



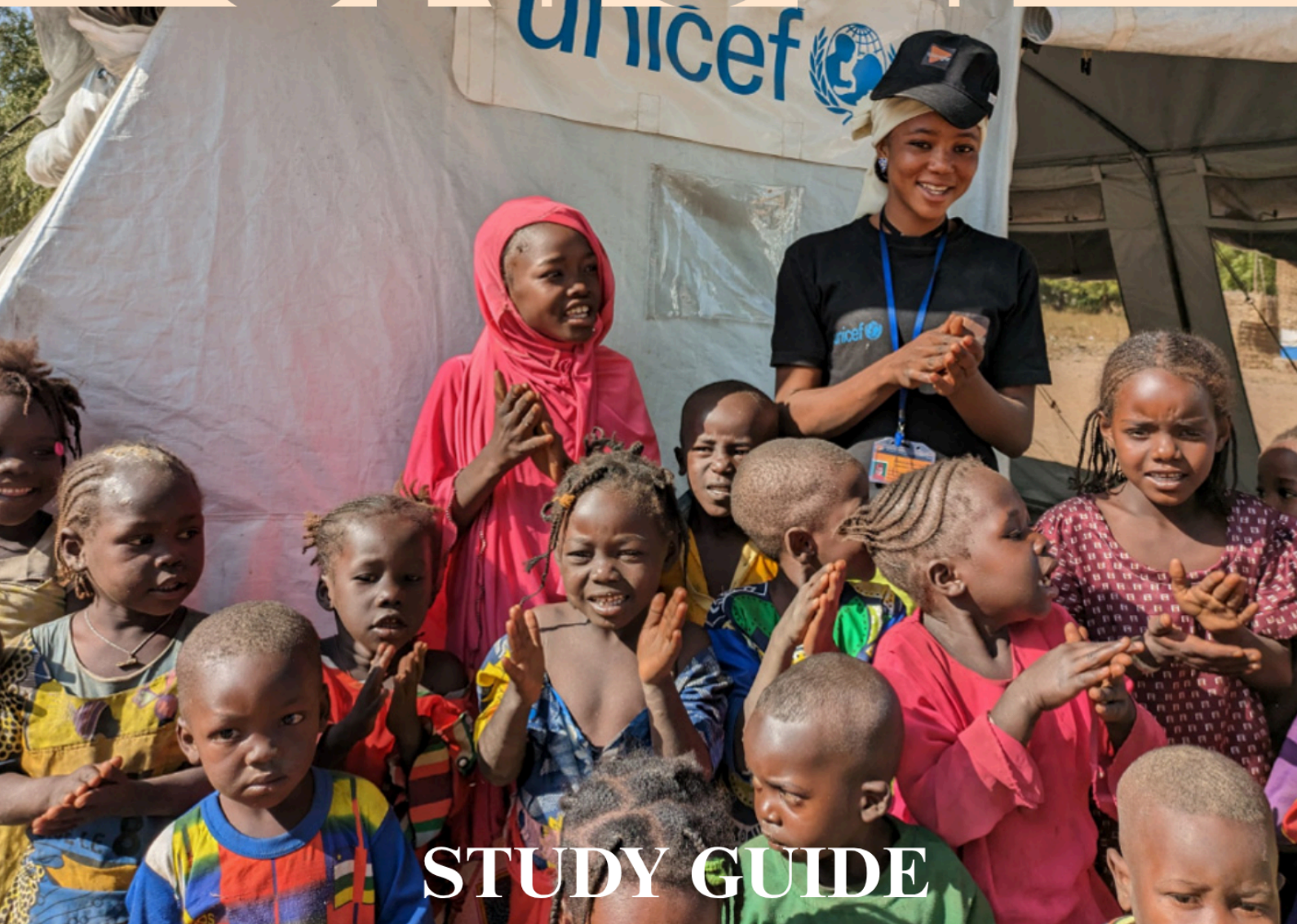
**United Nations Children's
Fund**



AGENDA:

**Addressing the Impact of Natural Disasters and Climate
Change on Children with Special Emphasis on Latin
American and the Caribbean regions**

UNICEF



STUDY GUIDE



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LETTER FROM THE BUREAU

Dear Delegates,

As the bureau of the United Nations Children's Fund, we welcome you to the Shishukunj Model United Nations 2025-26 with immense pleasure and gratitude. The agenda for the committee this year is "Addressing the Impact of Natural Disasters and Climate Change on Children with Special Emphasis on Latin American and the Caribbean regions."

The Latin American and Caribbean regions are very prone to climate change and natural disasters with their citizens facing severe problems. Due to this, this region is the home to one of the world's largest and most complex child migration crises. The given agenda encourages the free flow of ideas, productive debates, and critical thinking, giving the delegates a realistic experience of what it feels like to be a real delegate of the United Nations.

Make sure to read the study guide thoroughly as this guide is extremely comprehensive and will give you an idea of how to present yourself in the committee. Reading the study guide is key to understanding the agenda as it is divided into various sub-topics and sub-sub-topics, which will help you reach the depths of the agenda. Keep in mind that you also research other topics related to the agenda and go beyond what is mentioned in this guide.

Feel free to reach out to any of us in case you face any difficulties and most importantly, have fun!

All the Best!

Chairperson - **Tanish Jain**

Vice-Chairperson - **Sarthak Chaturvedi**

Rapporteur - **Aditi Gupta**



INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

UNICEF, also known as United Nations Children's Fund, was founded by Resolution 57(I) of the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946¹ to provide supplies and assistance to children after World War II. It was formerly known as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and started as a temporary relief fund for the United Nations.

UNICEF works in over 190 countries² and territories to help children survive, thrive, and fulfill their potential. They also protect the rights of every child, especially the ones who are the most disadvantaged and hardest to reach; safeguard the children from violence and abuse; and provide them with clean water and sanitation facilities to keep them from diseases due to natural disasters and calamities.

UNICEF is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which says that every child has the right to live a full life with safety, dignity, and opportunities.

It also plays a very important role in providing education, health, and nutrition services to help children. UNICEF always stays impartial, nonpolitical, and neutral when making any decision, helping it maintain its integrity. It also operates the world's largest humanitarian warehouse and oversees an unparalleled logistics network.

¹ <https://www.unicef.org/history>

² <https://www.unicef.org/who-we-are>

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF, is a UN body that protects the rights and well-being of the most vulnerable part of the population, children, worldwide. One of the most urgent topics is *“Addressing the Impact of Natural Disasters and Climate Change on Children, with Special Emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean Regions.”*

This agenda highlights the obstacles and challenges faced before the disaster strikes, during the disaster, and after the disaster, and allows us to create solutions that affect the world positively. It connects all aspects of how a population is affected, be it economic, physical, mental, and emotional.

The Latin America and the Caribbean region includes more than 30 countries and territories. It is known for its rich history, diverse cultures, and beautiful natural landscapes. However, it is also one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. Every year this region is affected by hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, droughts, and other natural disasters. Climate change is making these disasters stronger and more frequent and creating a more adverse impact. Children are the most affected when disasters strike. Homes are destroyed, schools are damaged, and they don't have access to food and clean water. Families are forced to leave their homes and many children lose their loved ones. In such times children become more vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and violence.

In many parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, children constantly struggle with poverty and live in areas where there is little support available. When natural disasters strike, it becomes even harder for children to stay safe. Many times the situation is so devastating it is a situation of life or death. Even though children contribute the least to climate change, they are the ones facing many consequences, which is unfair.

Because of all this, it is very important that we take quick and effective action. We must work together to make sure that children are protected. This agenda is not just about solving problems today. It is about building a safe and secure future for the children of Latin America and the Caribbean.





KEY TERMS

1. **Vulnerable** - Capable of being physically or emotionally wounded; open to attack or damage.
 2. **Psychological** - Related to psychology; occurring in the mind
 3. **Exploitation** - The act or instance of using someone for personal benefit
 4. **PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)** - A mental health condition that's caused by an extremely stressful or terrifying event (either being part of it or witnessing)
 5. **Lethargy** - Abnormal drowsiness; the quality or state of being lazy or sluggish
 6. **Multilateral** - Having many sides; involving or participated in by more than two nations or parties
 7. **Infrastructure** - The system of public works of a country, state, or region; also: the resources (such as personnel, buildings, or equipment) required for an activity
 8. **Stunting** - The impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation
 9. **Neurological Diseases** - Diseases of the nervous system
 10. **Vector-borne** - Diseases transmitted by insects
 11. **Aggravated** - Made Severe
 12. **Displacement** - The action of moving something or someone from its place or position.
 13. **Psychosocial** - Involving both psychological and social aspects
 14. **Disruption** - Problems which interrupt an event, activity, or process; disturbance.
 15. **Prolonged** - Extended
 16. **Framework** - A basic conceptual structure of ideas (here)
 17. **Documentation** - Material that provides official information or evidence or that serves as a record.
 18. **Humanitarian** - Having concern for or helping to improve the welfare and happiness of people
 19. **Anticipation** - Waiting eagerly for something you know is going to happen
 20. **Contingency** - Something that might happen in the future
 21. **Allocation** - Giving off or assigning something, like resources, money, or tasks, to different people or areas
 22. **Epicenter** - Point on the Earth's surface that is directly above the focus of an earthquake
 23. **Mitigation** - To reduce the severity of something
 24. **Fluctuate** - To change back and forth
 25. **Emphasis** - To give special importance to something
 26. **Dire** - Something serious or terrible
 27. **Rehabilitation** - The action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness; recovery
 28. **Transitional** - Changing from one state or condition to another
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CHILD DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION

Child displacement and migration has now become an urgent global issue, affecting millions of children worldwide. As of 2022, over 43.3 million³ children were displaced worldwide according to UNICEF's Child Displacement Report. Although this issue affects children worldwide, its impact is significant on the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, especially due to natural calamities and climate change. As a natural disaster strikes children, being the most vulnerable part of the population, face numerous obstacles and difficulties; mentally, physically, emotionally and financially. Displacement within or across borders increases the vulnerability of these children. They face problems regarding the disruption of fundamental rights, healthcare, education, and psychosocial support, and addressing them is critical.

1. Family Separation

All children have the right to grow up with their families. Children in family environments are generally safer and better cared for. Yet, natural disasters, along with other crises force thousands of girls and boys from their parents and caregivers each year. Such a situation has adverse negative impacts on the child's well-being. Children suffer indescribable stress when split from their loved ones. Separation hurts children's mental health, physical health, and development. What's more is that it leaves them vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and abuse. They also have a very minimal chance of being reunited with their family, and separation for a long time increases the risk.



³ <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/number-displaced-children-reaches-new-high-433-million>

2. Disruption of Education

Nearly a quarter of a billion⁴ children's schooling was disrupted by climate crises in 2024. Many children are forced to stop going to school completely because their schools are destroyed or badly damaged. A lot of the time they are even converted into temporary shelters. What's concerning is that most of these shelters are often overcrowded or set up extremely far away, or not safe.

When a child moves to a new area, there is a shift in culture and language. This shift in language, curriculum and culture act as an obstacle for them to continue or keep up with the education. Another major issue is the lack of trained teachers after a disaster. Many teachers usually leave, because they are injured, or are focused on rebuilding their own lives.

Many families lose their homes as well as their incomes as a disaster strikes. In such situations, children, mainly older ones, are forced to leave school and start working to earn and help support their families. This leads to children missing out on their education and opportunities, all because of the effects of natural disasters and climate change. Sometimes this prolonged pause in education might be the end of their education as well.



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<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/nearly-quarter-billion-childrens-schooling-was-disrupted-climate-crises-2024-unicef>

3. Lack of Governance and Policies

Many governments don't have proper policies or frameworks that protect children when a natural disaster or climate change happens. Many countries do not have proper systems to respond quickly when disasters strike. Some governments leave millions of children vulnerable as they don't include children's safety and education in their plans.

Children are not prioritized in national budgets or emergency responses. Children don't have access to basic needs like food, shelter, and education. This happens because child welfare institutions in many countries are underfunded or completely neglected.

Another serious issue is the lack of cooperation between countries and international groups. Many governments don't work together or share resources to help children who have been displaced or harmed by climate events. Most countries still do not have effective national plans to prevent violence or neglect during emergencies, and they don't coordinate with other nations to solve the problem. This means children are extremely helpless and vulnerable during regional or cross-border emergencies.

Even where some laws exist to protect children, they are often weak, outdated or poorly implemented. Countries may sign international agreements, but they fail to build local systems leading to negligence and poor implementation.

4. Lack of Legal Identity

Many children around the world do not have official documents like birth certificates or ID cards. This means that they lack legal identity, making it difficult to prove who they are. Without this proof, they often cannot enroll in school, access healthcare, or benefit from government programs. You can only get a birth certificate through birth registration which is essential for accessing public services. Globally, about 150 million⁵ children under the age of 5 remain unregistered, hence they are neglected by the government. This lack of documentation not only acts as an obstacle to get access to basic services but also increases their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. Legal identity is a fundamental right and is extremely important for the protection and secure future of children.



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<https://www.unicefusa.org/press/birth-registration-steadily-increases-worldwide-150-million-children-still-invisible-unicef>



POST CALAMITY EFFECTS

After a disaster strikes, people are in distress. They face a toll physically, mentally, emotionally, and economically. Post-calamity effects are the various consequences that arise after a calamity. These effects can be just as dangerous or harmful. They often cause a lot of suffering to the people living in affected areas and also their environment. The frequency of natural disasters is increasing every year, and so is the adverse impact. Many children suffer from injuries, illnesses, anxiety, or trauma after experiencing such extreme events. There are also environmental hazards like broken homes, polluted water, and piles of debris, which make their surroundings unsafe and unhealthy. In such critical situations, children are also more vulnerable to the risk of abuse, exploitation, and neglect, especially if they are separated from their families. These effects combined can seriously affect a child's safety, growth, and development, making post-disaster support extremely important.

1. Impact on Physical and Mental Health

Children are the most vulnerable to harm during natural disasters as they have a weak immune system, have thinner skin, and are prone to have much deeper psychological impacts. Natural disasters can cause immediate injuries such as cuts, fractures, burns, and other impact injuries. Many children get injured due to collapsing buildings, falling debris, or getting caught in fast-moving waters.

During a study, it was observed that children who suffered from a natural disaster in the past month showed a 9-18%⁶ increase in acute diseases such as fever, diarrhea, respiratory illnesses, etc. Also, more than 50%⁶ of the children impacted by natural disasters reported mental health problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and often experienced symptoms related to depression such as anxiety, lethargy, sadness, inability to sleep properly, etc.

⁶ <https://www.srcd.org/research/understanding-impacts-natural-disasters-children>



2. Environmental Hazards

After a disaster strikes, there is serious damage and destruction. This negative impact is increased due to climate change. In this chaos, people face environmental hazards, increasing the risk as the terrain or land gets destroyed. Soil erosion and landslides impact agriculture negatively and act as an obstacle to getting clean water. In many disaster-stricken areas, the formation of debris creates dangerous living conditions. It also acts as an obstacle to providing relief. It especially impacts children who are extremely vulnerable or ill. These changes in the environment also harm natural habitats and make the ecosystem unstable. These alterations can lead to diseases spreading, contamination of food and water, lack of hygiene and sanitation, and exposure to toxic waste.

Children are extremely impacted and vulnerable under such conditions, as they have weak immune systems and require stable ecosystems or environments for proper growth. This instability of the environment prolongs poverty among the people and displacement. Highlighting the significance of environmental degradation after disasters is very important for ensuring a safe and sustainable future for children.

3. Child Abuse and Exploitation

Hundreds of thousands of children have had their education stopped due to extreme weather conditions and natural calamities. Education can be lifesaving in a crisis because not being in a school severely increases the chances of child labor, child marriage, exploitation, and recruitment into the armed forces. Many families experience increased social and economic pressure during disasters, forcing them to engage their children in these sorts of activities.

For example, it was observed that about 70% of mothers and 40% of fathers in Bangladesh who had been affected by floods had abused their children due to various factors such as mental pressure and inability to control emotions⁷. Also, during a study in Ethiopia (2004-2009), change in climate resulted in children spending more time on farming activities. The families that are more vulnerable to loss of food and shelter commit violence against children more frequently as they often force their children to work in an attempt to improve their financial situation. This situation gets a lot worse due to weak child protection systems and little to no preventive measures for the same.

⁷ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0145213424004836>



HEALTH CONDITIONS IN CHILDREN DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

It is often seen that children are the most vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change among people of any other age group. They are often the ones who suffer the most as they have a higher rate of breathing, which increases their exposure to dangerous air pollutants. They also drink more water than adults and thus have a higher risk for water-borne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, etc. Natural disasters have been a major cause of death and suffering for the children. Even after being the ones most affected, children are often ignored or disregarded while providing aid after natural calamities. Only 2.4% of climate finance from key multilateral climate funds support projects that incorporate child-responsive activities⁸.

1. Primary Health Impact

Primary health impact refers to the short-term effects on people caused by natural disasters and health effects due to climate change. As of now, approximately 2.79 billion children are currently suffering from climate change and natural disasters like cyclones, riverine flooding, heat waves, air pollution, and coastal flooding⁹.

Cyclones alone lead to numerous hazards including flooding, storm surges, extreme winds, and lightning. As of now, approximately 400 million children globally live in areas that are highly exposed to tropical cyclones¹⁰. It also leads to the destruction of essential services such as healthcare, water facilities, and sanitation resulting in widespread population displacement.

During heatwaves, children are particularly vulnerable. Infants and small children are more likely to faint or suffer from heat strokes during heat waves because their bodies are not able to regulate their body temperature. As global temperature rises, the frequency of heat-related events such as heat strokes, dehydration, and skin diseases is also increasing at an alarming rate which can even lead to cancer in some cases.

⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/education-climate-action-integrating-education-nationally-determine-d-contributions-guidance-document-february-2025>

⁹ <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/one-billion-children-extremely-high-risk-impacts-climate-crisis-unicef>

¹⁰ <https://www.unicef.org/media/105376/file/UNICEF-climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis.pdf>



2. Secondary Health Impact

Secondary health impact refers to indirect and often long-term effects caused by natural disasters or climate change. This includes droughts, malnutrition due to the destruction of crops, and unsafe living conditions post-calamity due to the destruction of buildings, trees, factories, and other infrastructure. These secondary health impacts can worsen pre-existing health issues, resulting in higher rates of disease and a decline in overall community well-being.

Children who live in villages and other communities which heavily depend on agriculture for their food often experience food insecurity, malnutrition or irreversible stunting when crops fail due to weather-related events. These children are more susceptible to disease and infection which lead to poorer developmental outcomes. Some of these effects can cause generational damage, as extended exposure to these harmful substances can cause variations in one's DNA.

Climate-driven diseases like diarrhea and pneumonia now contribute to over 20% of global child deaths¹¹. In Africa alone, over 10 million children are affected by severe droughts. In 2021, 4.7 million children under the age of five died; 2.4 million of those were due to child and maternal malnutrition¹². That means almost half of the deaths related to children were linked to nutritional deficiencies which could've been easily prevented by pre-planning.

¹¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4663461/>

¹² <https://ourworldindata.org/half-child-deaths-linked-malnutrition>



3. Insect Related Diseases

As the global temperature is on the rise, the environment is becoming more suitable for insects such as mosquitoes to breed. Warmer temperature is also associated with climate change and can also factor in the increasing number of mosquitoes, while increased rainfall can create breeding sites for mosquitoes, which can lead to increase in diseases.

Children are generally more vulnerable to insect bites such as ticks, mosquitoes, and other insect-borne diseases in general because they spend a significant amount of time outside of their homes in the open. This increases their risk of being affected by illnesses such as the West Nile virus and Lyme disease. It was found that West Nile virus can lead to serious or even fatal consequences in rare cases. Children between the ages of 5 and 9¹³ are especially at risk for Lyme disease as they have a higher infection rate compared to other age groups. If left untreated, Lyme disease can lead to chronic pain and neurological issues which could ruin their lives.

Diseases spread by mosquitoes result in the majority of vector-borne deaths. As of now, approximately 3.9 billion¹⁴ people are exposed to dengue. Malaria causes approximately 249 million cases globally¹⁴, and results in more than 608,000¹⁴ deaths every year. Most of the deaths accounted are due to children under the age of 5 years, which highlights how vulnerable they are to such diseases. Children under the age of five accounted for 67 percent of global malaria deaths in 2019 which totals to around 408,000 deaths¹⁴.

Other viral diseases transmitted by insects include chikungunya fever, Zika virus fever, yellow fever, West Nile fever, Japanese encephalitis, tick-borne encephalitis, and Oropouche fever.

¹³ <https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-change-and-childrens-health>

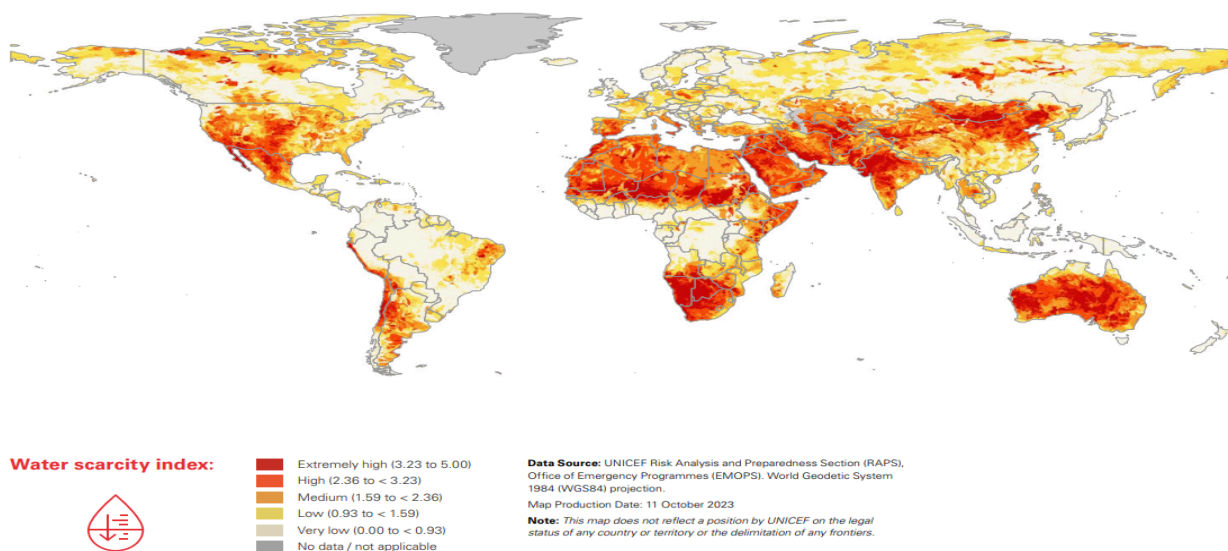
¹⁴ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/vector-borne-diseases>

4. Water Related Diseases

Clean water is a basic necessity for everyone as it is vital for life itself. Still, the majority of people do not have adequate access to it. Basic hygiene and sanitation go hand in hand with the cleanliness of water which is being used. It is often seen that children are the ones who have to bear the consequences. As of now, 594 million¹⁵ children globally do not have access to even basic drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene services. They are particularly the most vulnerable to water scarcity and climate-aggravated hazards, shocks and stresses.

Since the 1950s, climate change is making the world's water problems much worse. Glaciers are melting faster, floods are getting much bigger and are occurring more frequently, dry spells like droughts are also in effect for longer periods and underground water level is decreasing year by year.

Heavy rain makes clean water dirty. This makes it harder to get safe drinking water and damages the progress made in ensuring better water security . As per the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), about 4 billion of the world's 7.8 billion people have serious water shortages for at least one month each year. One of WHO's reports also mentions that about 400,000¹⁶ children under the age of five die because of unsafe drinking water, unclean toilets, and not being able to follow basic hygiene.



¹⁵ <https://www.unicef.org/media/147931/file/Theclimate-changedchild-ReportinEnglish.pdf>

¹⁶ www.downtoearth.org.in/water/unsafe-wash-behind-395-000-deaths-of-children-under-5-in-2019who-report-90372



HUMANITARIAN AID

Humanitarian aid refers to the act of assisting and helping people in situations of emergencies such as natural calamities, armed conflicts, and climatic changes. This includes basic services such as clean water supply, nutrition, healthcare, education, etc. UNICEF has been a leading humanitarian aid provider to children worldwide since its establishment in 1946. During any humanitarian crisis, children are the most vulnerable. Their needs, though urgent, need to be addressed properly to prevent any obstacles to their growth.

Latin America and the Caribbean regions are recognized as the world's second most disaster-prone area. It is frequently struck by natural disasters and often intensifies the acute humanitarian crisis caused by the already present vulnerabilities, such as poverty, migration, and fragile governance. Natural disasters are occurring in municipalities that are already struggling with armed conflicts. At least 194,657 people have been impacted by disasters, including the activation of the Puracé volcano in Colombia, which affected more than 26,000 people in Cauca¹⁷, a region already experiencing the consequences of a conflict. As we see in Afghanistan, the worsening climatic and drought conditions have caused severe harm. According to international estimates, 7.8 million children will enter 2024 not having enough to eat. If drought conditions continue into 2024, children's lives will continue to be at risk as crops could fail yet again and the impact of climate change will deepen.. This poses a serious threat of a rising humanitarian crisis with severe impacts on children¹⁸.

1. Preparedness and Early Action

Preparedness and early action refer to the interconnected strategies formed under humanitarian aid to mitigate the impacts of any disaster or emergency.

Preparedness refers to the anticipation of any emergency to effectively respond to it or recover from likely, future, or current disasters. It is based on the usage of scientific technologies to forecast any upcoming disaster or emergency and usually involves actions such as contingency plans, stocking up resources, evacuation, public information, and associated training field exercises. The Philippines is one country that takes disaster preparedness seriously and has used its disaster reduction funds wisely, though there haven't been any major developments .

Early action is a short-term intervention that is implemented between the warning stages of the disaster and the actual occurrence of it. These actions are based on the forecasts given before the disasters and are crucial in saving the livelihoods of hundreds if not thousands. These actions are flexible and varied, including actions such as flood defenses, water point rehabilitation, and livestock treatments. If we take Japan as an example, it has established

¹⁷ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/colombia/humanitarian-trends-and-impact-report>

¹⁸ <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/humanitarian-crises-you-need-to-know-about>

the world's best earthquake and tsunami warning services and has built several shelter homes. As we can see, this technology has helped save many lives in the earthquake and tsunami of 2011.

2. Relief and Basic Services

Relief and basic services refer to the immediate life-saving assistance and essential support provided to people affected by crises and emergencies such as natural disasters and conflicts and are mainly provided by the United Nations, National Governments, and NGOs.

Relief is the short-term assistance given to people during a calamity, disaster, or emergency. It is supposed to be provided rapidly and should include resources necessary for a human's survival, such as nutritious food, clean drinking water, emergency shelters, and medical care kits.

Basic services are the essential services supporting crisis-affected people to ensure survival. These go beyond immediate relief and are vital for the stabilization of the population and the promotion of recovery. Immediate healthcare, clean water, sanitation, a hygienic environment, education, nutrition, and shelter are the key points of basic services. The distribution of clean water and hygiene kits to prevent cholera in refugee camps and the setting up of mobile clinics to provide healthcare in disaster-hit areas are examples of these services.



3. Rehabilitation and Long Term Support

Rehabilitation and long-term support are the assistance given after the calamity to the people who have been affected in any manner. These are of various types, such as mental support, physiotherapy, infrastructural, social, and economic. As we saw in Brazil, the maximum of its budget has been allocated for reconstruction and response rather than DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction), which caused heavy economic losses. This shows that while immediate response is important, long-term support and rehabilitation are also vital.

Rehabilitation is the help provided to the injured, both mentally and physically, so that they can lead independent lives. It is crucial in bringing normalcy back into the lives of the hurt. Supporting mental and physical recovery through psychological and medical expertise, providing assistive devices, and modifying environments to increase the rate of adaptation are all examples of rehabilitation. The Odisha Disaster Recovery Project, India is a project that has rebuilt 16,000¹⁹ homes with the help of the citizens, the national government, and the World Bank. As we also see in Hurricane Katrina, Project Fleur-de-Lis offered free, evidence-based mental health services to targeted children.³⁹ While only 37% of children accessed free services in an offsite clinic, 98% of children participated when services were located in schools. This helped many children, showing that rehabilitation can be extremely useful in bringing normalcy back into life²⁰.

Long-term support refers to the sustained assistance provided to crisis-affected populations just after the initial emergency response phase. It breaks the cycles of dependency and removes the root causes of vulnerabilities. Restoration of health, livelihoods, education, and infrastructure; supporting communities; and increasing disaster risk reduction are all the key aspects of long-term support. Rebuilding schools and health centers, supporting mental health and psychosocial services, restoring water and sanitation systems, providing vocational training, and implementing cash transfer programs to stimulate local economies are examples of the same.



¹⁹ <https://iihs.co.in/knowledge-gateway/rehabilitation-as-a-means-for-building-long-term-resilience>

²⁰ <https://www.srctd.org/research/understanding-impacts-natural-disasters-children>



RESOURCE PLANNING POST-CALAMITY

Resource planning post-disaster refers to the systematized process of relating, allocating, and managing resources. While this planning is essential for the restoration of normality, rebuilding the structure, and supporting affected populations in a structured and effective manner, the recovery phase remains less advanced and is not well understood. UNDP (United Nations Development Program) sees recovery as an occasion for change and for connecting countries to the knowledge, experience, and resources demanded to be transformed positively in places where extreme events occur, enabling flexible and sustainable solutions for the affected populations.

As we see in Pakistan (2005), the government was unfit to spend more than 1%²¹ of its gross domestic product (GDP) on health, as it used 75%–80% to repay debt and service the defense due to the ongoing conflict with India over disputed homes in Kashmir, which was the epicenter of the earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6. This led to the breakdown of healthcare centers and caused them to not function in their best form, therefore causing 79,000 people to lose their lives, 32,000 buildings to collapse. According to government figures, 19,000 children died in the earthquake, most of them in widespread collapses of school buildings, and minor damages to India and Afghanistan²². Many of these lives could have been saved, especially that of children if the resources had been properly allocated, thus showing the need to take resource planning very seriously and to increase mindfulness about the same.

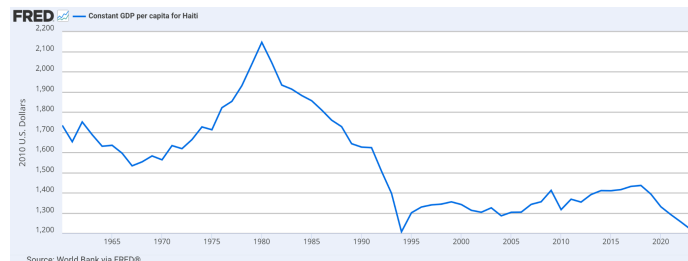
1. Mitigation of Economic Disruption in a Country

Mitigation of economic disruption in a country refers to reducing economic instability. During a natural calamity, a country faces several economic problems that are both immediate and long-term. Before the calamity occurs, the country's national budget is strained due to the considerable investment made in preparedness and humanitarian aid. During the calamity, the country faces direct losses due to a drop in the overall economy and fluctuations of prices in markets with a rise in the prices of goods. After the calamity, in the long term, the country's economy recovers slowly due to the loss of a productive workforce. Even international trade networks are severely affected due to the halt in the flow of goods, production disruption, and change in the bases of the company's manufacturing units. The market becomes unstable due to the news of the emergency, and the price of stocks and the market fluctuates even more, causing severe economic harm to civilians indirectly impacting children and their living status as it restricts the availability of services.

²¹ <http://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC1299330>

²² <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/kashmir-earthquake-october-8-2005-impacts-pakistan>

Taking the example of the Haiti earthquake (2010), the estimated damage ranges from 8.1 billion to 13.9²³ billion dollars, with a heavy loss of manpower. They estimated that per capita income would have been \$410 higher²³ in 2020 (about 40 percent of its 2013 level) if Haiti had not suffered one of the worst earthquakes in recent decades. This example clearly shows how terrible the economic condition becomes after being hit by any natural calamity.



2. Allotment of Resources Specifically for Children

Allotment of resources specifically for children refers to the strategic planning of resources that puts a special emphasis on children and their needs. This is one of the most important tasks, as children are the future of any nation, and if they are not well taken care of, then the nation might not survive the next 5-10 decades.

Children require mainly three resources: financial resources for their educational needs, food for their nutritional needs, and health for their growth. A small share of financial resources should be granted so that the children don't miss out on their education and is used judiciously.

Proper nutritious food is required by children so that they remain completely fit and fine. Lastly, they should be given their required medicines in all conditions with a system to provide them a legal identity so that they can be found if lost in the crowds during an emergency. All these activities are necessary to protect children and the future of our world, even in such dire situations.

But allocating resources specifically for children is a tough task due to many reasons, some of them being resource scarcity and shortages, urgency and limited time, complex logistics, financial constraints, community participation and capacity and balancing short-term and long-term needs. All these problems cause a disbalance in the distribution of resources. As we see in Nepal(2015), the European Union(EU) and UNICEF working with the government have restored safe learning spaces in nine earthquake areas. They have started the construction of 650 transitional learning centres in collaboration with the Department of Education in nine earthquake affected districts to help restore education for one million children affected by the 2015 earthquakes²⁴. Showing that amidst these problems if one country properly executes allotment of resources specifically for children, many problems can easily be solved.

²³ <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0305750X22002431>

²⁴ <https://www.unicef.org/nepal/press-releases/construction-begins-setting-650-learning-centres>

CASE STUDIES

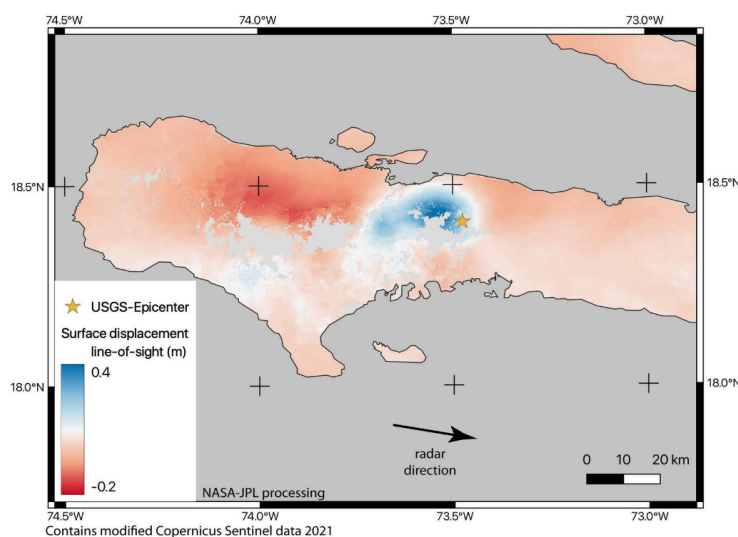
1. Haiti Earthquake - 2021

Haiti is a small country located on island Hispaniola. It is one of the poorest countries. It has a population of approximately 11.9 million people²⁵. On August 14, 2021, a powerful 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Haiti, particularly affecting Sud, Nippes, and Grand'Anse. The earthquake caused serious destruction. Over 2,200²⁶ people lost their lives. More than 12,700 were injured²⁶. Approximately 6,50,000 people were in need of humanitarian assistance, out of which 2,60,000 were children.²⁷

The earthquake severely impacted children and the education system. More than 1,250²⁷ schools were destroyed or damaged. Over 3,40,000²⁸ children did not have proper educational facilities. Even a year after the disaster more than 2,50,000²⁸ children in southwestern Haiti did not have access to education.

The disaster had adverse effects on the mental health of survivors, especially children and adolescents. Many people experienced post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other emotional disorders. UNICEF supported mental health care, using emergency clinics with psychologists to provide care and support to the people who were affected.

The earthquake damaged and destroyed critical infrastructure, including 97 health facilities and 55 water systems²⁸. This left over 8,00,000²⁸ people without access to healthcare, drinking water, or hygiene services. Reconstruction efforts were delayed due to the lack of funds. Haiti's existing challenges, such as poverty and political instability, exaggerated the effects of the earthquake. The disaster further strained the country's resources which made the recovery efforts more difficult.



²⁵ <https://data.un.org/Data.aspx>

²⁶ <https://www.unicef.org/haiti/en/stories/earthquake-affected-childrens-mental-health>

²⁷ <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/massive-earthquake-devastation-haiti>

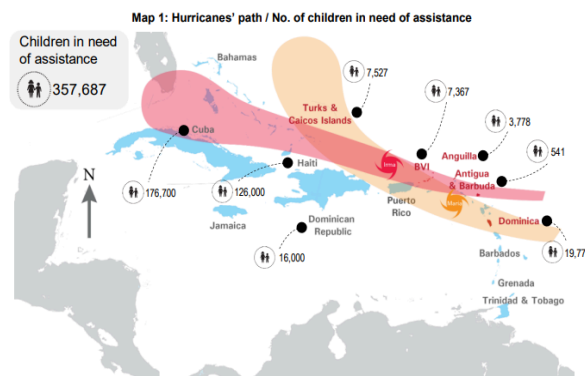
²⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/one-year-after-earthquake-more-than-250000-children-southwest>

2. Puerto Rico Hurricane Maria - 2017

Puerto Rico is an island in the Caribbean region. It faces many problems, like poverty, weak infrastructure, and lack of proper healthcare, especially in rural areas. Many families live in conditions that make them more vulnerable when disasters strike. This vulnerability creates a cycle that never lets them escape from this situation. Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017. It was a Category 5 hurricane, making it one of the worst natural disasters that ever struck this island. The aftereffects of it were devastating. Immediately, its effects were seen as everyone on the island was affected and children were more vulnerable to it. Around 3,000²⁹ people lost their lives, and over 1,30,000 children were directly impacted.

Hurricane Maria resulted in the displacement of over 60,000³⁰ students as schools were damaged or destroyed, which restricted education for the children, and 265³⁰ schools had to permanently shut down, which resulted in over 3,50,000³⁰ students experiencing long-term disconnect from any form of education. Children did not even have access to basic healthcare such as hospitals, clinics, and medical shops, as they were either damaged or did not have access to electricity. Children with disabilities had to face even more difficulties because support services were shut down. The majority of the children suffered from PTSD due to the disaster, which became worse due to the unavailability of mental health programs and counselors to help them recover.

Puerto Rico already had weak infrastructure and poor emergency systems, which worsened its conditions after the hurricane. Aid from the government and other organizations also took a very long time to reach children, especially those who lived in the rural areas. This slow and unequal response led to children not getting necessities like clean water, food, and medical care promptly. However, humanitarian aid slowly arrived. UNICEF, along with other UN agencies, helped provide safe drinking water, hygiene kits, school materials, etc. They also worked with local organizations to provide basic services and reopen schools. International help also played a role in the recovery. Although limited, some mental health support programs were launched. Even today, some families are still recovering. The hurricane is an example of investing in stronger systems for protection and emergency response before disasters happen.



²⁹ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/death-toll-hurricane-maria-3000-puerto-rico-study/story>

³⁰ <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/6/15/17455746/puerto-rico-hurricane-maria-schools-closing>



CONCLUSION

There is no country in the world that is completely safe from the effects of climate change and natural disasters. But some regions like Latin America and the Caribbean are extremely prone and vulnerable to natural disasters. Children in these areas face many serious problems after such disasters.

Millions of children are left without education, without safe shelter, without healthcare, and even without legal identity. They are displaced from their homes and are forced to migrate. They become more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and long-term emotional trauma.

Schools get destroyed and never rebuilt, aid arrives too late, mental health is ignored, and child-focused institutions are underfunded. These problems correlate to weak governance, lack of early action and insufficient long-term support. This makes the crisis even worse.

But even after a disaster ends, the effects do not. These effects stay for years, especially impacting the children. These challenges don't just take away homes or schools, they take away safety and stability. This committee is not just about policy, it is about humanity.

Although UNICEF and other international bodies have taken important steps to help, there are many challenges remaining. As Kofi Annan once said, "Children are our future, and unless we take care of them, there is no future."

So let us create a future where every child, regardless of where they live, is protected, empowered, and given the chance to thrive, even during a disaster.



HOW TO RESEARCH

While preparing, every delegate is advised to:

1. Research about your country, its foreign policies, its stand and relevance to the agenda.
2. Research about the UNICEF, its jurisdictions and its powers
3. Understand the role/stance of your country in all sub topics
4. Research the problems faced by the country in terms of the impact of natural disasters and climate change
5. Research how the country has dealt with natural disasters and climate change in the past
6. Research factors due to which the problem is increasing/intensified in the country
7. Focus on child-related policies, challenges, and possible reforms.
8. Use official and trusted sources like UN sites, UNICEF reports, etc
9. Avoid open sources like Wikipedia or AI-generated platforms when citing facts.
10. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden.

List of some trusted sites -

- <https://www.unicef.org>
- <https://www.un.org/en>
- <https://www.reuters.com>
- <https://www.jstor.org>
- <https://www.bbc.com>
- <https://www.researchgate.net>
- <https://bestdelegate.com>
- All United Nations websites

List of some sites that should **not** be used while researching -

- Open source websites like Wikipedia, Reddit, Quora etc
 - Non authorized sources like blogs, magazines, articles etc
 - Biased news websites
-



EXPECTATIONS FROM DELEGATES

As delegates in this committee, we expect you to come well-prepared, respectful, and ready to work together to solve important problems. The agenda is about how climate change and natural disasters affect children, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. This includes many serious topics like children losing their homes, getting hurt, missing school, or being left without protection, etc. That is why your role as a delegate is very important.

You should research your assigned portfolio properly, using only trusted and official sources. You should not use Wikipedia or any AI tools (ChatGPT, Gemini, etc). Your research must cover all parts of the agenda, and all of the subtopics. Understanding all this will help you speak clearly and confidently during the conference. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden.

In the committee, you will need to give speeches, take part in debates, and write resolutions. You should know what your country thinks about the issue and what it has done in the past. You should also try to come up with new ideas to solve these problems. Just know that all the case studies and the statistical data are just for the reference of delegates, and won't be discussed in the committee.

We want delegates to think beyond just short term solutions and try to find long term solutions. We expect you to coordinate with other countries. And show diplomacy and dedication in your work. Be respectful to other delegates. Try finding a common ground and agreeing on solutions.

This is a golden opportunity to learn and grow. You get to be a part of change by deriving solutions to make sure every child is happy, healthy and safe. We are excited to hear your ideas and see how you can make a difference through this committee!



QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. What preparations should be made in disaster-prone areas to reduce the effect of disasters when they hit?
 2. What strategies should be implemented to curb water and insect-borne diseases in children?
 3. How can we address the mental and physical health of children who are affected?
 4. How can children be protected from environmental hazards, abuse, and exploitation post-calamity?
 5. How can countries ensure that all displaced children, including those without legal identity, are registered and protected under national and international child rights frameworks?
 6. How can regional cooperation and national policy better prepare for disasters and protect children forced to move because of climate change?
 7. How do we make sure that any kind of solution we derive for the calamity does not directly or indirectly affect the economic condition of the country negatively?
 8. How can we allot resources specifically to children without sacrificing the needs of other civilians who aren't children?
 9. Is resolution economically feasible and applicable in most of the countries within the first 10 to 20 years?
 10. Does the solution cause any harm to civilians, if yes then is there any alternative for the same?
-



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