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Meeting 3 Background Guide

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Overview of UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was created by the UN General Assembly in 1946 in order to allocate food and healthcare to children and their families in countries devastated by World War II. UNICEF became a permanent part of the UN system in 1953 when its name was shortened from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to the United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF plays a critical role in the protection and empowerment of children globally, as well as in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). UNICEF currently works in over 190 countries and territories through programmes as the world's lead agency for children and their rights. UNICEF seeks to address a wide range of topics regarding children, including achieving child and adolescents specific targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and advocating for children's rights. UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, safe water and sanitation, quality basic education for all, and the protection of children from violence and exploitation.

UNICEF Structure

The Executive Board serves as the highest level of UNICEF's administrative management. The Board determines and approves all activities, policies, country programmes, and budgetary decisions. The Executive Board is composed of 36 Member States who are elected for three-year terms by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with elections occurring each year. The Executive Board allocates eight seats to Africa, seven seats to Asia, four seats to Eastern Europe, five seats to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 12 seats to Western Europe and Others. Resources to UNICEF's programmes mainly come from the voluntary contributions of governments and intergovernmental organizations. Moreover, UNICEF is one of the sustainable UN agencies which has multiple funding sources as notably, one-quarter comes from individual and private sector donations. UNICEF allocates over 90% of its annual budget to field operations and upholds the mission of realizing the rights of every child, especially the most vulnerable. UNICEF's contributions to country programs consist of Regular Resources (RR) and Other Resources (OR). The RR is funded from each government after deliberations by the UNICEF Executive Board, which is used flexibly for children wherever and whenever the need is greatest.

Meanwhile, RR is allocated to each country office and regional offices after determining priorities based on the following three indicators criteria; under-five mortality rate, income level (Gross National Income per capita), child population. Setting those indicators have aimed to ensure that the highest priority is given to those children most in need. However, there have been some arguments whether such RR allocation criteria should be reviewed to be more in line with the current global challenges and landscape since resources may not be sufficiently distributed to certain countries in need. The OR is often allocated according to the donors' priorities and specific purposes, emergency response needs and projections, which may also impose some challenges from ownership perspectives. [The integrated budget for 2022-2025](#), an integral part of the [UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#), contains the resources that will contribute to the achievement of the [UNICEF Integrated Results and Resources Framework](#). The UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 sets out measurable results for children and forms the basis of all the country's programmes. It charts a course towards inclusive recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, attainment of the SDGs, and the realization of a society in which every child is included and has their rights fulfilled. Of the \$23.3 billion available for programmes during 2022-2025, \$21.6 billion (93%) will be channeled through country programme implementation.

UNICEF Mandate and Functions

UNICEF highlights the importance of an equity, inclusion and lifecycle approach to realizing the rights of every child, including adolescents, to make sure no one is left behind. UNICEF has a mandate to advocate for the protection of children's rights and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standard of behavior towards children. That mandate is rooted in the 1989 CRC, which is the first set of legally binding rights to apply to every child. The CRC and the CEDAW gain particular importance for UNICEF's work. Both have been widely ratified and they are mutually reinforcing, especially in the promotion and protection of the human rights of girls and women and in the prevention of discrimination on the basis of gender. UNICEF operates balancing development, emergency humanitarian operations and child rights advocacy. UNICEF is active in over 190 countries and National Committees which promotes child rights both in developing and developed countries. Currently there are 33 National Committees in the world, each established as an independent local non-governmental organization and they mobilize one-fourth of UNICEF funds from individuals and private sectors. [The Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action \(CCCs\)](#) are the core UNICEF policy and framework for humanitarian action guided by international humanitarian and human rights law including the CRC, which are at the heart of its work upon upholding the rights of children affected by humanitarian crises, and are mandatory for all UNICEF personnel to follow. It also contributes to the SDGs and includes a clear strategy for linking humanitarian and development activities which is a new approach referred to as the *Humanitarian-Development Nexus* (HDN), strengthening local capacities and systems, and building resilience at all stages of humanitarian operations. UNICEF's humanitarian action includes interventions aimed at saving

lives, alleviating suffering, preserving human dignity, and protecting the rights of victims wherever humanitarian needs exist, regardless of the type of crisis, the country's gross national income level, or the legal status of the affected population.

Key Resolutions / Conventions for the Conference Theme

[Declaration of the Rights of the Child](#), known as the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, is an international document promoting child rights, adopted by the League of Nations in 1924, and adopted in an extended form by the United Nations in 1959. The Declaration guarantees inalienable human rights for all children. The declaration aims to defend their right to education, and promote the healthy growth and development of every child. It sets forth 10 principles for all children so they can lead good and happy lives.

[Convention of the Rights of the Child \(CRC\)](#) was adopted by the UN General Assembly (GA) in resolution 44/25 on 20 November 1989, which entered into force 2 September 1990, in accordance with article 49. The CRC serves as a guiding document and a major step forward for the international community as it sets the mandate to protect the rights of every child. The States Parties make a promise to every child to protect and fulfill their rights, by adopting this international legal framework. All the children's rights and government responsibilities and principles and provisions of the Convention are explained. The Convention sets out universal and indivisible rights that apply to every child and cannot be taken away from children. Anchored to CRC, the following optional protocols have been approved.

- [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography](#)
- [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict](#)
- [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure](#)

[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015 to end poverty, reduce inequality and build more peaceful, prosperous societies by 2030. Also known as the Global Goals, the SDGs are a call to action to create a world where no one is left behind. The SDGs cannot be achieved without the realization of children's rights. As world leaders work to realize the 2030 commitments, children around the world are standing up to secure their rights to health, quality education, a clean planet, and more. The future of tomorrow's leaders, our children, depends on what we do today to secure their rights for all of us. UNICEF is working with governments, partners and other UN agencies to help countries ensure that the Goals deliver results for and with every child, now and for future generations.

Basic Research Sources

- [CIA World Factbook - Country Profiles](#)

- [Countries & Regions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)
- [UNICEF Country Program Documents](#)
- [The UNESCO Institute for Statistics \(UIS\)](#)
- [World Development Indicators | Data bank](#)
- [UNICEF Data](#)

Conference Theme: Realizing Rights for all Children and Adolescents

As UNICEF is the leading agency for children within the UN systems, its role is to protect the rights for children and adolescents all over the world. Today, children are deprived of education and quality learning for various reasons, including gender, poverty, disability, and many others, which allow children to face considerable barriers to employment and earning potential later in life. Improving the quality education positively affects them developing their ability to shape a better future for themselves and their societies. In terms of healthcare, millions of children are still losing their lives from causes that can be prevented with quality healthcare and adequate health systems. Vulnerable groups including women and children living in poverty, violence, and emergency settings are especially likely to be cut off from services they need to survive and thrive. Furthermore, children and adolescents experience insidious forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, happening in the places such as homes, schools and online in every country. Violence against children negatively attacks physically, emotionally and sexually. Regardless of the circumstance, every child has to be protected as per their human rights.

According to the CRC, children means every human being below the age of 18, counting 2.4 billion in the world. Member States shall respect and ensure their right without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status. Today, there are 1.3 billion adolescents in the world, representing 16% of the total world's population. Adolescents, as defined by the United Nations, are those between the ages of 10 and 19, who experience a transition period between childhood and adulthood, with significant growth and development. As children up to the age of 19, most adolescents are protected under the CRC, however, their vulnerabilities and needs often remain unaddressed.

Meeting 1 Theme: Improving the Quality of Education for all Children and Adolescents

As the CRC ensures, a child's right to education entitles the right to learn. However, for many children and adolescents across the globe, children and adolescents are often deprived of education and quality learning opportunities for various reasons. There also exists inequality in access to education for certain groups of people. Without access to better education, children face considerable barriers to employment and earning potential later in life, threatening their ability to shape a better future for themselves and their societies. Improving the quality of education

further promotes and realizes their potential as a tool for transforming societies and economies. UNICEF supports basic education, including primary and secondary.

Meeting 2 Theme: Ensuring Access to Healthcare for all Children and Adolescents

As every child has the right to survive and thrive, a lot of progress in child and maternal health has been achieved over the past decades. However, millions of children are still dying from causes with inequality in healthcare and weak health systems. Across the world, many children are likely to be cut off from services they need to survive and thrive, and have greater risk of disease and malnutrition during conflict, natural disaster and other crises. Ensuring access to healthcare for all children and adolescents requires a global shift to strengthening health systems and services so that all children have access to affordable and quality health care.

Meeting 3 Theme: Enhancing the Protection of all Children and Adolescents

No matter the circumstance, every child has the right to live free from violence, exploitation and abuse, however, children experience various forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. It happens across the world and in the places children should be most protected such as their homes, schools and online. Children in vulnerable settings including victims of child labour or trafficking, migrants and refugees, and girls and women have greater risks of sexual exploitation and violence soars and need adequate protection. Above all, protecting children means protecting their physical, mental and psychosocial needs to safeguard their futures.

Committee A: Ending Child Abuse and Neglect

Definitions

The term [abuse](#) contains various definitions, including physical abuse, physiological abuse, sexual abuse and so on. Therefore, abuse is almost any behavior that causes pain and harm both physically and emotionally. It is prevalent in all societies and abuse against children creates harmful effects, not only during childhood, but also throughout their lives. One of the causes that allows abuse to remain is a society that allows or justifies abuse. It should be pointed out that this Committee will seek to enhance protection of mothers as well, as women are often victims of abuse.



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https://www.unicef.org/teac/sites/unicef.org/eap/files/styles/hero_desktop/public/UNI347418.jpg?itok=ezN4X0vj

There are also various types of [neglect](#), such as: educational neglect (e.g. failure to provide children with access to compulsory education), psychological neglect (lack of emotional support, leading to mental health issues), and abandonment (leaving children unsupported for long periods of time, particularly in cases of children with disabilities). This type of maltreatment is a failure that the parents or caregivers do not provide enough opportunities to have adequate living conditions. Also, not allowing children access to services such as medical care, education and offering good nutrition can be included as acts of neglect since parents or caregivers do not give adequate attention to child development.

Facts about the problems and effects

It has been recognized that abuse against children exists regardless of wealth, social status, religion, or culture. Abuse against children still happens in each country even though children have the right to be protected, based on the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC) and other international human rights treaties. Still, in most cases, abused children come from less privileged backgrounds. In addition, victims are often unable or unwilling to report their abuse. This is because the abusers are often people around them who they trust.

Factors that lead to abuse are said to be: [severe discipline by parents or caregivers](#); [living in areas of armed conflict](#) (e.g. being recruited into armed groups as soldiers or sex slaves); and [social conditions in schools](#) (e.g. bullying by peers or teachers). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the number of children aged 2-17 worldwide who have experienced abuse or neglect throughout a year is estimated to reach over one billion.

Abuse and neglect diminish not only children's self-worth but also their dignity. These acts cause children not only physical and mental pain, but can also take their lives. Additionally, it can lead to self-harm, unintended pregnancies, personality disorders and other problems. There is also the possibility that victims of abuse will grow up to commit abuse on their own children in the future in the form of repeated abuse. To make matters worse, the COVID-19 pandemic restricted people's movement, and as the time children and adults spent together increased, this led in some cases to increased abuse at home.

Action that has been taken or is being taken

In order to reduce abuse and make the current situation better, a number of projects and other initiatives have been taken by UNICEF along with many Member States and organizations. In 2008, UNICEF approved the [Child Protection Strategy](#), which was updated for 2021, and outlines objectives to be achieved by each Member State, aimed at [Child Protection](#) to safeguard children, including:

1. To effectively address the behavioral, social, cultural and economic determinants of child protection violations at scale.
2. To support inclusive and effective child protection systems in preventing and responding

to child protection violations.

3. To effectively prevent and respond to child protection violations in humanitarian situations.



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https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/files/unicef.org/bangladesh/files/styleshero_tablet/public/UNI242718.jpg?hik=2-tb1Kmm

In addition to the initiatives above, an essential part of the work that UNICEF does with its partners in government agencies, is to promote [Child Protection Systems Strengthening](#) (CPSS) which provides essential factors such as health, education, welfare, justice, civil society, local community and family to prevent and assist children who are in situations of abuse and neglect. The goal is to prevent abuse and neglect from taking place, particularly by strengthening the parenting skills of caregivers. Since CPSS is conducted at

the community level through home visits, for instance, parents have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of child development, inhumane discipline, the effect of child abuse and neglect, and the importance of protecting children from those acts.

In 2014, UNICEF published [Ending Violence for Children: Six Strategies for Action](#) which focuses on six goals as listed below:

1. Supporting parents, caregivers and families.
2. Helping children and adolescents manage risks and challenges.
3. Changing attitudes and social norms that encourage violence and discrimination.
4. Promoting and providing support services for children.
5. Implementing laws and policies that protect children.
6. Carrying out data collection and research.

In 2021, UNICEF released its [Compendium of Case Studies](#), which provides Member States with best practices to reduce abuse and neglect. These include: Implementation and Enforcement of Laws, Setting Norms and Values, Creating Safe Environments, and Ideas for providing Parent and Caregiver Support. In addition, several examples are given for how these practices were carried out in East Asian Member States.

Important Resolutions/Conventions/Treaties

[Optional Protocol to the CRC on involvement of Children in Armed Conflict](#) (2000)

This General Assembly Resolution passed optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

[Security Council Resolution 1612](#) (2005) on Children in Armed Conflict

This Resolution establishes a monitoring and reporting system for gathering information on involvement of children in armed conflict that is used in Security Council decision making.

[General Assembly Resolution A/RES/74/133](#) (2019)

This Resolution on the Rights of the Child establishes the right to a family environment and focuses on children without parental care. ([Simplified Version](#))

Important Research Links for Committee A (Country databases, Resolutions)

- [Programme Guidance For Early Children Development \(UNICEF\)](#)
- [The Factors that leads Child Abuse and Neglect \(Centers for Disease Control\)](#)
- [International Child Sexual Exploitation Database \(INTERPOL\)](#)
- [The reality of Child Abuse by UN, UNICEF and ECLAC](#)
- [Violence Against Children \(WHO\)](#)
- [Global Annual Results 2021: Protection from Violence and Exploitation \(UNICEF\)](#)
- [UNICEF Child Protection Update \(09/2022\)](#)
- [International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect \(ISPCAN\)](#)

Further Research that can develop into policies

Consideration of these questions is needed when writing and researching the topics which will be developed into policies:

- What is the current situation with laws, policies, programs related to child abuse and neglect in your Member State?
- What resources are necessary to implement or enforce various laws, policies and programs related to child abuse and neglect?
- Is your Member State a part of any regional or other international agreements on the topic of child abuse and/or neglect?
- What priorities does your Member State have related to child abuse/neglect?

Committee B: Ending Gender-Based Violence

Definitions

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), [gender-based violence \(GBV\)](#) is harmful acts caused by gender discrimination, abuse of power, or harmful social norms including domestic violence, child marriage, [female genital mutilation \(FGM\)](#), honor killings, and sexual exploitation and abuse/sexual harassment (SEA/SH). [School-related gender-based violence \(SRGBV\)](#) occurs in and around schools. Regarding GBV against children, UNICEF focuses on SDG 5 to eliminate all harmful practices including child marriage and FGM, and SDG 16 to end all forms of violence against children.

Facts about the problems and effects

UNICEF states that globally in 2019, more than 1 billion children aged 2-17 experienced physical, sexual and emotional abuse. GBV is not only a problem related to women and girls, but also men and boys. While more girls have been victims of sexual and domestic violence, more boys have experienced homicides and physical violence. However, only 1 or 2 percent of victims, both girls and boys, try to access assistance because children do not know about availability of services or have power to access them. In addition, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex (LGBTI) children and children with disabilities have less access to services due to social isolation or rejection, according to the [*Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action*](#) by Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) of the UN.

There are mainly four problems with GBV: 1) Physical health effects, which cause acute and chronic illness and physical disability from injuries or malnutrition; 2) Future health problems such as unwanted pregnancies, complications from unsafe abortions, and sexual transmitted infections; 3) Victims have long-term mental health problems including depression, anxiety, harmful use of alcohol and drugs, and suicidality; 4) GBV deprives educational opportunities. [*An analysis by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) and Together for Girls \(TfG\)*](#) revealed that students who have experienced GBV such as child marriage tend to miss school and have difficulty to complete education.

The following social factors can be included as causes of GBV according to [*Human Rights Council Report 41/33*](#).

- **Gender stereotypes:** In many places in the world, there are still gender stereotypes or gender roles such as men should be the dominant provider and govern women, and women should be the subordinate caretaker in a household and behave or look feminine. These restrictive social norms about gender identity may damage children, especially girls. For example, girls can be removed from school to perform domestic labor at their homes or be forced to marry at an early age.
- **Gender inequality:** Some societies try to control girls and use due to gender inequality. FGM is a problematic practice caused by this issue. In addition, some Member States require married women to get permission from their husband to leave the house by law, which prevents women and girls from accessing public services. Furthermore, in some cases, criminals of criminal activities such those involved in drug trafficking networks use violence to coerce women and girls to participate, leading them to be arrested.
- **Weak legal systems:** Still in many Member States, legal systems against GBV are not equipped enough. In fact, criminals of kidnapping or sexually assaulting a women or girl may be released even if they take their victim as wife in some Member States without the force of law against child marriage.

Action that has been taken or is being taken



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https://www.unicef.org/eap/sites/unicef.org/eap/files/styles/hero_tablet/public/UN0235066_0.JPG?tok=jKvHZg

UNICEF collaborates with other UN agencies to tackle GBV. Since 2008, UNICEF has implemented the [Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM](#) in 17 Member States with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). UNICEF and UNFPA advocate the elimination of FGM through global and regional advocacy events, intergovernmental political forums, and resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) or United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). According to the [2021 Annual Report and Overall Phase III](#)

[Performance Analysis](#), UNFPA and UNICEF conducted a virtual advocacy campaign for the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM in 2021. With the Joint Programme's global social media channels and hashtags, such as #Act2EndFGM, the campaign was accessed all over the world and stressed the necessity of ending FGM by 2030. The Joint Programme also supports [the African Union Initiative on the Elimination of FGM \(Saleema Initiative\)](#) which conducts a long-term campaign to end FGM in Member States in Africa. As of 2021, 14 of 17 Member States in Africa have a national coordination mechanism to ban FGM thanks to the program.

UNICEF focuses on GBV in emergencies (GBViE) as the ability to protect women and girls in unstable situations such as armed conflict and natural disasters. UNICEF participated in [the Oslo conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Humanitarian Crises](#) in 2019 to make financial pledges and political commitments to end GBV in humanitarian crises from 2019 to 2021. In 2021, 100% of financial pledges were used for activities against GBV and funded through different actors such as UN agencies, international NGOs and the Red Cross. In addition, 46 actors made 242 good practices at the Oslo sexual and GBV conference, and 191 out of 242 commitments reported progress updates.

Not only UNICEF, but other UN organizations have worked on GBV issues. For instance, the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has good practices such as [Global Guidance on Addressing SRGBV](#) (2016) for educational stakeholders to prevent and respond to SRGBV at the national level, which was produced with UN Women and the Global Working Group to End SRGBV. The guidance recommends Member States to analyze essential

support of six strategies including policies, environment, curriculum, collaboration among key stakeholders and monitoring systems.

Moreover, the UN Foundation announced during [the Gender Equality Forum](#) in 2021 that it will provide a [WithHer Fund](#) in partnership with the Spotlight Initiative to financially support local, private women's rights organizations who aim to end GBV but lack money to continue their efforts in their communities from 2022 to 2027. The Fund also tries to complete existing women's funds by raising donations from new sources.

Important Resolutions/Conventions/Treaties

[The Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)

It was adopted by the UNGA in 1979 and became an international treaty in 1981 as the twenty Member States had ratified it. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women monitors the implementation of CEDAW. The Member States submit a national report which shows their measures have enough effects to the provisions of CEDAW at least every four years.

[UN Security Council \(SC\) resolution 2106 \(2013\)](#)

It urges all Member States and UN entities to put greater efforts on gender equality and women's political, social economic empowerment to prevent conflict-related sexual violence. It also explicitly refers to men and boys as survivors of violence for the first time.

Important Research Links for Committee (Country databases, Resolutions)

- [Gender based violence, UNICEF](#)
- [Gender-based violence in emergencies, UNICEF](#)
- [Gender Dimensions of Violence Against Children and Adolescents, UNICEF](#)
- [Gender Equality: Global Annual Results Report 2021, UNICEF](#)
- [UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022-2025, ECOSOC](#)
- [RESPECT WOMEN, WHO](#)
- [INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for ending violence Against Children](#)
- [UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025 \(p.13\)](#)
- [Global norms and standards: Ending violence against women, UNWOMEN](#)

Further Research that can develop into policies

Consideration of these questions is needed when writing and researching the topics which will be developed into policies:

- What kind of resources are lacking to combat GBV at national, regional and international levels?
- In what kind of institutions are GBV most likely to occur?
- How should the legal systems related to GBV be improved?

- How is the Internet related to GBV, in a good way or a bad way?
- How does the COVID-19 pandemic change the situation of GBV?

Committee C: Protection against Child Labor

Definitions

According to the [Minimum Age Convention, 1973 \(No. 138\)](#), the ILO defines child labour as work by children under 15 years of age that interferes with compulsory school education, and that under 18 years of age that involves long hours of work in poor conditions, forced labour, human trafficking and other dangerous and harmful work.



Photo Credit:
https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/styles/hero_desktop/public/Child%20Labour%203.jpg?tok=1AtYkZlQ

According to ILO's [Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward](#), 160 million children (63 million girls and 9.7 million boys) were engaged in child labour globally at the beginning of 2020, representing almost one in ten of all children worldwide. Of those, 79 million children - almost half of all children engaged in child labour - are engaged in hazardous work that directly endangers their health, safety and moral development.

Labour that does not result in the loss of educational opportunities, is paid fairly and helps children to grow up, does not constitute child labour. Sustained, long-term humanitarian assistance is needed to protect children from hard work and to spread the spread of compulsory education.

Facts about the problems and effects

There are a number of factors that contribute to child labour, which can be divided into two categories: supply and demand. On the supply side, factors contributing to child labour include poverty in the family, community, and country in which the child lives. In addition, lack of awareness of child labour and education and inadequate government policies on protection and education of vulnerable groups also contribute. Considering demand-side factors that increase child labour include companies and enterprises that employ children as cheap labour, a lack of information and awareness about human rights violations in the production of goods, and consumer behavior in search of low-cost goods. As consumers demand low-cost goods,

companies cut various costs to boost profits. Children in developing countries are employed as part of the labour force, reducing the cost of workers' salaries. This is a vicious circle that leads to child labour.

For these reasons, children in poor countries are excluded from education, an activity that is a burden on the family, and the population of child labour is growing as children prioritize working to support their families, even at low wages. As a result of the crisis caused by the new coronavirus infection (COVID-19), poverty is likely to increase and millions of children will have to work, leading to an increase in child labour, according to the joint ILO and UNIFEC report [Social protection contributes to reducing child labour](#).

Action that has been taken or is being taken



Photo Credit:
https://www.unicef.org/iraq/sites/unicef.org.iraq/files/styles/press_release_feature/public/UN020112_0.JPG?tok=MFqARnVM

UNICEF is strengthening the workforce of the [Global Social Service Workforce Alliance](#) and [Strengthening the social service workforce to protect children](#). The main areas of work are:

1. Playing a key role in identifying, preventing and managing risks that may lead to child labour.
2. Working closely with government, business and other partners to develop and support the social services workforce.
3. Acting as the first point of contact with children in need of help.
4. Promoting the physical and psychological well-being of children by challenging harmful norms that violate their rights and linking them to essential social services such as health care, education and social protection.
5. Focusing on child protection systems that strengthen parenting and community education initiatives to address harmful social norms that perpetuate child labour, as well as working with national and local authorities to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse.

Labour at an early age - Concerned that child labour harms the physical, mental, psychological and spiritual development of children, the UN launched a new pledge [UN Global Compact 2021 Action Pledge](#) with the aim of mobilizing more than 12,000 business participants to renew and scale up their commitment to eliminate child labour. The UN Global Compact calls on companies worldwide to align their operations and strategies in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption with the [Ten Principles](#). It is preventing child labor, among other things, by focusing more on [Principle 4](#) (the abolition of all forms of forced and

compulsory labor) and [Principle 5](#) (the abolition of all forms of child labour). And the UN General Assembly has declared 2021 as the [International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour](#).

Important Resolutions/Conventions/Treaties

[ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age for Work](#) sets the minimum age at which compulsory education ends and shall in no case be less than 15 years of age, with the goal of abolishing child labor and improving working conditions for young workers. In developing countries, however, it may be set at 14 years for the time being. The minimum age for employment that may be hazardous to young people's health, safety, or morals will be raised to 18. Persons aged 13 to 15 may be permitted to work in light labor under certain conditions (in developing countries, between 12 and 14).

[ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour](#) calls for immediate and effective measures to ensure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour by children under 18 years of age. The worst forms of child labour are defined as: 1. All forms of slavery or similar practices, including child trafficking, forced labor, including forced recruitment into armed conflict, and debt slavery, 2. Using, facilitating, or supplying children for illegal activities such as drug production and trafficking, and 3. Work that could be hazardous to children's health, safety, or morals.

UN declares 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

Underlining Member States' commitment to take immediate and effective measures to end forced labor, modern slavery, and trafficking, to ensure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and to end all forms of child labor by 2025.

- **Eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025.**
- **Eradicate forced labor, human trafficking and modern slavery by 2030.**

Important Research Links for Committee (Country databases, Resolutions)

- [ILO Conventions on child labour \(IPEC\)](#)
- [Child Labor Laws & Resources -International Laws](#)
- [Resolution II Resolution concerning statistics of child labour](#)
- [International standards | OHCHR](#)
- [International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor](#)
- [World Day Against Child Labour 12 June](#)

Further Research that can develop into policies

Consideration of these questions is needed when writing and researching the topics which will be developed into policies:

- What should international organisations and companies do to prevent future employment of child labour in occupations that were filled by child labour?
- How should they be persuaded of the need for access to education in areas where child labour is a traditional practice?
- The long-term plan of compulsory education requires sustained service, and what should the UN and international labour organisations do in this aspect?
- How should governments in each state review their administrative services to address the illegality of child labour and protect children from hard work?

Committee D: Protection of Children on the Move

Definitions

According to [Children on the move - UNICEF Innocenti](#), there are up to 50 million children on the move (CoM). CoM refers to children who have been relocated due to a variety of reasons such as conflict, poverty and climate change to secure a better life. They move, within or between countries, with or without their parents or other caregivers. They might be at risk of violence, neglect, human trafficking and economic or sexual exploitation.



Photo Credit:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b3/Sudan_Envoys_-_UNICEF_Tent.jpg/512px-Sudan_Envoys_-_UNICEF_Tent.jpg

According to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an estimated 36.5 million children were classified as **refugees** in 2021, and this accounts for 41% of all refugees. Refugees are children who have had to cross national borders, whereas **IDPs** are those who have been forced to move but remain within their own countries. There are numbers of unaccompanied children separated from both parents or from their caregivers. Children on the move also includes **migrant** children who or whose parents decided to migrate for various reasons. **Asylum seekers** are those who have left their country and are seeking protection, but who haven't been legally recognized as a refugee and are waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claims.

No matter why they leave home, where they come from, where they are, or how they got there, all children on the move should have access to comprehensive protections and humanitarian assistance.

Facts about the problems and effects

Children are often physically and economically more vulnerable to changes in their environment, so they suffer highly-diversified and complex issues in their situations of displacement. [Child protection systems](#), assembled to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, might not work or be weak on CoM. Financial support is often lacking or not being organized fairly between adults and children, while children lack basic support.

Currently, the number of camps and specialized facilities such as shelters, accommodations, government-run facilities, etc. are insufficient. For example, about 1,443 unaccompanied children, who were waiting for asylum, were living in unofficial facilities or police stations with adults, waiting to be transferred to appropriate specialized facilities in Greece in 2017. Also, many children who are regarded as illegal migrants, are constrained by border protection agencies and separated from their parents, even though constraining children is clearly prohibited under the UN's 1989 CRC, and it can ruin children's psychological and physical well-being and damage their cognitive development.



Photo Credit:
https://www.unicef-irc.org/files/images/945-land_0-mainpagetop.jpg

Lacking access to healthcare and education are also major issues for children on the move. Medical services of hygiene, nutrition, treatment of injuries are often required in the process of reaching destinations of displacement, in addition to fundamental health needs. Also, children without sufficient services might have difficulty going to local schools because of their poverty, poor health, discrimination, and language

barriers. UNHCR estimated that 61% of refugee children would be enrolled in primary school and 23% of refugee adolescents in secondary school by 2021. Many children on the move, particularly those without documentation for identification, often cannot be provided education or medical services by governments, or are subjected to many kinds of restrictions and financial requirements, even though CRC calls for Member States to protect all children, including those seeking asylum or without a regular migration status.

Action that has been taken or is being taken

In order to address these issues, UNICEF has set a [6-Point Agenda for Children on the Move](#).

1. Protect uprooted children from exploitation and violence
2. Keep families together and give children legal status
3. End the detention of refugee and migrant children by creating practical alternatives
4. Help uprooted children stay in school and stay healthy
5. Press for action on the causes that uproot children from their homes
6. Combat xenophobia and discrimination

[The Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\)](#) established in 1989 serves as the foundation for UNICEF's actions. Article 22 of the CRC says “Children who move from their home country to another country as refugees should get help and protection and have the same rights as children born in that country.” Based on this, UNICEF made the [UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#) within the context of the SDGs. It works to help children on the move to be included in national systems in aspects of health, education, protection from exploitation and abuse and developing skills for the future.

[International Data Alliance for Children on the Move \(IDAC\)](#) improves statistics on migrant and forcibly displaced children to support evidence-based policymaking that protects them. For example, they clarified and shared the gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities that children on the move were facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

Important Resolutions/Conventions/Treaties

[*The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*](#)

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants enacted that all refugees and migrants are rights-holders, regardless of their status. In terms of children on the move, this declaration includes ensuring that all refugee and migrant children are receiving education within a few months of arrival, and working against detaining children.

[*The Global Refugee Compact*](#)

The Global Refugee Compact was adopted in 2016 with an international agreement that aims to share responsibility dealing with refugee situations through international cooperation. It introduces good practices such as Collective Healing Centers for Afghan Refugee Children which provide children trauma rehabilitations, care for mental and psychosocial well-being.

[*Global Compact for Migration*](#)

The Global Compact for Migration was established in line with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It brings international cooperation on the governance of international migration. It also provides comprehensive approaches for Member States to select policy options to address issues around international migration.

Important Research Links for Committee (Country databases, Resolutions)

- [What Works to Protect Children on the Move](#)
- [Protection and Assistance for Children on the Move by IFRC](#)
- [Children on the Move: Key facts and figures](#)
- [Children on the Move by IOM](#)
- [Education, Children on the move and Inclusion in Education](#)
- [Health and Children on the Move](#)
- [Securing the Rights and Protection of Children on the Move; Climate Mobility](#)
- [UNHCR's Refugee Population Statistics Database](#)

Further Research that can develop into policies

Consideration of these questions is needed when writing and researching the topics which will be developed into policies:

- How does your Member State accept and protect refugee and migrant children including asylum seekers?
- What are some best practices to protect children on the move?
- How can the government support the stable life of migrant children?
- How can international society protect unaccompanied children?
- How do child protection systems in your Member State work?