PUCP MUN 2025

| STUDY GUIDE

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

Comprehensive protection of children in the face of forced displacement and the nutritional crisis in Sudan

INDEX:

PUCP MUN 2025

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear delegates and faculty advisors of PUCP MUN 2025,

It is an honor to address you as the Secretary-General of the 14th edition of PUCP MUN 2025. Over the past seven years of participating in Model United Nations, taking on various roles and engaging at both national and international levels, I have had the privilege of experiencing the transformation these events bring to young people. This experience has given me a unique perspective on MUN: they are one of the most powerful tools for youth education and empowerment, more than we often realize. MUN has changed my life, offering me the chance to enhance my leadership, public speaking, and teamwork skills, as well as gain a deep understanding of international issues. This long but rewarding journey has now led me to the honor of leading the biggest conference in the country, with the primary goal of providing you with a unique and formative experience at all levels.

For this edition, we have managed to bring together more than **1,000 participants,** and through great effort, we have established valuable connections with the United Nations and other international organizations. With the support of **Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú**, this conference is grounded on three fundamental pillars: academic and organizational excellence, decentralization, and the formative experience we offer.

From my perspective, we have identified three key issues that will guide this conference. First, closing educational gaps to provide an accessible space for all students. Second, bringing the Model United Nations closer to the real work of the United Nations. And third, placing the human factor at the center of discussions, recognizing that behind every committee and every debate are human lives directly impacted by the issues we address.

I deeply thank the team that has made this edition possible, as well as **PUCP** for its unwavering support. To you, delegates and participants, I assure you that you will experience a journey filled with learning and personal growth during **PUCP MUN 2025**. We eagerly await your participation and hope that you make the most of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Micaela Loza Rivera
Secretary-General of PUCP MUN 2025

PUCP MUN 2025

COMMITTEE GUIDE

2. Introduction to the committee

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is an agency created in 1946 by the United Nations Organization with the purpose of safeguarding children's fundamental rights all around the world. However, its approach towards those who were to receive protection has significantly changed since it was created until nowadays.

In 1946, it was created under the name United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and its main purpose was to look after children and women in countries affected by the Second World War, focusing only on countries in Europe and China.

In 1950, UNICEF's authority was broadened to reach not only children and women who were in countries affected by the war, but also children in need in any developing country. And by 1953, it became a permanent United Nations agency, changing its name to United Nations Children's Fund.

In 1959, the United Nations published the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child, defining children's rights to protection, education, healthcare, shelter and good nutrition.

By 1986, universal child immunization and oral rehydration campaigns were extremely successful and considered to be lifesavers, as well as the temporary ceasefire during conflicts in countries such as El Salvador (1985), Lebanon (1987), Sudan (1989), Iraq (1991), and others.

In 1989, 196 United Nations State Members adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in 1990, UNICEF promoted the adoption of the Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children. Since then, until nowadays, UNICEF has kept promoting campaigns to protect children's and women's rights in different aspects of their lives and has had an important impact on their quality of life.

Essential functions and procedures

UNICEF has always had a neutral position regarding countries' policies, aiming solely for safeguarding children's fundamental rights. Its approach has increased from offering direct support, by donating food and having medical centers, to long-term measures such as nutrition programmes, training in agriculture, poultry, livestock breeding, etc. Also, ensuring access to education as part of their duty and aiming for sanitary conditions not only in developing countries but also in urban slums and shantytowns.

3. Key terms

a. **Rapid Support Forces (RSF):** Led by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, "Hemeti". It is a paramilitary force that used to work with the RSF during the transition regime.
b. **Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF):** Sudan's army, led by Abdelfatah, supports the current regime of Sudan.
c. **Forced displacement:** the movement from a person's region or country is involuntary or coerced, due to conflict, generalised violence, human rights violations, or the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation, or disasters.
d. **Nutritional crisis:** a situation where acute food insecurity and malnutrition rates rise sharply, requiring emergency assistance to prevent death and protect livelihoods.
e. **Humanitarian crisis:** An event or a series of events that are threatening in terms of the health, safety, or well-being of a community or large group of people.
f. **Core Commitment for Children (CCCs):** UNICEF policy and framework for humanitarian action. They are at the heart of our work on upholding the rights of children affected by humanitarian crises.

4. Historical Background

The historical background of the comprehensive protection of children in Sudan against forced displacement and the nutritional crisis is deeply rooted in the country's prolonged conflicts and humanitarian challenges. For decades, Sudan has endured civil wars, ethnic tensions, and political instability that have devastated millions of lives, particularly those of children (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, 2025).
Since the early 2000s, the conflict in regions such as Darfur has been marked by severe violence, including attacks on villages, the use of child soldiers, and the destruction of basic infrastructure (U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, 2025).

Sudan's children have endured multiple forms of violence (recruitment by armed groups, exposure to bombings and attacks on civilian areas, and widespread sexual abuse), all of which have left deep physical and psychological scars (Save the Children, 2011).

In summary, the protection of children in Sudan cannot be understood without acknowledging the intersection of armed conflict, mass displacement, and nutritional crises that have defined the country's modern history (U.S. Committee for Refugees and

Immigrants, 2025). It represents a continuing struggle to uphold children's rights amid chronic instability.

5. Introduction to the topic

The current situation dates back to a tumultuous period that began with the fall of long-term dictator Omar al-Bashir in 2019 following a military coup. Omar al-Bashir came to power in 1989 and remained there for thirty years. His government was far from being peaceful. In 2003, a series of protests against the government from some ethnicities, such as the Fur people, resulted in the creation of the Janjaweed militia, which suppressed them violently, leaving a high toll of deaths (Britannica, 2025).

Years after the conflict was at its highest peak, reports of what happened against some ethnicities revealed that what happened had been a genocide, and the ICC formally announced that Al-Bashir had been accused of committing war crimes.

On the other hand, by 2013, the RSF was formed and had its origins in the Janjaweed militia, who fought against the Darfur region after the 2003 riots. Nowadays, they're a very strong paramilitary force group that is allegedly supported by the UAE in exchange for direct access to the gold mines that are under RSF control (Booty and Chothia, 2025).

In 2019, the military staged a coup to revoke the president of this position as a result of numerous protests demanding a democratic government. For some time, a joint-military government was established in spite of civilian protests. Nevertheless, this government was also overthrown by a military coup, staged by both Gen Burhan, leader of the armed forces of the government, and Gen Dagalo, leader of the RSF.

By the end of 2022, there was hope that a UN-backed peace process would finally pave the way toward a civilian administration in Sudan. On December 5, 2022, the military leadership, along with over 40 political parties, armed movements, trade unions, and professional associations, signed a political framework agreement in Khartoum.

This agreement established a two-year transition period under a democratic and civil authority and proposed the formation of fully civilian institutions. However, the political situation remained stalled in 2022, particularly after the resignation of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok on January 2, 2022 (Security Council, 2024).

Despite the optimism surrounding the 2022 framework agreement, critical contentious issues remained unresolved, ultimately leading to the collapse of the peaceful transition. The most contentious issue was the merger of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). These two forces had previously been allied, having teamed up to depose al-Bashir. The RSF had been incorporated as an independent armed agent within the SAF by a 2017 law and its 2019 amendments. Tensions between the SAF and

RSF grew in early 2023, marked by intermittent clashes. The failure to resolve this power struggle led to the collapse of the prospect of a peaceful political transition from a military regime to a civil one. The situation in Sudan suffered a notable deterioration when fighting erupted between the SAF and the RSF on April 15, 2023. This RSF attack on the capital, Khartoum, marked the start of the current civil war. The outbreak of fighting resulted in an unprecedented stage characterized by intense combat and a generalized deterioration of the humanitarian situation, quickly spreading to other parts of the country and forcing the UN to evacuate Khartoum.

The rapid escalation of hostilities in 2023 impacted children who were already suffering the severe effects of long conflicts devastating the country, and a dire humanitarian situation. Throughout the period leading up to the war (January 2022 to April 2023), intercommunal clashes persisted. These were often fueled by disputes between herders and farmers, particularly in the Darfur and Blue Nile states. This violence, which sometimes involved parties to the conflict, caused child casualties and population displacement in regions like Darfur, Blue Nile, and West Kordofan states. For instance, escalating tensions in Blue Nile state in October 2022 over land ownership and representation led to clashes between the Hausa and Yabalaween tribes, resulting in deaths and the displacement of at least 800 families.

a. Forced displacement and nutritional crisis in Sudan

The conflict in Sudan is described as the largest and most devastating displacement, humanitarian, and protection crisis in the world today, a catastrophe of "staggering scale and brutality" (Lennon, 2025).

The war has resulted in massive population displacement, with over 12.4 million people displaced, and the ongoing conflict has forced 15 million people from their homes (UNICEF, 2025).

This displaced population includes almost nine million internally displaced persons (IDPs), among whom were 4 million children by the end of 2023, and over 3.3 million people who have fled as refugees to neighboring countries (Mishra, 2025). The resulting total number of displaced people is greater than the entire population of Switzerland (Lennon, 2025), making it the largest as well as the fastest-growing displacement crisis globally.

This humanitarian crisis is coupled with a severe nutritional crisis, identified as a man-made crisis, driven by conflict and the obstruction of access to aid by warring parties. Approximately half of Sudan's population, or 25 million people (Mishra, 2025), is facing extreme levels of hunger, and over half the population faces high levels of acute food insecurity. Sudan is currently the only place in the world classified as experiencing

famine, which has been confirmed in at least 10 locations, including the Zamzam camp in North Darfur, with another 17 areas at risk in the coming months (Mishra, 2025).

The impact on children is catastrophic; around 3.2 million children under five are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition, and many children are "reduced to just skin and bones", with more than 770,000 children with severe acute malnutrition at risk of dying from starvation without medical treatment (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, 2025).

Furthermore, malnutrition levels are particularly alarming among mothers, as screening in the Zamzam camp found over 33 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women are malnourished (WHO, 2024). It significantly affects children because of the long-term developmental effects, making children vulnerable to infections, having impaired cognitive development, and higher mortality rates (Musa et al, 2014).

b. UNICEF's actions

UNICEF has been supporting children in Sudan since the beginning of the civil war. However, its lifesaving humanitarian support has been hampered by difficulties in accessing Sudan and the entire country. Therefore, UNICEF calls for all parties in Sudan to respect international law and ensure children's protection.

Also, UNICEF has deployed its emergency programme, which is guided by its Strategic Plan and its Core Commitments for Children (CCCs), which outline the essential interventions across all key sectors: health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, and education (UNICEF, 2025). Key priority programs in Sudan include:

- Health and nutrition: Provides medicines and medical supplies to support primary health at hospitals, works to increase immunization rates to prevent outbreaks of disease, and delivers essential supplies to protect children in the cold chain for vaccines.
- Furthermore, the lead supplier of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) used for treating children with severe malnutrition
- WASH: Provides safe drinking water and restores critical WASH services
- Child Protection: Strengthening of child protection systems oriented to assess, analyze, monitor, and report child protection concerns and their root causes. The monitoring and reporting on grave violations monitors grave violations against children and informs advocacy and programmes.

- Education: Strives to improve access to formal or informal schooling to address learning poverty, and works to keep children learning in child-friendly spaces set up in refugee camps.

These are some results of this, provided by UNICEF in 2025, to face the nutritional crisis:

- Helped 9.8 million people access a sufficient quantity of safe water
- Provided vitamin A supplementation for more than 3.4 million children under 5 years old
- Provided primary health care to 2.8 million children and women in UNICEF-supported facilities
- Supported 2.3 million learners with access to formal and non-formal education
- Vaccinated 960,000 children against measles
- Helped almost 2.8 million children and caregivers access mental health and psychosocial support

6. Past actions

a. National initiatives to enhance the protection of children

In 2021, the Sudanese government faced many challenges regarding the implementation of measures to enhance the protection of children's integrity during conflicts. These challenges were directly linked to the government's inefficiency. Consequently, children were still extremely vulnerable. It was only in 2022 when a legal framework was established for the release and reintegration of children. The legal framework was aimed at providing technical support and developing a national strategy for the protection of children.

The Juba Peace Agreement, an agreement signed in 2020 between the Sudanese government and the rebel groups, requested an international verification mission where the groups confirmed the release of many children from prison and/or captivity.

b. United Nations Security Council report on the matter

In 2024, the United Nations Security Council submitted a report regarding the abuse of children in the conflict. The results were horrific: there was an increase of over 285% in grave violations from 2022 to 2023 (United Nations, 2024). Although these violations have been reported from all over

the country, it is noticeable that Darfur is one of the most affected regions, with 65% of all violations verified in the region.

Despite these efforts, the Security Council notes with concern that significant operational barriers, including insecurity, restricted humanitarian access, and limited resources, continue to hinder effective implementation of humanitarian and child-protection initiatives. As a result, current actions remain insufficient to meet the urgent needs of displaced and vulnerable children. Also, the Council calls on the international community to intensify cooperation and mobilize immediate, practical measures to protect the safety, dignity, and well-being of Sudanese children, while laying the foundations for sustainable, long-term support.

c. African Union initiatives on the matter

During 2004, after the signing of the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement, the African Union deployed 7,000 peacemakers to monitor the ceasefire and facilitate access to humanitarian aid.

This initiative was called the Africa Mission in Sudan (AMIS).

Later on, the African Union dedicated its efforts to work on mediation among the main opposition groups and the government of Omar al-Bashir. Nevertheless, after his regime collapsed, the AU revoked Sudan's membership in the Committee, though this decision was not permanent. In 2019, the African Union focused on trying to discuss a way forward towards an inclusive inter-Sudanese Political Dialogue (African Union, 2025), even during the start of the ongoing war.

In 2024, the African Union accomplished its first shuttle diplomacy mission, visiting countries such as Sudan, Egypt, and Djibouti. In Sudan, it stated the need to move forward towards a ceasefire and promote political discussions mediated by the African Union.

7. Case studies

a. Darfur

Darfur is a territory part of Sudan, surrounded by the Al-Ghazal river southward and the Libyan Desert extended north. Ethnic groups such as Arabs, Fur, Beja, Zhagawa, Nubian, and Daju people have established themselves in said territory and have developed abilities in herd breeding, agriculture, and handicrafts (Britannica, 2025).

In 1870, Darfur came under Egyptian rule and was given provincial status. Even though the Egyptians fought against al-Mahdi's dominations, a Sudanese political leader, to stop them from conquering the Darfur region, ultimately, they lost, and Darfur came under Sudanese rule.

Ethnic conflicts erupted as armed conflicts during the 1980s. In 2003, rebels and agriculturalists attacked government installations, claiming that the Sudanese government disregarded Darfur's population. As a result, the government created the Janjaweed (Arab militia force), which began attacking citizens of Fur ethnicity and other agricultural ethnicities, leaving tens of thousands of deaths and hundreds of thousands displaced. This episode has been categorized as the first genocide.

Since the war started in 2023, Darfur has fallen under RSF control, and reports have stated that a genocide is happening in the area. The reason for this genocide is ethnic cleansing, with a special target to non arab citizens. The Sudanese government is stating that killings are focused on civilians, mainly against women and children (France 24, 2025). To worsen the situation, Al Fashir, a city in Darfur, is facing a humanitarian crisis since the RFS has blocked the borders of the town and doesn't allow the entrance of basic supplies, provoking a famine and a sanitary crisis.

8. QARMAs (QUESTIONS ALL RESOLUTIONS MUST ANSWER)

a. How should UNICEF balance immediate humanitarian assistance with advocacy for systemic reforms in child rights and governance in Sudan?
b. How can international aid frameworks promote equitable burden-sharing among donors, host states, and humanitarian organizations?
c. How can host communities and national authorities be supported to integrate displaced children into education, health, and protection systems without overburdening existing structures?
d. How can child-centered approaches be implemented in conflict zones while ensuring the safety of humanitarian workers and the integrity of aid delivery?
e. To what extent should emergency nutrition programs prioritize immediate relief over the long-term development of sustainable food systems in Sudan?

9. Position paper guidelines

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of each delegation's stance, possible solutions, and role within the committee. Delegates are encouraged to follow a structured format when writing their papers, as this will facilitate the writing process and improve readability for the Director. Furthermore, to be eligible for an award, each delegate must submit a Position Paper before the deadline.

In the first paragraph, you should present your country's position on the topic, clearly demonstrating an understanding of your country's policy. In the second paragraph, you may mention the main previous actions taken by the UN regarding the issue. You should analyze the impact these actions have had on your country, explaining why they were successful or not. You may also include actions taken by other international organizations and by your own country on the matter.

In the final paragraph —the most important one— you should present your proposals to address the problem. Each proposal must be supported by detailed information, covering the who, what, when, where, and how of its implementation.

Regarding formatting, the paper should be no longer than one page, with 1.15 line spacing, Times New Roman font, size 11, and 2.5 cm margins on all sides. Remember that all references used must be properly cited. The paper should be submitted to: positionpaperspucpmun@gmail.com.

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