ZIMUN XI

The Cost of Innovation:

Navigating the Ethical Responsibilities of Technological Advancements and Societal Change for Inclusive, Sustainable Development in a Globalised World

Human Rights Council

Creating Un framework to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of humanitarian aid in conflict zones

Committee: Human Rights Council

Issue: Creating UN Framework to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of humanitarian aid in conflict zones

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INTRODUCTION

There are over 110 ongoing wars in the world which are monitored by the Geneva Academy right now. There are various reasons for conflict such as differences in political views in Syria, fighting for control over ports such as the wars in Haiti or internal conflict between military groups in Sudan. Despite the reason for the discord, many people are left homeless, hungry and in need of aid. It is important that this is offered to all who need it regardless of location. All deserve nourishing food, good health, access to quality education and clean water and sanitation. It is important that the distribution of this aid is free of discrimination and bias as all victims deserve impartial access. It must also be effective to ensure no lives are put at jeopardy in places where they should be kept safe.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

- Vulnerable Group: A vulnerable group is a population that has some specific characteristics that make it at higher risk of falling into poverty than others living in areas targeted by a project. Vulnerable groups include the elderly, the mentally and physically disabled, at-risk children and youth, ex-combatants, internally displaced people and returning refugees, HIV/AIDS- affected individuals and households, religious and ethnic minorities and, in some societies.

BACKGROUND ON THE ISSUE

The UN first became humanitarian aid services after the Second World War in the torn apart Europe, helping in the restoration of the continent. The UN strives "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems is an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character." When a country is in distress, such as conflict, the UN then aims to deliver aid ensuring all citizen's human rights are not infringed. Currently there are many wars such as war-torn countries around the world. Syria is currently in a civil war which began in 2011 when protests broke out as they wanted to put an end to the authoritarian regime which had been in place since 1971, since Haaretz al-Assad. The government decided to retaliate and use violence to control the demonstrations which only made more unhappy and opposition groups began to form. As of November 2024, Assad has fled the country as the military allies crumbled. Citizens were unhappy as Assad had made promises for a change, but these were mostly unfulfilled. These wars have left many citizens injured, sick, or left destitute. Humanitarian aid is essential for Syrians as almost 40% of hospitals and healthcare facilities are partially or fully non-functional. The UN and health partners have sent out mobile medical teams to provide care reaching more than 800,00 people in the northwest regions. Children are forced out of schools, endangering them to child labor, trafficking abuse, child marriages and being recruited but parties to fight. Many camps have been established housing around 100,000 people across north East Syria alone. The UN provides aid especially as Syria faces harsh winters especially in the northern areas.

Another country is Haiti which has experienced devastating wars which began due to the desire for the control of the port city Port-au-Prince. There are many gangs who are also retaliating against the violence from military forces causing a widespread aggression. Unfortunately Haiti has been war-torn since the 2010 earthquake which birthed many gangs who were backed by politicians motivating them even more as they were armed. In march of 2024, armed gangs tried to seize control of Haiti's main international airport, followed by a mass escape of prisoners from Haiti's 2 largest prisons. A report released on February 4th stated that at least 5,626 people had been killed and more than 2,213 injured over that last year who have totally gained control of the majority of the country. Between January 1st and March 20th of 2024, 5.5 million of 11.7 million

required and were fully dependent on humanitarian aid. Women and children are particularly part of the vulnerable groups as many gangs are targeting children showing a 70% increase in child soldiers from the age of 12 recorded by UNICEF. Elderly groups were also attacked in 2024 between the 6th and 10ths of December by a gang led by Monel Felix, who accused the elderly of practicing rituals resulting in the death of his child. The World Food Programme has helped Haiti combat their food insecurity as they are targeting 1.85 million people with emergency relief. In November 2024 the WFP also charted 2 maritime vessels to transport 21 trucks loaded with food, medication and health supplies. Due to many natural and man made disasters in Haiti, their people have widely been affected and are in dire need of assistance. Many schools have closed and have been transformed and have become shelters.

CURRENT CONTEXT

5.4 million people are facing acute hunger currently in Haiti. One in eight children within the country is now displaced. Almost 15,000 Haitians were returned from The Dominican Republic, however this also increases the poverty in Haiti as the environment is not safe, they may have no where to go. Natural disasters also enhance the conditions within the country. Haiti children are extremely vulnerable and have been caught up in violence displacement and deprivation. Ahmed al-Sharaa has been placed as the president of Syria during this transitional period. He has been appointed to rebuild Syria, which has been in a civil war for more than 10 years and has cost more than 300,00 people's lives.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATION INVOLVED

The United States is a huge help for Haiti and many other countries. They provide healthcare shelter, food and many other forms of relief. The USA partnered with National potable water and Water and Sanitation Directorate, increasing access to functional eater services to more than 300,00m Haitians since 2018. This has allowed citizens to maintain personal hygiene and access a more reliable water source. The World Food Programme has also had an immense impact on the nation of Haiti to help combat their battle with food insecurity. The UNHCR has had a pivotal role within Syria. They have refurbished houses by installing windows and doors to

destroyed homes to ensure warmth and safety, especially through the cold winters.the UNHCR has been able to help 71 families in need. Many other organizations such as UNICEF supplying education for children and other basic needs they might need.

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

1945 - United Nations is founded with humanitarian aid as one of its primary concerns.

1946 - Formation of UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) to provide emergency health care and food for children

1948 - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasizes the right to humanitarian aid

1950- Formation of UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for refugees) to increase aid for refugees by protecting and assisting them.

1991 – The creation of OCHA (Office for the Coordination of humanitarian affairs) for the s oath running of aid delivery

2006 – Establishment of the UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) to enhance and protect human rights and address human rights violations around the world.

2011 – Syrian war begins, testing humanitarian agencies with different conflict dynamics

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES, & EVENTS

1991 – Establishment of the OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
https://docs.un.org/en/A/res/46/182
This body was formed after a resolution in the general assembly was passed to enhance emergency response coordination. They work to bring awareness and knowledge to humanitarian organizations when and where there is crisis. They collect information to analyze and then share it so organizations can offer their best help from a point of knowledge. They also lead the progress of policies to certify humanitarian aid does not remain stagnant but continue to develop.

2005 - Beginning of the Cluster approach
https://docs.un.org/en/A/res/46/182
Clusters are groups of humanitarian non-UN and Un organizations in each man sector of the humanitarian actions which is water, health, shelter etc. They are meant for temporary action to fill a void so they a time-bound as they strive to build the potential of the national systems and over time hand back to national entities and authorities. They synchronize non-refugee humanitarian emergencies at country level. This was part of the 1991 resolution but only put into full practice in 2005.

2016 – World Humanitarian Summit directing the Grand Bargain
Brings together willing and able donors and aid organizations who have dedicated themselves to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the humanitarian action.

2022 – UN passes resolutions to strengthen humanitarian aid in conflict zones
https://docs.un.org/en/A/ES-11/L.2
Amidst the Ukraine conflict, the general assembly saw it fit for more coordination as greater cooperation and stronger frameworks and funding to meet the increasing need to humanitarian aid

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

1. Use of technology: This could enhance efficiency as satellites and AI could provide information in real-time and will operate 24/7 so there is more evidence gathered and a more realistic depiction of the situation, especially in rural areas. This will then allow for more equitable distribution of supplies required.

2. Enhance quality and structures of camps and safe zones: This will allow victims to have areas where they will be able to receive medical aid, food, and shelter in a controlled environment free from war. Within these camps, they could also provide therapists to help victims process trauma and prepare for the future of reintegration into society.

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