



# UNICEF

# STUDY GUIDE

**Haileybury Astana Model**  
**United Nations**

**28 February - 1 March**

**MUN  
REFUGEE  
CHALLENGE**



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the first Haileybury Astana Model United Nations 2020 (HASMUN)! We are pleased to welcome you to the UNICEF. This year's chairs are:-----.

The topics under discussion for the UNICEF are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

United Nations International Children's Fund, or widely known as UNICEF was established by United Nations General Assembly in the aftermath of World War II. The initial objective of this body was to help provide relief and support to children living in countries devastated by war.

Along with the development progress, UNICEF has shifted its mandate to not only provide assistance and help for children living in countries devastated by war, but as well as to ensure the rights of all children are fulfilled. The committee has played an important role in promoting the Convention on the Rights of Children, that now has become one of the most ratified conventions in the world. UNICEF has also widely known by its development programs that engage not only government but as well as NGO, private sectors and related stakeholders with the use of media and role model in campaigning their programs.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. (Nur-Sultan) on the 26th of February 2020.

We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact-----

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Chairs-----

## **Committee overview**

### **Introduction**

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to the formation of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in 1946.(UN General Assembly, Establishment of an International Children's Emergency Fund (GA/RES/57(1)), 1946)  
The major objective after inception was to help children across Europe who had been left helpless after the Second World War. The main purpose of the fund was to help in building shelter, provide food, enhance security for children and reduce the rising child mortality, particularly in times of crisis as after the Second World War. Maurice Pate, the first Executive Director of UNICEF agreed to take his position on condition that all children regardless of their nationality or creed would be assisted by this fund. Ever since, this has always been the primary goal of UNICEF. However, in 1950 the attempt to close the fund, the UNICEF leadership together with Member States requested the continuation of the fund and expanded its scope.

### **Mandate**

The mandate of UNICEF was shifted from providing temporary relief to ensuring long-term sustainable development goals.(UNICEF, Sixty Years For Children, 2006, p.6) Moreover, help countries be able to provide for their own children in the future. Hence, its mission has been extended to Africa and Asia that were not previously under its mandate. It was noticed that children could not be viewed in isolation but as an

important aspect within the society; children were found to be the most vulnerable in the society. UNICEF thus, realized the importance of improving the livelihood through enhanced development projects. "A World Fit for Children" is a document that emerged after the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children (UNGASS), which voices out specific goals in achieving a 'child friendly' society.(UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, General Assembly Special Session on Children, 2002)

### **Functions and Powers**

UNICEF is based on the principle of promoting the vital interests of children, since children are considered as the most vulnerable in the society and hence need a collective protection.(UNICEF, Sixty Years for Children, 2006, p.8). This is also highlighted in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) of 1989 that is the mostly approved convention in the world. The convention's fundamental value is to enforce children rights, for example right to life, right to the child to be heard, right to non-discrimination among others. It is paramount for every child's voice to be heard and considered in all decision making processes as factor in moulding globally active citizens who will contribute positively to the world we live in. To accomplish this, children have to be safeguarded from exploitation, violence, abuse, sickness and hunger. Implementation of mechanisms that influence the accomplishment of such principles has awakened the need to consider children with high regard. This includes fostering a partnership with other UN organizations like the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in capacity building initiatives. (UNESCO, Guide to the Archives of International Organizations: UNICEF). Together with World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF has achieved ground-breaking results in curing diseases such as Polio and Yaws and also through administration of vaccines for six commonly known childhood killer diseases. (UNICEF, Sixty Years for Children, 2006, p.8)

### **Conclusion**

UNICEF is an organization that strives to represent marginalized children with efficiency, sustainability and dignity. It is the only internationally ratified body in the world advocating and representing child rights, holds a unique niche globally and

provides a forum for international collaboration.(UNICEF, About UNICEF, 2014) Recently United Nations has shifted towards post MDG framework and UNICEF has the mandate to foster ahead successfully initiatives that will ensure children's rights are given the first priority. Alarmed with increased need to address issues pertaining to representation of the adolescents and rehabilitation of children in conflict, UNICEF has taken the leading role representing all the groups unable to represent themselves in a move to ensure a global recognition of children's rights.

### **Definitions of key terms and abbreviations**

**Refugee** - a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

**Migrant** - a person who moves from one place to another, especially in order to find work or better living conditions.

**Internal displacement (IDP)** - being forced to flee home but remain within own country's borders. Internally displaced people are often referred to as refugees, although they do not fall within the legal definitions of a refugee.

**Unaccompanied/Separated children (UACs)** - children without the presence of legal guardians.

**The International Organization for Migration (IOM)** - an intergovernmental organization that provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers. In September 2016, IOM became a related organization of the United Nations.

**The Displacement Tracking Matrix system (DTM)** - tracking and monitoring internally displaced populations. It captures; processes and disseminates information in order to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations

### **General agenda**

People have always migrated to flee from trouble or to find better opportunities. Today, more people are on the move than ever, trying to escape from climate change, poverty and conflict, and aided as never before by digital technologies.Children make up one-third of the world's population, but almost half of the world's refugees: nearly 50 million children have migrated or been displaced across borders.

Refugee and migrant children – some travelling with their families, some alone – risk everything, even their own lives, in search of a better life. Millions of uprooted families flee their homes to escape conflict, persecution and poverty in countries including Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan.

Often children, without safe and legal alternatives for migration available to them, tend to take matters into their own hands, facing risks of exploitation at the hands of people traffickers.

All children on the move are vulnerable to abuse and other grave forms of violence during and after their journeys. It is estimated that more than one child dies every day along the perilous Central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Italy.

Uprooted children travelling from the Middle East to Greece via the eastern Mediterranean tend to arrive with their families, with girls just as likely to arrive as boys. They come primarily from just three countries: Syria (54 percent), Iraq (27 percent) and Afghanistan (13 percent).

Many people have fled from the brutal six year conflict in Syria and more than three million Syrians now live in Turkey – the largest refugee population in the world. Almost half of these are children. The majority of Syrian refugees in Turkey live in host communities that are often poverty-stricken, and hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugee children are out of school.

There are now more than 72,000 refugees and migrants stranded in Greece, Cyprus and the Balkans, including more than 22,500 children – unable to move forward, unwilling to go back to their home countries and struggling to fit into their host communities. Children are increasingly showing signs of deep psychological trauma as a result of the suffering they have experienced during and after their journeys.

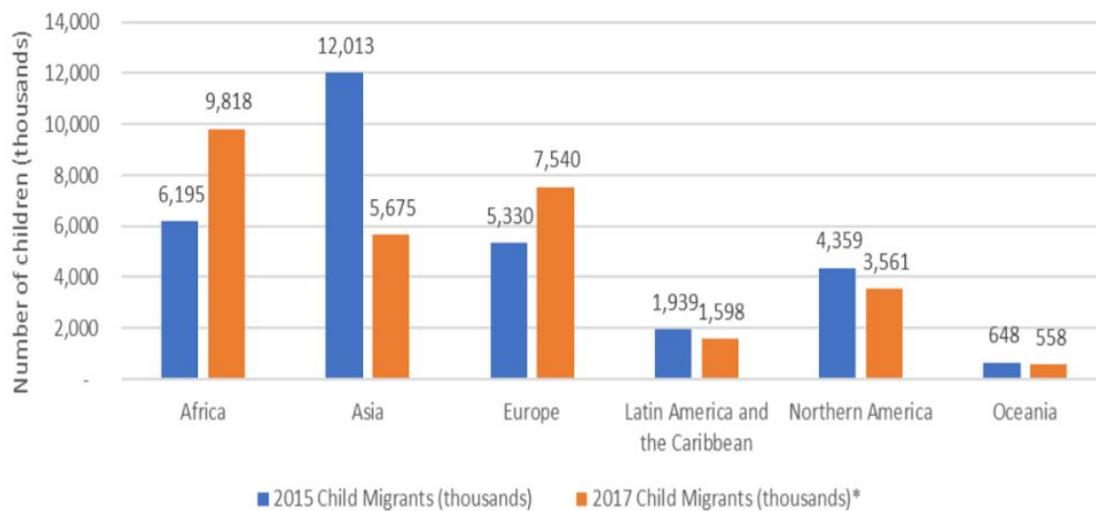
People migrate for the reasons of: finding work, avoiding child marriage, gender based violence, forced labor, and problems in families including migrant parents away. Some interview data suggest, people believe, UACs have better chance at being allowed to stay in the country they migrated to than adults.

### **Statistics**

- 31M children living outside countries of birth
- 10M child refugees & 1M asylum seekers fleeing conflict, violence and persecution

- Share of migrants who are children the same as in 1990, but more child migrants as population of global migrants has grown
- In 2005, 1 in 350 were refugees; by 2015, 1 in 200
- Surge in children seeking asylum in Europe between 2008 and 2016 - share among asylum seekers rose from 1 in 5 to 1 in 3
- 1/2 of refugees are children < 18 yrs
- 200K UACs applied for asylum in 2015-16 (using available data from 80 countries)
- Another 100K apprehended at MX-US border in same period
- 300K total children, an increase from 66K recorded in 2010-11
- Central Mediterranean route to Italy in 2015: 75% of children arriving in Italy by sea were UACs, in 2016 share rose to 92% (most from Eritrea, the Gambia, Nigeria, Egypt and Guinea)
- Asylum applicants from UAC children rising, from 2 to 5% of applications: 2010-15
- 2015: of the ~41M internally displaced by violence and conflict, 17M estimated to be children (half displaced in Asia)
- Syria, Iraq and Yemen account for ~1/3 of internal displacements
- Nigeria, Dem Rep of Congo, Central Africa Rep and South Sudan were among the top 10 countries globally for new violence-induced internal displacements in 2015
- Approx 80% of child migrants in Americas live in US, MX and Canada
- Since 2014. 7 in 10 children seeking asylum fleeing Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq ~1 in 6 of worlds child migrants lives in Europe
- Africa: ~50% of refugees are children, ~3M children forced out of origins
- Asian: 45% of child refugees originated from Syria and Afghanistan
- Some countries host very large numbers: Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Turkey
- Oceania: # child migrants rose from 430K to 670K between 1990-2015, 6 in 100 children are migrants

## 1. Destination Region for Child Migrants and Refugees in 2015 & 2017



(Global Mapping of Migrant and Displaced Children: Trends and Patterns, K. Donato & J. Kirton, p.7)

### **Solution**

IOM/DTM and UNICEF signed a new agreement to develop child focused data collection and analysis into DTM: retrospective mobility histories in certain areas of the world and/or prospective data about children's moves and subsequent integration.

At national level, UNICEF works with partners to meet children's immediate needs, including safety, protection, health care, adequate nutrition and education. In the countries with refugee and migrant populations, it helps to provide psychosocial services and education for refugee and migrant children while strengthening national child protection systems to benefit all children who are vulnerable.

In Turkey, for example, UNICEF have prioritized the integration of refugee and migrant children into mainstream schools, and in 2016, for the first time since the crisis began, there were more Syrian refugee children in school in Turkey than out of school. Building on this, we have launched cash benefits for more than 230,000 Syrian and other refugee children in Turkey, linked to their school enrolment and attendance.

The 'Blue Dot' centres, offer psychosocial support and other child protection services – including specific services targeting unaccompanied children and those most seriously distressed by their experiences.

## **Bibliography**

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