

Committee: ECOSOC
Issue: Strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance
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I- Introduction

Emergency and crisis all around the world have been increasing rapidly throughout time and the need for humanitarian access is essential for the survival and the well-being of human beings due to the length of the conflicts taking place. Millions of people were displaced due to natural hazards and in 2016, moreover, disasters have affected nearly 377 million people. These millions of people have been trusting the humanitarian assistance and their life-saving protection. Even though efforts are shown to reach every single continent with a conflict, there have been obstacles to aid the most damaged locations. As the internal conflicts drastically increase, the impact it has on the civilians have further multiplied decreasing the efficiency of the coordination of humanitarian assistance.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) has been violated by killing, sexually assaulting and harassing humanitarian workers and medical personnel by constantly receiving attacks from non-state armed groups towards civilians and civilian infrastructures. Due to the reasons above 96.2 million people in 40 countries are in need of humanitarian assistance and to strengthen the coordination of this aid, there have been various resolutions and treaties put into action.

II- Involved Countries and Organizations

Syrian Arab Republic

Since 2011, thousands of people have lost their lives due to the growing tension throughout the country. Nearly five million people have been forced to leave the country as refugees. In the past years, around fifteen million people were in need of humanitarian assistance whereas this amount contained six million children.

Yemen

Approximately eight thousand civilians were killed, forty thousand of them were wounded because of the current crisis. It has been stated that around thirteen million people were in need of humanitarian assistance. An official declaration also includes the information that thirteen million people were food insecure.

Iraq

There have been nine military campaigns in Iraq happened throughout the year of 2016 which eventually caused the displacement of nearly seven hundred thousand people. The rise of the terrorist group ISIL could be considered as one of the most significant contributing factors on the increasing number of people who were in need of humanitarian assistance.

South Sudan

Nearly eight hundred thousand people have left the country during the past years which made the refugee number living in the neighboring countries as two million. Two hundred thousand people are currently being taken care in the UN Protection of Civilian Cities. Five million people are in deep food insecure which is one of the devastating outcomes of the current situation.

Palestine

Due to the current tension between Israel and the State of Palestine considering the issue of Jerusalem, two million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. In the occupied Palestinian region, one thousand buildings were demolished which caused many people to be displaced.

Somalia

The ongoing conflict in the country causes countless deficiencies which leads Somalia to an unpredictable worsening. Five million people were in need of help after the attacks by terrorist groups such as Al-Shabaab, resulting in shattering outputs.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR aims to reach and allocate refugees around to world to support them with humanitarian assistance in natural disasters and armed conflict. As well as protecting the well-being of the refugees, it provides the opportunity to return home voluntarily and the right to seek asylum.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Focusing on the health emergencies, World Health Organization provides leadership on global health matters, determining the agenda on mental-wellness by assessing health trends and further works for strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance by granting access to equal care against potential threats.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Other than being the essential organization that helps people affected by armed conflict, the committee also responds to disasters and emergencies on conflict zones. The services that are provided on the behalf of people affected by war are such as but not limited to addressing sexual violence, building respect for the law, cooperating with national societies, economic security, enabling people with disabilities and humanitarian diplomacy.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

OCHA help people when they are most in danger by bringing humanitarian actors together. They provide assistance through five core functions being: coordination, humanitarian funding, policy, advocacy, and information management.

III- Focused Overview of the Issue

Since 2011 the requests for providing humanitarian assistance by the UN from countries have increased rapidly due to the variety of reasons. When it is specifically observed, it could be stated that most of the requests are made by either Middle Eastern or African countries. Twenty-five years ago resolution 46/182 was adopted in the General Assembly which could be considered as the most effective step taken towards the issue. However, due to the persistent chaos happening over the countries that are in need, success has not been maintained yet. In 2014 the rise of the terrorist group ISIS lead millions of people to be internally displaced. The threat that this particular armed group has spread made many people leave their country to the neighboring ones as refugees. Moreover, the crisis in Yemen resulted in eight thousand civilians to be killed and making one million people to be in food insecure. The crisis went on for thirteen million people to be in need of humanitarian assistance. By the end of 2016, the situation in South Sudan lead three million people to be internally displaced whereas seven hundred thousand of them have left the country. Overall, the political instability, threats by the terrorist groups and food insecure are the main reasons of the need of humanitarian assistance in the countries and the sub-bodies of the UN are hardly working to resolve the problems.

IV- Key Vocabulary

Sexual abuse: To sexually treat with cruelty. Sexual abuse is one of the most significant ongoing problems in countries mentioned above which are caused mainly because of the current tensions in the countries. Terrorist groups play a huge role in this particular violence

Child protection: In most cases the twenty percent of the people who were in need of humanitarian assistance are children. Therefore, the protection of them stands as one of the most important issues for the United Nations. Specific bodies which are working under the roof of UN such as UNICEF are currently working for further solutions.

Humanitarian access: Humanitarian access concerns humanitarian actors' ability to reach populations affected by a crisis, as well as an affected population's ability to access humanitarian assistance and services. Humanitarian access involves

Actors: These are the people who have a role in providing humanitarian assistance throughout the countries and regions where persistent crisis does exist.

Non-state armed groups: These type of groups do not belong to any state. In most of the cases, they fight against the arms of a state. Hardly ever they could be considered as unofficial allies to the military of a country.

Humanitarian negotiations: These include the ongoing peace-talks and treaties between the countries in order to provide aid for the people in need. Conferences that are held under the watch of UN tend to come up with resolutions on the regions which are specifically be concentrated on.

V- Important Events & Chronology

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Event
2011	The current tension in Syria has started which made 6.3 million people internally displaced throughout this time.
2014	The unstoppable rise of the terrorist group ISIL made nearly 3 million people be internally displaced.
2016	Nearly one thousand buildings were demolished in the occupied Palestinian region which ended up making 2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.
2016	In Central African Republic, it has been declared that 2 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance throughout the country whereas 460.000 people had already left the country as refugees to the neighboring states.

VI- Past Resolutions and Treaties

The Security Council today renewed the authorization for cross- border and cross- conflict- line humanitarian access to Syria for a further 12 months, until 10 January 2019

[New York Declaration of Refugees and Migrants](#)

This declaration aims to protect the basic rights of refugees as well as enhance their protection on a global scale.

[Paris Agreement](#)

Paris Agreement basically addresses the climate change and the impact it has on human rights. By decreasing the number of accidents caused by natural hazards and environmental issues, the effectiveness of the humanitarian aid will improve and it will reach a larger community.

[Resolution 2286](#)

[Resolution 211/8](#)

VIII- Possible Solutions

First of all, in order for the degradation of the need for human assistance, member states and non-state armed groups should be prevented from aiming at hospitals, schools and other locations where civilians are present. By decreasing the injuries and death percentage of the society, human assistance would be more efficient and effective since member states and non-state armed groups would respect the “actors” by refraining from direct attacks towards them.

Furthermore, by strengthening the laws regarding respect and protection of humanitarian workers, member states could ensure the implementation of their measures towards the safety of the wounded and seek the international protection by strengthening the assistance on refugees.

Finally, with the support of IMF (International Monetary Fund) or World Bank, member states should invest in early warning systems to prevent damage in the catastrophes of natural hazards and be prepared for disasters to reduce the displacement.

IX- Useful Links

http://cdint.org/documents/CDI_Access_Manual_Web_Dec5.pdf

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CDI_Access_Handbook_Web_Dec5.pdf

<https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/thematic-areas/international-law-courts-tribunals/humanitarian-assistance/>

<https://www.pciglobal.org/humanitarian-aid/>

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