



UNICEF

UNICEF works to promote the rights and improve the lives of every child, in every situation. For more information, go to:

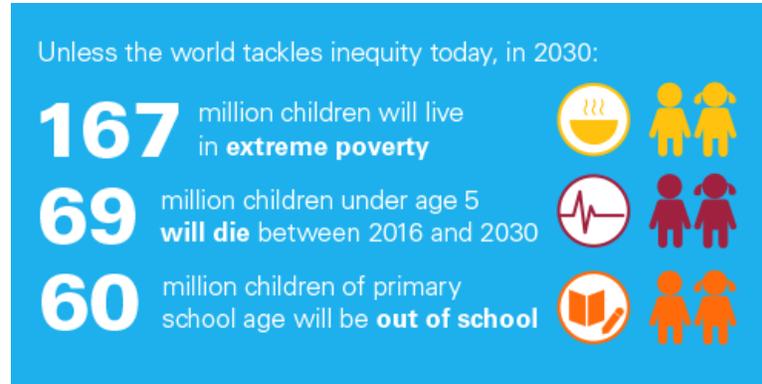
REPORT: Combating child poverty and social exclusion

Introduction

In 2016, the World Bank published a report that 385 million children around the world were living in extreme poverty.

Child poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon and can be measured in many ways. It is imperative that governments make a commitment to child poverty reduction, recognizing and responding to child poverty is the first priority, alongside building expertise and improved approaches to child poverty measurement.

Understanding child poverty to the fullest possible extent is vital. While an adult may fall into poverty temporarily, falling into poverty in childhood can last a lifetime – rarely does a child get a second chance at an education or a healthy start in life. As such, child poverty threatens not only the individual child, but is likely to be passed on to future generations, entrenching and even exacerbating inequality in society. (www.unicef.org)



Terms

Poverty is general scarcity or the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money. It is a multifaceted concept, which includes social, economic, and political elements.

Poverty Line - living in a household that earns less than half of the national median

Extreme (Absolute) Poverty refers to the lack of means necessary to meet basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter

Social Exclusion is the process in which individuals or people are systematically blocked from (or denied full access to) various rights, opportunities and resources that are normally available to members of a different group, and which are fundamental to social integration within that particular group.

General Overview

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Adult achievement is related to childhood poverty and the length of time they live in poverty. Children who are poor are less likely to achieve important adult milestones, such as graduating from high school and enrolling in and completing college, than children who are never poor. For example, in the U.S., although more than 9 in 10 never-poor children (92.7 percent) complete high school, only 3 in 4 ever-poor children (77.9 percent) do so. One in every five children currently lives in poverty, but nearly twice as many experience poverty at some point during their childhood. These ever-poor children are less successful than their never-poor counterparts in their educational achievement and employment, and they are more likely to have a non-marital teenage birth and some involvement with the criminal justice system. Children who spend half their childhood living in poverty fall even further behind and educational and employment achievement of one generation can also ripple through to the next. (Urban Institute, Washington Post)

Regarding social exclusion, poverty is a violation of children's rights to survival and development. Child poverty entails a huge cost for society in terms of human capital and social integration. Addressing the issue of child poverty is a critical priority if we hope to combat general poverty now and in the future. ([https://www.unicef.org/lac/Desafios_1_ing\(5\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/lac/Desafios_1_ing(5).pdf))

Major Parties Involved

Of 35 developed nations studied, the United States ranks 34th above only Romania, below all of Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. More than one in five American children fall below a relative poverty line. Southern European countries, among the most effected by the euro crisis, have some of the worst rates of poverty, although none as low as the United States. Former Soviet countries also score poorly. Northern European countries score the highest. English-speaking countries tend to fall somewhere in the middle. According to one metric of inequality, the U.S. economy is one of the most unequal in the developed world. (www.care.org)

In Latin America, steep declines in poverty rates by a third and extreme poverty by almost half have occurred over the past decade. Despite these gains, children in Latin America have seen slower reductions in poverty than the overall population and continue to be more likely than adults to live in poverty. The incidence of childhood poverty in Central America and the Caribbean remains the highest in the region.

In sub-Saharan Africa, nearly half of all children live in extreme poverty. Extreme poverty is also a major issue in India, South Asia and the middle east, particularly where conflicts arise.

Previous Attempts at the Issue

Unicef and the World Bank are calling on governments to include children in poverty reduction plans and ensure that child poverty is routinely measured and addressed at national levels. Child-sensitive social protection systems, such as cash transfer programs that pay families directly, are also useful in helping eradicate extreme poverty among children, the report notes.

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Methods UNICEF and others have attempted to eradicate poverty:

- Providing health care to children and families, including women's reproductive health and family planning
- Getting children into school - Some 13 per cent of children ages 7 to 18 years in developing countries have never attended school. This rate is 32 per cent among girls in sub-Saharan Africa (27 per cent of boys) and 33 per cent of rural children in the Middle East and North Africa. Yet an education is perhaps a child's strongest barrier against poverty, especially for girls. Educated girls are likely to marry later and have healthier children.
- Supporting good nutrition
- Funding and supporting clean water and good sanitation
- Raising awareness on child issues as a means to healthier economies and nations as a whole

Suggested Websites

<https://www.unicef.org/>

<http://www.care.org/>

https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Ending_Extreme_Poverty_A_Focus_on_Children_Oct_2016.pdf

<https://www.unicef.org/mdg/poverty.html>

REPORT: Child nutrition in war-torn regions

Introduction

There are numerous countries over multiple continents engaged in full scale wars. Additionally, beyond the full blown conflicts afflicting countries such as Syria, Ukraine, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, there are many more countries that are still recovering from or still suffering with conflicts, fighting, and destruction. Sadly, with these problems occurring, often the needs of more vulnerable populations are discarded. For tens of millions of children across the world, this means malnutrition, which can precipitate illness, permanent damage to body growth, and painful suffering. Ultimately, child nutrition in war-torn regions is a serious problem and the implications of this challenge is far reaching. Consequently, delegates must find solutions to develop resolutions that address the challenge.

General Overview

Child Nutrition refers to the food necessary for proper health and growth. The human body requires a multitude of different essential vitamins and foods that strengthen bones, muscles, and stimulate body development. The needs of children changes as they develop. Infants and

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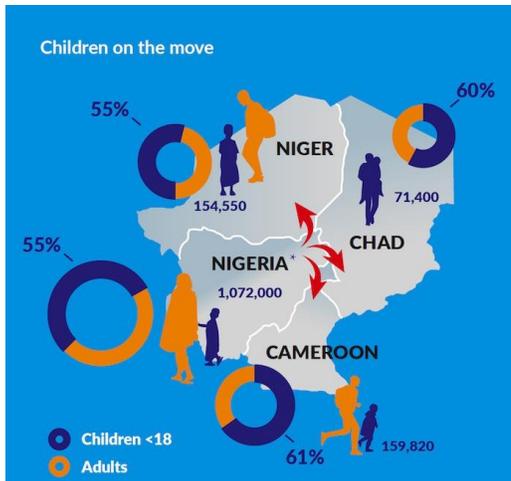
very young children need substantial caloric intake to maintain a healthy body weight. As children age to around six, essential vitamins and minerals such as Calcium, Vitamin D and C are necessary to maintain body strength. Deficiencies in both Vitamin C and D can result in the onset of Scurvy and Rickets, respectively. Scurvy is a painful and potentially fatal disease that impacts the body in a variety of ways. Rickets refers to the softening of bones, a condition that is often irreparable. Both medical conditions are prevalent in areas with severe child malnutrition. Additionally, as children mature into puberty, nutrition again plays an extremely important role in maintaining health and providing a foundation for the significant body changes that occur during puberty. During puberty, more essentials are needed such as iron, protein, and zinc, and deficiencies in these essentials can cause significant and permanent damage that often reduces an individual's quality of life.

When discussing war-torn regions, the term must be applicable to the many areas in the world that have been damaged by war. Dozens of countries including Ethiopia, Eritrea, Angola, and Malawi, countries that have suffered the most from child malnutrition experienced destructive conflicts within the last 40 years, and while these countries are not currently engaged in full scale war, they constitute the meaning of "war-torn". Wars cause significant damage to countries. Not only are there physical scars of war, including the destruction of homes, businesses, and destroyed agriculture, but these physical scars also metastasize into economic and political scars. Extreme poverty perpetuates and heightens issues such as child malnutrition and poor public health, but the political instability often cripples the ability of national governments to address these same challenges. There is a strong correlation between the fragility of national governments and the severity of child malnutrition. The key factor of most fragile government remains the permanence and devastation of war. Additionally, the term war is vague. Often, war can refer to violence due to drug cartels and gangs. Guatemala, one of the most violent nations in the world (relating to crime), also has some of the highest levels of child malnutrition. Ultimately, the war between different drug cartels in Guatemala, and to a lesser extent, Honduras, causes destruction comparable to other regions with civil and regional wars. This fighting tears apart the respective country, weakens both the Guatemalan and Honduran national governments, and detracts attention from the problem of child nutrition, an issue that along with adverse health effects also causes decreased economic productivity.

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Major Parties Involved



Boko Haram's reign of terror across Africa's Lake Chad Basin (including parts of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria) has ignited an acute humanitarian crisis. A shocking 1.4 million children have been displaced. At least one million more remain trapped in areas menaced by violence. As always, children suffer most during conflict. A UNICEF report released estimates that 475,000 children in the region face severe malnutrition this year. Twenty thousand have been separated from their families.

In addition, other major conflicts and warring factions affecting child nutrition are

- Wars in Lebanon, Yemen, Egypt and Syria
- North Korea
- Islamic extremist conflicts in Iraq and Pakistan
- Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Criminal violence in Mexico
- Armed conflicts with Russia, Georgia and Ukraine

See <http://www.cfr.org/global/global-conflict-tracker/p32137#/> for more.

Previous Attempts at the Issue

UNICEF has continued to investigate and assess the issue of child malnutrition, including initiatives and comprehensive reports to provide more context to an issue that is often overshadowed by headlines. Delegates in the UNICEF committee should develop resolutions that emphasize the importance of providing diversity and wholesomeness in diet. Additionally, resolutions should illustrate the rudimentary causes of nutritional challenges in war torn regions, emphasizing the importance of political stability in the effectiveness of any resolution. Lastly, delegates need to be cognizant of the importance of this issue. Child nutrition impacts countries in a variety of ways, all of which are paramount to stable governing.

Websites for Organizations working to assist children in conflict zones:

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Child Rights Information Network <http://www.crin.org/>

Defence for Children International <http://www.defence-for-children.org/>

Global IDP Project <http://www.idpproject.org>

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Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org>

International Committee of the Red Cross <http://www.icrc.org/>

International Save the Children Alliance <http://www.savethechildren.net>

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict:
<http://www.un.org/special-rep/children-armed-conflict>

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict <http://www.watchlist.org/>

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