

CLEIMUN2020

“The Question of Displaced and Orphaned Children in Areas of Conflict”

A Research Report

COMMITTEE: Human Rights

QUESTION OF: The Question of Displaced and Orphaned Children in Areas of Conflict

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Introduction & Background

Across the world there are an estimated 140 million orphaned children in the world, of these children 61 million are located in Asia, 52 million in Africa, and 7.5 million in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. These children face many struggles such as diseases (HIV/AIDS) lack of food, water, medical supplies, and face mental and physical abuses by terrorist and rebel groups looking to recruit these children. These are just some of the core issues that millions of orphaned children face in the world.

What are Some Challenges These Displaced or Orphaned Children Face?

While being orphaned at ages as young as (to be added) is already a difficult experience for any child to go through, it is only the beginning of many challenges newly orphaned children will face. In the 1990's United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other global partners identified orphans as either a single-orphan who has lost one parent or a double-orphan, who has lost both parents. This identification was adapted during the rise of HIV and AIDS pandemic

which led to the deaths of millions of parents. This HIV and AIDS issue has now also been adopted by the children of this generation as many are prone to contract these diseases by their parents. HIV and AIDS are just some of the many diseases that these children are exposed to and with a lack of medicine and other medical supplies.

Another pressing issue that these children face is recruitment by non-governmental entities such as terrorist organizations and rebel groups. By being recruited by these groups children are exposed and even forced to commit acts of violence which leads to both physical and mental scarring of these children.

Past Efforts to Solve This Problem

As shown in the previous paragraphs a larger emphasis is given by UN committees and world wide organizations to stop the events that act as the catalyst which lead to the displacement or orphaning of children. The greatest of these catalyst being armed conflicts taking place in the home countries of these children, the most prevalent being in Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, and many other Middle Eastern, Asian, and African countries.

For orphaned children recruited by terrorist and rebel groups UNICEF and other UN committees in 2010 were able to reintegrate 11,400 children formerly involved with armed rebel groups along with 28,000 other children located in areas of conflict. Along with reintegration processes, the UN has continually worked to both legalize and normalize the prohibition of using children in armed conflicts by government or non-government entities. These past legal actions include the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of Children and the Paris Principles both

of which are recognized by UNICEF and other organizations that work for the rights of children in the world as ways to stem the recruitment of children into armed conflicts.

Possible Solutions

Misplaced and orphaned children have been decreasing at a slow rate of 0.7% since 2001 and the most recent update to the number of orphaned children in the world is at 140 million. It is important to note that UN statistics and labeling of orphans as single or double orphans can lead to resolutions and organizations catering to orphaned children on an individual level, rather than providing aid to the communities and countries that these children reside in. So it's important to understand the situation and needs of these children and ultimately the communities they reside in need. Whether there needs are related to access to food and clean water or the community has an abundance of sick and injured people that are in need of medicine. As many of these communities and children reside in areas of conflict it's important to find a solution to the problem while abiding to international law and recognizing the national sovereignty of a country. Ultimately, this issue comes down to the safety and security of these children and it is the responsibility of the delegate to research, write, communicate, and interact with their fellow delegates in an effort to solve this world spanning issue.

Work Cited

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