

Committee: UNICEF

Topic: Ensuring that orphans live in a safe and healthy environment.

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Introduction

For every child, a fair chance to survive and thrive. UNICEF has currently 33 national committees each as a non-governmental organization. Serving as the voice of Unicef, The National committees work hard to raise funds mostly from the private sector, and they also promote children's rights and secure worldwide visibility for children who are threatened by poverty, natural disasters, armed conflict, abuse and exploitation. The committee of UNICEF is funded by voluntary contributions, and also the national committees collectively raise about one third of Unicef's annual income, this comes through contributions from corporations, civil society organizations and more than 6 million individual donors worldwide. They rally different partners including the media, national and local government officials, NGOs, specialists such as doctors and lawyers, young people and the general public. Also UNICEF is working in 190 countries where children don't have rights or are threatened by conflicts that can harm them.

Children, especially the ones that live in bad conditions, are highly vulnerable to disasters and are severely affected by their impacts. It is estimated that at least 13.4 million children and adolescents live in places with high or extremely high risk of drought and 13.1 million live in areas with a high risk of flooding. Also the scarcity of statistical data makes it difficult to accurately estimate the child population affected by disasters. Children in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those living in poverty, are very vulnerable to natural and man made disasters.

In 2017, 96 countries had estimates for safely managed sanitation. Despite the progress recorded, 27.8 million children still have no access to basic sanitation, and 7.3 million lack access to drinking water, including 2.6 million that still drink surface water now this days. Universal access to adequate sanitation is an essential need and a human right. Securing access for all will help reduce illness and death, especially among youth.

Body

The average number of orphans worldwide has declined consistently, yet at a rate of 0.7% per year since 2001. As far as 2015 there were 140 million orphans according to UNICEF calculations. In the year of 2001 within the AIDS crisis, there were around 14 million children around the world who had lost both of their parents, then by the end of 2010, it was estimated that around 250 million children were in the same situation, losing both of their parents because of HIV/AIDS. According to the UNICEF, HIV/AIDS is severely affecting the families, communities, etc. to provide a proper, safe and protected environment to children.

HIV/AIDS and other illnesses, such as Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo midst this year, have caused deaths in parents and affected years of progress. Considering that children need to stop attending school because they need to start doing other chores and responsibilities that households give to children, or they just can't afford to pay the school fees so they drop out of school. Other children leave education because of psychological trauma brought to them because of anxiety and other symptoms they felt or experienced by watching their parents die or suffer.

As far as August 2019, in Democratic Republic of Congo the number of children left orphaned or unaccompanied has been rising fast. Whereas an Ebola epidemic hit the African country about a year ago, leaving 1,380 orphans since the start of the outbreak. At the same time 2,469 children have been distanced from their parents or caregivers. Whilst their parents undergo the treatment, or the isolation caused by a recent contact with someone infected, UNICEF is working closely with partners to rapidly identify affected children to address their physical, psychological and material needs. In the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu 906 psychological assistants have been trained by UNICEF to provide individual counseling for affected children. UNICEF also provided school support, including school fees, uniforms and supplies, to 432 child survivors and children orphaned to Ebola.

Conclusion

In order to guarantee a child to thrive, we must broaden the purview, focusing on the factors that render children to threats, rather than what essentialities an orphanhood must hold. Emphasizing the need to provide dedicated care which includes food, psychological support, material assistance, decent sanitary environment and education.

In order to help the orphan children receive their proper education and stay in school, there should be programs and other organizations, making sure that teachers, parents, students and other people involved with these children, can help them to develop skills, and to get quality basic education. Also psychological help and counseling should be implemented for children, being that they require psychosocial assistance to mitigate the debilitating effects of loss, stigma and isolation.

Viable Solutions

Work with partners and allies to generate evidence, as well as defend and strengthen national systems, with special attention to gender approaches.

Strengthen national capacities to end defecation in the open air and / or fecal contamination. Support water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives in schools and health care centers, taking into account the specific needs of women, girls and children living with disabilities.

The creation and use of psychosocial volunteers teams, to facilitate the accurate psychological development of the children who may have recently lost a parent. It will not be an easy task given the economic burden this will mean, taking into consideration the other demands a child must have.

References

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