

# UNICEF

Facilitating Life-saving Assistance  
for Children in Gaza



**Great Knowledge  
Great Responsibility**

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# 1. Letter from Secretaries General

Dear advisors, and futures aspiring diplomats,

We, as the Secretaries General of YYMUN'25, welcome you all to the 4th edition of Yeni Yol Model United Nations. We are thrilled to invite you to be a part of our conference which promises to be an inspiring and impactful experience.

YYMUN'25 continues our legacy of academic excellence, diplomatic engagement, and impactful dialogue. Over these three days of our conference, more than 200 delegates from across the country and beyond will come together to tackle today's most pressing global challenges, engage in thoughtful debate, and build connections that transcend borders.

For many of you, this may be your first Model United Nations experience, and to that, we are delighted to welcome you all. We strongly encourage newer delegates to carefully review the provided materials and introduce themselves to a brand new world by familiarizing the structure and flow of committee sessions. Understanding the fundamentals of procedure and debate will help you actively participate from the very first session and make the most of your MUN experience.

YYMUN'25 is more than a conference, it is a space for debate, growth, and inspiration. We hope the memories you make, the knowledge you gain, and the friendships you form will leave a lasting impression which goes far beyond our conference.

On behalf of our entire Secretariat, we are honored to welcome each and every one of you to Yeni Yol Model UN 2025.

Yours in diplomacy,

Cansu Yananer & Yağız Efe Yılmaz

Secretaries-General of Yeni Yol Model United Nations 2025

## **2. Letter from the Chairboard**

Dear Delegates,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the UNICEF Committee. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has left millions—especially children—without basic necessities like food, water, and medical care. In this committee, you will act as decision-makers to help solve this crisis.

We encourage you to research thoroughly, debate passionately, and prioritize the rights of every child.

Best wishes,  
UNICEF Chair Board

### **3. Introduction to the Committee**

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is committed to promoting and defending the rights of all children worldwide. UNICEF was founded in 1946 in the aftermath of World War II with the primary goal of providing food supplies and medical assistance to children in nations devastated by war. Since then, it has developed into an international organization that seeks to enhance the lives of children and their families in more than 190 nations and territories.

The mission of UNICEF is based on the idea that all children have the right to live, grow, and reach their full potential. This organization is essential in advancing access to healthcare, education, food, hygiene, and safety from violence and abuse. UNICEF contributes to the creation of solid structures that sustain long-term child welfare and development through collaborations with governments, non-governmental organizations, and local communities.

### **4. Introduction to the Agenda Item**

#### **4.1. Historical Process**

The decades-long war between Israel and Palestine is the cause of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Civilians in the region, especially in the Gaza Strip, have been severely damaged by an ongoing series of wars, restrictions, and unsuccessful peace efforts since the mid-20th century. Israel and Egypt put up land, air, and sea barriers when Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007, which significantly restricted the transportation of people and goods. Gaza's infrastructure, economy, and public services have suffered greatly as a result of these limitations and repeated warfare (most notably in 2008–09, 2012, 2014, and later years).

Throughout this prolonged battle, children have been among the most impacted groups. Young Gazans have been living under siege for a generation, with little access to safe drinking water, healthcare, education, or safety. Long-term solutions continue to be problematic despite several international attempts to reduce the suffering and foster peace.

## 4.2. Current Situation in Gaza

Due to growing warfare, the humanitarian situation in Gaza has significantly worsened as of 2025. Access to basic needs including food, water, and electricity is extremely limited, hospitals are overwhelmed or unusable, and civilian property has been completely destroyed. Countless children are orphaned, tens of thousands of children are uprooted, and an increasing number are experiencing trauma, illness, and starvation. Maternal care and vaccination programs are among the health services which have nearly collapsed.

The absence of safe humanitarian corridors, limitations on traveling, and persistent conflicts make it increasingly difficult for UNICEF and other humanitarian groups to provide aid. The requirements of traumatized children cannot be met by the already limited mental health services, and schools have been completely destroyed or made into shelters.

## 4.3. Key Challenges

- **Access and Logistics:** It is very challenging for humanitarian groups to arrive and function safely in Gaza due to border closures, roadblocks, and damaged roadways.
- **Politicization of Aid:** Political ambitions frequently sabotage humanitarian aid, harming its independence and postponing necessary deliveries.
- **Security Risks:** Medical professionals, humanitarian workers, and the children they are trying to save are all seriously threatened by ongoing conflicts.
- **Destroyed Infrastructure:** Roads, schools, hospitals, and water systems have been severely damaged by constant bombardment and armed conflict.
- **Food and Water Shortage:** 90% of water is unsafe and even WFP (world food programme) ran out of food stocks in Gaza. Children are suffering from malnourishment.

- **Coordination and Resources:** Response efforts are further weakened by a lack of trustworthy data, uneven agency coordination, and limited financing.
- **Protection of Children:** In addition to financial hardship, children in conflict areas are at risk for long-term psychological trauma, family separation, and recruitment by armed groups.
- **Collapse of Education:** Over 600,000 children are unable to go to school due to the destruction of schools and the repurposing of educational facilities as shelters.

#### 4.4. Impact on Children

As a result of the current situation, children in Gaza have suffered enormously both mentally and physically. Many are suffering from long-term illnesses, severe starvation, or conflict-related injuries. Children who have lost family members or witnessed violence are particularly vulnerable to mental health issues like PTSD, anxiety, and depression.

This trauma worsens when children are prohibited access to safe spaces, education, and trustworthy caretakers, robbing them of their fundamental rights as well as their sense of normality and optimism. Children have frequently been pushed to take on adult responsibilities, look after younger siblings, or even help their family survive in dangerous situations. Without prompt and consistent action, this humanitarian crisis is creating a lost generation whose recovery will take years, if not decades.

##### *Story from the Field:*

12-year-old Nour lives in a school used as a shelter. She says, “We have no toys, no books, no food. Every night we pray the bombs don’t fall on us.”



## **4.5. UNICEF's Role and Humanitarian Efforts**

UNICEF, together with partners like UNRWA, is working to:

- Deliver clean water, nutrition packages, and medical supplies
- Create temporary learning spaces and distribute “School-in-a-Box” kits
- Establish Child-Friendly Spaces where children can receive counseling and play safely
- Provide psychological first aid to children and families
- Advocate globally for uninterrupted humanitarian access

However, lack of access, funding shortages, and security threats slow down or completely block these efforts.

## **5. Past UN Actions**

### **United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions**

Several Security Council resolutions have called for the protection of civilians in armed conflict and specifically addressed the Israeli–Palestinian situation.

Notably:

- UNSC Resolution 1860 (2009) called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian aid.
- UNSC Resolution 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), while older, form the basis for calls for peace negotiations and emphasize the inadmissibility of acquiring territory by war.

However, due to geopolitical tensions and veto powers within the Council, efforts to pass binding resolutions specific to recent escalations in Gaza have often been blocked.



## **General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions**

The UN General Assembly has adopted multiple resolutions condemning violence against civilians and calling for increased humanitarian access in Gaza. Though non-binding, these reflect international consensus on the urgency of protecting Palestinian civilians, including children.

## **UNICEF Interventions**

UNICEF has consistently provided emergency assistance in Gaza during and after conflicts, including:

- Distributing clean water, medical kits, and nutritional supplements;
- Setting up temporary learning spaces and early childhood development centers;
- Supporting family reunification programs and child protection services;
- Launching advocacy campaigns calling for the protection of education and safe humanitarian access.

In 2021 and again in 2023, UNICEF issued public appeals for funding and access, declaring the situation in Gaza a child rights emergency.

## **Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Investigations**

The UNHRC has mandated several independent commissions of inquiry to investigate alleged human rights violations in Gaza. These reports have highlighted the disproportionate impact of conflict on children and recommended accountability for violations of international humanitarian law.

## **Coordination Through OCHA and Inter-Agency Platforms**

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) leads the coordination of humanitarian responses, including the Humanitarian Response

Plan (HRP) for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UNICEF is a core actor in these multi-agency efforts, focusing on child-specific needs.

## 6. Glossary

**Humanitarian Aid:** Assistance provided to meet the immediate needs of people affected by emergencies, including conflict and natural disasters. It typically includes food, water, shelter, healthcare, and protection.

**Blockade:** A military or political measure that prevents goods, services, and people from entering or exiting a territory. Gaza has been under a land, air, and sea blockade since 2007, which severely restricts the flow of humanitarian supplies.

**Malnutrition:** A serious health condition that occurs when a person's diet lacks adequate nutrients. In children, malnutrition can cause stunted growth, weakened immunity, and long-term cognitive impairments. Malnutrition rates are rising in Gaza due to food insecurity.

**Psychosocial Support:** A type of assistance aimed at addressing the psychological and emotional needs of individuals affected by conflict or crisis. In Gaza, children often require psychosocial Support to cope with trauma, grief, and ongoing stress.

**Displacement:** Individuals or groups who are forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, or disaster but remain within their country's borders. Gaza hosts large numbers of displaced citizens, many of whom are children living in temporary shelters or schools.

**Humanitarian Corridors:** Designated safe routes used to allow the movement of humanitarian aid and civilians during conflict. Establishing such corridors in Gaza is often difficult due to security concerns and lack of agreement between conflicting parties.

**UNICEF:** A UN agency dedicated to promoting the rights and well-being of every child, with a focus on emergency relief, education, health, nutrition, and child protection. UNICEF is one of the leading humanitarian actors in Gaza.

## **7. Questions to Ponder**

- How can humanitarian aid be delivered safely to Gaza's children?
- What can be done to protect displaced children living in shelters?
- How can the international community support education during the conflict?
- How can mental health care be provided in war zones?
- What steps should countries take to open safe corridors for aid?
- How can we ensure accountability for violations of children's rights?

## **8. Resolution Writing Guide**

When you write a resolution, you're suggesting real solutions that UNICEF and the international community could implement.

### **Sample Preambulatory Clauses:**

- The United Nations Children's Fund,
- Deeply alarmed by the suffering of children in Gaza due to war,
- Calling upon all parties to respect international humanitarian law,
- Recognizing the efforts made by humanitarian organizations,
- Bearing in mind the circumstances resulting from the recent political situation,

### **Sample Operative Clauses:**

- Urges the creation of humanitarian corridors for emergency food, water, and medicine;
- Recommends the deployment of mobile medical teams for child healthcare;
- Calls for immediate international funding for rebuilding schools and hospitals;
- Requests the psychological support of affected children through counselors in shelters;
- Proposes that donor countries cooperate with UNICEF to create an airlift for blocked aid supplies.

## **9. Useful Sources**

- UNICEF – State of Palestine Crisis
- UN OCHA – Gaza Updates
- Save the Children
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- UNRWA – United Nations Relief and Works Agency

## **10. Bibliography**

- UNICEF Situation Reports (2024)
- WHO Gaza Health Cluster Brief (2024)
- Save the Children: Gaza – War on Childhood
- UN OCHA Humanitarian Updates (2024)
- Human Rights Watch: Gaza Reports (2023–2024)