international organization, UNICEF can be affected by bureaucracy and slow decision-making. This can make it difficult to implement rapid and efficient changes, as well as adapt to emerging situations.

4. Coordination and Collaboration Challenges: While UNICEF strives to work in collaboration with other actors, such as governments and NGOs, there can be challenges in terms of effective coordination and collaboration. These challenges may arise due to differences in approaches, interests, or capacities.

5. Limited Program Coverage: Despite its global reach, UNICEF may face limitations in terms of program coverage. This can be due to a lack of available resources, political restrictions in certain countries, or lack of access to remote or conflict areas.

6. Excessive Focus on Certain Areas: UNICEF may focus its attention and resources on priority areas, leaving other equally important areas or issues behind. This can create inequalities and imbalances in the attention given to children in different parts of the world.

7. Difficulties in Evaluating Impact: Evaluating the impact of UNICEF's programs and projects can be challenging, especially in complex contexts with multiple factors involved. This can make it difficult to identify best practices and make informed decisions.

- 8. Risk of Corruption and Mismanagement:** Like any organization, UNICEF can face the risk of corruption and mismanagement of resources. This may occur at a global level or within the countries where it operates, potentially compromising its mission and affecting the effectiveness of its programs.
- 9. Challenges in Monitoring and Follow-up:** Monitoring and follow-up of UNICEF's programs and projects can be challenging, especially in difficult environments or with limited access. This can hinder the identification of problems and the timely implementation of corrective actions.

IV. Topic 1: Ensuring access to clean water for all children

IV.I Introduction: what is the topic about

Everyone has the human right to safe drinking water. This holds true in stability and in crisis, in urban and rural contexts, and in every country around the world. When children don't have access to clean water, it negatively impacts their health, nutrition, education and every other aspect of their lives. Girls, women and people living with disabilities are particularly impacted.

→ 785 million people today do not have basic access to water.

The United Nations' goals include achieving access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030. Yet, the current level of global investment is about one third of what is needed to achieve this target.

IV.II Background

Water access

The availability of water is not enough to keep children healthy: Water must also be safe, attainable and affordable. This means it must come from a reliable source like a well, a tap or a hand-pump; free from faecal and chemical contamination; readily available for at least 12 hours a day; and located on the premises of a child's household or within reasonable reach. In many countries, though, children and women serve as the carriers of water for the entire family, exposing them to many safety risks and vulnerabilities.

Water safety

Millions of people rely on water sources that are at high or moderate risk of faecal contamination due to lack of toilets or poor sewer systems. Even water that is safe at its source (for example, from a water treatment plant or well) is at risk of becoming contaminated unless it is treated, transported, stored and handled safely.

Chemical contamination is another real threat in many places across the world. Millions of people drink water containing arsenic or fluoride at levels designated unsafe by World Health Organization guidelines.

The effects of climate change will only increase the threat to water quality, particularly where water is scarce or in regions that are prone to natural disasters.

Sustainability

At any given time, 30 to 40 per cent of the rural water supply in low-income countries does not work. Some factors that affect the long-term sustainability of a water system include the reliability of the source, the transportation method, and affordability.

How water services are maintained over time needs to be at the heart of all WASH systems. Although governments make decisions on who gets what services and how, it is up to all stakeholders, including policymakers and WASH practitioners, to collectively address barriers to sustainability by influencing policies, programmes and behaviours.

IV.III What is the committee doing to deal with the problem?

UNICEF believes that water is a right and not a privilege. Even so, in many places access to water is difficult, expensive and intermittent. Not being able to consume drinking water or have access to clean water affects the health and quality of life of children, adolescents and their families. In addition to water being safe, it is important that it is available and accessible. In the area of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), UNICEF works in the most vulnerable regions of the country so that children and adolescents have access to water, sanitation and hygiene, and can live and develop in healthy environments. This is possible thanks to strategies that

involve the community and authorities to guarantee the sustainability of projects with an intercultural and gender focus.

They want to be present in all phases of the lives of children and adolescents, thinking about their dignity and health. From caring for pregnant women to reducing the numbers of maternal malnutrition, illness and death, which in turn benefits the health of newborns; including the reduction of malnutrition, illnesses and child deaths in children under five years of age thanks to access to drinking water, sanitation and adequate hygiene practices. Finally, supporting school permanence and protection against violence, especially in girls, adolescents and menstruating people thanks to access to water, sanitation and hygiene in schools and communities.

UNICEF recognizes the challenges posed by the lack of safe drinking water and basic sanitation in community, educational and health settings. In this sense, we work hand in hand with institutions and communities in the most vulnerable territories, supported by partners, allies and other actors, to reach some of the regions where there is historically a lack of these resources and services.

Thanks to this joint work with the communities, we have made progress in the installation and adaptation of water systems and sanitary units in educational institutions, as well as in the promotion of key hygiene habits and other methodologies that seek to reduce open defecation. These actions have been carried out in the departments of La Guajira, Atlántico, Antioquia, Chocó, Nariño, Arauca, Norte de Santander, Vichada and Sucre.

They work with communities to learn about their organizational forms and their territories, and thus define needs, possible responses, strengthen requirements and guarantee sustainable access to services.

In addition, they work with the Ministry of Housing, City and Territory; the Ministry of Health and Social Protection; the Disaster Risk Management Unit, among other institutional actors at the national, departmental and municipal levels, to identify opportunities for collaboration in the implementation of public water, sanitation and hygiene policies. This in order to reduce access gaps and generate behavioral changes that allow the incorporation of better hygiene practices and a timely

response to these issues in emergency situations.

UNICEF also works in partnership with national and international non-governmental organizations to pool capabilities and expertise, and ensure a quality response. They lead the sectoral coordination of the water, sanitation and hygiene cluster, which means that we work with all national and international organizations that provide humanitarian response in this area in order to guarantee a timely, quality, efficient and transparent response.

Finally, they work with other interest groups such as donors, academia and the private sector. Always seeking the mobilization of these actors to support efforts to close quality gaps in access to water and sanitation services and change hygiene behaviors that protect the health of boys, girls, adolescents, their families and communities.

IV.IV Causes

Some causes would be:

- **The pollution:** The pollution that we generate on the planet filters into both the water and the air, resulting in contaminated waters that are not suitable for human consumption (mining exploitations, oil leaks, chemicals, fecal material, plastics, etc.).
- **The drought:** Climate change causes droughts to appear or develop, that is, the lack of rain for a long period of time. As a consequence, we no longer have water for human consumption, crops or industries.
- **Uncontrolled use of water:** This occurs both in industry and in everyday use, we forget that water is a scarce and limited resource. Being aware of the importance of good use in all areas is essential for survival.
- **Climate change:** The United Nations World Water Development Report 2020 leaves no room for doubt: “climate change will negatively influence the quantity and quality of water available worldwide to satisfy a whole series of needs.” basic humans.
- **Food:** The UN says that the water footprint of global production is 70%

related to food production.

- **Greater demand:** massive urbanization caused largely by the exodus from the countryside to the cities in search of better job options and the lack of awareness.

IV.V Consequences

Around the world, 450 million children live in areas where water vulnerability is high or extremely high, according to a new analysis published by UNICEF. This means that 1 in 5 children in the world lacks enough water to meet their daily needs. When the wells dry up, children are the ones who miss school to fetch water. When droughts decrease the food supply, children suffer from malnutrition and stunted growth. When there are floods, children contract waterborne diseases. And when water resources decrease, children cannot wash their hands to fight diseases.

The lack of clean water for children has many consequences, these are some examples:

- Increase in diarrheal diseases: it can be fatal, especially in children under 5 years of age. Infections caused by bacteria, viruses and parasites present in contaminated water are responsible for millions of deaths each year.
- Malnutrition and stunting: Chronic diarrhea due to lack of clean water can lead to malnutrition. And malnutrition increases vulnerability to other diseases and slows growth.
- Lack of access to education: children, especially girls, spend hours each day collecting water. This lost time not only affects their health, but also limits their ability to attend school and receive an adequate education.
- More infectious diseases: Water can cause cholera, typhoid and hepatitis.
- Impact on cognitive development: Illnesses can have long-term negative effects on children's cognitive development and learning ability.
- Increase in infant mortality

IV.I How to Research your Country

It is important for you to find out information about your country on your own, always keep in mind that. The origin and purpose of your source are important. The COLUMUN is an opportunity for you to see what cooperation between states could achieve, and also figure out why the international community has not solved all the world's problems.

IV.II Information of your Country

To know your country investigate these aspects:

ASPECT	CHECK
Where is it in the world and what are its neighbors? Which countries are powerful in its region?	
What system of government does it have and who is its leader?	
Is its economy industrialized or mostly agricultural? What are the main sources of income?	
What is the role of religion in the state? How tolerant of different religions and beliefs is its government? Are its laws based on religion or is it secular?	
Are there minority groups? Are these groups treated differently to the majority?	
Are there civil conflicts? What is the government response to this?	
Are there any groups that are fighting to be independent or autonomous?	
What is the country's history?	

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