

BESTMUN'24

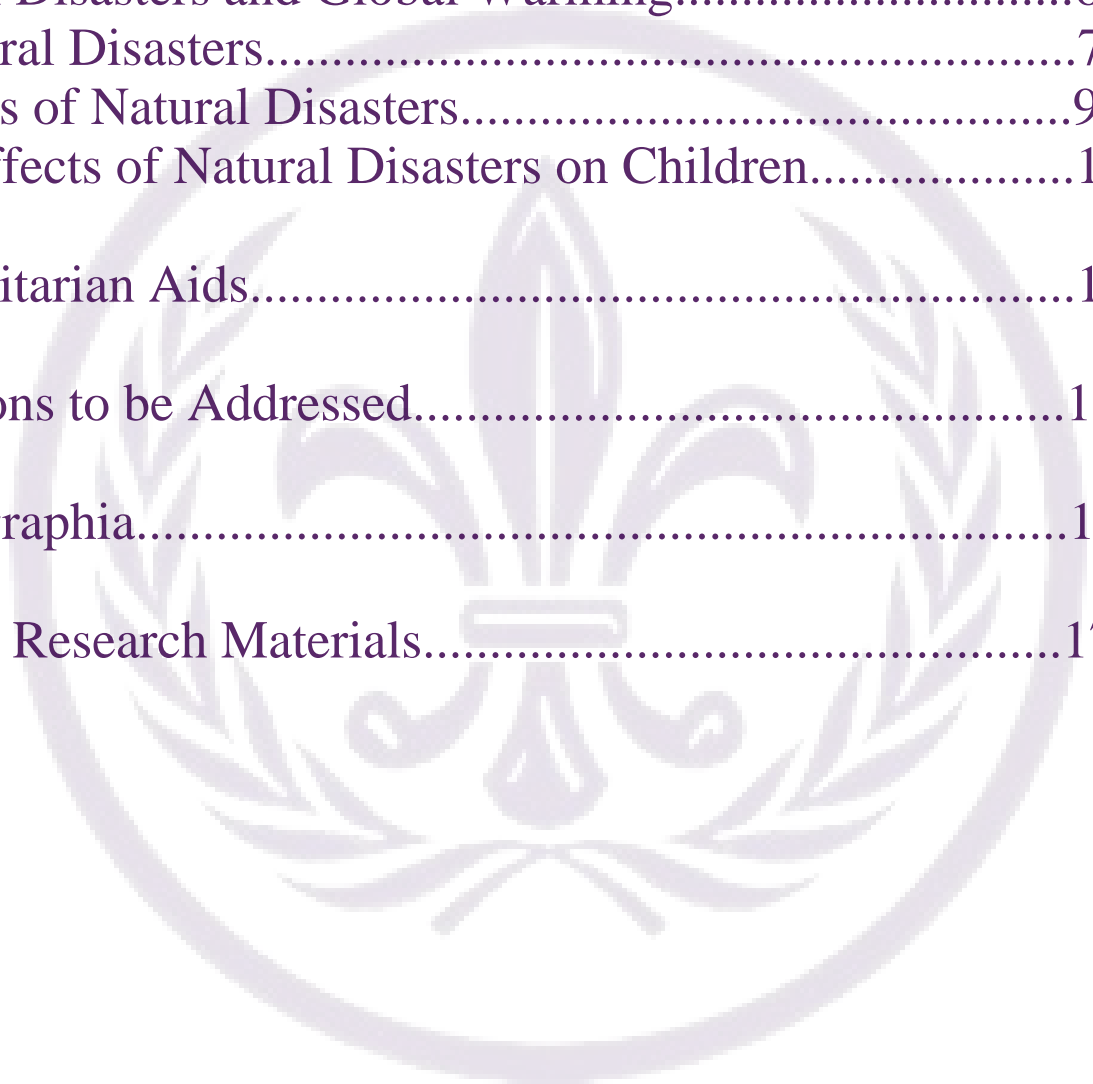
The background of the page features a large, light purple watermark of the UNICEF logo. The logo consists of a central fleur-de-lis symbol, which is a stylized three-lobed leaf, surrounded by two olive branches that curve upwards and outwards. The entire emblem is enclosed within a circular border.

UNICEF STUDY GUIDE

WRITTEN BY:

ZEYNEP ÇELİK (Under Secretary General)

I. Letter from the Secretary-General.....	3
II. Letter from the Under Secretary-General.....	4
III. Introduction to the Committee.....	5
VI. Introduction to the Agenda Item.....	5
1.0 Natural Disasters and Global Warming.....	6
1.0.1 Natural Disasters.....	7
1.2. Effects of Natural Disasters.....	9
1.3 The Effects of Natural Disasters on Children.....	13
2.0 Humanitarian Aids.....	15
3.0 Questions to be Addressed.....	16
4.0 Bibliographia.....	16
5.0 Further Research Materials.....	17



Letter from the Secretary General

As the president of the Beştepe College Model United Nations Club and the Secretary General of the fourth annual edition of BESTMUN, it is my utmost honor to welcome everyone to our conference. Speaking on the behalf of the BESTMUN team as a whole, despite the many challenges we were put under, we believe we were able to present you a wonderful conference.

My name is Ebrar Nazife Korkmaz, I am a junior student at Beştepe College. I have partaken in the previous editions of BESTMUN in different positions and what was once a distant objective became reality. I am more than honored to be the Secretary General for such a prestigious conference with an academic team with enough knowledge and confidence that could conquer a nation. Model United Nations holds a special place in my heart and it always will. Since I first began in 2021, my passion has only strengthened.

Of course, such a conference wouldn't be possible without the aid of a hardworking organization team. I would like to thank my Director General and my best friend Duru Benzer for supporting me everytime and enduring untimely tasks I gave and tantrums I had throughout the preparation period. We began the thought process of BESTMUN'24 as soon as BESTMUN'23 ended and I'm glad we all share the same passion for this conference. To my deputy, Sarina Fidan, you're more than your title holds, a life saver in all periods of the conference.

The aim of this conference is to raise delegates and to provide them with a quality experience that will ensure their acceptance to future prestigious conferences. This conference will prove that Model United Nations is not an overly optimistic play-pretend, but a channel for young diplomats to pursue their goals. Indeed, it is a great way to improve yourself and learn diplomatic courtesy. I would like to thank; everyone who held my hand through the path which led to this conference, my predecessors in MUN who made today's conferences the way they are and finally, I would like to thank you for partaking in our conference. We stay united to overcome.

**Kindest Regards,
Ebrar Nazife Korkmaz**

Letter from the Under Secretary General

Hello everyone! My name is Zeynep Çelik and I am a 21-year-old Political Science and Public Administration student at Hacettepe University. I will be serving as the USG of UNICEF committee.

It is my first time preparing a UNICEF committee, as well as preparing a junior committee. I tried to do my best to write a study guide that would not only teach you something, but also catch your attention while studying it.

The first agenda item I decided on was drastically different from the current one, but in the end I came to like this one better and thought it more suitable for you.

Although I was nervous to take the responsibility of a junior committee, I believe that children's minds are way more creative and innocent than ours. I sincerely believe in all of you that at the end of the committee, you will have come up with amazing solutions most of the other delegates cannot even start to think of.

You can contact me via e-mail about any committee related questions you may have. (zeynep2003celik@hotmail.com)

Unfortunately I won't be attending the conference, but I will support you through the proceedings. I wish you the best of experiences.

Zeynep Çelik
Under Secretary General of UNICEF

Introduction to the Committee

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (United Nations Children's fund) is the UN body that is responsible for providing humanitarian and development aid to children worldwide. In more than 190 countries and areas, UNICEF does everything in its power to help children and teenagers survive, reach their potential.

As the largest vaccine provider UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, safe water, hygiene, quality education and skill building, HIV prevention and treatment for mothers and babies, and the protection of children and teenagers from violence and exploitation.

Before, during and after humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF is bringing life saving help and hope to children and families. Non-political and impartial, UNICEF is never neutral when it comes to defending children's rights and safeguarding their lives and futures.¹

UNICEF also builds the long-term capacity of health ministries and civil society partners to identify, treat and prevent chronic conditions such as malnutrition. Sustainable interventions are important because crises are not one-time shocks; their impact can last for years.

UNICEF's humanitarian action is guided by its Strategic Plan and its Core Commitments for Children (CCCs), which outline what UNICEF commits to do across all sectors – health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, and education – as part of any humanitarian response. The CCCs are aligned to international standards and are guided by humanitarian principles.²

In this committee, the delegates are expected to discuss the agenda item in detail, and bring solutions that are realistic and doable, and in UNICEF's scoop.

Introduction to the Agenda Item

Humanitarian aid for children in natural disaster zones due to global warming and climate change is one of the main objectives of UNICEF. UNICEF always primarily focuses on the most urgent problems and discusses them thoroughly.

In today's world, global warming is peaking and climate change is increasing rapidly. Many disasters such as floods, hurricanes, snow slides, landslides, droughts, tropical cyclones, storms, sea level rises are caused by global warming and are affecting every single person in many aspects. Although UNICEF does not debate environmental problems and is unable to prevent them on any level, UNICEF can still save lives of affected children and teenagers in those areas, and can help develop their quality of life.

1 <https://www.unicef.org/about-unicef>

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

With this agenda item, the delegates of UNICEF committee are expected to bring realistic and evolved solutions in order to help children and teenagers that are affected by the impacts of natural disasters caused by global warming and climate change by humanitarian aid.

1.0 Natural Disasters and Global Warming

Global warming and climate change refer to an increase in average global temperatures. Natural events and human activities are believed to be main contributors to such increases in average global temperatures. Climate change, caused by rising emissions of carbon dioxide from vehicles, factories and power stations, will not only affect the atmosphere and the sea but will also alter the geology of the Earth. Emissions of carbon dioxide due to our use of fossil energy will change the climate and the temperature is estimated to increase by 2 to 6° Celsius within the year 2100, which is a tremendous increase from our current average temperature of 1.7° Celsius as predicted by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This may cause huge changes to our civilization, both positive and negative, but the total impact on our society is currently very uncertain.

Global warming is primarily caused by increases in "greenhouse" gasses such as Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Nitrous oxide (NO_x), Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Hydrogen etc. A warming planet thus leads to climate changes which can adversely affect weather in different ways. Some of the prominent indicators for a global warming are detailed below:

- i. Temperature over land
- ii. Snow cover on hills
- iii. Glaciers on hills
- iv. Ocean heat content
- v. Sea ice
- vi. Sea level
- vii. Sea surface temperature
- viii. Temperature over ocean
- ix. Humidity
- x. Tropospheric temperature

With increases in the Earth's global mean temperature i.e., global warming, the various effects on climate change pose risks that increase. The IPCC (2001d and 2007d) has organized many of these risks into five "reasons for concern:

- Threats to endangered species and unique systems,
- Damages from extreme climate events,
- Effects that fall most heavily on developing countries and

- The poor within countries, global aggregate impacts (i.e., various measurements of total social, economic and ecological impacts),
- Large-scale high-impact events.

The effects, or impacts, of climate change may be physical, ecological, social or economic. Evidence of observed climate change includes the instrumental temperature record, rising sea levels, and decreased snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007a:10), "[most] of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in [human greenhouse gas] usages". It is predicted that future climate changes will include further global warming, sea level rise, and a probable increase in the frequency of some extreme weather events. (Singh, B. R., & Singh, O. (2012). *Study of impacts of global warming on climate change: rise in sea level and disaster frequency. Global warming—impacts and future perspective, 94-118.*)

1.0.1 Natural Disasters

A natural disaster is the highly harmful impact on a society or community following a natural hazard event. Events include flooding, droughts, earthquakes, tropical cyclones, lightning, tsunamis, volcanic activity, and wildfires are a few examples of natural disasters. A natural disaster usually leaves behind economic harm with the potential for property damage and deaths. The durability of the impacted population and the quality of the buildings determine how serious the damage is.

(Vulnerable Population: Social vulnerability refers to the inability of people, organizations, and societies to withstand negative impacts from multiple stressors to which the people are exposed.)

A negative event will not rise to the level of a disaster if it occurs in an area without a vulnerable population. Following a crisis that affects a vulnerable population, it may take years for the community to recover, and during that time, there may be an increase in vulnerability. Natural disasters can have catastrophic effects on a community's mental health, which frequently results in post-traumatic symptoms. Resilience and increased community involvement might result from collective processing of these more intense emotional experiences.

Some of the 18 natural hazards included in the National Risk Index of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) now have a higher probability of occurring, and at higher intensity, due to the effects of climate change. This applies to heat waves, droughts, wildfire and coastal flooding.

As of 2019, the countries with the highest share of disability-adjusted life years (DALY) lost due to natural disasters are Bahamas, Haiti, Zimbabwe and Armenia (probably mainly due to the Spitak Earthquake). The Asia-Pacific region is the world's most disaster prone region. A person in Asia-Pacific is five times more likely to be hit by a natural disaster than someone living in other regions.

Between 1995 and 2015, the greatest number of natural disasters occurred in America, China and India. In 2012, there were 905 natural disasters worldwide, 93% of which were weather-related disasters. Overall costs were US\$170 billion and insured losses \$70 billion. 2012 was a moderate year. 45% were meteorological (storms), 36% were hydrological (floods), 12% were climatological (heat waves, cold waves, droughts, wildfires) and 7% were geophysical events (earthquakes and volcanic eruptions). Between 1980 and 2011 geophysical events accounted for 14% of all natural catastrophes.

Global warming is expected to make the climate warmer, wetter, and wilder. It is predicted that such climate change will increase the severity and frequency of climate-related disasters like flash floods, surges, cyclones, and severe storms.



Catastrophes such as typhoons and floods have caused significant economic and human losses throughout history. The heavy monsoon that hit Pakistan in July 2010 caused floods that ravaged the country, bringing enormous damage to homes, schools, fields, and infrastructure. The reported death toll for the event is about 2,000, while an estimated 20.3 million people, or more than 10% of the Pakistani population, were affected ([OFDA, 2010](#)).

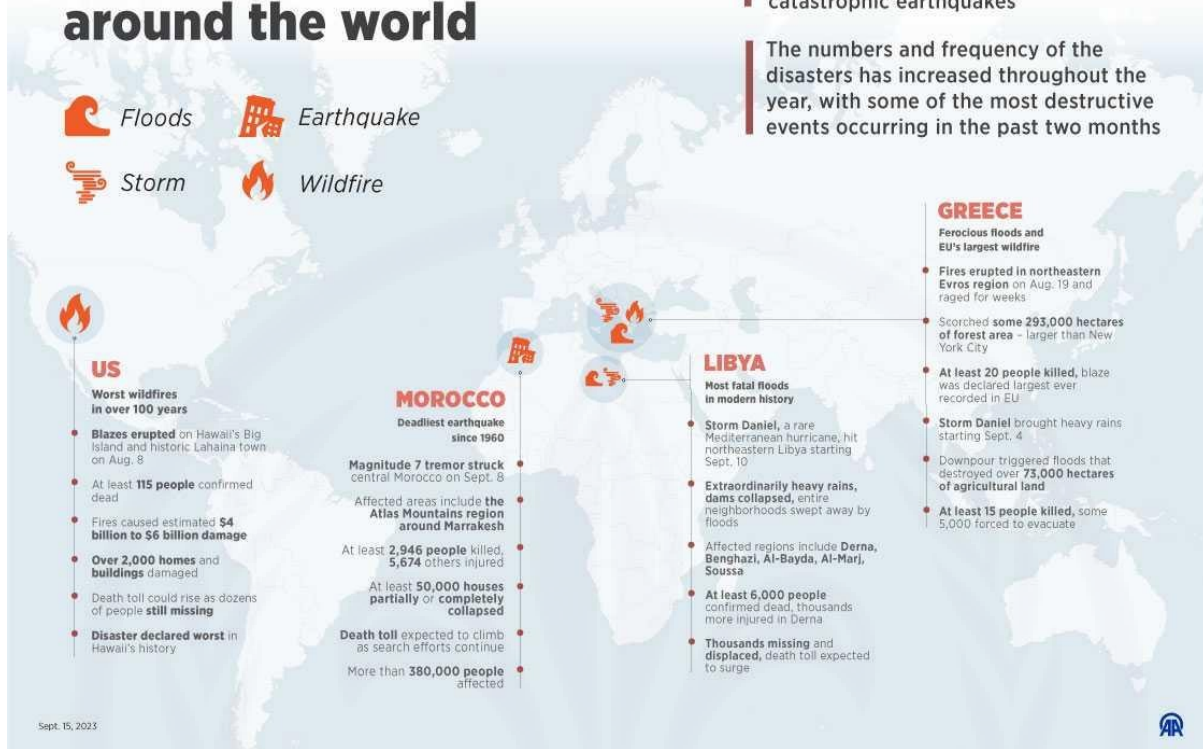
The potential impact of climate change in the form of natural disasters is relevant not only for Pakistan: on average more than 270 devastating floods and storms are reported every year throughout the world ([CRED, 2011](#)). Although it is the large-scale events that make the headlines, the frequency of smaller events is equally striking: even in the absence of large-scale events in 2009, more than 100 million people were victims of climatic disasters ([Vos et al., 2010](#)).

Questions about the impacts of such disasters are clearly of great importance for the livelihoods of a large number of people and countries and hence for international development agencies and policymakers throughout the global community. As global warming is expected to lead to an increase in both the severity and the frequency of climate-related disasters ([IPCC, 2007](#): 43–54), it is important to understand how climate change will affect economies, and whether these changes will translate into more armed conflicts, directly or via impacts on economic growth. However, only a few studies have attempted to quantify the impact of these events using econometric methods and large N-scale panel datasets. (*Bergholt, D., & Lujala, P. (2012). Climate-related natural disasters, economic growth, and armed civil conflict. Journal of peace research, 49(1), 147-162.*)

1.2 Effects of Natural Disasters

It is important to underline the fact that once a natural disaster hits, every person in the area, including children, are affected in many aspects such as financial, physical and mental. To give an example, in an earthquake the buildings in the area are most likely to crumble if the earthquake is strong enough. This directly affects the people that are living in the area. Children may not go to school, the adults may not go to their jobs, people may find themselves homeless. Life stops as the main priority becomes to survive. In a catastrophe such as this, people from children to elderly would struggle to survive since they may not have the opportunity to afford their basic needs such as shelter, food and water. Although the example is given with the image of an earthquake, there are lots of other disasters that are caused by global warming and putting people in this kind of situation such as floods, droughts, typhoons, etc. In a situation like this, UNICEF is expected and obligated to lend a hand to children and teenagers to fulfill their needs in any way possible.

Months of devastation: Major natural disasters around the world



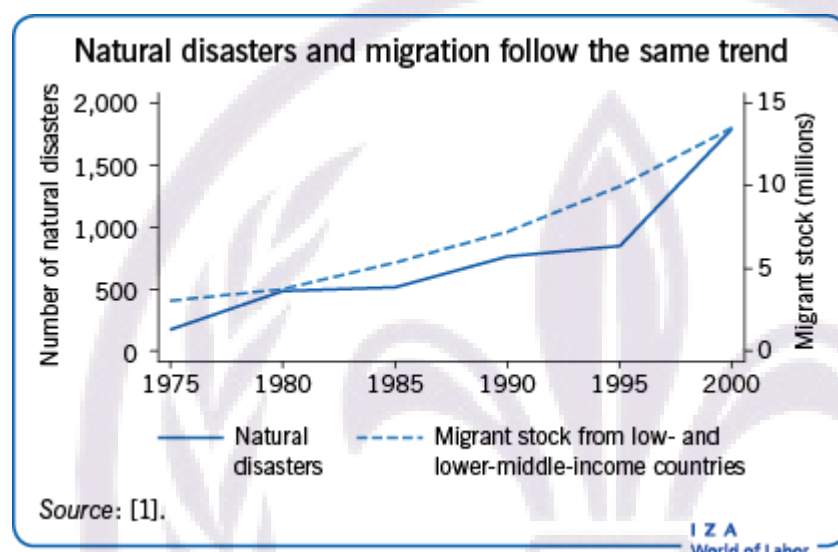
(Anadolu Ajansı)³

As the devastating 2010 floods in Pakistan demonstrate, climate-related natural disasters undoubtedly cause very real economic damage when they occur: lives are lost, people are forced to leave their homes, buildings and other infrastructure collapse, and extractable resources become unavailable. All these consequences can be defined as direct impacts in the sense that they arise as immediate outcomes of disasters. Such impacts are obviously negative for most of the affected individuals and their economic activities. There are also a number of indirect impacts that may follow in the aftermath of natural disasters and that are linked to economic activity such as income changes, demand and supply shocks, shifting terms of trade, and increased inflation. (Bergholt, D., & Lujala, P. (2012). *Climate-related natural disasters, economic growth, and armed civil conflict*. *Journal of peace research*, 49(1), 147-162.)

In this aspect it can be understood that in the aftermath of any natural disaster, there are also an economic and migrant crises rising. The governments have to choose priorities among many crises to resolve, and this requires an economical burden. A government may not always put necessities such as education and mental wellbeing of children as a priority, and in these cases local and international organizations such as UNICEF must interfere.

³ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/environment/months-of-devastation-world-battered-by-rising-number-of-natural-catastrophes/2992602>

In the case of a great disaster, people might have to leave their homes, cities and maybe countries. That can be explained and looked upon from different perspectives such as the lack of necessities to move on with their lives, economical problems, the loss of loved ones. Although these are likely to happen in developing and under-developed countries, children are still greatly affected by these movements of leaving their homes. During the process the children face not only physical challenges such as starvation, thirst, contagious diseases; but also psychological challenges such as post-trauma stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression as well. UNICEF may not be able to prevent the migrant crisis, but what it can do is to help and support immigrant children in every way possible.



It must also be mentioned that every government would and will shelter its women, children and elderly immediately in the aftermath of a disaster, but it does not change the fact that the government may lack in affording every need of its people. Especially in the case of vulnerable populations.

Although every nation is capable of protecting their societies at some level, some nations, especially developing and third world countries, may face problems in the process. It might be caused by the lack of funds, products, healthcare and volunteers.

Another problem is the population of a nation. A country may be well-developed in every level and have the financial strength to support its people in the case of a natural disaster, but the population of that nation may cause a problem during the process. The casualties and injuries may be more than expected, and the nation may fall short in protecting the people.

Asia-Pacific region countries may be given as an example to this point. Asia-Pacific region, south eastern Asia countries are affected by the monsoon climate. A monsoon climate is characterized by a dramatic seasonal change in direction of the prevailing winds of a region which brings a marked change in rainfall. The monsoon climate results in high annual rainfall totals exceeding 1.5 m in many places. During the monsoon season in summers the countries

in the region (such as Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, India...) are hit with heavy rainfalls and these weather events cause big floods to take place. Monsoon rains do not have a pattern, meaning that people are likely to get caught in a rainfall unprepared. This affects the social lives of people, as well as their work and educational lives since some of the countries in the region continue education during the summers. With climate change not only are the rainfalls heavier, but they are also more often. Considering the population of these countries, in the possibility of these rainfalls causing natural disasters, it is not hard to imagine a scenario in which the children are affected as much as the other people. According to the UN, at least 41 millions of people in India, Nepal and Bangladesh are affected by monsoon-caused floods.



“ There are many other challenges the current government is focusing on and not much attention is being given to climate change issues.

Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry (Special Envoy of the UN-World Meteorological Organisation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Services for Asia.



1.3 The Effects of Natural Disasters on Children

Carolyn Kousky considers three ways that natural disasters may harm children disproportionately, often with long-lasting effects. First, disasters can damage children's physical health. Children may be injured or killed, but they may also suffer from such things as malnutrition caused by disruptions in food supply or diarrheal illness caused by contaminated water. Moreover, disasters can cut off access to medical care, even for non-disaster-related illnesses. Second, disasters can cause mental health problems. Not only are disasters themselves stressful and frightening, but children can suffer psychological harm from the damage to their homes and possessions; from migration; from the grief of losing loved ones; from seeing parents or caregivers undergo stress; from neglect and abuse; and from breakdowns in social networks, neighborhoods, and local economies. Third, disasters can interrupt children's education by displacing families, destroying schools, and pushing children into the labor force to help their families make ends in straitened times. (Kousky, C. (2016). *Impacts of Natural Disasters on Children. The Future of Children, 26(1), 73–92.* <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43755231>)

Carolyn Kousky discusses the effects of natural disasters on children on three aspects: physical health, mental health and educational achievement. According to her research, it is accepted that the effects are often small and may seem harmless in the short run but the long

term effects are greater. Larger effects, if they occur at a critical point in a child's life, can stick for a lifetime, and even be passed to the next generations. This also contains a child's development in the womb.

During a disaster a child is directly physically injured. The disaster might cause damage to schools and healthcare facilities. Children may pick up post-disaster illnesses. They may find themselves looking for jobs and working to support their families or themselves because of the economical burden of the disaster. Families may prefer to spend less money on their children's needs. The trauma and trauma-related mental problems are likely to occur on a bigger scale.

In developing and under-developed countries children and teenagers take the majority of the population, unlike developed countries. In the case of a natural disaster the societies of those countries might get caught in another disaster, or disasters, that harms the nations and people on a greater scale. Developed countries may handle the post-disaster crises, but the worst case scenario is a reality for developing or under-developed countries.



“In conflict and disaster, children suffer first and suffer most. During emergencies and humanitarian contexts, children are especially vulnerable to disease, malnutrition and violence. Children living in conflict areas are worst off – they are more likely to be living in extreme poverty, for instance, or not enrolled in primary school.

The chaos and insecurity of war threatens or destroys access to food, shelter, social support and health care, and results in increased vulnerability in communities, especially for children.

UNICEF focuses on these children and their families to provide them with the essential interventions required for protection, to save lives and to ensure the rights of all children, everywhere.

UNICEF also works to strengthen the links between humanitarian action and development work. Our presence in many countries before, during and after emergencies, delivers a continuum of support. For example, the rehabilitation and upgrade of water and sanitation systems serve vulnerable households in both the immediate crisis and the longer term.”

(UNICEF website.)

2.0 Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian aid is material and logistic assistance to people who need help. It is usually short-term help until the long-term help by the government and other institutions replaces it. Among the people in need are the homeless, refugees, and victims of natural disasters, wars, and famines. Humanitarian relief efforts are provided for humanitarian purposes and include natural disasters and human-made disasters. The primary objective of humanitarian aid is to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity. It may, therefore, be distinguished from development aid, which seeks to address the underlying socioeconomic factors which may have led to a crisis or emergency.

Both local and international communities can provide humanitarian relief. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is in charge of organizing emergency responses when it comes to interacting with global communities. It reaches out to the different Inter-Agency Standing Committee members, who are in charge of delivering emergency assistance. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Programme (WFP) are the four UN agencies that are primarily responsible for providing humanitarian help.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanitarian_aid

Humanitarian emergencies include large-scale natural disasters and human-generated disasters such as war, terrorism, and industrial accidents. Natural and human-generated events are reaching the scale of humanitarian emergency with increasing frequency and severity. Natural events are ever more devastating due to a number of factors, including climate change, population growth, urbanization, poverty, and economic and social inequalities. Armed conflicts are increasingly directly impacting civilians through violence, displacement, human rights abuses, and worsening economic and health conditions. Humanitarian relief aid is given by governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations to meet the immediate needs of victims of disasters. Humanitarian relief aid can include food, water, medical supplies, tents, and other things

required by those affected by everything from typhoons to civil wars. Also known as emergency aid, it is distinct from development aid, which aims at long-term economic improvement. (<https://enb.iisd.org/topics/disasters-humanitarian-relief>)

One of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in its Charter, is "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character." The UN first did this in the aftermath of the Second World War on the devastated continent of Europe, which it helped to rebuild.

The Organization is now relied upon by the international community to coordinate humanitarian relief of emergencies due to natural and man-made disasters in areas beyond the relief capacity of national authorities alone.

UNICEF is responsible for delivering humanitarian aid to children, teenagers and mothers. UNICEF's work is funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector.

3.0 Questions to be Addressed

Is UNICEF competent in delivering humanitarian aid to the children in need?

Are there any ways UNICEF can do to improve the lives of children that are affected by disasters?

During a disaster, are there any other actions UNICEF can take to help and support children if the humanitarian aid is not enough, late, or not present at all?

How can UNICEF raise more funds specifically for this problem?

How can UNICEF support the children and teenagers affected by disasters in the long run?

4.0 Bibliographia

Kousky, C. (2016). Impacts of Natural Disasters on Children. *The Future of Children*, 26(1), 73–92. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43755231>

Black, D. (1982). Children and disaster. *British Medical Journal (Clinical research ed.)*, 285(6347), 989.

Aptekar, L., & Boore, J. A. (1990). The emotional effects of disaster on children: A review of the literature. *International Journal of Mental Health*, 19(2), 77-90.

Masten, A. S., Narayan, A. J., Silverman, W. K., & Osofsky, J. D. (2015). Children in war and disaster. *Handbook of child psychology and developmental science*, 1-42.

Kousky, C. (2016). Impacts of natural disasters on children. *The Future of children*, 73-92.

Officer, C. B., & Page, J. (2009). When the planet rages: Natural disasters, global warming, and the future of the earth.

Banholzer, S., Kossin, J., & Donner, S. (2014). The impact of climate change on natural disasters. *Reducing disaster: Early warning systems for climate change*, 21-49.

Bergholt, D., & Lujala, P. (2012). Climate-related natural disasters, economic growth, and armed civil conflict. *Journal of peace research*, 49(1), 147-162.

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

<https://www.unicef.org/emergencies> <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/environment/months-of-devastation-world-battered-by-rising-number-of-natural-catastrophes/2992602>

<https://enb.iisd.org/topics/disasters-humanitarian-relief>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanitarian_aid

<https://www.un.org/en/our-work/deliver-humanitarian-aid>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster

5.0 Further Research Materials

For you to grasp the agenda item better, I wanted to add some research materials which are mostly videos. However, you are still welcome to study independently from these materials.

<http://georgiadisaster.info/Schools/fs%201%20school/Children%20%26%20Long%20Term%20Effects%20of%20Disaster.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z348ea6Bu6E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FnDb9-7Lms>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK5yBDz84KQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDGLgUHqoH4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEBM9H8AFmo>