



# **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**

Relocation and assistance to children in the Ukraine VS. Russia conflict

**Director:** Soorin Kwon **Moderator:** Fernando Sierra

Secretary: Romina Chavarria

## **DESCRIPTION OF COMMITTEE**

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is a globally recognized organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights and well-being of children around the world. UNICEF was founded on December 11, 1946, a year after the Union was founded, to provide support to children and overcome obstacles that stood in their way after World War II. Since then, UNICEF has developed into one of the most influential and important organizations working for the welfare of children. UNICEF says that working for children will help the development of humanity. UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, protect their rights and help them realize their potential. UNICEF is the world's largest vaccine provider and works on children's health and nutrition, safe water and sanitation, quality education, HIV prevention and treatment for mothers and babies, and protection of children and adolescents from violence and exploitation.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

Before the invasion, Russian troops were massed near the Ukrainian border and Russian officials denied planning an attack. Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a "special military operation" to help separate the Russian-backed Donetsk and Luhansk republics, a paramilitary group that has been fighting Ukraine in the Donbas conflict since 2014. Ukraine claimed it was under Russian control. He said his goal was to demilitarize Ukraine. Russian air strikes began on the Northern Front from Belarus to Kiev, the Southern Front in Crimea, and the Eastern Front from Donbas to Kharkiv.

The war between Russia and Ukraine still continues. The Ukraine-Russia conflict escalated in 2014 after Ukraine's then-President, Viktor Yanukovych, abandoned an agreement with the European Union in favor of closer ties with Russia. This decision sparked massive protests in Kyiv, known as the Euromaidan movement, which eventually led to Yanukovych's ouster. Russia responded by annexing Crimea, a move that was widely condemned by the international community. Simultaneously, unrest erupted in eastern





Ukraine, particularly in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where pro-Russian separatist movements emerged.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine received international condemnation. Protests broke out around the world, and in Russia, many protesters were arrested. The war between Ukraine and Russia has brought terrible suffering to children, leading to the largest and fastest migration since World War II. The children and their families had no choice but to leave their homes. Some sought protection elsewhere in the country, while others sought refuge in neighboring countries. Children make up about half of the displaced population. Many of them were orphans or separated from their families, sometimes crossing the border with their parents.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE TOPIC

In November 2013, Yanukovych (President of Ukraine) decided not to sign the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and instead seek closer ties with the Russian Economic Union. Russia then threatened Ukraine to reject the agreement, declaring: As signed, Russia cannot guarantee Ukraine's statehood. The war began in February 2014 when Russia invaded the Crimea Peninsula without permission and militarized the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine, and the war continues in Donbas. Several countries, including the United States, Britain, Poland, and Germany, have contributed to further escalation of the conflict. Since February 2020, Russia has sent more than 120 missiles to Ukrainian cities, with the Ukrainian capital Kiev as the primary target. Ultimately, about 13,000 Ukrainian soldiers and civilians died in the conflict, and the front lines remained virtually unchanged for several years.

Before the war, Ukrainian children did not receive much help, but as the war continues, the situation is worsening. Additionally, many children from both countries were displaced due to this war. The various parties involved in the conflict have been accused of recruiting children as combatants, a serious violation of their rights. Children are often lured or coerced into taking part in hostilities. There have been reports of attacks on schools and health facilities putting children's lives at risk and making access to education and health services more difficult.

# **CURRENT INFORMATION OF THE TOPIC**

As Russia invades Ukraine and the Ukraine-Russia conflict continues, the situation for Ukrainian children is worsening. More than half of the children are currently emigrating to Ukraine or other countries. As a result of these conflicts, children continue to be killed, injured and traumatized. The country is being devastated by a war that continues to this day. Massive migration leaves families without adequate support and unable to support their children.





Russia aims to breach Ukraine's defenses in the northeastern region. And the Russian Defense Minister told President Putin that Russian forces are continuing military operations in areas within Ukraine. Ukraine recently said it would build its first underground school to protect children from Russian attacks. And the United States has recently secretly provided Ukraine with long-range missiles, giving Ukraine a critical capability to strike new targets in Russia. People are waiting for this war to end quickly.

#### INTERNATIONAL ACTION OF THE TOPIC

Countries around the world have taken steps to support Ukraine. International law was used because of Russia's illegal war, and this international law was used to expel Russia. When the invasion began, the UN Security Council demanded the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine, but Russia refused. After Russia refused to take action, the General Assembly voted to demand that Russia immediately withdraw all international troops from Ukrainian territory. The International Court of Justice also played a role in opposing Russia's invasion. Ukraine claimed it had provided evidence that could determine whether genocide had occurred. After seeing the evidence, the ICJ ordered an immediate end to the war with Russia. Criticism of Russia is causing more countries to support Ukraine. In other words, it was accompanied by Ukrainian armaments. The International Criminal Court investigated allegations of war crimes, child kidnapping, and genocide, and issued an arrest warrant for President Putin in March 2023.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CREATING A RESOLUTION

The chair recommends the delegates take time to review the following suggestions before creating their resolution:

- The UN cannot create laws, only enforce existing ones
- Consider both long-term and short-term solutions.
- Make sure to avoid the use of personal pronouns.
- Add your in-text citations and bibliographies in APA citation and alphabetical order
- Remember that the resolutions are targeted at helping child poverty
- Remember that money is not a problem for the UN
- Consider and remember the UN's past actions so they are not repeated.

# **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER (to create a Resolution)**

• What is your country's position in UNICEF and on the topic?





- How can Ukraine's refugee crisis be resolved?
- What methods are organizations using to support children in Ukraine?
- How to stop conflict between Russia and Ukraine?
- What impact will it have on children if conflict continues?
- What should the government do to solve this problem?
- How do other countries try to resolve this conflict?

## **RESEARCH AID**

Consider using the following websites, these will provide you with the necessary information.

- https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/war-ukraine-pose-immediate-threat-children
- https://www.savethechildren.net/what-we-do/emergencies/ukraine
- https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/08/06/world/ukraine-russia-war-children
- <a href="https://www.eurochild.org/news/ukraine-2023-what-are-the-challenges-to-uphold-childrens-rights-during-the-conflict-in-ukraine/">https://www.eurochild.org/news/ukraine-2023-what-are-the-challenges-to-uphold-childrens-rights-during-the-conflict-in-ukraine/</a>
- https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS\_BRI(2023)747093
- <a href="https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/17/ukraine-war-pushes-4-million-children-into-poverty-says-un">https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/17/ukraine-war-pushes-4-million-children-into-poverty-says-un</a>
- <a href="https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/protecting-and-supporting-children-impacted-by-the-war-in-ukraine-must-be-top-priority">https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/protecting-and-supporting-children-impacted-by-the-war-in-ukraine-must-be-top-priority</a>
- <a href="https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/ukraine/impact-war-ukraines-children-child-protection-report">https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/ukraine/impact-war-ukraines-children-child-protection-report</a>
- https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15395.doc.htm
- <a href="https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/deportation-treatment-ukraines-children-russian-fe">https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/deportation-treatment-ukraines-children-russian-fe</a> deration-takes-centre-stage-many-delegates-security-council-briefing

# TERMS AND CONCEPTS

**Hygiene:** Condition or state of cleanness to maintain health and prevent disease

**Cognitive:** the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses.

**Socioeconomic:** relating to or concerned with the interaction of social and economic factors.

**Vulnerable:** susceptible to physical or emotional attack or harm.





**Unbiased:** showing no prejudice for or against something; impartial.

**Humanitarian:** concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare.

**Marginalization:** treatment of a person, group, or concept as insignificant or peripheral.

Multidimensionally: having or relating to multiple dimensions or aspects

**Disproportionately:** to the extent that is too large or too small in comparison with something else.

Abject: experienced or present to the maximum degree

#### REFERENCES

Unicef (2023) About UNICEF. Accessed from: <a href="https://www.unicef.org/about-unicef">https://www.unicef.org/about-unicef</a>

UNICEF, (2023) *Ukraine emergency response in neighboring countries* Accessed Oct 10th from: <a href="https://www.unicef.org/eca/ukraine-emergency-response-neighbouring-countries">https://www.unicef.org/eca/ukraine-emergency-response-neighbouring-countries</a>

N, A. (2022) *A history of the tensions between Ukraine and Russia*. Accessed Oct 10th from: <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/26/world/europe/ukraine-russia-tensions-timeline.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/26/world/europe/ukraine-russia-tensions-timeline.html</a>

UNICEF, (2023) War in Ukraine: Support for children and families. Accessed Oct 17th from: <a href="https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/war-ukraine-pose-immediate-threat-children">https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/war-ukraine-pose-immediate-threat-children</a>

UNICEF, (2022) Guidance for protecting displaced and refugee children in and outside of Ukraine. Accessed Oct 17th from: <a href="https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/guidance-protecting-displaced-children-ukraine">https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/guidance-protecting-displaced-children-ukraine</a>

N, A. (2023) *How Russia's invasion of Ukraine tested the international legal order*. Accessed Oct 17th from: <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-tested-the-international-legal-order/">https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-tested-the-international-legal-order/</a>