



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at research@ausmun.com.

Sincerely,
Manaswi Madichetty
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2020

MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:



Leena Fares

Ibrahim Ansari



Sakina Juzar

Mueez Khan



Dear Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Organizers, the advisors and the executive board, we welcome you to the Thirteenth annual session of American University of Sharjah Model United Nation (AUSMUN). We at AUSMUN aim to provide a sense of solidarity and responsibility towards bringing out a polished debate and applicable resolutions.

WFP is governed by a -36member Executive Board. It works closely with its two Rome-based sister organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. WFP partners with more than 1,000 national and international NGOs to provide food assistance and tackle the underlying causes of hunger. WFP is an action persistent/oriented body within the UN framework that dedicates its approach towards Humanitarian relief and aiding around 80 Countries each year. The work of WFP is closely linked to 2030 SDGS and Agenda for Sustainable Development where complete eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition.

The aim is to work together to draft resolutions that will aid the conflict on hand involving member and non-member states. Moreover, due to the nature of the topics, delegates' research should be detailed and significant and focus on operationalization. We aim to provide each participant with a knowledgeable and memorable experience pertaining to the world of MUN, and as your chairs, we will be ready to help you anytime till the end of the conference.

Please note that posting paper should be submitted before the 4th of February to the following email: WFP.AUSMUN20@gmail.com. If you need any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us through the given email

Regards,
The WFP Chairs



WFP

World Food Programme

Topic I

Improving Emergency Response Capacities to Safeguard Food Security

1. Summary & History

The World Food Programme (WFP) is a humanitarian organization dedicated to delivering food assistance in times of conflict and emergencies. It assists 86.3 million people in around 83 countries each year. Moreover, they work with communities that have experienced or are currently going through problems that impact their livelihood. As the international community has committed to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030, food and food-related assistance lie at the heart of the struggle to break the cycle of hunger and poverty. World Food Programme defines Food Security as continuous and safe access to food and healthy livelihood.

Current WFP policies include enhancing resilience capacity to assist regional and international conflicts and hunger crises. These resilient measures use advanced tech to improve the efficiency of their response saving more time. WFP acknowledges its primary responsibility of assistance in partnership with governmental organizations and associations with a helping hand. It aims to provide reinforcement that will allow easier access to the resources of livelihood. The Food For Assistance program allows communities to get food and resources for themselves in exchange for their work on infrastructure-related projects. Crisis areas like Namibia (2004) and Afghanistan. FAO supports countries with the establishment of different preparedness measures including:

- Agricultural practices at national/local level: seed and grazing fodder reserves; safe storage facility for seeds, harvest, and tools; stockpiling agricultural tools; emergency funds; etc.
- Support to national and local preparedness planning: contingency plans for agriculture, fisheries/aquaculture, forestry, and livestock; mapping, coordination arrangements, public information, and training; specific crisis/sector preparedness support for identified high threat diseases (avian influenza, aquatic animal disease, etc).

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Food insecurity can lead to stunting, wasting, regional instability, and exacerbating political and economic problems. Disasters, both natural and human-caused, are a common driver of food insecurity. The concept of disaster risk reduction, defined as the prevention and mitigation of disasters, is required to increase food security before and immediately after a disaster strikes. To improve emergency response capacities to safeguard food security, WFP has three main focuses: to provide immediate food aid, followed by mid-term food assistance, and to build long-term food security. Innovative technologies utilized and employed by humanitarian agencies, including WFP, can improve emergency response times, efficiency, and reduce aid costs. Expansive and inclusive partnerships increase funding and provide humanitarian aid agencies with opportunities for more efficient emergency responses.

2. Discourse on the Issue

Globalization has resulted in the growth of the economy and the technology of many countries. However, food security and nutrition have been at risk due to countries that are plagued with natural disasters, social conflicts and government failures. In these adverse situations, the SDG's have made the largest effort to tackle and address these issues.

The issue of food insecurity has been most prevalent in the continent of Africa where overpopulation combined with severe poverty and hunger has led the people of Africa to face a food crisis. Central Sahel, a region in Africa that includes Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger has been affected by conflict and a combined population of over 20 million people are in need of food assistance. This number is projected to increase as the conflict grows and in September 2019, Central Sahel was declared a Level 3 emergency by the WFP.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) faces a similar crisis. Population displacements spread across different provinces are the main reason behind hunger and conflict. In 2017, the number of food-insecure people in DRC was 7.7 million and in 2018, this was doubled to 13.1 million. Moreover, in the DRC, over 5 million children are severely malnourished making food accessibility a difficult task for the people of DRC.

Another emergency has been declared in northeast Nigeria where over 3 million people face a hunger crisis leaving over 440,000 children malnourished. Furthermore, an estimated 1.9 million people have been displaced due to violence and insecurity which has caused thousands of people to seek refuge in neighboring countries such as Chad and Cameroon.

3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments

Food security and nutrition are a prime international requisite for progress in the fight against hunger. The United Nations has prioritized policies and programs to tackle malnutrition and has reached out to international communities for coordination. There have been many guidelines and responsibilities ruled out by the United Nations for countries to facilitate dealing with hunger. Some of these recommendations include strengthening programs that govern food security and develop monitoring mechanisms to improve coordination.

While the country level is the most important, regional support has proven to provide political incentives and guidance, as well as build regional markets benefiting everyone in the region. The international community has consistently asserted its commitment to aid governments in combating hunger. Their constant support is very essential in fighting hunger especially for the least developed countries, which usually lack the resources to manage many partnerships. Since 2016's 5% increase in global hunger, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO) have all collectively collaborated to face the challenge together. Today, these organizations stand strong with major impacts around the world, constantly looking for further improvement. To continue and expand upon the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) introduced in 2000, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the General Assembly in 2015 through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), to address the current challenges facing the world. According to the statistics division of the UN (2019), Goal 2 of the SDGs focuses on defeating hunger and malnutrition and focusing on maintaining midterm aid and long term security. Goal 17 focuses on building development connections through financial, tech and operational means to contribute assistance to implement the other Sustainable development goals, especially SDG-2 on eliminating hunger.

4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address

- What strategies do you have for delivering food to civilians during emergencies?
- How can you use technology to help aid in perfecting your project?
- Will you have certain remote areas ready with food during emergencies?
- How will you finance your project?

5. *Suggestions for Further Research*

In this regard, how can WFP develop cost-saving measures, improve efficiency, and acquire more funding to close the funding gap? What technologies and innovative strategies could be utilized to improve the overall effectiveness of emergency food aid programs in addition to already in place systems such as the EWSs? In what ways can WFP utilize food to aid in the development of resilience and food security?

Topic II

Granting the WFP operational independence in Yemen to carry on with food assistance operations after partial suspension

1. Summary & History

The Yemen conflict can be traced back to the spring of 2011 when an uprising forced the long-time authoritarian president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to hand over his powers to his deputy, Abdurabbuh Mansour Hadi. This process was meant to bring political stability to one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, but Hadi failed to deal with the ongoing corruption in the country, including military attacks, food insecurity and the underlying loyalty of many soldiers to the former president Saleh. As summarized by the BBC News in 2018, the tensions saw a dramatic escalation in March 2015 when Saudi Arabia and eight other Arab-Sunni states backed by the US, UK, and France began Air strikes against the rebel camps, with an aim to restore the government of Abdurabbuh Mansour Hadi. The conflict between the two parties plays a major role in accounting of the starvation and epidemic (Cholera) outbreak. According to the Clarke (2017), 8.4 million people are at the brink of starvation, with over 75% of the population in need of assistance and 40,000 children under five facing the horrors of life-threatening malnutrition.

The WFP, as a resilience partner, drew a relief plan that involved providing food and vouchers monthly to 12 million people in Yemen by 2019. The relief measures also included providing nutritional support to 1.5 million pregnant and nursing women. The world food program prioritizes taking responsibility of starving citizens to shield that from food insecurity in a wider sense. But like any other conflict zone, relief resources are not always safeguarded. Such an environment becomes the perfect prey for those who wish to take advantage of the vulnerable situation and its victims.

The United Nations World Food Programme has started a partial suspension of food assistance operations in areas of Yemen under the control of the Sana'a-based authorities. The decision was taken as a last resort after lengthy negotiations stalled on an agreement to introduce controls to prevent the diversion of food away from some of the most vulnerable people in Yemen. According to the CBC News (2019), WFP have suspended its operations in the capital Sanaa, which has been under Houthi control since 2014; the suspension would affect 850,000 people (para. 1). WFP said it would maintain nutrition programs for malnourished children, and pregnant and nursing mothers throughout the period of suspension. The move resulted from a dispute over control of biometric data between the WFP and the Iran-aligned Houthi group, which controls the capital Sanaa in 2014 from the Saudi-backed government.

2. Discourse on the Issue

The WFP emergency response in Yemen has been the largest response by the organization in the world. This response aims to feed over 12 million people and 1.5 million children in Yemen who are most vulnerable every month in 2019.

Despite this emergency response, over 16 million people are left without food every day and this number is estimated to increase to 20 million. Yemen has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world. Recent surveys show that the families have difficulty getting access to nutri-

tious food such as vegetables, fruit or meat. WFP's emergency response has been highly effective as 29 of the 45 districts facing food insecurity are no longer in adverse conditions.

The WFP has also provided help in the following ways:

In-kind food assistance - offer monthly food assistance to over 12 million people through direct food distribution or retail vouchers.

Cash assistance - provide cash of up to \$12 per month to each person.

Assistance to refugees - provide food assistance to 8,500 refugees in the Kharaz camp.

School feeding - provide schooling to over 600,000 students in 2018-2019.

3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments

The United Nations and the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland met on 26th February 2019 and held the third High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen. This event helped in spreading awareness and gathering support for the humanitarian response in Yemen. Over US\$2.6 billion was donated to continue the humanitarian operations in Yemen. Over 16 donors including KSA, UAE, EU, UK, Canada and Germany have significantly increased their donations over the last year.

Owing to the misplacing of alleviating resources and diverting food away from the needful areas, WFP sought to seek the support of the government authorities of Sanaa, with whose help they can introduce a biometric security system that will assure safe distribution. Unfortunately, the sides failed to reach an agreement that would satisfy the concern, resulting in the suspension of aid to Yemen effective from June 20, 2019. The termination did not include nutrition programs for malnourished children, pregnant and nursing mothers.

In the month of October, WFP provided food assistance to over 12.3 million people. 9.2 million people received in-kind food assistance, 2.7 million people received retail vouchers and 469,895 were provided with cash assistance.

WFP is faced with a shortage of funding of USD 655 million which is needed to continue food assistance operations for the next 6 months (December 2019 - May 2020).

4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address

- What restrictions should be put in Yemen to keep the situation under control?
- How to avoid any future suspensions?
- Under what rules should the WFP have independence in Yemen?

5. Suggestions for Further Research

FAO or Al Jazeera may be used to search further topics including why it all started and how can we prevent it from happening again.

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mu593e.pdf>

<http://www.fao.org/3/ca3113en/CA3113EN.pdf>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/world-food-programme-announces-partial-suspension-yemen-aid-190621023229667.html>

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