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CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT

Summary

This paper expands on information provided in "Children in especially difficult circumstances" (E/ICEF/1986/L.3) and the accompanying overview (E/ICEF/1986/L.6). The paper begins with a description of the nature and extent of armed conflict, including loss of life, the situation of refugees and displaced persons and the resulting economic and social burdens. It then focuses on children, who, in addition to death and injury, also suffer severe psycho-social problems as a result of armed conflict. These problems are discussed, including the impact of the threat of nuclear war on children and adolescents. The various international humanitarian laws to protect children in situations of conflict are outlined, followed by a discussion of the ways that Governments and organizations can respond to the problem of children caught up in armed struggle. A review of UNICEF involvement in assisting child victims of armed conflict is given, and the paper concludes with a description of various successful national interventions that have been used, introducing the notion of "children as a zone of peace".

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I. NATURE AND EXTENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

1. The frequency of armed violence, especially in the form of internal conflicts, is on the increase. 1/ Practically all the estimated 150 military conflicts since the Second World War have occurred in developing countries. 2/ According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), armed violence and civil strife are taking place at present in nearly 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America where UNICEF collaborates in programmes for child survival and development. Armed conflicts produce staggering losses of human life; a disproportionately high number of casualties are civilians. Huge waves of refugees have been created, enormous material losses incurred and gross violations of human rights committed. In the undernourished and overarmed world of today, tension and violence are on the rise. Armed conflicts increasingly involve widespread casualties. Sophisticated weapons, especially incendiary devices, move fast and kill and destroy indiscriminately.

2. According to studies undertaken for the International Symposium on Children and War held in Finland in 1983, among the casualties in the First World War only 5 per cent were civilians; in the Second World War that figure rose to 50 per cent. This ratio exceeded 80 per cent in the Vietnamese war, and according to information received on casualties in the Lebanese war, over 90 per cent of the deaths have been civilians. Moreover, the victims of armed violence are largely from poor families in developing countries.

3. Some of the human and material consequences of current armed violence, especially the ways in which they affect children, are mentioned below.

A. Loss of life

4. According to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, 20 million persons were killed in some 150 armed conflicts since 1945, the majority being women and children. By far, the largest number of deaths have been in Asia. Kampuchea alone lost about 2 million persons from 1975 to 1979. 3/ The Vietnamese war is estimated to have cost 2.5 million lives, and the Iran-Iraq war is responsible for a growing death toll, now estimated to be approaching 1 million. In Central America, internal strife has led to the deaths of 150,000 persons. The injured the wars leave behind (including the physically and mentally handicapped) are at least three times the number of those killed in battle.

5. In many countries of the world, ongoing conflicts between government security forces and combatants of resistance movements or insurgencies are causing a growing number of deaths which include a high proportion of child victims. Weapons used are now increasingly capable of massive and indiscriminate destruction. Targets can be obliterated from great distances. "The attacker is far removed from the victims - and the moral implications of his actions. Kill power is depersonalized". 4/

6. The potential for devastation posed by the destructive power of nuclear weapons constitutes the most serious threat to life on this planet. In 1945, two nuclear bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These two devices killed 200,000 people. Some of today's nuclear weapons are 1,000 times more powerful than the bombs dropped on Japan. At present, there are more than 50,000 nuclear weapons in the world, compared to 3 nuclear weapons in 1945. These contain over 1 million times the explosive force of the Hiroshima bomb. This destructive force does not include the threat of nuclear winter and the adverse radiation effects of present-day nuclear weapons. Even in some test site areas, there is evidence of an excess of foetal deaths above the normal level.

7. In times of crisis, the most vulnerable groups - which include children and pregnant women - suffer most, as basic resources and services on which they depend are interrupted or are no longer available. A population and health survey of 2,752 families in West Beirut found that in 1983-1984, environmental health conditions had deteriorated to the point where they posed a threat to child health, primarily as a result of a decade of war. 5/ Mothers interviewed as part of a project currently under way in Beirut, funded in part by UNICEF, report that other indirect effects of armed conflict include added stress in family relationships, economic hardships and a lack of educational and health services for their children. 6/ Repeated displacement was mentioned as a major stress factor contributing to family instability.

8. In Nicaragua, from 1979 to 1983, according to official figures, health services increased dramatically. During those years, infant mortality decreased from 120.0 per 1,000 to 80.2 per 1,000 live births. No new cases of polio have been reported since 1982, and the rate of malaria decreased by 50 per cent. But as a result of escalating war, improvements in national health levels have since been arrested, vaccination and oral rehydration programmes have been disrupted and malaria control and water purification programmes have been adversely affected, resulting in a new increase in malaria and water-related infections. 7/

9. In most crises, disaster-caused disruption of data systems prevents the quantification of cost in terms of numbers of deaths. One of the few exceptions is in Bangladesh, where studies were able to compare pre-war, war and post-war age-specific mortality. The data show a 47 per cent increase in deaths in the Matlab Bazar district during the war period (1971-1972). 8/ These data document significant excess mortality in children up to the age of nine. An additional cost of the Bangladesh war was the re-introduction of smallpox (transmission had been stopped in 1971), resulting in an estimated 224,000 cases and 42,000 deaths; 18,000 of these deaths were children under the age of five.

B. Refugees and displaced persons

10. Man-made disasters have forced millions of refugees to escape across borders of their countries to flee wars, internal strife, oppression and religious, ethnic and political persecution in their homeland. To these must be added the millions of internally displaced persons. By far the greatest portion of these victims of violence are women and children.

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11. According to reports from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the current estimate of the world-wide refugee population is 12 to 14 million. If internally displaced persons are taken into account, the number may reach 25 to 30 million. Though reliable or official figures on the internally displaced are not available, it is estimated that millions of persons have lost their homes and have had to seek refuge elsewhere in their own countries. The Philippine National Red Cross has reported that more than 1 million families, about 5 million persons, were displaced between 1972 and the first quarter of 1984 due mainly to civil conflict. ^{9/} According to official government sources in Iran, the conflict with Iraq has created 2 million displaced persons in the war zones of the country. The 10-year civil strife in Lebanon has left 40 per cent of the country's 3.5 million persons homeless. ^{10/} The biggest refugee move from a single country since the Second World War involved the 10 million Bengali refugees who crossed into India to escape the violence preceding the creation of the new State of Bangladesh.

12. A combination of droughts and armed conflicts has displaced large numbers of families in Africa. According to UNHCR estimates, 3 to 4 million refugees fleeing civil wars and ethnic conflicts have sought shelter in neighbouring countries. ^{11/} Millions more, for whom no accurate data are available, have been displaced in their own countries. Though reliable figures are not available for displaced persons in Africa, UNICEF field reports indicate that ~~their numbers are rising to alarming levels as a result of droughts, violence and armed conflict.~~ In many instances, women and children constitute more than 80 per cent of displaced persons in settlements and refugee camps.

13. The burden of the refugee problem is distributed most unevenly around the world. According to UNHCR, more than four fifths of refugees are in non-industrialized, developing countries, which are ill-equipped to provide proper care on their own for the refugees. ^{12/} Some of the very poor countries are host to the largest refugee populations. Pakistan, with a per capita annual income of \$390 (1983), is host to 3 million refugees. The Sudan, with a per capita income of \$400 (1983) and a population of 18.9 million, is today host to nearly 1 million refugees. In 1980, Somalia, one of the poorest countries in the world, was host to 1.5 million refugees, equal to one third of the country's population. In most European countries, this ratio is less than 1 to 3,000.

C. Economic and social burdens

14. The cost of armaments can be measured in a heavy death toll, social deprivation and the threat of annihilation. The arms race has serious economic and social consequences. Priorities are restructured as scarce financial and manpower resources are used for military purposes. As a result, resource availability in other sectors becomes severely constrained and social sectors which have a significant role for the well-being of children suffer. Over the last decade, in all classes of developing countries, education, housing and health expenditures have dropped as a proportion of the budget,

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while military expenditures continued to increase. ^{13/} Studies also show that the biggest military spenders, especially in developing countries, are poor achievers in a test of socio-economic performance. According to a UNICEF study which has grouped countries on the basis of infant mortality rates in relation to socio-economic indicators, all groups spend much more on defence than health, but the greatest disparity is found in the group with the worst health record. ^{14/}

Indirect losses

15. In 1981, the world military expenditure was estimated to be \$550 billion to \$600 billion, representing a fourfold increase since the Second World War. In 1985, according to estimates of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, it approached the staggering figure of \$1,000 billion. The following facts, using figures assembled by experts preparing studies for the United Nations to demonstrate indicatively the magnitude of the problem, ^{15/} are quoted here to illustrate the extent of social and economic dislocations caused by military expenditures:

(a) It is estimated that over 70 million persons are directly or indirectly engaged in military activities world-wide. This figure includes ~~25 million persons in the world's regular armed forces. The number might well~~ be doubled if paramilitary forces or reserves are taken into account. There are still far more people wearing uniforms than there are teachers;

(b) Some 40 per cent of the world's "research and development" expenditures are used for military purposes, engaging 3 million of the world's qualified scientists and engineers. Sergei Kapitza, of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Academy of Sciences, estimates that about one half of all scientists in industrialized countries are, in one way or another, involved in the arms race; ^{16/}

(c) While military expenditures have been increasing world-wide, the rate of increase in the developing countries has been higher than the global average. Approximately 75 per cent of the world trade in arms is directed to developing countries. About one quarter of the accumulated third world debt can be attributed to weapons imports. Some of the poorest countries in the world are spending substantial portions of their foreign exchange earnings importing arms. In 1984, a year of famine and drought, Africa spent more importing arms than importing food. ^{17/} Between 1977 and 1981, the international trade in arms was between \$120 billion and \$140 billion, two thirds of it involving developing countries engaged in armed conflicts.

16. As the report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues under the chairmanship of Willy Brandt observed, "It is a terrible irony that the most dynamic and rapid transfer of highly sophisticated equipment and technology from rich to poor countries has been in the machinery of death". ^{18/}

17. In addition to the staggering number of lives lost and bodies maimed, the material losses of armed conflicts are huge. In Nicaragua, total destruction related to health facilities alone, from 1981 to 1985, has been valued at over \$70 million. 19/ The damage to the civilian economy by the Iran-Iraq war is estimated to have exceeded \$200 billion for the two countries by the end of 1984. This figure surpasses their total oil revenues during the last five-year period.

18. It is tragic that significant human and scientific resources are being used for military purposes at a time when a large part of the world's population lacks the minimum means for meeting its basic needs. Some of these needs are estimated as follows:

(a) Of all women of child-bearing age in developing countries, about half (220 million) suffer from nutritional anaemia. About 150 million children under the age of five in developing countries are suffering from chronic protein-energy malnutrition. Malnutrition-related infection, diarrhoea and six immunizable diseases take the heaviest toll among children;

(b) Of all children under the age of five in developing countries, nearly half (42 per cent or 200 million) have no access to clean water. Over half of the children do not have effective and continuous access to basic health services;

(c) Nearly 1 billion adults in the world, 60 per cent women, are still illiterate. In developing countries, 30 per cent of children aged 6 to 11 years (115 million) and 60 per cent of children aged 12 to 17 years (200 million) are not attending school;

(d) Underemployment and unemployment in the developing countries, which is now a serious problem, is expected to increase in the future.

19. While it is evident that money alone cannot resolve these problems, the International Labour Organisation has established that basic needs in food, health and education in the least developed countries could be met entirely by a 10 per cent reduction in annual arms expenditures.

20. This situation can best be summed up in the words of former United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower when he declared:

"Every gun that is made, every war ship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its labourers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. ... This is not a way of life at all in any true cause. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron". 20/

II. PSYCHO-SOCIAL PROBLEMS

21. In addition to damage to a child's physical health, or even loss of life, there is less visible but important psychological and social harm inflicted by armed conflict and violence. Probably the most common form of damage results from children being separated, temporarily or permanently, from one or both parents because of the parents' death or "disappearance". In some cases, children may be witnesses or victims of direct hostilities and gruesome atrocities. Sometimes as a result of watching family members being killed while they themselves remain silent in hiding, children are ravaged with guilt feelings for long after. They may see the harassment or torture of parents, the bombing of populated areas or the destruction of their home. Older children may themselves be deliberately killed to prevent their being used by opposition forces, tortured, taken away for sexual or other forms of exploitation or enlisted in combat units. Within family groups, or separated from their parents, they are often victims of mass evictions or other forms of displacement.

22. Economic hardships and the financial insecurity of parents reinforce the child's feelings of despair and insecurity. Insecurity and tension in a strife-ridden environment intimidate children indirectly, for example, through depressing news and conversations among adults about the adverse impact of war and violence. In this way, the collective fears of parents and those of the entire society are added to the normal fears of children. 21/

A. Effects of armed conflict and violence on children

23. Studies of the effects of armed conflict on children, including effects on the second generation, were first undertaken in the combat areas in the Second World War and among concentration camp survivors. It was concluded that war has an all-embracing impact on a child's development, on his attitudes, his experience of human relations, his moral norms and his outlook on life. Facing armed violence on a continuous basis creates deep-rooted feelings of helplessness and undermines the child's trust in others. 22/

24. In situations of armed conflict the child grows familiar with destruction, violence and hostility. The society's accommodation of violence stimulates aggressive behaviour and reconciles the child's attitude to accept force and violence as a means of resolving conflict. 23/

25. "Socialization of children to desirable moral values is impossible in a beleaguered society. It is difficult to teach them norms such as 'do not kill or harm any living creature, and respect other's dignity', when precisely the opposite is valued." 24/

26. A study of children living in the affected areas of Northern Ireland concluded that psychological disorders and mental illness among both children and adults increased noticeably during the 1968 riots and violence in Belfast. 25/ The immediate reaction to violence and traumatic experiences was hysteria, with young children not being able to stop crying. Insomnia, nervousness, enuresis and general emotional imbalance were other common symptoms among children.

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27. Preliminary results of a study on the effects of war on the emotional and social development of Lebanese children between the ages of three and nine years reveal the following disturbances in children as observed by mothers and educators:

(a) Over 70 per cent of the mothers report increased fear (82 per cent) and anxiety (72 per cent) in their children;

(b) Mothers observe that most children speak of war (86 per cent), and over one third prefer war toys to any other toys;

(c) Teachers have stressed the fact that war is a major topic in children's conversations (96 per cent), play (86 per cent) and drawing (80 per cent). They have also indicated that the behaviour of children with their peers is rebellious (79 per cent), possessive (77 per cent) and defiant (73 per cent), while their behaviour with adults is described mostly as rebellious (77 per cent). 25/

28. Another study, conducted by a psychiatric clinic, of older children in areas of intense conflict in the Middle East shows a disturbing recent trend of increasing incidence of serious psychiatric disorder (including psychosis and severe depressive disorders leading to attempts at suicide) among children ~~11 to 12 years of age. According to a study of families in West Beirut,~~ mothers interviewed showed acute war-related stress from living through bombing raids, having children or other relatives kidnapped and being harassed by militiamen. 27/

29. Life history interviews were conducted with 62 mothers as part of a continuing study of family functioning and child health under conditions of war. Although purposefully not asked directly about the effects of armed conflict on their children, these women, who collectively had 234 children, reported a cycle of demands on the family which often left them unable to provide adequately for their children. These demands were not limited to death, injury and kidnapping of family members, although most had experienced one or more of these traumas. In addition, the mothers mentioned confusion and fear, separation from members of their extended families, lack of basic shelter and public services and severe economic hardship. Many reported that war conditions were negatively affecting their relationships within the family, frequently leading to physical violence against children.

30. A somewhat different situation is revealed by a psychological study of two warring factions conducted in 1984 by the Finnish Peace Research Institute in one of the Middle East conflict areas. The conflict had fostered a sense of community purpose and cohesiveness in each of the groups, and older children were active in the struggle, resulting in less fear and anxiety and more approval of violence. The study showed that:

(a) Both groups brought up children who showed a considerably higher degree of approval of war and fighting than did, for example, children studied in the United States during the Vietnam war;

(b) A high percentage of children of both groups had been personally involved in the violence;

(c) Approximately 21 per cent of children of one group and 31 per cent of children of the other group had lost a member of their family in war or other violent attacks. The ratios of children who had a family member wounded in war or other violent attacks were 29 per cent and 37 per cent respectively;

(d) Two thirds of the children from both sides held the opinion that there would always be wars in the world and that there would be wars in their country when they are adults;

(e) Contrary to earlier studies elsewhere, the boys and girls questioned did not display dissimilarities regarding attitudes to war in general, willingness to take part in the fighting or assessments concerning the prospects of peace.

31. A child stress study in Uganda was undertaken recently by Makerere University, Uganda, with the professional collaboration of Bergen University, Norway, and supported by UNICEF funding. In the course of the study, 400 children from three different cities were interviewed, 400 compositions were written by children of the capital city of Kampala (13 to 15 years old) and an additional 74 children between 6 and 13 years of age, recently displaced and now living in a Red Cross shelter, were interviewed.

32. The study revealed that a high ratio of the children interviewed experienced severe violence, including loss of persons close to the family. The study concluded that the children of Uganda are victims of war and violence and recommended that intervention programmes should focus on dealing with anxiety, depression and grief to reduce the after-effects of war.

33. An interesting insight into the displaced children's role emulation was also noticed. Of the 74 children interviewed who had recently been evacuated from the "Lowero Triangle", only two identified with the armed aggressors, while the rest said they wanted to help groups such as the Red Cross who had helped them.

B. Displaced and refugee children

34. Displaced and refugee children have all the normal problems of stress, compounded many times over. The insecurity of daily life under which some refugee families are living is reflected in the mental development of children.

35. Programme interventions for coping with special problems of refugee children usually strive to meet basic physical and material needs of food, clothing, shelter and medicine. However, meeting their basic material needs, which are of primary importance, "will not alter the psychological damage of being abruptly uprooted from the place called home; of flight, often preceded or accompanied by violence; of being thrust into a new, unfamiliar environment; and of the uncertainties of exile and readjustment". 28/

36. Of particular concern are the unaccompanied refugee children who are vulnerable to hardships and abuse on the one hand, and to well-meaning, though sometimes misguided, interventions by governments, agencies and individuals on the other. UNICEF, UNHCR and several other agencies have contributed to a study designed to produce appropriate strategies for the care and protection of unaccompanied children in emergencies.

C. Separation

37. The same social, psychological and cultural problems that are caused by separation under normal circumstances are exacerbated by armed hostilities, massive population movements and other emergencies. "Children may be rejected by step-parents, abandoned because of physical handicaps, given away because of illegitimacy, deserted as a result of unwanted pregnancy or neglected because they were of the wrong sex. Cultural mores and religious values also play an important role. For example, women abandoned illegitimate children in Korea in part because such births resulted in social ostracism and job loss." ^{29/} The abduction of children by military and guerrilla forces has occurred in many emergencies. Drafting of children is also a phenomenon in many countries and a cause of separation. During emergencies, especially armed conflicts, unaccompanied children are uniquely at risk.

D. Disappearances

38. Studies by psychiatrists, psychologists and physicians indicate dire psychological consequences of a disappearance in the family. Repercussions among children include a mixture of fear, mental anguish and total bewilderment. Children of the "disappeared" experience feelings of parentlessness and insecurity. "They are hypersensitive, but above all they exhibit regressive behavior which manifests itself by a loss of the ability to cope with daily activities." ^{30/} The same studies reveal serious psychological damage in children who witnessed the abduction of their parents or were in situations where torture and violence were used. The damage is more severe among children in detention camps and those taken away from their mother.

III. THE IMPACT OF THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR ON CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

39. At present the world's nuclear arsenals contain over 40,000 nuclear warheads, which are roughly equivalent in destructive power to 1 million atomic bombs like the one dropped on Hiroshima. ^{31/} The nuclear explosive power is equivalent to 3 to 5 tons of TNT per capita. ^{32/} A massive attack using the present-day nuclear arsenal is likely to cause the death of hundreds of millions of persons and produce heat radiation, penetrating radiation, radioactive fall-out and a nuclear winter. ^{33/}

40. No health service in any area of the world would be capable of dealing adequately with the hundreds of thousands of persons seriously injured by blast, heat or radiation from even a single 1-megaton bomb. To the immediate catastrophe must be added the long-term effects on the environment. Famine and disease would be widespread, and social and economic systems around the world would be totally disrupted. ^{34/}

41. In addition to psychological trauma caused directly by war and civil strife, the threat of nuclear devastation has caused grave concern to children in many parts of the world. One study suggests that young persons are forced by the nuclear threat to live with a sense of futurelessness. 35/ According to a preliminary study conducted by the Nuclear Psychology Program at the Harvard University Medical School and by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), there is strong evidence that children in both the Soviet Union and the United States are very disturbed about the possibility of nuclear war, with many children believing that they will not live to be adults. 36/ There is also preliminary evidence that children and young persons in Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, New Zealand, Sweden and the United Kingdom are similarly affected by the possibility of nuclear war. 37/

42. These preliminary findings raise the question, "Are the nuclear arms race and the cold war confrontation between East and West creating an 'epidemic' of psychological harm for children around the world?" To address this question, an international study is being organized by the Nuclear Psychology Program at the Harvard Medical School. Over a five-year period, large-scale representative sample surveys will be made of teenagers aged 13 to 17 in China, Czechoslovakia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Soviet Union, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. ~~The initial sample studies, performed on American and Soviet youth, reached the following conclusions:~~

(a) Soviet children, like American children, have detailed, relatively accurate information about the effects of nuclear weapons which they acquire at a young age, primarily from the mass media;

(b) Both Soviet and American children express concern about the possibility of nuclear war, with Soviet children seeming to be even more worried than American children. Many children from both countries voice anxiety that nuclear war could break out at any moment. They demonstrate feelings of despair and helplessness as well as a belief that they may not grow up to be adults;

(c) Neither Soviet children nor American children believe in survival for themselves, their families or their countries following a nuclear war;

(d) Soviet children are more optimistic about nuclear war being prevented than American children; only a small percentage of the Soviet children studied believed that a nuclear war would occur in their lifetime, compared with more than one third of the American children. Perhaps this optimism is related to the fact that almost all Soviet children take part in activities directed at preventing nuclear war. 38/

43. Based on the papers presented at the Research Symposium at the Fourth IPPNW Congress in Finland in 1984, the editors of the published proceedings concluded that: 39/

(a) Fear of war in general, and of nuclear war in particular, is one of the greatest fears of young persons in developed countries today, regardless of the country studied or the methodology used in the research;

(b) Preliminary findings indicate that younger age groups (10- to 14-year-olds) tend to worry more about nuclear war than older ones (14- to 18-year-olds), and girls seem to worry more than boys;

(c) Large numbers of young persons in several countries studied see nuclear war as inevitable in their lifetime and therefore believe their chances for survival (and that of their families) to be negligible;

(d) Finally, there are indications that the young persons who worry most about nuclear war are also the most optimistic that it can be prevented. The fact that they are also more likely to have discussed the nuclear issue with adults has important implications for parents and teachers.

44. Participants in the research symposium further concluded that the ~~long-term psychological consequences for young persons living with the threat~~ of nuclear war still have not been clearly defined, and that in-depth studies to determine the nature and extent of these consequences are urgently needed.

45. It is hoped these studies will provide greater understanding of the ways in which the threat of nuclear war affects young persons around the world, and that they will stimulate further research in this area. This is a subject greatly in need of understanding by the public and which demands more international co-operation among researchers.

IV. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

A. International provisions

46. International humanitarian law - the legal instrument created by the United Nations system, its family of specialized agencies and ICRC - provides a rich treasury which can be used to protect and rehabilitate child victims of armed conflicts.

47. In a broad sense, the protection of children as a vulnerable group is included in the following instruments of international law, with their dates of adoption and entry into effect through ratification:

(a) The Charter of the United Nations, 26 June 1945, ratification 24 October 1945;

(b) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948;

/...

(c) Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 9 December 1948;

(d) Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 1949, 1951;

(e) Four 1949 Geneva Conventions and the two Protocols of 1977 additional to the Geneva Conventions;

(f) Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951, 1954;

(g) The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1959;

(h) Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954, 1960;

(i) Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, 7 December 1965;

(j) The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 21 December 1965;

(k) The International Covenants on Human Rights, 16 December 1966;

~~(i) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966, 1976;~~

(ii) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, 1976;

(l) Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, 14 December 1974;

(m) Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, 1957, 1977.

48. At present, a new Convention on the Rights of the Child is being drafted which aims to bring the necessary provisions together in one convention and to provide comprehensive protection for the child.

49. In addition to the above instruments, protocols dealing with arms limitation and disarmament contain many provisions which offer protection to civilians, especially women and children. These include prohibitions on the use of incendiary weapons and restrictions on the use of mines which cause grave physical harm to children in combat areas.

50. There are many recognized regional systems and instruments as well regarding the protection of children. Experts in the field of international law are of the opinion that the provisions for child protection included in the different instruments are basically adequate for dealing with threats to children. The problem is not the lack of instruments, though there is scope for some improvements. The real issue is finding ways to enforce effectively these provisions.

51. The United Nations system is endowed with several human rights structures which offer valuable opportunities for promoting protection of children. The main structures through which international humanitarian law can be applied include:

(a) The Human Rights Committee, Commission on Human Rights and the Centre on Human Rights;

(b) Sub-Commission on Human Rights;

(c) The Third Committee (Humanitarian) of the General Assembly;

(d) The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations;

(e) The Secretary-General's office, through its good offices;

(f) Human rights units of ILO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO);

(g) UNHCR and ICRC.

52. In the 1949 Geneva Conventions, children are treated under provisions for the protection of civilians in time of war. ~~In the 1977 Protocol I, the~~ reference to children is explicit. Article 77 states that "children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault". Protocol II makes similar provision for non-international armed conflicts. Article 4 stipulates that "children shall be provided with the care and aid they require". The substance of this article affirms the principle of special protection for children.

53. These humanitarian laws also stress the preservation of family unity in armed conflicts and provide for preserving that unity even for persons deprived of their freedom. Provisions are also made for reunion of families, keeping track of protected persons and tracing missing children. The rights of the child regarding access to educational facilities and special care are also provided for. The Fourth 1949 Geneva Convention and the additional Protocols prohibit the death penalty for persons below 18 years of age.

54. The 1977 Protocols I and II include provisions relating to the participation of children in hostilities and forbid enlistment and recruitment of children under 15. Efforts were made to discourage recruitment of children under 18, but as this was not considered realistic, Protocol I encourages parties in conflict to give priority to the recruitment of the higher ages in the 15- to 18-year-old group. Sub-paragraph (d) of Article 4 (3) of Protocol II states that "the special protection provided by this Article to children who have not attained the age of 15 years shall remain applicable to them if they take a direct part in the hostilities despite the provision of sub-paragraph (c) and are captured".

55. However, there are limitations on the legal basis of the international humanitarian laws. "The Diplomatic Conference ^{40/} and the two additional Protocols did not succeed in improving the implementation mechanisms in situations of non-international armed conflicts. There is no protecting power, no optional commission of inquiry and no role for the United Nations in Protocol II". ^{41/}

56. By June 1985, the number of States Parties to the four Geneva Conventions was 161 (61 States having signed and ratified the four Conventions, 62 States having acceded and 38 States having made a declaration of succession to the four Conventions).

B. Violations of international humanitarian law

57. A review of the application of humanitarian law in the different zones of conflict around the globe shows that there is need for much greater effort to be made. According to Defense for Children International, "violations of children's fundamental rights are legion and universal: torture, imprisonment, disappearance, maltreatment and neglect in institutions; trafficking; exploitation at work or through prostitution; pornography; enrolment in armed forces - the list is virtually endless".

58. To this list of violations must be added execution, rape and indirect traumas of war and internal conflict caused by the death of parents and breadwinners and the break-up of families. As economic activities and social service delivery systems are disrupted by war and violence, food shortages and starvation, disease, poverty and unemployment rise sharply.

59. Indiscriminate attacks on civilian populations have been reported in several African, Asian and Latin American countries. Rural communities suspected of harbouring opposition groups are prime targets of such attacks. Women and children are the major victims.

60. The fundamental principles of international humanitarian laws prohibit attacks on civilian targets, which include refugee camps. The same principles require that such camps not be used for military purposes such as training of combatants. These provisions are violated by both sides in the conflict-stricken areas of Africa, Asia and Latin America where the bulk of the world's refugees are concentrated. These attacks often cause death and injury to refugee women and children.

61. In some of the conflict zones of Central America, abuse of displaced persons and harassment of relief workers by the military as well as the resistance forces have been reported.

62. With widespread civil strife and armed conflict in many developing countries, paramilitary government forces and guerrilla movements are increasingly recruiting minors as combatants. This alarming trend appears to be growing in many conflict zones of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

63. Human rights groups have charged that in some Latin American countries, contrary to national conscription laws, the army has seized youths younger than 18 years old and forcibly recruited them, while sons of the wealthy who have reached the age of military service are rarely recruited. Anti-government guerrillas are also known to have kidnapped teenagers and used them as non-combatants. In 25 countries, young men are eligible to go to war at an earlier age than they are eligible to vote.

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64. A study has listed 20 countries in which children from 10 to 18 year old, occasionally even younger, are reported to be involved in military training and informal activities linked with various civil wars, armies of liberation and even international war. Recruitment of minors is often associated with heavy indoctrination programmes drawing upon the state-controlled media and often using the education system to glorify war.

C. How better compliance can be fostered

65. What can be done to ensure more respect for and better compliance with the provisions of international humanitarian law? Children are a great rallying point and have powerful appeal that transcends political and ideological boundaries. The convergence between humanitarian objectives and political interests could be used more often to convince the parties to conflicts. These might include reciprocity, military efficiency, economy, ethics, public opinion and image, return to peace and preservation of civilization.

V. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES TO CRISES

66. Faced with crises afflicting large numbers of persons, the United Nations system as a whole has succeeded in slowly building up a machinery involving international, bilateral and voluntary agencies to cope with the human emergencies that have occurred during the last three decades.

67. The crises have generated responses in the form of emergency relief operations, rehabilitation, reconstruction and, to some extent, long-term development. During and after the Second World War, a number of new intergovernmental organizations were created to cope with particular problems. These included at first the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency, the International Refugee Organization and later UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRWA and the World Food Programme (WFP). The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) was set up more recently. While still involved in emergency situations, UNICEF has tried to place more emphasis on longer-term programmes benefiting children. On the other hand, UNHCR, while remaining strongly concerned with durable solutions (voluntary repatriation and local integration or resettlement), is becoming more involved in dealing with the emergency aspects of the problems of refugees and displaced persons.

A. Early warning

68. While partial early warning systems are being established on a sectoral basis by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP, WHO and UNDRO, with help from the network of United Nations Development Programme resident representatives, so far no mechanism has been developed for linking early warning systems into an integrated network reporting to a central "focal point".

B. Access to afflicted areas

69. Political disturbances, military upheavals and civil strife create circumstances in which governments are often reluctant to acknowledge the emergency situation and request outside assistance. In these cases, relief action has to begin with a low profile.

70. The Red Cross (ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies) and UNICEF have been able to initiate relief action which is not limited to members of the United Nations or governments recognized by it. UNICEF has found that unofficial consent is sometimes easier to obtain from Governments than formal acknowledgements for relief in conflict areas.

C. Co-ordination

71. The roles of agencies are well defined by their mandates. The following is illustrative:

<u>Type of emergency</u>	<u>Responsible agency</u>
Refugees	UNICEF
Relief to and rehabilitation of Palestinian refugees	UNRWA
Epidemics and health emergencies	WHO
Food emergencies	WFP/FAO
Humanitarian relief and protection of victims	Red Cross
Co-ordination and early warning	UNDRO

72. As the agency concerned with children, UNICEF is one of the few United Nations agencies whose mandate extends to the children of all peoples and territories without regard to membership in the United Nations.

73. To deal with human emergencies, the United Nations system has enlisted the collaboration of voluntary bodies and benefited from the partnership of agencies such as the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) making up the International Council of Voluntary Agencies. ICRC and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, because of special statutes, occupy a unique place in the field of humanitarian assistance for the victims of crises and disasters.

74. However, experience shows that in larger and more difficult situations of armed conflict, with serious political, military, economic and humanitarian implications involving a multiplicity of United Nations and voluntary agencies, the problems become far more complicated. Under such circumstances, there is a very real need for co-ordination of humanitarian efforts. Various co-ordination mechanisms have been developed during the last three decades. These include inter-agency assessment missions and efforts to facilitate concerted action of all agencies and to ensure that United Nations agencies speak with "one voice" in situations of armed conflict.

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75. There is consensus that despite prevailing shortcomings it is better to work through existing systems than to create new structures. This principle would apply to formulation of strategies for providing relief, rehabilitation and development assistance to children in especially difficult situations in general and children in armed conflicts in particular.

VI. REVIEW OF UNICEF INVOLVEMENT IN ASSISTING CHILD VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS

A. Background

76. UNRRA, before its mandate expired, recommended that a fund be created to continue aid to children following the Second World War. On 11 December 1946, the General Assembly approved the creation of UNICEF (resolution 57 (I)). Within the first few months of its existence, UNICEF established a link between emergency relief and long-range programmes. While UNICEF resources during the first few years were devoted largely to meeting the emergency needs of children in Europe affected by war, the organization soon began providing programme assistance to Asian countries. In 1948, UNICEF began providing some emergency relief for Palestinian refugee mothers and children.

77. In December 1950, the General Assembly extended the mandate of the Fund for three years (resolution 417 (V)). The resolution shifted the main emphasis of the UNICEF mandate towards programmes of long-range benefit to children of developing countries but also recognized "the necessity for continued action to relieve the suffering of children, particularly in underdeveloped countries and countries that have been subjected to the devastations of war and to other calamities".

78. In October 1953, when the General Assembly decided to continue the mandate of UNICEF indefinitely (resolution 802 (VIII)), it reaffirmed the broader terms of reference which it had established for the Fund in 1950. By that time the new policy shift to long-range programmes in the developing countries was under way. In 1953, well over half of UNICEF aid was going to Asia and about one fourth to Latin America. Long-range programmes accounted for 80 per cent of the aid, with the remaining 20 per cent going to emergency relief for children affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters. 42/

79. Tables 1-3 below indicate trends of UNICEF expenditures for emergency relief and rehabilitation, 1947-1984, covering both disasters triggered by natural phenomena and armed conflict situations, as it was not feasible to separate them.

80. The average dollar amount of relief and rehabilitation expenditure, while remaining at 18 to 20 per cent of total programme aid, has doubled from \$22.5 million per year in 1975-1979 to \$47.2 million in 1980-1984. 43/ Major elements of this increase are responses to armed conflicts in Kampuchea and Lebanon and to the African drought.

Table 1. Annual averages of UNICEF expenditures for emergency relief, 1947-1969
(Thousands of US dollars)

	Amount	Percentage of total programme aid	Major emergencies included
1947-1950		85	Europe, Middle East, India, Pakistan
Emergency feeding	18 908		
Other emergency aid	<u>2 611</u>		
Total	21 519		
1951-1954		23	Middle East, Algeria, Hungary, Korea, Viet Nam
Emergency feeding	5 044		
Other emergency aid	<u>1 183</u>		
Total	6 227		
1955-1959		7	India, Korea, Viet Nam
Emergency feeding	1 266		
Other emergency aid	<u>452</u>		
Total	1 718		
1960-1964	857	3	Middle East, Viet Nam
1965-1969	1 359	4	Middle East, Viet Nam

Table 2. Annual averages of UNICEF expenditures for emergency relief and rehabilitation, 1970-1984
(Thousands of US dollars)

	<u>Emergency relief</u>		<u>Rehabilitation</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	Amount	Percentage of total programme aid	Amount	Percentage of total programme aid	Amount	Percentage of total programme aid
1970-1974	2 763	5	8 336	15	11 099	20
1975-1979	5 773	5	16 716	13	22 487	18
1980-1984	28 334	12	18 858	8	47 192	20

Note: The line between emergency relief, rehabilitation and long-range aid is not clear-cut. For the period 1947-1969, no attempt has been made to estimate expenditures for rehabilitation.

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Table 3. Breakdown of UNICEF expenditures
for emergency relief and rehabilitation
by source of funding, 1975-1984
 (Thousands of US dollars)

	<u>General resources</u>		<u>Supplementary funds</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	Amount	Percentage of expenditure	Amount	Percentage of expenditure	Amount	Percentage of total programme expenditure
1975	18 922	29	4 209	14	23 131	24
1976	2 900	5	12 246	49	15 146	18
1977	7 600	11	8 177	22	15 777	15
1978	15 300	17	4 763	14	20 063	14
1979	7 875	5	30 452	50	38 327	18
Annual average 1975-1979	10 519	12	11 969	32	22 489	18
1980	9 249	6	60 043	63	69 292	27
1981	11 490	8	38 315	58	49 805	23
1982	6 290	4	28 090	47	34 380	16
1983	6 102	4	40 919	43	47 021	19
1984	10 742	7	24 720	27	35 462	15
Annual average 1980-1984	8 775	6	38 417	47	47 192	20

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B. Working on all sides of conflicts

81. In line with its mandate of serving all children in distress, especially in situations of armed conflict, UNICEF has co-operated with other agencies, especially ICRC, in a number of programmes for children on all sides of conflicts.

82. Financial figures alone, however, do not demonstrate the significance of UNICEF humanitarian involvement in relief, rehabilitation and development assistance to children and women adversely affected by wars and civil strife. The UNICEF policy of reaching children on all sides of the conflict is a case in point. International recognition of the efforts of UNICEF was reaffirmed with the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965. In the official address that accompanied the award of the Prize, UNICEF assistance to child victims of armed conflicts was noted, and UNICEF was characterized as "a peace factor of great importance".

83. Because of its mandate to serve all distressed children, UNICEF has been able to operate in very difficult circumstances, assisted by the credibility of its humanitarian image. In the early days, UNICEF provided assistance to children caught on different sides of armed conflicts, for example, in China, Greece, Kampuchea, Lebanon, Nigeria, Viet Nam, various countries in Central America and more recently in Uganda. UNICEF has also assisted disadvantaged children and mothers in liberation movements in the course of political struggles in Africa.

84. In the case of Kampuchea, UNICEF partnership with ICRC was a key factor facilitating programme co-operation. In Central America, UNICEF and WHO/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) linked aid to respect for neutrality and access to child victims of war on all sides of conflicts, which has had a positive impact. In El Salvador, very encouraging results were achieved and UNICEF and WHO/PAHO have maintained that co-operation in programmes would be possible only if the whole population in the conflict area can be serviced. Thus in the case of the anti-malaria programme, it was stipulated that spraying operations should take place in all areas, including those under the control of the anti-government forces. Similar criteria of neutrality, access to all sides for humanitarian relief work, monitoring of progress and channelling of assistance through governmental, non-governmental and non-military structures are being followed by UNICEF in helping displaced families in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua (and in the recent immunization campaign in El Salvador).

C. Programming experiences

85. Three types of programmes deserve special mention: support for families displaced within their own country; resettlement programmes; and support for war widows, orphans and handicapped children.

Innovative programme support for families displaced by armed conflicts

86. Because there is no United Nations agency for persons displaced within their own country, with responsibilities analogous to those of UNHCR for international refugees, UNICEF has a correspondingly greater concern for children in these circumstances. An interesting example of UNICEF response is the 1985-1987 programme approved for Central America in the amount of \$4 million. The programme, to be carried out mainly in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, where thousands of families have been displaced by armed conflict, aims to enable them to reconstruct their lives and become productive after suffering the loss of family members, homes, property and their means of livelihood. The principal project components in each country include shelter; productive activities; assistance to orphans; water and sanitation; early childhood development; primary health care and child survival; and support to improve the operational capacity of participating NGOs. Support is to be provided on the basis of non-discrimination and use of non-military channels, with monitoring by UNICEF of all assistance provided.

Resettlement programmes

87. In Nicaragua, one of the strategies for providing health services in the conflict zones is to encourage the resettlement of people from thinly populated into more concentrated areas. ~~Though the resettlement, often undertaken spontaneously by persons exposed to dangers arising from war and violence, strains the resources and capacities of the new settlement areas,~~ the Government encourages the trend through an integrated process that combines agrarian reform and the provision of health, education and other services, with the need for security and protection. Given its resource constraints, the Government lacks the financial capability for providing housing facilities, but encourages community initiative and self-help.

88. In Zimbabwe, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is responsible for resettling persons displaced during the liberation struggle and those returning from Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia. The Ministry, in consultation with other relevant sectoral ministries, tries to cope with housing, water, sanitation, health, education and other basic needs of population in resettlement areas.

War widows, orphans and physically handicapped children

89. In armed conflicts, large numbers of families lose the member of the family responsible for financial support. Young widowed women are suddenly saddled with burdens they were not prepared to cope with. Though precise figures are not available, there is ample evidence that armed conflicts lead to a significant increase in the number of orphans, some of whom are known to have been enlisted as combatants in military, paramilitary and resistance forces. The spread of violence to defenceless civilian settlements not only has caused high death rates but has maimed and physically handicapped large numbers of children.

90. Responses to the needs of the above groups have been varied, piecemeal and relief-oriented. In some countries, the State has provided protection and financial support to war widows and to children who have lost their parents. However, there is need for more development-oriented strategies, particularly for enhancing self-reliance and expanding income-generating capabilities of young widows. Income-generating activities have been initiated for refugee widows in a few countries, but their scale is small.

91. Experience has shown that the needs of orphaned children are often better met within the context of the extended family. Among destitute families in a number of countries, the closest of kin of the orphans are provided financial assistance to care for the children. In devising strategies for international interventions, a sound knowledge of cultural and religious values is necessary if the responses are to make an effective impact and mobilize support and participation of the communities.

VII. CHILDREN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

92. The idea of the zone of peace can be traced back to the eleventh and twelfth centuries when a church-sponsored "Truce of God" was adopted in some European countries. ~~Fighting men were threatened with excommunication if they~~ did not refrain from fighting during several days of the week (usually Thursday to Sunday). In modern times, credit for first applying the zone of peace concept goes to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Because it must help the victims of all parties in conflict, the movement does not choose sides and remains above all political controversy, thus safeguarding its possibilities to carry out humanitarian work for all. "Born out of the horrors of war, the movement demonstrates a spirit of peace, even in the heat of battle. By respecting those who can no longer fight, whichever side they are on, by helping the wounded and protecting civilians and prisoners, it creates 'zones' of peace in the midst of the fighting." 44/

93. While wars and civil strife continue to cause enormous human suffering, especially among the poor, in recent years the idea of declaring children "a neutral, conflict-free zone in human relations" 45/ has aroused considerable interest and gained support. Broadly defined, the concept means protection of children, protection of services and institutions for children and ability to reach children during times of conflict.

A. El Salvador immunization campaign

94. In 1985, a breakthrough was achieved in El Salvador which created "a beacon of hope" for application of the concept of children as zones of peace in contemporary conflicts. For three days - 3 February, 3 March and 22 April, and for the first time on record - a country-wide conflict gave way to a health campaign which saved the lives of thousands of children. During these "three days of peace", the shooting was stopped by all sides as some 3,000 health workers immunized nearly 250,000 of a target population of 400,000 children up to the age of three years against polio, measles, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough in all parts of El Salvador.

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95. This unusual accomplishment was possible as a result of an initiative undertaken in collaboration with UNICEF, WHO/PAHO, the Catholic Church, ICRC and the Salvadorian Red Cross. There was good co-ordination of activities by bilateral assistance organizations as well as NGOs, all of whom worked very closely with the national health authorities. The total cost was \$609,000, with UNICEF contributing \$375,000. More significant than the immunization was the wider implication of the campaign as "a bridge for peace" built around survival of children.

B. Corridors of peace for children in Uganda

96. The success in El Salvador was followed by another breakthrough in Uganda. Using the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, a joint UNICEF/ICRC team flew a consignment of vaccines and maternal and child health medicines behind lines to the south-west town of Kasese in Uganda to establish a corridor of peace for children. UNICEF reached agreement with both sides of the conflict to give children, the hope of the country's future, a chance to survive in the midst of strife and violence.

97. In the Sudan, with the co-operation of the World Council of Churches and the agreement of the army and combatants in the south of the country, relief aid for children was delivered to the city of Malakal at the end of 1985, after the city had been cut off for seven months by fighting forces.

C. Using armed forces facilities for child survival and development

98. In some countries, efforts are being made to use the resources of the armed forces to speed up social and economic development. Youth development battalions have already been set up in some countries. Under other schemes, young, professionally trained persons who are subject to national military service are given the option of serving as village teachers, doctors or extension workers. Through such programmes large numbers of educated urban youth are mobilized to cope with the acute shortage of trained personnel in more needy rural areas of developing countries.

99. In some countries, which have embarked upon an accelerated immunization campaign as part of their child survival programme, military facilities and medical personnel have been mobilized to help the government reach target groups.

100. Recently a number of countries have used some of their military transport facilities to airlift food and relief supplies to more inaccessible areas in Africa. For example, in Ethiopia, wheat supplied by the United States was airlifted by Soviet transport planes to the victims of famine, drought and civil strife. The technique of using aircraft and helicopters for low-altitude air-dropping of emergency food, initiated in Ethiopia and organized by the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, may prove useful in other inaccessible areas of Africa. Early in 1985, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom also participated in air-dropping relief operations.

VIII. CONCLUSION

101. As indicated earlier, the number of armed conflicts has increased in each decade since the Second World War. Disasters triggered by natural phenomena also are affecting larger populations because of population growth and ecological degradation. The heaviest impact is on the children of poor and disadvantaged families and communities. Despite the policy focus on long-term programmes, the financial contribution of UNICEF in disaster situations has increased as a proportion of its total budget. Given these trends and the moral commitment of UNICEF to help children in especially difficult situations, UNICEF should co-operate in emergency and rehabilitation programmes as an integral part of its country programming process, rather than through ad hoc approaches. In particular, it should link this co-operation with basic development objectives so far as possible, for example, through health services, education and skills-training and income-generating activities.

102. With the experience gained in responding to major disasters and emergency situations since the Second World War, including serving children on different sides of conflicts, and, more recently, the initiatives for creating ~~zones of peace for vaccinating children of El Salvador and corridors of peace~~ to deliver health supplies and vaccines to Ugandan children, UNICEF can promote wider application of these ideas and actions in the conflict areas of the third world.

103. To this end, UNICEF, acting within the framework of the recommendations presented for the approval of the Executive Board in document E/ICEF/1986/L.3, should, inter alia:

(a) Support country efforts to reduce the impact on children of media violence, programmes glorifying war, sale of war toys, etc.;

(b) Help provide basic services to children in destabilized zones, providing education opportunities to rehabilitate former child soldiers, and promote protection for children involved in conflicts, such as child prisoners of war;

(c) Work with governments and organizations such as UNESCO and ICRC to incorporate peace, development, human rights and humanitarian law into curriculum reform programmes.

Notes

1/ In the 1950s the average number of armed conflicts was 9 per year, in the 1960s 11 per year, in the 1970s 14 per year. In 1983, according to the Center for Defense Information (Washington, D.C.), nearly 4 million combatants were involved in 40 different armed conflicts, rebellions and civil uprisings. Estimates of the total annual loss of life in these conflicts run from 1 million to 5 million.

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3/ The figure includes those killed and those who lost their lives because of disruptions caused by war.

4/ Ruth Legar Sivard, World Military and Social Expenditures (Washington, D.C., World Priorities, 1983), p. 12.

5/ Huda C. Zurayk and Harqutune K. Armenian, eds., Beirut 1984: A Population and Health Profile (Beirut, American University of Beirut, 1985).

6/ Jennifer W. Bryce and Neff Walker, "Family Functioning and Child Health: A Study of Families in West Beirut", research in progress at the American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon.

7/ David Siegal, Robert Baron and Paul Epstein, "Disease and War: Health Consequences of War in Nicaragua", San Francisco General Medical Service and Harvard Medical School, The Lancet, No. 8444, Vol. 1 (1985), pp. 1,492- 1,493.

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18/ Willy Brandt, "A Plea for Change: Peace, Justice, Jobs", North-South, A Program for Survival: The Report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues, under the Chairmanship of Willy Brandt, (Cambridge, MIT Press, 1980), p. 14.

19/ Siegal, Baron and Epstein, loc. cit., p. 1,493.

20/ From a speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Easton, Pa., April 16, 1953.

21/ In studies relating to the Second World War by Anna Freud and Dorothy Burlingham, severe emotional disturbances were found to be bound up with the behaviour of those closest to the children, especially reactions of the mother. If, for instance, the mother exhibited hysterical fear, children were also seen trembling with terror.

22/ Anna Freud and Dorothy Burlingham, Young Children in Wartime, (London, Allen and Unwin, 1943), and War and Children, (New York, Medical War Books, 1943), p. 191.

23/ For instance, during the Viet Nam war juvenile delinquency increased in the United States. Admiration of war heroes and battlefield actions lead to admiration of violence and aggression among civilians. M.J. Horowitz and G.H. Solomon, "A Prediction of Delayed Stress Response Syndromes in Viet Nam Veterans", Journal of Social Issues, Vol. 31, (1975), pp. 181-195.

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- 38/ Chivian, Mack, Waletzky, Lazaroff and Goldenring, loc. cit.
- 39/ Lipton, op. cit.
- 40/ The Diplomatic Conference which met in Geneva between 1974 to 1977 at the invitation of the Swiss Government finally adopted Protocol I and Protocol II.

41/ Michel Veuthey, "Implementation and Enforcement of Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law in Non-International Armed Conflicts: The Role of ICRC," American University Law Review, 1983.

42/ UNICEF, General Progress Report of the Executive Director: The First Twenty-Five Years of UNICEF (E/ICEF/608/Add.9), 24 March 1971.

43/ Expenditures of general resources on regular programmes in affected areas are not included.

44/ International Committee of the Red Cross, Summary of Activities 1984 (Geneva, Information Department, 1985).

45/ Statement by Nils Thedin, Head of Swedish Delegation, at the 1983 UNICEF Executive Board session.

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