



unicef

ODM MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2024

Message from the Executive Board

Prospective Delegates,

Considering the nature of the conference, we look forward to making this more of a learning engagement while still keeping up the spirit of competition and the essence of debate. To meet such ends, we shall be formulating UNA-USA Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business which shall be explained to you in brief prior to the first session as well as throughout the working of the committee, as and when required. We expect the debate to comprise of substantive points, logical analysis of facts and suggestions and advancement of country opinion.

To clear any contentions, the participants need not let thoughts about our expectations be a hurdle in their research or give way to any fear regarding fulfilment of their objectives. The only thing the Executive Board will put strong emphasis on, would be helping you understand the international analysis, and argumentative debating. Participants shall be tested on their knowledge and arguments, along their specific country lines and the respective ideology, over the various topics discussed in the debate and also the deliberations before choosing a particular topic.

This guide, although very comprehensive and factual, provides a basic idea of the topics likely to be argued upon and topics to be discussed in view of the committee and may vary from those of the respective delegate's ideologies. In no way is this guide to confine a participant's research. The guide consists of subjective and factual data with arguments, but this is just to make the participants understand the ways in which they must make their addresses.

We are very pleased to welcome you to the simulation of the UNICEF at ODM Model United Nations 2024. Please take a note that the study guide is in no way exhaustive and is only to provide you with enough background information to begin your research. We would like you to do a good amount of research beyond what is covered in the guide. Relevant links have been added in the guide to help you research and further your knowledge on the agenda. In no way can the study guide be used as the sole source of information for your research. A

few basic ideas have been enshrined in the guide on which you are required to research extensively and prepare. We would like to see the highest standards of diplomacy from you when you represent your nation. It is always advisable to go through the basic rules of procedures before attending the conference. However we shall be briefing you about the same on the first day of committee. We hope to see you soon.

If you have any doubts you are free to contact us via e-mail, Facebook or WhatsApp. We shall be pleased to help you.

Research well!

Aditi Khuntia (Chairperson)

(Vice Chairperson)

Proof/Evidence in Council

Evidence or proof is acceptable from sources:

1. News Sources:

- a. REUTERS – Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council. (<http://www.reuters.com/>)
- b. State operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are,
 - i. RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru/>
 - ii. IRNA (Iran) <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm>
 - iii. BBC (United Kingdom) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>
 - iv. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China) <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>

2. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country.

However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Examples are,

- i. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America <http://www.state.gov/index.htm> or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation <http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.html>
- ii. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>), People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>), France (<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>), Russian Federation (http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/main_eng/)
- iii. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports <http://www.un.org/en/members/>
(Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative).
- iv. Multilateral Organisations like the NATO (<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>),

ASEAN (<http://www.aseansec.org/>), OPEC (http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/), etc.

3. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered are credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the Security Council.

i. UN Bodies: Like the SC(<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>), GA(<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>), HRC(<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx>) etc.

ii. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>), World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/>), International Monetary Fund (<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>), International Committee of the Red Cross (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>), etc.

iii. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System (<http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>), the International Criminal Court (<http://www.icccpi.int/Menu/ICC>)

Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>), Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>), Human Rights Watch(<http://www.hrw.org/>) or newspapers like the Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>), Times of India (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>), etc. be accepted.

Introduction to the UNICEF Committee

Mandate Under the United Nations

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was founded on December 11, 1946, by the United Nations General Assembly in response to the dire needs of children in war-torn Europe following World War II.

Initially, UNICEF's primary focus was on providing emergency food, medicine, and other essential supplies to children and mothers in regions ravaged by conflict.

However, as the organization evolved, so did its mandate, expanding to address the broader and more enduring needs of children across the globe.

Today, UNICEF operates under the framework of the United Nations, with a specific mandate to advocate for:

the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

This mandate is grounded in the principles set forth by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted by the United Nations in 1989. The CRC, a landmark international treaty, underscores the inherent rights of all children, including the right to survival, development, protection from harm, and participation in decisions that affect their lives.

UNICEF's work is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The organization's efforts are particularly focused on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), among others. By aligning its programs with the SDGs, UNICEF ensures that its initiatives contribute to the broader global agenda of sustainable development, with a specific emphasis on the needs and rights of children.

Operating in over 190 countries and territories, UNICEF collaborates with governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, and other UN agencies to develop and implement policies, programs, and services that prioritize the well-being of children. Its work

spans a wide range of areas, including health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, child protection, and social inclusion. UNICEF's approach is both holistic and child-centred, recognizing that the challenges faced by children are often interconnected and require comprehensive, multi-sectoral responses.

In addition to its on-the-ground programs, UNICEF plays a critical role in global advocacy, using its platform to raise awareness of children's issues and to influence policymakers at the highest levels. Through its advocacy efforts, UNICEF seeks to ensure that children's rights are at the forefront of national and international agendas and that the voices of children themselves are heard and respected in decision-making processes.

Past Actions

UNICEF has a long and storied history of impactful initiatives, interventions, and advocacy efforts aimed at improving the lives of children around the world. These past actions provide valuable insights into the organization's strategies and successes, as well as the ongoing challenges that children face globally. Understanding UNICEF's past actions is essential for delegates as they seek to build on this legacy and propose new solutions to the issues being debated in the committee.

1. Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI):

One of UNICEF's most significant contributions to global health has been its role in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), launched in 1988. At the time, polio was a devastating disease, paralyzing hundreds of thousands of children each year. Through GPEI, UNICEF, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, and other partners, spearheaded massive vaccination campaigns, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where the disease was most prevalent. These efforts led to a dramatic reduction in polio cases, with the disease being eradicated from all but a few regions. As of today, polio remains endemic in only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, with ongoing efforts to achieve complete eradication.

2. Child Survival and Development:

UNICEF has been at the forefront of global efforts to reduce child mortality and promote child survival and development. In the 1980s and 1990s, UNICEF's "Child Survival Revolution" focused on four key interventions: growth monitoring, oral rehydration therapy (to combat diarrhea), breastfeeding, and immunization—collectively known as GOBI. These simple, cost-effective interventions had a profound impact, saving millions of lives and significantly reducing child mortality rates in many countries. Building on this success, UNICEF expanded its programs to address other critical areas, such as nutrition, maternal health, and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

3. Education for All (EFA):

Education has always been a central pillar of UNICEF's work. The organization's commitment to education for all children is exemplified by its role in the global Education for All (EFA) movement, which aimed to provide quality basic education to every child, regardless of their circumstances. UNICEF has worked tirelessly to ensure that children, especially girls and those from marginalized communities.

Issue of Global Malnutrition

Introduction

Malnutrition remains a critical global health challenge, affecting millions of people, particularly children, around the world. This issue encompasses both undernutrition, which includes stunting, wasting, and underweight, as well as overnutrition, which leads to overweight and obesity. Understanding the complexities and nuances of malnutrition is essential for delegates preparing to address this pressing issue in the UNICEF Committee.

Scope of the Problem

1. Prevalence of Undernutrition

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Global Figures: As of 2023, approximately 828 million people are estimated to be undernourished globally. This figure has seen an increase in recent years due to factors such as conflict, climate change, and economic instability.

Childhood Undernutrition: Undernutrition is particularly devastating for children. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an estimated 149 million children under the age of five were stunted (low height for age) in 2022. Additionally, about 45 million children under five were wasted (low weight for height), and 39 million were overweight.

2. Prevalence of Overnutrition:

Global Figures: Overnutrition, including overweight and obesity, has become a significant concern. The WHO estimates that more than 1.9 billion adults aged 18 and older are overweight, and of these, over 650 million are classified as obese.

Childhood Overnutrition: The prevalence of childhood obesity has also risen sharply. Approximately 39 million children under the age of five were overweight or obese in 2023.

Regional Disparities

1. Sub-Saharan Africa:

Undernutrition Rates: Sub-Saharan Africa is disproportionately affected by undernutrition. In 2023, approximately 25% of children under five were stunted, and 8% were wasted.

Key Issues: Conflict, poverty, and climate change contribute to high levels of malnutrition in this region. Food insecurity, inadequate health services, and limited access to clean water and sanitation exacerbate the problem.

2. South Asia:

Undernutrition Rates: South Asia also faces significant challenges. In 2023, 36% of children under five in South Asia were stunted, and 17% were wasted.

Key Issues: Rapid population growth, high levels of poverty, and inadequate maternal and child health services are major factors influencing malnutrition rates. Nutritional deficiencies, such as iron and vitamin A, are common.

3. Latin America and the Caribbean:

Overnutrition Rates: This region faces a dual burden of malnutrition. While there have been improvements in reducing undernutrition, rates of overweight and obesity are rising. In 2023, around 6% of children under five were overweight or obese.

Key Issues: Urbanization, changing diets, and decreased physical activity contribute to the rising rates of obesity. Access to processed foods high in sugar, salt, and fat is a growing concern.

4. High-Income Countries:

Overnutrition Rates: High-income countries, such as those in North America and Europe, experience high rates of obesity. In 2023, obesity rates among adults exceeded 30% in several high-income countries.

Key Issues: Overnutrition in high-income countries is linked to sedentary lifestyles, high consumption of processed foods, and socio-economic factors. Despite overall affluence, disparities in nutrition and access to healthy food exist within these countries.

Causes of Malnutrition

1. Food Insecurity: Food insecurity, characterised by limited access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food, is a primary driver of malnutrition. Factors such as conflict, economic instability, and climate change contribute to food insecurity. The Global Hunger Index 2023 highlights that food insecurity affects over 2.3 billion people globally.

2. Economic Factors: Poverty and economic inequality significantly impact malnutrition. Low-income households often struggle to afford nutritious foods, leading to poor dietary intake. Economic downturns and rising food prices further exacerbate the situation.

3. Health and Sanitation: Inadequate healthcare services, poor sanitation, and lack of clean drinking water are critical factors. Diarrheal diseases, respiratory infections, and other health issues can impair nutrient absorption and increase susceptibility to malnutrition.

4. Maternal and Child Health: Maternal malnutrition, including deficiencies in essential nutrients during pregnancy, can affect the health of infants and young children. Inadequate breastfeeding practices and insufficient complementary feeding contribute to malnutrition in early childhood.

5. Climate Change: Climate change impacts agricultural productivity, leading to reduced food availability and increased food prices. Extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, can destroy crops and disrupt food supply chains, exacerbating food insecurity.

Consequences of Malnutrition

1. Health Implications: Malnutrition has severe health consequences, including increased risk of mortality, impaired cognitive development, and chronic health conditions. Undernourished children are more susceptible to infections and illnesses, while those suffering from overnutrition face higher risks of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular conditions.

2. Economic Impact: The economic impact of malnutrition is profound. Malnourished individuals are less productive, which affects economic growth and development. The World Bank estimates that malnutrition costs countries between 2% and 3% of their GDP annually due to lost productivity and increased healthcare costs.

3. Educational Outcomes: Malnutrition affects educational outcomes, with malnourished children experiencing difficulties in learning and cognitive development. This, in turn, impacts their future employment prospects and socio-economic status.

4. Social Consequences: Malnutrition contributes to social inequalities and perpetuates the cycle of poverty. Families facing malnutrition often experience reduced social mobility and increased vulnerability to economic and social shocks.

Global Initiatives and Solutions

1. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals include specific targets related to ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition. SDG 2 aims to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

2. UNICEF's Role: UNICEF plays a crucial role in combating malnutrition through various programs and initiatives. These include emergency food and nutrition support, promoting

breastfeeding and healthy eating practices, and improving access to clean water and sanitation.

3. International Partnerships: Global partnerships, such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and the Global Nutrition Report, work to coordinate efforts and mobilize resources to address malnutrition. These partnerships bring together governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders to implement effective interventions.

4. National and Local Interventions: Countries are implementing various strategies to address malnutrition, including nutrition-sensitive agriculture, school feeding programs, and health and nutrition education. Local initiatives often focus on community-based solutions, such as improving food security and enhancing maternal and child health services.

5. Research and Innovation: Ongoing research and innovation in nutrition science and technology aim to develop new approaches to tackling malnutrition. This includes fortifying foods with essential nutrients, improving agricultural practices, and utilizing data to better target interventions.

Sustainable Development Goal 2: zero hunger

UNICEF works with partners around the world to support child nutrition — and to end child malnutrition — to give every child a chance to grow up healthy and strong.

Ending child malnutrition is critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, a commitment by the global community to end hunger and malnutrition in all forms. For a number of economic, political and social reasons, however — a global food crisis linked to the war in Ukraine, other prolonged conflicts, supply chain issues, runaway inflation — the world is not on track to meet this goal.

There were more than twice as many people facing crisis levels of hunger worldwide in 2022 compared to 2019 – with 44 million reported to be at risk of famine. And the economic costs of undernutrition are significant — estimated at \$3 trillion in lost productivity annually.

How UNICEF fights malnutrition

UNICEF works with partners in 130 countries to address global malnutrition — providing nutrition counseling, nutrition care and other support to improve the nutritional status of children and women who are facing hunger or who lack access to nutritious foods.

UNICEF also supports early detection and treatment for malnourished children. Early detection — teaching mothers, health workers and other community members to identify a child who is malnourished — is a top priority, and key to that child's successful recovery and avoiding permanent harm.

A child who is severely acutely malnourished, or suffering from wasting disease, needs immediate treatment and faces a serious risk of death. Left untreated, child wasting can be fatal.

Nutrition counseling

UNICEF encourages best practices for newborn, infant and child feeding, working with partners at the community and local level to provide information and training. This includes:

Breastfeeding support

Promoting the benefits of breastfeeding has long been an integral part of UNICEF's mission in child nutrition. It's free, builds a baby's immunity, gives them everything they need to grow and thrive, and reduces future health risks. UNICEF also helps women access the support they need to breastfeed — from peers, health care professionals, lactation consultants or other specialists.

Thanks in part to UNICEF's ongoing efforts, exclusive breastfeeding is up 50 percent worldwide since the early 1980s.

Micronutrient supplements

UNICEF supplies different types of supplements, including micronutrient powders that can be sprinkled on top of a child's meal and multivitamin tablets containing the iron and folic

acid that adolescent girls and women need to prevent anemia and otherwise ensure good health. This protects them and also their future children.

Half of all stunting in children under 2 years originates during pregnancy or in the first six months of life — when the child is dependent on the mother for nutrition. "Unless we improve the nutrition of adolescent girls and women, we are unlikely to end child undernutrition," Harriet Torlesse, UNICEF Nutrition Specialist, explains.

Nutrition screenings

Screening children and pregnant women who are at risk of malnutrition is an important preventative measure that helps catch cases early and ensure timely treatment and full recovery.

UNICEF supplies MUAC measuring tapes — short for mid-upper arm circumference — to caregivers, health care providers and other frontline workers along with guidance on the importance of early detection and response.

Social protection (humanitarian cash transfer programs)

Many UNICEF assistance programs that provide cash payments to families so they can meet urgent needs for food and other basics are helping to improve child nutrition.

Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food

UNICEF purchases and distributes approximately 80 percent of the world's supply of RUTF — a lifesaving treatment for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, also known as severe wasting disease.

RUTF is a shelf-stable, nutrient-rich peanut paste. The recovery rate for children on a regiment of three packets of RUTF per day is 90 percent after about six weeks.

RUTF is the abbreviation for “ready-to-use therapeutic food”, a life-saving essential supply item that treats severe wasting in children under 5 years old. Wasting is defined as low weight-for-height and happens when someone has not had enough food or food of adequate

quality. If not appropriately treated, wasting in children is associated with a higher risk of death.

RUTF paste was invented by pediatric nutritionist André Briend and food processing engineer Michel Lescanne 25 years ago, and became commercially available in the early 2000s. It is made from powdered milk, peanuts, butter, vegetable oil, sugar, and a mix of vitamins and minerals. One RUTF sachet combines 500 calories and micronutrients that have:

- High nutritional value allowing malnourished children to gain weight quickly.
- Two-year shelf life, making it convenient to pre-position in a warehouse.
- Appealing taste and easy digestibility.
- No need for preparation – children eat it directly from the packet.