



# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## *Study Guide*

**Agenda: Addressing the issue of global hunger crises caused due to war and climate change.**

**ANNUAL WORLD SUMMIT 2024**



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# Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

The Executive Board of UNDP is delighted to have you as a part of our UNDP committee, in the Annual World Summit 2024.

We expect a lot of enthusiasm from you, delegates, in session. We will be engaging in thrilling debates and discussions over the course of two days. We guarantee you that you will leave with an abundance of knowledge, a newly ignited love for debates, friends and a myriad of memories. Remember to be outspoken, and speak up in committee as much as you can. We expect confidence, facts, and bold delivery to make session fun for you as much as for the fellow delegates.

As António Guterres rightly said, “It's time to wake up and step up.” We invite you to Come. See. Conquer!

Yours faithfully,

**The UNDP Executive Board**

*Chairperson - Saachi Krishn*

*Vice-Chairperson - Dishti Choudhary*

*Moderator - Anika Gupta*

*Rapporteur - Hridaya Waghdare*



# Introduction

The United Nations Development Programme was established in 1965 by the General Assembly Resolution 2029 (XX) as a merger of two previous programmes, namely the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund. It took up its work on 1 January 1966. The UNDP is responsible for the coordination of development activities on the country level. It carries out a dual role as a deliverer of programming and country office coordinator. Since the establishment of the United Nation Millennium Development Goals in 2000, UNDP is also responsible for monitoring and reporting the progress made in achieving the goals on the country level. So far, over 400 national reports have been conducted and published.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) plays the central role in the development activities of the United Nations and coordinates efforts for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is active in 170 countries where it helps nations to implement democracy and good governance, to reduce poverty, to prevent crises and conflicts, protect the environment and to fight HIV/AIDS.

The activities of the UNDP attach great importance to the protection of human rights, the empowerment of women and minorities and the inclusion of the poorest and most vulnerable. Each year, UNDP publishes the Human Development Report which broaches the key development issues and provides new measurement tools, analyses and policy proposals

The Administrator of the UNDP, Helen Clark, is also chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) which unites all 32 UN funds, programs, agencies, departments and offices engaged in development work. The UNDP is therefore also involved in realising reforms within the UN system. Furthermore, the UNDP is also responsible for the UN Capital Development Fund that provides capital through grants and loans to developing countries in order to help economic growth. It also coordinates the 6,000 UN Volunteers that support peace and development throughout the world..



# What does the UNDP do?

UNDP's mandate is to help countries build and share solutions in four main areas: Poverty Reduction and Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Democratic Governance, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Environment and Energy for Sustainable Development. While carrying out all its activities, UNDP protects human rights, empowers women, minorities and the poorest, most vulnerable people in society. Voluntary contributions from member states are used to fund all the activities of the UNDP in 177 countries. Just like other UN agencies, UNDP has enlisted the voluntary services of quite a few prominent individuals as Goodwill Ambassadors to highlight its causes. They use their fame to amplify the urgent and universal message of human development and the need for countries to cooperate in solving global matters. Their activities have also been extremely helpful in the quest to achieve the MDGs.

It is believed that the perspectives of the UNDP in the future are incredibly great. UNDP will continue to work towards making this planet a better place, as it continues to propagate its principles. It believes that collaboration should be at the heart of the climate change question, breaking the corruption chain is a collective responsibility, meaningful reduction in disaster risk requires borderless efforts, and inspiring innovation to meet development challenges is crucial.

In the past ten years, UNDP has worked with national governments in 112 countries, including 50 countries at high risk for disasters, to formulate and implement disaster reduction policies and support recovery activities. UNDP programmes have aimed to strengthen national capacity to prevent as well as respond to natural disasters.



# What does the UNDP do?

In its recovery support, UNDP has focused largely on restoring normalcy following crises for an effective transition to development, using recovery work as an opportunity to 'build back better'. Such efforts have concentrated on strengthening governance structures and policies for better disaster risk management and response. UNDP's mandate is to help countries build and share solutions in four main areas: Poverty Reduction and Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Democratic Governance, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Environment and Energy for Sustainable Development.

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# Introduction to the Agenda

**As citizens of tomorrow, it becomes our duty to address the growing issue of Food Insecurity, the ever growing hunger crisis that millions of people face on a daily basis. Due to the wars that have been going on, food is cut short and resources are deprived. Food Security is a very important determinant of whether people can lead an active and healthy life, because it determines their access to foods required to meet nutrient needs.**



# Food Insecurity

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines food insecurity as the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. It's a multifaceted issue influenced by various factors such as poverty, conflict, climate change, and inadequate infrastructure.

UNDP addresses food insecurity through a range of initiatives, including promoting sustainable agriculture practices, supporting smallholder farmers, improving access to markets, enhancing resilience to climate change, and advocating for policies that prioritize food security for all. They work closely with governments, NGOs, and communities to implement strategies aimed at reducing food insecurity and ensuring that everyone has access to nutritious food. Food insecurity refers to the lack of consistent access to enough food for an active and healthy life. It's a complex issue intertwined with poverty, inequality, and various socio-economic factors. When individuals or communities experience food insecurity, they may not have the resources or means to obtain an adequate amount of nutritious food regularly. This can lead to hunger, malnutrition, and negative health outcomes.

There are different levels of food insecurity, ranging from mild anxiety about accessing food to severe hunger and starvation. It can be temporary or chronic, affecting individuals, families, or entire regions. Factors contributing to food insecurity include poverty, unemployment, low wages, high food prices, limited access to markets, inadequate social safety nets, conflicts, natural disasters, and climate change impacts.

Food insecurity has significant social, economic, and health implications. It hampers human development, undermines productivity, and perpetuates cycles of poverty. Children, pregnant women, the elderly, and marginalized groups are particularly vulnerable. Addressing food insecurity requires comprehensive strategies that focus on improving food production and distribution systems, promoting sustainable agriculture, enhancing livelihoods, strengthening social protection programs, and addressing underlying inequalities and systemic issues. Ultimately, ensuring food security for all is essential for achieving sustainable development and building resilient communities.



# Food Insecurity



**Somalia:** Somalia faces severe food insecurity due to a combination of factors including conflict, climate change, and economic instability. Widespread poverty, displacement, and limited access to essential services exacerbate the situation. Droughts and floods disrupt agricultural activities, leading to crop failures and livestock losses. Malnutrition rates are alarmingly high, particularly among children. Humanitarian organizations struggle to reach affected populations due to insecurity and logistical challenges. Addressing food insecurity in Somalia requires coordinated efforts to restore peace.

**Sudan:** The food crisis in Sudan has been a longstanding issue, rooted in various factors including conflict, economic instability, and environmental challenges. Sudan has faced conflicts in regions like Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile, which have disrupted agricultural activities and displaced millions of people, leading to food insecurity. Additionally, economic difficulties, including high inflation rates and currency devaluation, have made it challenging for many Sudanese to afford basic necessities like food. Climate change has also played a role, with recurrent droughts and erratic rainfall patterns affecting agricultural productivity. Sudan's reliance on rain-fed agriculture makes it particularly vulnerable to these environmental fluctuations.

Humanitarian organizations have been providing aid and assistance to address the food crisis in Sudan, but long-term solutions require efforts to stabilize the country politically, promote economic development, and build resilience to climate change. The transition period following the ousting of former President Omar al-Bashir in 2019 has brought some hope for positive change, but significant challenges remain. International support and concerted efforts from both Sudanese authorities and the international community are crucial in addressing the root causes of the food crisis and ensuring food security for all Sudanese people.



# Food Insecurity

The Democratic Republic of Congo: The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has faced numerous challenges leading to a food crisis. These challenges include conflict, displacement, poverty, weak infrastructure, and natural disasters. Conflict and violence in various regions of the DRC have disrupted agricultural activities, displaced millions of people, and hindered access to food and markets. Armed groups often target farming communities, leading to the destruction of crops, livestock, and infrastructure. This instability exacerbates food insecurity, as people are unable to cultivate land or access markets to purchase food. Displacement is another significant factor contributing to the food crisis in the DRC. Internal displacement and refugee flows from neighboring countries strain already limited resources and infrastructure. Displaced populations often face difficulties in accessing food, clean water, and adequate healthcare. Weak infrastructure, including roads and storage facilities, hampers the transportation and distribution of food across the country. This can lead to food shortages in remote areas and contribute to price volatility. Natural disasters, such as floods and droughts, further exacerbate the food crisis by destroying crops and infrastructure, reducing agricultural productivity, and displacing populations. Humanitarian organizations are actively involved in providing food assistance and addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity in the DRC. However, sustainable solutions require addressing the root causes of the crisis, including conflict resolution, poverty alleviation, infrastructure development, and building resilience to natural disasters. International support and collaboration are crucial in addressing the complex challenges facing the DRC and ensuring food security for its population.



# Immigration Issues caused due to War

At the end of 2021, the total number of people forced to flee stood at 89.3 million. Since then, the war in Ukraine has displaced millions within the country as well as to other countries, primarily in Europe. In addition, new internal displacement surged in early 2022, notably in Myanmar and Burkina Faso as the situation in both countries continued to deteriorate.

As a result of these situations, as well as other increases, UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency) announced on 23 May 2022 that the number of people forced to flee due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order had reached more than 100 million for the first time on record. A surge in violent conflict since 2010 has led to historically high levels of forced displacement. More recently, the war in Ukraine has caused the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since the end of World War II. The hardships they endure through their displacement make these people vulnerable. They lose assets and livelihoods and are unable to plan their future.

Many suffer from trauma, and women and girls are at high risk of gender-based violence. They need help to regain their agency and begin rebuilding their lives. This is why forced displacement is not only a humanitarian crisis, it is a developmental challenge as well. Today, displacement situations are becoming increasingly protracted, underscoring the need for a more sustainable and efficient way to support both the displaced and their hosts with a longer term perspective.

Immigration due to war, often referred to as forced migration or displacement, is a complex phenomenon with profound humanitarian, social, and political implications. It occurs when individuals or communities are compelled to leave their homes and seek refuge in other countries or regions due to armed conflict, persecution, violence, or human rights abuses in their country of origin.



# Immigration Issues caused due to War

One primary driver of immigration due to war is the direct impact of armed conflict on civilian populations. Wars and armed conflicts result in widespread violence, destruction of infrastructure, and loss of livelihoods, forcing people to flee their homes in search of safety and protection. The indiscriminate targeting of civilians, including bombings, attacks on residential areas, and human rights violations, exacerbates the humanitarian crisis and compels people to seek refuge elsewhere.

Persecution and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, political beliefs, or other factors also contribute to forced migration. In many conflict-affected regions, minority groups, political dissidents, and marginalized communities are specifically targeted for persecution, leading to mass displacement and refugee flows.

This is often compounded by the breakdown of law and order, the collapse of governance structures, and the proliferation of armed groups, creating a climate of fear and insecurity for civilians.

The consequences of immigration due to war are far-reaching and multifaceted. Displaced populations face numerous challenges, including inadequate access to food, water, shelter, and healthcare, as well as heightened risks of exploitation, violence, and trauma. Host countries and communities also bear significant burdens, including the strain on resources, social services, and infrastructure, as well as potential social tensions and xenophobia.



# Immigration Issues caused due to War

Addressing the root causes of forced migration due to war requires concerted efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, protect human rights, promote peace and reconciliation, and address the underlying drivers of violence and instability. This includes diplomatic efforts to facilitate peace negotiations, support for conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives, humanitarian assistance to meet the immediate needs of displaced populations, and long-term development assistance to rebuild communities and promote sustainable peace and stability.

Furthermore, ensuring the rights and protection of refugees and displaced persons, including access to asylum, legal assistance, and durable solutions, is essential for upholding international law and principles of human dignity and solidarity. By addressing the complex interplay of political, social, and economic factors driving immigration due to war, the international community can work towards creating a more just, peaceful, and inclusive world for all.

## Russia-Ukraine Crisis:

The conflict has led to significant internal displacement within Ukraine, with millions of people forced to flee their homes due to violence, persecution, and insecurity. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) have sought refuge in other parts of Ukraine, placing strain on local resources and infrastructure.

**Refugees:** The conflict has also generated a refugee crisis, with a substantial number of Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries, such as Poland, Romania, Hungary, and Slovakia, among others. These countries have had to manage the influx of refugees, providing shelter, humanitarian assistance, and support services to those fleeing the conflict.



# Immigration Issues caused due to War

**Border Controls and Immigration Policies:** Neighboring countries have implemented border controls and immigration policies in response to the influx of refugees from Ukraine. Some have eased entry requirements for Ukrainians seeking asylum or temporary protection, while others have tightened border security measures.

**Strain on Resources:** The influx of refugees has strained the resources and capacities of host countries, particularly in areas such as housing, healthcare, education, and social services. Local communities may also face challenges in integrating refugees and addressing their needs effectively.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine caused, among other things, the largest forced migration in Europe since the end of World War II. Up to a third of the population has been displaced. About two years since the conflict erupted, ten million Ukrainians still cannot return to their homes. Almost four million remain internally displaced within Ukraine, and more than six million refugees have found shelter abroad, not only in Europe but also overseas.

The mass migration triggered by the Russian-instigated war is not just about fleeing Ukraine to the nearest safe country; it has become more complex. This complexity has become particularly evident in recent months as the movement of refugees from countries directly bordering Ukraine has expanded further west, mainly to Germany, but also as far as Canada, where there is a robust Ukrainian diaspora. Many Ukrainians maintain contact with home through short-term moves back and forth, building on pre-existing patterns of seasonal labour migration. Millions of refugees have returned permanently to their homeland but rarely to the areas where they fled. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are currently around 6 million Ukrainian refugees in Europe.



# Immigration Issues caused due to War

The distribution of refugees has changed significantly over the past year. While in the spring of 2023, Poland was still the country with the highest number of forcibly displaced persons, Germany is now the leading destination. According to official statistics, about 1.1 million Ukrainian refugees currently reside in Germany.

The refugee situation has changed dramatically in Poland as well. Of the more than 1.6 million refugees to whom Poland granted temporary protection, only about 960,000 remain there.

Internal displacement is an often overlooked but integral aspect of the Ukrainian refugee crisis. According to the IOM's most recent report, as of October 2023, the number of internal refugees was approximately 3.7 million. The Ukrainian authorities estimate that there are around 4.9 million IDPs, including those already displaced before 24 February 2022.

Almost half of those displaced come from the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions. The distribution of internal refugees has changed significantly over time: while in the early months of the war, most people sought refuge in the west of the country, more than a third now remain in the war-affected east. Nearly a fifth of IDPs have found temporary homes in Kyiv or the wider Kyiv region.

## Israel-Palestine Crisis:

Internal displacement in Palestine is primarily driven by conflict and violence. In the West Bank, thousands of Palestinians are displaced every year by evictions, home demolitions, and a coercive environment. Most of the new displacements in the Gaza Strip are the result of the destruction of homes by airstrikes and pre-emptive evacuations triggered by escalations in hostilities between the Israeli armed forces and Palestinian non-state armed groups.



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# **Immigration Issues caused due to War**

**There were more than 118,000 displacements associated with conflict and violence in Palestine in 2021, the second highest figure on record after the 501,000 triggered by the 2014 conflict in the Gaza Strip. Tensions increased in April and May 2021 when the Israeli Supreme Court was due to rule on the possible eviction of Palestinians from the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah. After growing protests and clashes in the lead-up to the expected ruling, and after the Israeli authorities raided the Al Aqsa Mosque and closed the Damascus Gate in the Old City, Hamas and other non-state armed groups launched rockets into Israel. The Israeli armed forces responded with a campaign of aerial and artillery bombardment of the Gaza Strip.**

**Forced evictions, demolitions and the seizure of Palestinian homes and other property by the Israeli authorities triggered more than 1,200 displacements in the West Bank, around 660 of them involving children.**

**Intimidation, the excessive use of force, the destruction of critical infrastructure and the expansion of Israeli settlements continued to fuel the coercive environment in the territory. Palestinians' livelihood opportunities have also been eroded by freedom of movement restrictions, poor access to essential services and rising levels of settler violence. All of these factors contribute to driving displacement. Conflict, violence, displacement, and the impacts of Covid-19, aggravated the humanitarian crisis in Palestine in 2021. Around 10,500 people were still living in displacement in the Gaza Strip and 1,200 in the West Bank as of the end of 2022.**

**Displacement is all too familiar to Palestinians. Many fled their homes during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war in a forced migration known in Arabic as the Nakba, or "catastrophe." After the establishment of Israel, many sought temporary shelter in the Jordan-controlled West Bank and the Egypt-controlled Gaza Strip. Thousands fled once again after the 1967 Six-Day War, in which Israel captured control of the territories.**

# Immigration Issues caused due to War



I think up until this current conflict, it has kind of been a forgotten issue,” says Kelsey Norman, a fellow for the Middle East and director of the Women’s Rights, Human Rights and Refugees Program at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy. “It’s seen as this just unresolvable displacement, ongoing for multiple generations without an end in sight.”

Today, there are about 6 million Palestinian refugees scattered across three countries, the West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip. The United Nations defines Palestinian refugees as people “whose normal place of residence was Palestine” between June 1, 1946 and May 15, 1948, and “who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.” Descendants from the male line are also eligible for registration.

Because that conflict occurred before the establishment of the U.N.’s 1951 Refugee Convention, Palestinian refugees are not typically served by the U.N.’s official refugee agency but by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, or UNRWA, according to a Migration Policy Institute analysis co-authored by Norman and two others. The agency began operations in 1950 and served about 750,000 Palestinians at the time – and that number has ballooned since. UNRWA does not resettle Palestinian refugees, but it provides other services such as education and health care to refugees across five separate locations.

## Syrian Civil War Crisis:

The Syrian civil war, which began in 2011, has led to mass displacement within Syria and the exodus of millions of Syrians to neighboring countries and beyond. As of the most recent data, over 6 million Syrians have been internally displaced, while more than 6.7 million have sought refuge in neighboring countries and beyond. The majority of Syrian refugees have fled to neighboring countries, including Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. These countries have borne a significant burden in hosting large refugee populations, placing strain on their resources, infrastructure, and social services.



# Immigration Issues caused due to War

Hosting large numbers of refugees has posed significant challenges for neighboring countries. These challenges include providing shelter, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities for refugees, as well as managing social cohesion and addressing the impact on local communities. Many Syrian refugees live in refugee camps or informal settlements, where conditions can be overcrowded, unsanitary, and lacking in basic services.

Access to healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities is often limited in these settings. Syrian refugees face challenges in obtaining legal status, accessing basic rights and services, and integrating into host communities. Legal and administrative barriers, discrimination, and xenophobia can hinder their ability to rebuild their lives and contribute to their host societies. The protracted nature of the Syrian conflict has led to prolonged displacement and uncertainty for Syrian refugees.

Many face challenges in returning to Syria due to ongoing insecurity, destruction of infrastructure, and lack of basic services, while others struggle to rebuild their lives in host countries or seek resettlement opportunities elsewhere. In most of the cases revealed through this research, trafficking is not a cross-border phenomenon related to the migratory movement itself, though cross-border trafficking is present in some cases. The trafficking process commonly begins when victims are already displaced, targeting their vulnerability.

The war and displacement have also caused added vulnerability for migrants and refugees who were in Syria when the war broke out, including Palestinian and Iraqi refugees, and domestic workers from Southeast Asia and East Africa.

The research shows that there is a need for a paradigm shift in how trafficking, refugee, migration and child protection policy are viewed in terms of access to protection. While policy-makers and practitioners might see themselves as working in distinct fields, on specific topics, the human beings in need of protection do not always fall under one single, clear-cut category.

# Women's Rights and the UNDP's role as a UN Agency



Globally, the situation of women's rights remains challenging. Women continue to face systemic discrimination, violence, and inequality in various aspects of their lives. Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking, persists as a pervasive issue, often exacerbated during conflicts and humanitarian crises. Access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities remains unequal, limiting women's empowerment and socio-economic advancement. Discriminatory laws and cultural norms restrict women's rights to inheritance, property ownership, and decision-making autonomy. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women, exacerbating existing inequalities and reversing gains made in gender equality. Despite progress in some areas, much work remains to be done to ensure full and equal rights for women globally, requiring concerted efforts from governments, civil society, and the international community.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has played a significant role in advancing women's rights globally through various initiatives and programs. UNDP works to promote gender equality and women's empowerment by supporting policy reforms, capacity-building efforts, and advocacy campaigns.

UNDP provides technical assistance to governments in developing and implementing gender-sensitive policies and legislation, addressing issues such as violence against women, economic empowerment, and political participation. Additionally, UNDP supports women's access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities through targeted programs and projects. Furthermore, UNDP works to mainstream gender considerations across its development programs, ensuring that gender equality is integrated into all aspects of its work, from poverty reduction and environmental sustainability to governance and peacebuilding. Through its partnerships with governments, civil society, and other stakeholders, UNDP continues to contribute to the advancement of women's rights globally, striving to create a more inclusive and equitable world for all.

# Women's Rights and the UNDP's role as a UN Agency



## AFGHANISTAN

The Taliban's treatment of women in Afghanistan has been characterized by severe repression, discrimination, and systematic violations of their fundamental rights. During the Taliban's previous rule from 1996 to 2001, women were subjected to draconian restrictions and brutal enforcement of a strict interpretation of Islamic law.

Under Taliban rule, women were banned from education, employment, and participation in public life. They were required to wear the burqa, a full-body covering that obscured their identity and restricted their movement. Women faced severe punishment for violating Taliban-imposed restrictions, including public floggings and executions.

Access to healthcare and basic services was limited for women, leading to high rates of maternal mortality and preventable diseases. Forced marriages, child marriages, and gender-based violence were widespread, with women facing extreme risks to their physical and mental well-being. The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan has raised concerns about the resurgence of these oppressive practices and the erosion of women's rights gained over the past two decades. Reports of targeted killings, intimidation, and harassment of women and women's rights activists have emerged, signaling a dire situation for women under Taliban rule.

The international community has condemned the Taliban's treatment of women and called for the protection of women's rights in Afghanistan. However, sustained efforts are needed to ensure the safety, dignity, and equality of Afghan women in the face of ongoing repression and violence. While Afghan women have made some gains in political representation in recent years, they remain underrepresented in government and decision-making roles. Women's participation in public life is often hindered by discriminatory laws, limited access to resources, and threats to their safety and security.

# Women's Rights and the UNDP's role as a UN Agency



## IRAN

Under the rule of the Pahlavi Shahs who ruled Iran from 1925 to 1979, Iran was relatively progressive in terms of women's rights. At the beginning of 1963, the Shah proposed a reform program “primarily aimed at land reform” but also incorporating “a provision for extending suffrage to women.” He allowed women to vote on the referendum, which passed. This monumental moment eventually led to Iranian women gaining the right to vote. A handful of laws passed around this decade, including raising the minimum age of marriage from 13 to 18, the ability to request for a divorce, gaining the ability to fight for child custody and other marriage and child custody rights under the Family Protection Law. By the late 1970s, several women served in Iran’s parliament and hundreds took up positions in local councils. Iranian women were also a considerable part of the workforce. However, in 1979, Iran’s revolution led to a regression of women’s rights in Iran that is present to this day.

The White Revolution, an aggressive modernization programme that was started by Mohammad Reza Shah after he disbanded the parliament, upended the wealth and power of landowners and clerics, shattered rural economies, hastened the urbanisation and westernisation of the country, and raised questions about democracy and human rights. Although the programme was financially successful, benefits were not equally distributed, despite the fact that its transformative effects on social norms and institutions were widely felt.

When global monetary instability and changes in Western oil consumption seriously threatened the nation's economy, which was still heavily focused on high-cost projects and programmes, opposition to the shah's policies was amplified in the 1970s. A decade of extraordinary economic growth, heavy government spending, and a boom in oil prices led to high rates of inflation and the stagnation of Iranians’ buying power and standard of living.



# Women's Rights and the UNDP's role as a UN Agency

The change in political structure in Iran also changed women's rights in the country. Rollbacks in family law rights occurred. Iran enforced strict laws and punishment regarding Islamic dress codes. Iran reduced the legal marriage age to just 9 years old and women had to leave several government positions. Women "held on to the right to vote and run for parliament," however, officials ignored their voices.

Even though women gained some rights, they continue to suffer misogyny and discrimination under Iranian law. Men continue to have significant legal authority over women. The government disregards violence and sexual assault against women. Women experience punishment for standing up for themselves and, in some cases, they even experience execution. Despite women making up more than half of the student body at universities, they only make up 15.2% of the Iranian workforce. From these facts, it is clear that there is a dire need to improve women's rights in Iran. Iranian women face legal discrimination under the country's legal system, which is based on Islamic law (Sharia).

Laws and regulations governing marriage, divorce, child custody, inheritance, and dress codes often discriminate against women and restrict their rights and autonomy. For example, women are required to adhere to strict Islamic dress codes, and their testimony in court is often given less weight than that of men. Despite the challenges they face, Iranian women have been at the forefront of advocating for their rights and equality. Women's rights activists in Iran have organized protests, campaigns, and advocacy efforts to challenge discriminatory laws and practices and promote gender equality and social justice.

Addressing the women's crisis in Iran requires concerted efforts to reform discriminatory laws and policies, promote women's empowerment and equality, and challenge entrenched cultural norms and practices that perpetuate gender inequality. International pressure and support for women's rights activists in Iran can also play a crucial role in advancing gender equality and justice in the country.

# Women's Rights and the UNDP's role as a UN Agency



## YEMEN

The authorities are barring women from traveling between governorates, and in some cases from traveling abroad, without a male guardian's permission or being accompanied by an immediate male relative. Houthi authorities have drastically expanded restrictions against women's movement in their territories since taking control of Sanaa, the capital, and much of northern Yemen in the last nine years. Yemeni government forces and STC have restricted women's movement in the south.

“Instead of focusing their efforts on ensuring that people in Yemen have access to clean water and adequate food and aid, warring parties are spending their energy raising barriers to women's freedom of movement,” said Niku Jafarnia, Yemen and Bahrain Researcher at Human Rights Watch. “These restrictions have a terrible impact on women's lives and impedes their ability to get health care, education, and work, and even to visit their families.”

Human Rights Watch spoke with 21 women, mostly activists or women working with nongovernmental organizations, between August and November 2023 about the movement restrictions that they faced, and the impact this has had on their lives; as well as two men who work as private drivers transporting people between governorates. The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen, exacerbated by conflict and economic collapse, has disproportionately affected women and children. Women bear the burden of caring for their families amidst food shortages, lack of healthcare, and limited access to clean water and sanitation. Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and child marriage, is widespread in Yemen.



# Women's Rights and the UNDP's role as a UN Agency



Conflict and displacement have exacerbated the risk of violence against women and girls, with reports of increased rates of child marriage and trafficking. Yemen has been embroiled in a devastating civil war since 2015, leading to widespread violence, destruction of infrastructure, and displacement of millions of people. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the conflict, facing heightened risks of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, abduction, and forced marriage. Conflict-related disruptions to essential services, such as healthcare and education, further exacerbate the vulnerabilities of women and girls, making it difficult for them to access lifesaving assistance and support.

Yemeni women also face significant barriers to accessing justice and legal protections, particularly in cases of gender-based violence and discrimination. Weak legal frameworks, limited enforcement mechanisms, and social stigma surrounding issues such as domestic violence and child marriage hinder women's ability to seek redress and protection from harm. Addressing the suffering of Yemeni women requires a comprehensive approach that addresses both the immediate humanitarian needs and underlying structural factors perpetuating gender inequality and vulnerability.

This includes ensuring women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes, strengthening legal protections and support services for survivors of gender-based violence, and promoting gender-responsive humanitarian assistance that addresses the specific needs and priorities of women and girls in Yemen. Additionally, efforts to empower women economically, socially, and politically are essential for advancing gender equality and building more resilient and inclusive societies in Yemen.

# Women's Rights and the UNDP's role as a UN Agency



## NORTH KOREA

In the context of UN discussions, the influence of Confucianism on gender roles and women's rights in East Asia is noteworthy. Despite its philosophical nature without formal institutions, Confucianism has deeply shaped the historical and social fabric of countries like China and Korea. While Confucian ideals were integral to governance during certain periods, they have also been criticized for perpetuating patriarchal norms, as highlighted by feminist scholars. Confucian principles, such as the emphasis on patrilineal family structures and strict gender roles, have marginalized women and constrained their freedoms. Kim Jong Un's regime in North Korea has been accused of various human rights abuses, and gender inequality is among them. While North Korea officially claims gender equality, reports from defectors and international human rights organizations suggest that women in North Korea face significant suppression and discrimination.

During Korea's Yi dynasty, Confucianism became the state ideology, further entrenching patriarchal systems and restricting women's rights. This contrasts with earlier periods, such as Shilla and Koryo, where women enjoyed comparatively more freedom and legal rights.

The Japanese annexation of Korea led to a decline in Confucian influence, but remnants of its ideology persist, notably in North Korea's political and social landscape. The absence of explicit rejection of Confucianism in North Korea suggests its lingering impact on gender dynamics, possibly reflected in the country's patriarchal political structure.

# Women's Rights and the UNDP's role as a UN Agency



Recent efforts, backed by the Embassy of Canada to the Republic of Korea, have shed new light on the state of women's rights in North Korea. A survey conducted by Daily NK surveyed 30 North Korean women within the country and 10 defectors, revealing alarming statistics. More than half reported instances of sexual victimization by state officials, while over 70 percent experienced coercion into sexual acts for professional advancement. Additionally, a majority were unaware of North Korea's Women's Rights Protection Law, indicating a lack of education on women's rights. Despite North Korea's claims of gender equality, the survey exposes significant disparities between rhetoric and reality, highlighting systemic discrimination and limited opportunities for women.

This underscores the importance of raising awareness about women's rights and challenging traditional gender roles in North Korean society, a pivotal issue for UNDP's agenda. Women in North Korea are subject to the same oppressive political regime as men. The ruling Workers' Party of Korea tightly controls all aspects of society, and dissent or opposition to the regime is harshly punished.

Women who express dissent or attempt to challenge the government's authority face severe repercussions, including imprisonment, forced labor, or even execution. Despite official rhetoric promoting gender equality, women in North Korea often have limited access to economic opportunities. They are frequently relegated to low-paying jobs in sectors such as agriculture, textile manufacturing, and food service.

Additionally, women are expected to prioritize their roles as caregivers and homemakers, which further restricts their ability to participate fully in the workforce and pursue economic independence. While education is ostensibly free and mandatory for all in North Korea, there are reports of gender disparities in access to education. Girls and women may face discrimination in school admissions, limited opportunities for higher education, and pressure to drop out of school to fulfill familial or societal expectations.



# **Women's Rights and the UNDP's role as a UN Agency**

**Overall, while North Korea officially espouses gender equality, the reality for women in the country is marked by suppression, discrimination, and limited opportunities. The authoritarian nature of the regime, coupled with its pervasive control over all aspects of society, perpetuates gender inequality and denies women the full realization of their rights and freedoms.**

# Environmental Impact



Healthy ecosystems serve as the cornerstone of development, sustaining societal well-being and economic progress. Through nature-based solutions like sustainable land, river, and ocean management, UNDP ensures countries have access to essential resources such as food and water, build resilience against climate change and disasters, transition to green economies, and create sustainable livelihoods in forestry, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism.

As a longstanding partner of the Global Environment Facility and now with the second-largest Green Climate Fund portfolio, UNDP plays a pivotal role in addressing climate change within the United Nations. The organization aims to integrate the Paris Agreement and other environmental accords into countries' development agendas, recognizing that the livelihoods of billions depend on effective environmental stewardship.

The region faces numerous natural hazards, including earthquakes, land-mass movements, droughts, floods, storms, extreme temperatures, wildfires, and epidemics, due to its diverse geology and geography. Climate change is expected to exacerbate water scarcity, compounding existing challenges.

Persistent crises such as state failure in Somalia and prolonged conflicts in Iraq, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Sudan have caused widespread displacement, deprivation, and human rights abuses. These crises undermine human development and contribute to public discontent, anger, and violence.

**Protected Areas (PAs):** UNDP works closely with partners such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to expand and effectively manage protected areas worldwide. These areas are critical for biodiversity conservation and play a vital role in safeguarding ecosystems, preserving habitats for endangered species, and maintaining ecological balance. UNDP supports countries in meeting the ambitious targets set forth in the Global Biodiversity Framework, including the goal to conserve at least thirty percent of the planet's lands and waters by 2030. Through capacity building, policy support, and innovative financing mechanisms, UNDP aims to overcome barriers to PA expansion and enhance the long-term financial sustainability of protected area management.

# Environmental Impact



**Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS):** UNDP is deeply involved in facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Nagoya Protocol aims to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, with particular emphasis on supporting indigenous peoples and local communities. UNDP's projects, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), focus on assisting countries in developing robust ABS frameworks, raising awareness among stakeholders, and building the capacity of local communities to engage effectively in ABS processes. By promoting transparent and mutually beneficial partnerships, UNDP strives to uphold the principles of equity, sustainability, and respect for traditional knowledge in accessing genetic resources.

**Agrobiodiversity:** UNDP recognizes the vital importance of agrobiodiversity – the diversity of plants, animals, and microorganisms used in agriculture – for food security, nutrition, and ecosystem resilience. Traditional farming systems, managed by farmers, herders, and fishers, play a crucial role in conserving agrobiodiversity and maintaining resilient agricultural landscapes. However, these systems are under threat due to various factors, including land degradation, loss of traditional knowledge, and climate change. By integrating agrobiodiversity conservation into national agricultural policies and programs, UNDP seeks to enhance food sovereignty, promote climate resilience, and safeguard cultural heritage associated with traditional farming practices.

**Mainstreaming Biodiversity:** UNDP advocates for the integration of biodiversity considerations into various sectors of development planning and decision-making. This approach, known as mainstreaming biodiversity, involves incorporating biodiversity conservation objectives and principles into policies, programs, and projects across sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and infrastructure development.

# Environmental Impact



UNDP's efforts focus on strengthening governance frameworks at the landscape level, promoting market transformations that incentivize sustainable practices, and supporting the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). By mainstreaming biodiversity, UNDP aims to ensure that conservation efforts are effectively integrated into broader development agendas, contributing to sustainable livelihoods, resilient ecosystems, and biodiversity conservation. **Wildlife and Conservation Area Management:** UNDP has extensive experience and technical expertise in wildlife and conservation area management, supporting countries in preserving biodiversity-rich habitats and protecting endangered species. UNDP's initiatives encompass a range of activities, including promoting transboundary wildlife conservation, strengthening protected area networks, combating illegal wildlife trade, and supporting indigenous and community-led conservation efforts. Through capacity development, policy support, and innovative financing mechanisms, UNDP aims to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of wildlife conservation efforts, ensuring the long-term viability of protected areas and the species they harbor.

## Ukraine Wars and Environment-

The war in Ukraine is not only razing entire cities and destroying infrastructure with widespread casualties, it is negatively impacting the environment, poisoning waterways and threatening to create a toxic legacy for generations to come. To monitor and record the character, magnitude and significance of conflict-related environmental impacts, the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Sweden are working with state institutions to set up a Coordination Centre for Environmental Damage Assessment, with an initial investment of USD\$6.7 million during 2023-2025.

# Environmental Impact



According to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, around 30 percent of the country's protected areas, covering more than 1.2 million hectares, have been bombed, polluted, burned, or otherwise affected by military maneuvers. Massive forest fires spread as the fighting rages on, while attacks on fuel and industrial facilities have caused chemicals to leach into rivers and groundwater.

In response to the environmental impacts of the war in Ukraine, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Sweden are collaborating with state institutions to establish a Coordination Centre for Environmental Damage Assessment.

With an initial investment of USD\$6.7 million during 2023-2025, this center aims to monitor and document the character, magnitude, and significance of conflict-related environmental impacts.

According to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, approximately 30 percent of Ukraine's protected areas, spanning over 1.2 million hectares, have suffered damage from military operations, including bombing, pollution, burning, and other forms of destruction. The conflict has also triggered massive forest fires, exacerbated by ongoing fighting, and resulted in chemical contamination of rivers and groundwater due to attacks on fuel and industrial facilities.

UNDP's interim Representative, Jaco Cilliers, emphasized the widespread and devastating environmental consequences of the war. He highlighted the use of explosive ordnance in urban areas as one of the factors contributing to environmental degradation. The data collected by the Coordination Centre will inform the recovery process and support efforts to conserve Ukraine's natural heritage for future generations.





# World Food Programme

The World Food Programme - Powered by the passion, dedication and professionalism of over 23,000 staff worldwide, the World Food Programme (WFP) has a presence in over 120 countries and territories to carry out its mission. It brings life-saving food to people displaced by conflict and made destitute by disasters, and helps individuals and communities find life-changing solutions to the multiple challenges they face in building better futures.

It works to enhance nutrition in women and children, support smallholder farmers in improving productivity and reducing losses, help countries and communities prepare for and cope with climate-related shocks, and boost human capital through school feeding programmes.

In conflict situations, it brings relief to exhausted populations and use food assistance to build pathways to peace and stability – work for which WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

WFP is the largest humanitarian organization implementing school-meals programmes worldwide, with over 50 years' experience in this area. In 2022, WFP provided nutritious meals, school snacks or take-home rations to 20 million children. That same year, WFP also disbursed US\$3.1 billion in cash-based transfers to nearly 49 million people – strengthening food and nutrition security and sustaining local economies around the world. WFP has played a crucial role in providing food aid during humanitarian crises such as natural disasters, conflicts, and pandemics. It ensures timely delivery of food assistance to affected populations, saving lives and alleviating suffering.

WFP focuses not only on providing food aid but also on improving nutrition, especially among vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant and nursing women, and refugees. It distributes specialized nutritious foods like fortified blends and ready-to-use therapeutic foods to prevent malnutrition and stunting. WFP implements food-for-assets programs, where food assistance is provided in exchange for labor on community projects such as building infrastructure, rehabilitating land, or creating irrigation systems. These programs help communities improve their resilience to shocks and build sustainable livelihoods.



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These achievements demonstrate WFP's commitment to its mission of eradicating hunger and improving food security for all. However, challenges such as funding shortages, conflict zones, and climate-related disasters continue to pose significant obstacles to achieving these goals.

## WFP's CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD HUNGER CRISIS-

The World Food Programme (WFP) is a major force tackling global hunger, especially in war-torn and climate-impacted regions. They rush in first during emergencies, delivering food aid to millions on the brink of starvation. Just in 2023, their efforts reached an estimated 150 million people.

One of WFP's key achievements lies in famine prevention. Take Somalia in 2022 for example. WFP's swift action and targeted food deliveries were instrumental in stopping a large-scale famine from taking hold. But WFP looks beyond immediate crises. They understand the importance of empowering people to feed themselves in the long run. A big part of this strategy involves supporting smallholder farmers, the backbone of global food production. WFP provides these farmers with training, helps them access financing, and connects them to markets. This not only makes them more productive but also fosters self-sufficiency. Another area of focus for WFP is climate change. They promote climate-smart agriculture, a set of techniques that allow communities to grow food even as the climate changes. This empowers them to adapt and become more food-secure in the long term.



# World Food Programme

The success story of the Sahel Resilience Scale-Up program perfectly illustrates the impact of WFP's work. This initiative transformed vast swathes of barren land in Africa's Sahel region into productive farms, benefiting millions of people. WFP's efforts go beyond simply providing food; they empower communities to build a more food-secure future.

The WFP's impact is clear. Their efforts have prevented famines in various regions, their programs not only provide immediate relief but also empower communities to become self-sufficient in the long run.

In essence, the World Food Programme remains a vital player in the fight against global hunger. Their emergency actions save lives, while their long-term programs empower communities to build a more secure food future. Overall, WFP's contributions to addressing the hunger crisis in the world are critical in saving lives, alleviating suffering, and building resilience among vulnerable populations.

# Case Study- Somalia Hunger Crisis



Somalia has long been plagued by a complex web of challenges, including conflict, drought, and political instability, leading to recurring hunger crises. Somalia's hunger crisis is deeply rooted in decades of conflict, which has disrupted food production, displaced millions, and undermined access to basic services. The country also faces recurrent droughts, exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition, especially among vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The World Food Programme (WFP) plays a central role in addressing the hunger crisis in Somalia through its comprehensive approach to humanitarian assistance. WFP provides emergency food assistance to millions of Somalis affected by conflict and drought, delivering life-saving food aid to hard-to-reach areas and displacement camps. Somalia has experienced decades of conflict and political instability, including civil war, clan rivalries, and the presence of armed groups. Conflict disrupts food production, access to markets, and delivery of humanitarian assistance, leading to displacement, loss of livelihoods, and food insecurity.

The conflict and recurrent drought have resulted in widespread displacement within Somalia and across borders, leading to overcrowded camps and strained resources. Displaced populations often lack access to food, clean water, and healthcare, exacerbating their vulnerability to hunger and malnutrition.

Somalia's infrastructure has been severely damaged by years of conflict and neglect, limiting access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and clean water. Poor infrastructure hinders the delivery of humanitarian assistance and impedes economic development, exacerbating food insecurity. Somalia's economy is largely informal and vulnerable, with limited employment opportunities and weak social safety nets. High levels of poverty, unemployment, and income inequality contribute to food insecurity, especially among marginalized communities.

# Case Study- Somalia Hunger Crisis



Addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting peace and stability are essential for reducing food insecurity in Somalia. Efforts to resolve clan disputes, disarm armed groups, and strengthen governance structures can help create an enabling environment for food security interventions. Strengthening Somalia's capacity to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, is crucial for mitigating the impact of climate-related shocks on food security. This includes early warning systems, pre-positioning of food and supplies, and contingency planning for emergency response.

Implementing social protection programs, such as cash transfers, food vouchers, and school feeding programs, can help vulnerable households access food and essential services, improve nutrition outcomes, and build resilience to shocks.

Targeting the most vulnerable populations and integrating social protection with other interventions is key for maximizing impact.

By implementing these strategies in a coordinated and sustainable manner, Somalia can make significant progress in combating the hunger crisis and improving food security for its population. However, addressing the root causes of food insecurity requires long-term commitment, political will, and investment in building resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

Malnutrition among children is proceeding at record pace, and one of three children below the age of two is now acutely malnourished or “wasted”.

The number of people in Gaza facing Catastrophe levels of hunger has doubled in less than three months, from 570,000 in December to 1.1 million today.

WFP is reaching more than 1 million people in need of food each month. We distribute ready-to-eat food parcels, hot meals, wheat flour and specialized products to stave off malnutrition in Palestine.

The choice is clear: surge or starvation. WFP has food supplies ready and can scale up to feed all 2.2 million people across Gaza to help address the chronic food shortage.

# Case Study- Somalia Hunger Crisis



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# Case study- Palestine's Hunger Crisis



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We need a humanitarian ceasefire. We need Israel to allow more routes into Gaza, including from the north, and use of Ashdod port. We need humanitarian staff and supplies to move freely, and the people of Gaza to access assistance safely.

Famine is imminent in northern Gaza where 70% of the population are already suffering with catastrophic levels of hunger, a UN-backed report said Monday, as the EU's top diplomat accused Israel of using "starvation as a weapon of war."

All 2.2 million people in Gaza do not have enough food to eat, with half of the population on the brink of starvation and famine projected to arrive in the north "anytime between mid-March and May 2024," according to the Integrated Food Security. This is the "highest number of people facing catastrophic hunger ever recorded... anywhere, anytime," by the IPC, said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

At least 25 people, including children and babies, have died from starvation and dehydration in the north, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. People have resorted to scavenging, eating grass and animal feed, and drinking polluted water. Starving mothers are unable to produce enough milk to feed their babies and parents beg for infant formula at overwhelmed health facilities.

# Case study- Palestine's Hunger Crisis



The crisis has been described as “entirely man-made” and “preventable” due to Israel’s throttling of aid and widespread destruction of Gaza. The report said famine conditions will spread unless there is an “immediate cessation of hostilities” and full aid access granted to the strip.

“People in Gaza are starving to death right now. The speed at which this man-made hunger and malnutrition crisis has ripped through Gaza is terrifying,” said World Food Programme Executive Director Cindy McCain.

“There is a very small window left to prevent an outright famine and to do that we need immediate and full access to the north. If we wait until famine has been declared, it’s too late. Thousands more will be dead.”



# **QARMA (Questions a Resolution must Answer)**



- 1. Is the Global Hunger Crisis a result of the internal civil wars, or due to the irresponsibility and lack of attention given by the United Nations?**
- 2. How useful has the World Food Programme been in serving its purpose? Should the UN continue funding it, and what solutions and remedies can be made to tackle the issue of food insecurity?**
- 3. Should refugees be sent back to their original homelands once the situation ceases, or should host countries continue straining their resources?**
- 4. Does the resolution address the immediate needs of malnourished children, vulnerable populations, and drought-stricken areas in Somalia regarding food and water security?**
- 5. Can conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts be incorporated to create a more sustainable solution to food insecurity in Somalia?**
- 6. Does it promote climate-smart agriculture and water conservation techniques to build resilience against future droughts and floods in Somalia?**
- 7. What long-term mitigation strategies, like early warning systems and food storage, can be implemented to ensure Somalia's preparedness for future crises?**
- 8. Can alliance building foster collaboration between international organizations, local communities, and the private sector to effectively address food insecurity affecting the world?**
- 9. Are there any methods established for data sharing and transparency mechanisms which track progress, identify gaps, and ensure efficient resource allocation globally?**
- 10. To what extent have war and climate change exacerbated global hunger in recent years?**
- 11. How does food insecurity disproportionately affect women, children, and internally displaced persons (IDPs)?**



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