

UNOCHA



Topic:

The importance of inclusive
humanitarian responses

Directors:

Ariana Zúñiga - Fabrizio Solari

Welcome delegates to the 6th edition of Carmun!

My name is Arianna Zúñiga and I will be co-directing the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs committee. I will be accompanied as part of the chair along with Fabrizio Solari, Luciana Palomino, Maria Beatriz Maruyama and Maria Cristina Maruyama.

I've been part of this incredible experience since 2014 and I'm still grateful for all the opportunities that Model UN has given me. I debated my last years of high school in different types of committees and various conferences. I'm currently in my third year studying Industrial Engineering at "Universidad de Lima" and using all the abilities that I could learn during my debate experience, such as being keen on public speaking, acknowledging the world's current issues and expanding my social network.

This kind of virtual debate is new for most of us and it is a challenge that I hope we can work together to make it a great experience. Remember to be constantly participating and to keep in mind the modified rules of procedure.

Do not hesitate to contact me in case of any suggestion, I'm excited to be part of this committee and looking forward to having an amazing conference.

Best regards,

Arianna.

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs of the 6th edition of CarMUN2020!

My name is Fabrizio Solari and it's a pleasure for me to co-direct this amazing committee with Arianna, Luciana, Maria Beatriz and Maria Cristina. I am currently 17 years old and I am studying business administration at Universidad del Pacifico. I've been doing Model United Nations since I was 13 years, back in 2016, which I consider one of my best decisions I have ever made.

MUN is an activity that has helped me develop fundamental skills such as public speaking, negotiation and drafting, which improves my self-confidence and gave me the opportunity to travel to wonderful conferences such as HMUN and ILMUNC. Also, throughout my MUN career I have met incredible people that nowadays are still my friends.

I consider that although this is a virtual MUN, it is also important that you have fun and meet new people. For this reason, I will do everything in my power to make this experience unforgettable and that we make UNOCHA the best committee of CarMUN2020. I hope to see that you have content in your speeches and that you realize a diplomatic debate and negotiations, in order to have the best solutions to solve this important issue. If you have any doubt about the committee, don't hesitate to write an email to Arianna or me, we will be pleased to clarify your doubts.

Hope to see you soon!

Fabrizio Solari

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A. INTRODUCTION

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is growing daily, which is why UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs) is the committee of the United Nations Secretariat which is responsible for the coordination humanitarian response to ensure humanitarian action, improving prioritization and reducing duplication, ensuring the assistance and protection reach the people who need it most.



More than 100 million people already rely on support from the United Nations' humanitarian agencies. UNOCHA's mission and priority is to provide life-saving help for people, while supporting the wider system's response to cases like the COVID-19.

UNOCHA deals with the coordination of global emergency response to save lives and protects people in humanitarian crises by bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. Also, UNOCHA leads the international community's efforts to develop a better architecture for the humanitarian system, including strong in-country humanitarian leaders; representative and inclusive Humanitarian Country Teams; an effective and well-coordinated framework within which all humanitarian organizations can contribute systematically; and predictable funding tools.

In this committee we are going to discuss issues such as: The crisis in Lebanon, The East Africa Locust Infection, The crisis in Yemen and the current crisis of COVID-19. Gender-Based Violence increases during every type of emergency such as economic crises, conflict or disease outbreaks. Therefore, humanitarian actors must ensure that their actions and initiatives prevent and address this issue.



B. HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs advocates for the importance of ensuring humanitarian aid during emergencies.

In 1991 it was first introduced by the Resolution 46/182 which states: “The leadership role of the Secretary-General is critical and must be strengthened to ensure better preparation for, as well as rapid and coherent response to, natural disasters and other emergencies.”, as a vital response to natural disasters and further implemented other approaches as the coordination of humanitarian response, policy development and humanitarian advocacy.

The resolution mentioned also developed the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), this last one oversees the main coordination through the decision-making in response to complex emergencies. This includes needs assessments, consolidated appeals, field coordination arrangements and the development of humanitarian policies.

The main participants are humanitarian partners from the United Nations, agencies, funds and programmes that involve NGO’s.

It is remarkably important to emphasize that OCHA is not an operational agency directly engaged in the delivery of humanitarian programmes but is a facilitator to provide support to the humanitarian system which stands by four principles: trust, national and local ownership, diversity and gender equality.

One of the main objectives is to achieve the agenda for humanity presented in 2016 and their main goals are stated in the figure presented:



Figure 1: The agenda for Humanity



C. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Gender inclusiveness during humanitarian crises:

As stated by the Inter-Agency Standing committee (IASC), the failure by not taking action regarding gender-based violence represents the failure by humanitarian actors.

It is important to acknowledge the first definition of gender-based violence, this term englobes any harmful act against a person's will, and which is based on social stigmas regarding gender differences. This term can be used to describe any action that involves physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering. Keeping this in mind, we will address the connection between gender-based violence and humanitarian emergencies.

The most common types of gender-based violence presented in humanitarian emergencies are: domestic violence, rape, trafficking, early and forced marriage, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation and abuse. Both genders can be affected due to this types of violence; nonetheless, statistics confirm that women and girls are the more vulnerable to be harassed.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs main objectives is to focus on creating programmes that tackle gender inequality as stated in its Policy Instruction on Gender Equality (2016-2020). Incorporating gender equality in humanitarian action therefore enhances the impact of humanitarian strategies and interventions.

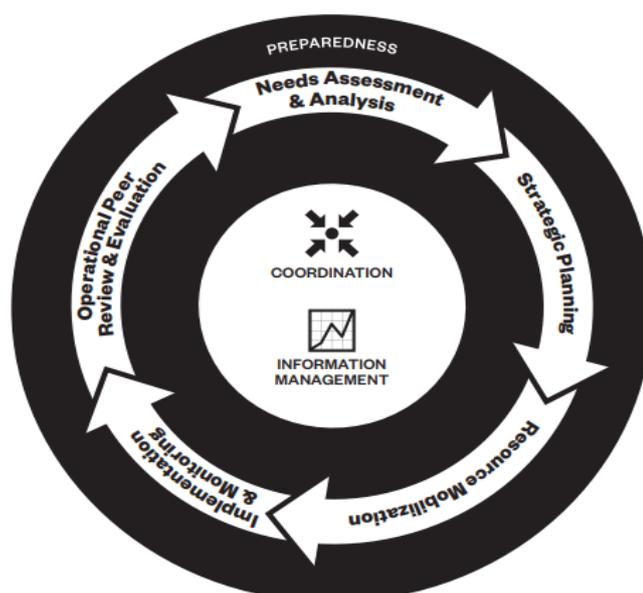


Figure 2: The Humanitarian Programme Cycle

Crises affect women and men differently as women often find themselves acting as the new head of their households due to separation or loss of male household members. But they are not always able to access resources and life-saving support because there is no assistance for child care, and acquiring resources like food or water can be dangerous tasks. Consequently, women and girls are more likely to suffer from food insecurity in emergency settings. On the other hand, men may become humiliated and frustrated by the rapid changes in crisis settings and this may manifest as an increase in domestic violence.

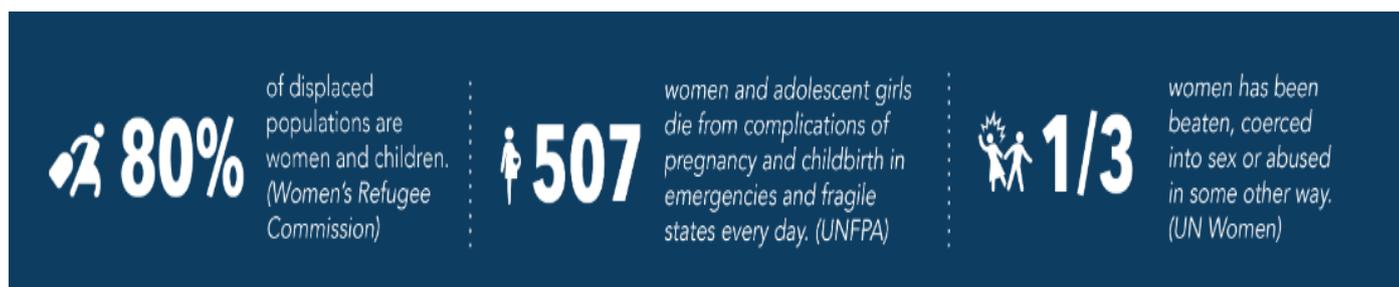


Figure 3: Numbers and Figures - OCHA and Gender

Key approaches for effective gender-integrated humanitarian response:

- a. Coordination: Integrate the participation of both genders through the humanitarian programme cycle presented before. Also, invite NGO's to take part in continuous working plans to tackle gender inequality and access to main resources during emergencies.
- b. Advocacy: Advocate gender equality as well of preventing any kind of violence mentioned before.
- c. Information management: Apply a meaningful gender analysis, including the collection and use of sex and age-disaggregated data. The need for current statistics and collecting data is important in order to create plans of action. In this way, we will be able to know how to approach the differential impacts of women and men of all ages and backgrounds.
- d. Humanitarian Financing: Ensure OCHA-managed humanitarian financing continues to be gender responsive. Also, taking into consideration the partnership and coordination with IASC and its Gender with Age Marker.
- e. Policy: Connect links between humanitarian policies and other key global policy processes, such as the Sustainable Development Goals,



the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

D. POINT OF CONTENTION:

COVID-19 Pandemic:

Currently, there are more than 22.5 million cases of Covid-19 worldwide, which is why, in June, ECOSOC Vice President and Chair of Humanitarian Affairs Segment set in motion a *Call to Action in support of the humanitarian response in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic* which invites all member states to cooperate through international solidarity, unity and humanity. This includes 13 actions that the international community should address to fight this pandemic. As stated before, gender-based violence is an important issue that UNOCHA is trying to deal with, which is why in point 6 of this call Call to Action is stated that:

6. *“We must ensure gender-responsive humanitarian response and stress that responses to the COVID-19 should address the specific needs of women and girls, including by preventing and responding to increasing levels of sexual and gender-based violence and other forms of violence, exploitation and abuse.....”*

For this mission they need a vast number of international and local organizations. Even so, they are still people that need help and OCHA must work in their response.

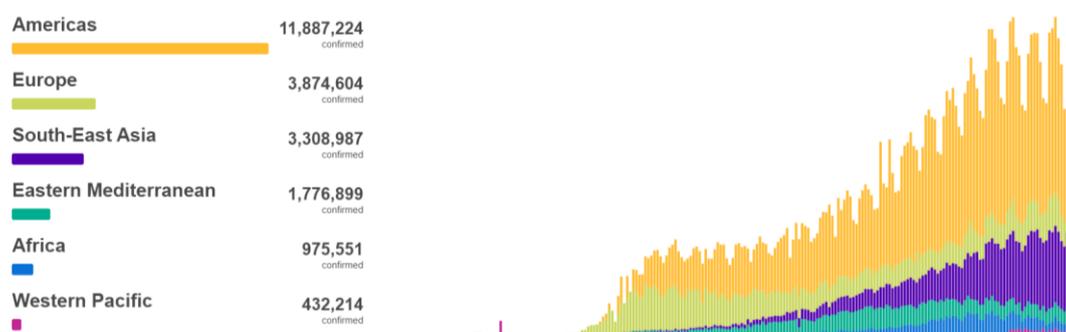


Figure 4: Covid-19 cases by region (August 20th)- World Health Organization

The crisis in Lebanon:



The Syria crisis has had a humanitarian, socio-economic and political impact on Lebanon and its people, with just under 1 million registered Syrian refugees in a country of 4 million inhabitants. As the UN and partners continue to assess humanitarian needs and coordinate response efforts in Beirut following the blasts that devastated the capital city on 4 August. There have been horrific impacts on lives, the country has seen an increase in COVID-19, further straining its health system.

The East Africa Locust Infection:

Right now, hundreds of billions of locusts are swarming through parts of East Africa and South Asia in the worst infestation for a quarter of a century, threatening crops and livelihoods currently re-escalating as much of the region is heading into the main agricultural season. Government aerial and ground locust control operations are ongoing but they need to be further scaled up.

The crisis in Yemen:

This crisis started long ago with their crisis in the economy, later torrential rains caused devastation across the country. They have stranded migrants that need help and COVID-19 isn't helping them. Yemen is still struggling with a lot of poverty and the hunger of millions of children. Apart from all the social crises they may be "the first country to run out of water" caused by the severe ecological crisis. They need help as soon as possible.

Humanitarian actors are needed at the moment to deal with these situations and ensure that their actions and initiatives prevent and address this issue. Further information about the topics can be found in OCHA's official website.



E. QARMA'S (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

For a Resolution to be accepted, it has, at its minimum, to deal with the following issues:

1. How should entities approach the most vulnerable locations during a crisis?
2. In which way can we ensure the good communication between NGOs and the Inter-Agency Standing committee in order to tackle this issue hand by hand?
3. What measures should be taken into consideration in order to gather reliable data about casualties, medical assistance and other uses of resources?
4. How can we spread awareness regarding prevention actions in case of an emergency?
5. Should new procedures be implemented with the current pandemic?

F. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

As stated previously, the issues mentioned before in the statement of the problem are sub-topics of what we can discuss during the committee. We encourage you to do further research in papers published before and documents that can be found in the committee's page. Remember to look for statistics and facts to support each solution. In order to get that information, visit UN websites that will provide PDF's with each country's position regarding this topic. It is important that you know your country's policy regarding certain topics.

G. CLOSING REMARKS

Thank you for reading this Study Guide. Should you have any questions, please write to unocha.carmun@gmail.com. We kindly ask you to write an email presenting yourself and telling you expectations for this committee.

H. BLOG POSTS

In this year conference we will replace position papers for blog posts, delegates will receive one question per week, starting three weeks before CarMUN. The questions must be answered before the deadline, delegates will have the opportunity not only to answer the question, but to comment other



delegates responses. For more information we encourage you to read the Delegates Handbook, published in our webpage, www.carmunperu.org

The first question will be posted on October the 2nd and must be answered before October 8th 11:59pm. The second question will be posted on October the 9th and must be answered before October 15th 11:59pm. The third and last question will be posted on October the 16th and must be answered before October 21st 11:59pm.

To access your committee's blog posts click in this link: <https://unocha-blogpost.blogspot.com/>.

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