



UNICEF Topic Update

Child Malnutrition

The beginning of this summer led to many new developments in the topic of child malnutrition. World Children's Day marked a recent assessment of child malnourishment in countries from western South America to eastern Asia. Updated statistics, like this one linked about the status of pre-school students in India, states that 43% of children under the age of 5 are suffering from malnutrition in India alone. Sadly, these statistics, along with others throughout the world, are not meeting the Millennium Development Goal standards for child nutrition. Other issues to consider while approaching this topic are food security and gender in relation to food access. In an article attached about Nepal, the issue of sexism in food access is addressed more thoroughly. A program officer for a Women and Children's advocate group states, "Girls are neglected because they are thought not to need strength."

Are the Millennium Development Goals on Children still effective? How does food security relate to malnutrition in children? Is increased food security a feasible solution to this issue? How can the issue of gender in food access be resolved? What solutions will best provide for the nutrition of mothers, who are essential in the early nutrition of infants? What national policies have been effective? Can these methods be applied to other countries in the world, or more specifically, their similar regional blocs? Is there a high rate of child malnutrition in the rural parts of your country? If so, how can these regions be aided?

National Nutrition Survey 2011: Food insecurity affecting 60% of women and children:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/254714/national-nutrition-survey-2011-food-insecurity-affecting-60-of-women-and-children/>

NEPAL: Gender discrimination fuels malnutrition:

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93788>

Starvation threat in Africa tests changes in assisting victims of famine:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/famine-in-africa-tests-improvements-in-assessing-and-treating-malnutrition/2011/08/11/gIQA4NPXNK_story.html



Without Nutrition and Thrive:

Education Yemen Cannot

<http://blogcritics.org/culture/article/without-nutrition-and-education-yemen-cannot/>

Pre-school malnutrition in India:

http://zeenews.india.com/news/health/exclusive/pre-school-malnutrition-in-india_14033.html

Can Peru's new government continue to make progress on child nutrition?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/sep/27/peru-new-government-child-nutrition>

Nafdac and quest for adequate breastfeeding:

<http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/opinion/29085-nafdac-and-quest-for-adequate-breastfeeding>

Children in Armed Conflict

The most important update to the issue of children in armed conflict is that the 100 states have joined the UN-backed initiative, referred to as the Paris Commitments, to end the use of child soldiers. Angola, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, and San Marino recently assented, increase those involved to this landmark number. UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, recently published a report about the status of children in armed conflict, and the best means of rehabilitation, from her experience. This report, entitled Children and Justice During and in the Aftermath of Armed Conflict, linked below, details concerns of the UN in terms of human rights violations and possible rehabilitation methods.

Does your government support the use of child soldiers? Will they allow children who volunteer for the army under the age of 18 to enlist and go to war? What means of rehabilitation have worked in the past? Has your country used any successful programs? Can these be applied to other countries? Should there be a special legal process for child soldiers? Have past prosecution methods of child abduction and forced soldiering been effective? Is there any program within your country that deals with the rape of children during armed conflict, either as a military weapon or from the spoils of war?

Number of States joining UN-backed initiative to end use of child soldiers hits 100:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39823&Cr=child+soldiers&Cr1>



Paris Commitments and Principles:

<http://www.un.org/children/conflict/english/parisprinciples.html>

UN wants special legal process for child soldiers:

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,15421495,00.html>

100 countries endorse commitments to prevent the use of children in armed conflict:

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_59904.html

Armed Conflict Affects World's Children in Many Ways:

<http://www.soschildrensvillages.ca/News/News/child-protection-news/child-soldier-news/Pages/Armed-Conflict-World-Children-042.aspx>

Child Soldiers:

<http://www.soschildrensvillages.ca/What-we-do/family-strengthening/child-protection/child-soldiers/Pages/default.aspx>

Children and Justice During and in the Aftermath of Armed Conflict:

<http://www.crin.org/docs/Children%20and%20Justice.pdf>

RAPE, THE INVISIBLE CRIME IN COLOMBIA'S DRAWN-OUT CIVIL WAR:

<http://www.worldcrunch.com/rape-invisible-crime-colombia-s-drawn-out-civil-war/3835>

Former Child Soldiers and Rebel Wives Struggle to Reintegrate in Northern Uganda:

<http://www.globalpressinstitute.org/global-news/africa/uganda/former-child-soldiers-and-rebel-wives-struggle-reintegrate-northern-uganda>

Radhika Coomaraswamy condemns attack on students and parents in Somalia:

<http://www.asiantribune.com/news/2011/10/04/radhika-coomaraswamy-condemns-attack-students-and-parents-somalia>



UN: MILF recruits children in warfare:

<http://www.philstar.com/nation/article.aspx?publicationsubcategoryid=200&articleid=727130>

From playground to battleground: children on the frontline in Somalia:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/sep/30/somalia-war-children-on-frontline?newsfeed=true>

UN Human Rights Council concludes eighteenth session:

http://www.hrea.org/index.php?base_id=2&language_id=1&headline_id=14130