

*Saint Ignatius College Prep*

# ***SIMUN XVI***

*Saint Ignatius Model United Nations*



*Chicago, IL*

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Hello Delegates,

My name is Caroline VanDam and I will be your chair for SIMUN XVI. I'm so excited to meet all of you in November and hear all of your wonderful ideas on the topics! I am a senior here at Saint Ignatius and have been a member of SIMUN since my freshman year. I was a political officer for NATO my sophomore year and a chair for UNOOSA my junior year. I have attended over 25 conferences including two international trips. MUN has been a large part of my school experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the club. It was a blink ago that I was a freshman entering MUN and I remember how intimidating all the meetings and responsibilities were. Don't hesitate to seek out support from me and always ask questions, it is a sign of interest and an indication of your dedication.

Aside from MUN, I am a member of the Ignatius swim team, Editor in Chief of the Newspaper, Mock trial team, French club, French Honor's Society and National Honors Society.

As members of UNICEF, you are encouraged to come prepared with a detailed committee strategy and plenty of research. Please don't forget to print out your position papers, otherwise you won't be eligible for any awards. In addition, please feel free to email me with questions.

I can't wait to meet all of you in November! Work hard, and be prepared for loads of fun.

Caroline VanDam

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## Committee Intro

UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries. Initially created in World War II,

UNICEF helps affected children in war torn countries, however its mandate extended in 1950 to address long-term needs of women and children worldwide.

UNICEF relies on governments, private donors, and contributions with its yearly

income averaging five billion USD. UNICEF's supply division (based in Copenhagen) distributes vaccines, antiretroviral medicines, nutritional supplements as well as emergency shelters, family reunification, and educational supplies. UNICEF volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide aid across 190 countries for over 70 years.



## Topic 1: Healthcare and Education for Children

Recent studies show children with health coverage are more likely to attend school; consequently they become more successful, independent adults. There are over 30 million children who receive Medicaid coverage from jointly funded federal-state programs. Children represent more than 40% of Medicaid enrollees, but account for less than 20% of Medicaid spending.

Approximately 9 million children under the age of 5 die each year due to preventable diseases with access to improved healthcare the mortality rate will drop radically. Poor families are unable to obtain even the most basic health care for their children. This poor or even absent healthcare accounts for 70% of all deaths under the age of 5.

Existing low-cost tools and knowledge could easily save more than 6 million children's premature deaths. This includes providing more antibiotics and water treatment therapies costing less than \$0.30 to treat

top diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhea. Poor economic countries increase the prices of maternal and neonatal health services making them virtually unaffordable. Access to simple yet necessary medicines is critical to the health and wellbeing of children, must be made more available

Lack of healthcare in rural countries can of course be attributed to lack of availability. Citizens are not able to drive, let alone walk to doctor's offices, even if transit were provided. The strengthening of social support networks for children and their caregivers would be effective and provide them with the support needed to seek out quality health care. Even if ambulance services were available in all countries, they would not be able to reach the most rural villages.

In order to reach a majority of children who do not have access to basic care, there have to be more programs to train health workers, especially in the cultural and linguistic aspects of developing countries. For example, in Sierra Leone, childbirth is performed by trained

midwives only 2% of the time and only 5% of the facilities have pediatricians. Families have to rely on traditional birth attendants who are not properly trained to handle emergencies, so there is a sense of hopelessness when one happens. The families themselves have to be better trained to deal with basic family sickness in case it rapidly develops into something more serious or in the time of temporary lack of access to healthcare services.

Most UN databases regarding healthcare systems information are out of date when it comes to infants and children. There has to be better information on needed treatments and data of the locales the highest rates of child mortality.

### Countdown to 2015

The 2015 Countdown Initiative collects and analyses data from 68 countries which account for most maternal and child deaths. Reports in 2005, 2008, and 2010 have been published along with country profiles.

Country profiles detail services provided, including equity of access, health systems, and policy.

### Questions to Consider

1. Where is your country in regards to improving healthcare for the population?
2. What NGOs would be most helpful for this situation?
3. How can databases be improved to better locate the main areas that lack proper childcare?
4. How has your nation contributed to improving other countries' accessibility to healthcare?
5. How can trained doctors be made more accessible to all nations?

## Works Cited/ Helpful Sources

1. [http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/press\\_materials/fs/fs\\_mdg4\\_childmortality/en/](http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/press_materials/fs/fs_mdg4_childmortality/en/)
2. <https://www.unicef.org>
3. [http://www.nbcnews.com/id/24482102/ns/health-childrens\\_health/t/million-children-die-lack-health-care/#.WVpMjDZ8VEc](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/24482102/ns/health-childrens_health/t/million-children-die-lack-health-care/#.WVpMjDZ8VEc)
4. [https://www.unicef.org/health/sierraleone\\_51559.html](https://www.unicef.org/health/sierraleone_51559.html)

## Topic 2: Violence relief for children

During time of violence and conflict in nations, children become the first victims of war. UNICEF works to protect children who have been separated from their families, to create protective “child friendly” spaces and offer medical treatment and counseling. UNICEF works extensively in Syria, Nigeria, South Sudan and Central African Republic, and Iraq to prevent military child drafts, trafficking and rehabilitating child soldiers. In 2005, the Security Council requested the establishment of a monitoring and reporting mechanism, managed by country-based task forces co-led by UNICEF and the highest UN

representative in the country, to provide timely and reliable information on six grave children's rights violations including killing of children, recruitment for the armed forces, attacks on schools or hospitals, sexual violence, abduction, and denial of humanitarian access to children.

Using this task force, UNICEF engages with government forces and rebel groups perpetrating these crimes.

UNICEF cooperates with governments, NGOs, and international organizations to stop abuse and violence of the most vulnerable members of society. They also work with communities to address harmful practices and empower children through educational, life-skills and prevention programs. While resolved conflict in nations leaves behind great destruction and a lack of proper distribution of power, it creates an opportunity to build better and stronger legal reforms, policies and capacity building.

UNICEF's core commitments for children in humanitarian action objectives are to actively prevent children from being harmed

monitor violation committed against them and develop programs to respond to instances where children are at risk, or have been subjected to violence, exploitation and abuse.

### Specific Issues

#### Children in the Militia

One of the most common problems UNICEF is working to solve is youth in the militia. Child soldiers are becoming increasingly more common in intrastate conflict. This is because it is easier to condition them into fearless killing as well as pressure them to join the military with the promise of food and shelter. Children as young as five have been abducted, making this one of UNICEF's top priorities. UNICEF

works to release children from armed forces and groups as soon as possible, even if this means during conflict. UNICEF has also approved a community-oriented approach that supports vulnerable children affected by conflict so as to promote forgiveness and reintegration. Since the 1980s, UNICEF has worked towards the release of children from the armed forces in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Uganda.

### Gender Based Violence

Typically, gender based violence in emergencies is perpetrated against females through sex-selective abortion, differential access to food and services, sexual exploitation and abuse, child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, sexual harassment, dowry/bride price abuse, honor killing, domestic or intimate partner violence, and deprivation of inheritance. Most current data on Gender Based Violence on represents a

small fraction of what is really going on in the country; therefore it must be assumed that GBV is present in all areas of violence.

### Family Separation

After a crisis, the longer a child from their family, the harder it is to locate the family before the child is forced into sexual exploitation, abuse or potential trafficking. This is a very time sensitive issue. If children cannot be reunited with their parents or another family member, they make sure that siblings are never separated to preserve family unity. UNICEF has also worked on several preventative measures to ensure that in a disaster, vulnerable families have easy access to basic relief services. UNICEF also tries to restrict the use of residential care options unless absolutely necessary

### Emotional Support

Exposure to violence and loss of family has an extremely detrimental effect on children. UNICEF provides crucial support for communities and families to be able to support their loved ones after disasters. UNICEF uses child friendly spaces to organize activities in a safe and stimulating environment where affected communities and children can be supported. UNICEF also provides special services for children who would need extra support due to behavioral issues.

### Questions to Consider

1. How can current databases be improved?
2. How can UNICEF's current programs be made even more available even in the most rural of areas?
3. How can UNICEF better interact with rebel groups?
4. How can it be made easier to locate families?
5. How can UNICEF work to destigmatize children who were in the militia?

## Helpful Sources/Works Cited

1. <https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/protect/how>
2. [https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929\\_62178.html](https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_62178.html)
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