



Committee: UNICEF

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

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Introduction to the committee:

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was created by the United Nations (UN) in 1946. Its creation was made with the purpose of alleviating daily devastation in many countries, caused by World War II, and finally became officially part of the United Nations in 1953. With the help of governments and non-governmental organizations (NGO's), UNICEF is in charge of taking important decisions, based on the most innovative ideas in order to cause a positive impact on children's quality of life.

UNICEF's priority is to help national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children. Nowadays, UNICEF is working on 190 countries, and its mission is to defend the rights of every child, especially those children who lived in less developed countries, in order to grow in a safe and inclusive environment.

Statement of the problem:

According to UNICEF, an orphan child is when a minor loses one or both parents, due to any cause of death, even from natural disasters, famine, war, extreme poverty, or illness. UNICEF came up with this definition in the 1990s, due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, killing millions of parents around the world. These children with no parent figure, struggle to survive in an adult world. They have limited access to every child's needs like education, medical care, food, and safety.

Unfortunately, most of the orphans are suffering in silence, because as mentioned before, they do not count on the special care they need. It sounds simple and maybe unbelievable, but we as a child need daily care, that only can be provided by a family. Every child needs to have it in order to help them with their well-being because they often experience delays in physical growth including height, weight, and head circumference.

Currently, there are 140 million orphans around the world. There are around 15.1 million orphans who have lost both of their parents, and most of them are victims of violence, exploitation, and abuse. Research from the United Nations of Moldova shows how girls living in an orphanage, are more likely to become victims of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Some actions have been taken in the past in order to solve or control the issue.

In many cases, orphanages do not count with enough resources, like caregivers, in order to provide the attention they need. Living in an orphanage has a negative impact on children's life: they experience trauma, losing a loved one, and emotional, sexual, or physical abuse. For example, according to a study made by Professor Andy Bilson, professor of social work in the University of Lancashire, in the orphanages of Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America, orphans do not cry because they realized no one will comfort them and that they will be ignored, and this experience can cause trauma in the future.

According to research, when an orphan doesn't have interactions with an adult, who can give them individual care, they don't produce the essential hormones that stimulate brain development. There are 50 years of research showing the negative consequences of the institutional care that could lead to not developing important social competence, play, and sibling interaction; therefore causing higher levels of apathy, disobedience, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, delays in physical growth, among other consequences.

In 1998, the United Nations formed a discussion about children living in a world with AIDS. In the same year, a regional Children in Distress (CINDI) congress was held in South Africa, which was about setting up the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), task teams in their countries. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child guides all actions in support of orphans and vulnerable children, the Convention also dictates that the state is responsible to provide special protection for a child who doesn't have the family environment they need.

The main principles of the Convention are that decisions that affect the child need to be taken for the best interest of the child. The right to non-discrimination emphasizes how to form a full and harmonious development of the child. The CRC also recognizes the right to child survival, their well being, and their development, and it also includes the physical perspective of children. It also includes harmonious development, like the spiritual, moral, psychological and social levels. And another important right that the CRC focuses on is related to the best interest

of the child, the respect for the view of the child, meaning, every child has the right to have access to the enriching of the decision-making process and to participate as citizens of change.

Conclusion

Ensuring that orphans live in a safe and healthy environment is a really urgent problem to solve because orphans are kids who already have suffered enormously and they don't have a parent or a family member to protect them and provide for them to cover their basic needs like food, water, medical service, or even a place to live in.

Orphanages often do not have enough money or people to cover all the necessities a child has, which leads to our main problem which is that every child that has lived in an orphanage has had a negative impact on their life. Taking into consideration this matter, UNICEF invites all delegates to join the cause and help eradicate this problem.

Viable solutions

- Increase the government's budget dedicated to orphans.
- Administrate carefully the money orphanages receive and how they use it to prevent any form of corruption.
- Have regular visits to confirm the conditions in which the children are living are appropriate.
- Have professional teams go and talk to the children to assess their mental health and assure they are treated with respect and affection.
- Implement more programs to train young people that volunteer of taking care of orphans in orphanages.

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