

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN WAR: 'UNICEF'S ROLE IN HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY IN THE PALESTINIAN CRISIS IN THE GAZA STRIP'

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ABSTRACT

Prolonged conflict in the Gaza Strip has created a humanitarian emergency that disproportionately affects children, who are among the most vulnerable to violence, displacement, and deprivation of fundamental rights. In response to these challenges, this study aims to analyze the role of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in humanitarian diplomacy, particularly regarding protecting and fulfilling children's rights amid the Palestinian crisis. Using a qualitative descriptive method, data were collected through literature reviews and official documentation to explore how UNICEF integrates human security principles into its diplomatic and operational strategies. The findings show that UNICEF not only acts as a humanitarian aid provider but also serves as an active diplomatic actor advocating for child protection through negotiation and collaboration with both state and non-state actors. The study concludes that UNICEF's dual role—operational and diplomatic—is crucial in promoting a safer and more dignified life for children in Gaza. The implications of this research underline the need for international support and policy reinforcement to enhance UNICEF's humanitarian efforts. These insights are valuable for academics, policymakers, and practitioners involved in international humanitarian work, especially in conflict-affected regions.

KEYWORDS

Humanitarian Diplomacy; Children's Rights; Human Security; The Palestinian crisis; Gaza Strip.



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INTRODUCTION

Traditional issues in international relations lead to material related to wars between countries that have certain sovereignty, struggles, military weapons, regional security alliances, and even regarding the balance of power of countries in conflict in international politics are also related to it. In the development of this issue, human security is the main keyword related to further discussion about the impact of the role on the social environment. Human security is a concept that dismantles the meaning of 'security' from the

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traditional security concept, namely community security in the state requires the responsibility of the state and international actors in becoming human rights as long as traditional security is threatened (Caballero-Anthony, 2015; Miller, 2014; Roznai, 2014; Takahashi, 2014; Yuliyanto, 2024).

Until now, the concept of human security does not stand alone, but the concept and definition of human security comes from various types and groups such as international organizations, regional institutions, and state actors who discuss it in various forums and international conferences. This traditional view is then aligned with a new view taken from the expansion of *referent objects of security*. Human security shifts the object of reference for security from the traditional paradigm that was initially a state to personal. On the other hand, the concept of 'security', which initially only focused on *survival*, focuses on the dimension of viability and protection for the dignity of human life. So it can be said that what has changed from this concept is the perspective in focusing on the source of the threat and the object of study that wants to be secured.

Palestine and Israel have been involved in a conflict for quite a long time and have created a *security* dilemma there. The problem starts from a dispute over the place claimed by both parties as part of its sovereignty. The conflict between Israel and Palestine has very deep roots, and can be traced back to the mid-20th century. One of the starting points of this conflict was the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. At that time, based on a United Nations (UN) resolution, the Palestinian territories were partitioned into two parts, one for the Arab community and one for the Jewish community, to form the state of Israel. However, Palestinian Arabs rejected the partition, and surrounding Arab states attacked Israel in an attempt to prevent the creation of the new state.

The war between the Arabs and Israel, known as the first Arab-Israel War, caused hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees and created new borders for these countries, of which until now there are approximately 7 million people with refugee status facing challenges in wealth and identity (Prawira R. E., 2021). The lives of these refugees are also becoming more complicated because they have to survive amid an economic crisis, lack of clothing, and food, especially on the other hand for just a house to live in. These refugees also have to struggle to protect themselves if at any time there is an attack that causes quite a lot of casualties.

The problems that occur in the Gaza Strip are also related to the claim to the place that made Israel close the strip in 2006 (Suratiningsih, 2020). However, the act of closing the route is an action that has an impact on civil society as it is a path where community activities occur. The closure of the lane by Israel means that access to basic necessities, such as groceries, medicine, and health services, has been limited. These restrictions create a severe humanitarian crisis, with most of Gaza's population dependent on humanitarian aid to meet their basic needs. In particular, its direct influence on the availability of medicines and medical equipment seriously threatens the health condition of the people of Gaza ("Analisis Yuridis Perlindungan Tawanan Anak Dalam Perspektif Hukum Humaniter Internasional (Studi Kasus: Tawanan Anak Palestina Oleh Tentara Israel)," 2017; "Pelanggaran HAM Dalam Konflik Israel Dan Palestina Berdampak Terhadap Hilangnya Hak Asasi Manusia Khususnya Hak Anak Di Palestina," 2023).

Israel's policy towards Palestinians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, creates a serious situation and endangers their security and humanitarian well-being. The humanitarian security impact generated by these policies creates an unstable environment, exacerbating uncertainty and conflict in the region. Difficult conditions in Gaza have been a triggering factor for rising tensions and confrontations, making it difficult to achieve sustainable peace between the two sides. It is important to recognize that increased uncertainty and tension could result in wider impacts, creating greater humanitarian risks for the entire region. As the conflict progressed, Israel also violated International Humanitarian Law at the 1949 Geneva Convention and the 1977 Additional Protocol I on Civil Protection (Novianty, n.d.). Israel with its military made the Palestinian population suffer and the Palestinian

population itself tried to fight back by terrorizing the Israelis. Although the two are side by side, the problem that occurred has not yet found a solution (Olivia, 2013).

Lane closures, movement restrictions, and economic blockades have disrupted the daily lives of Gazans. Gaza's economy is feeling a serious impact due to Israel's policies. Strict economic restrictions hamper economic growth and create high unemployment, leaving many Gazans living in deep poverty. Limited access to markets and economic opportunities also hamper Gaza's efforts to create economic sustainability amid existing challenges. Movement restrictions have also negatively impacted the education and health sectors in Gaza. Many residents have difficulty accessing education and health services, threatening their fundamental right to proper education and health care (Muñoz-Tejada, 2018).

These restrictions not only limit educational opportunities, but also hinder the development of the human resources that are needed to build a sustainable future. The psychological impact of this policy is enormous. Difficult living conditions, uncertainty and constant tension create a heavy psychological burden, especially for children who are at high risk of psychological trauma and stress. In this context, special attention is needed to mental health services and psychosocial support for Gaza residents, especially for children who are at high risk of psychological trauma and stress, so special attention is needed to mental health services and psychosocial support for Gaza residents.

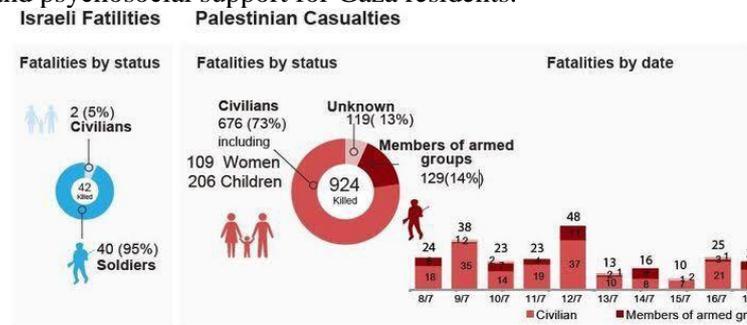


Figure 1. Data

Source: HLN NIEUWS Netherlands

Based on the data above, it can be seen that around 924 Palestinians died in the Gaza Strip and 42 others died in Israel. When calculated, the number of victims who died was around 1,000 people and 43 of them were from the Palestinian side. Meanwhile, 95% of the dead in Israel are military, and 73% of Palestinian victims are civilians. Which of course shows that there are human rights violations in the group. Only 14% of them are Hamas armed fighters. The rest are known to be around 5,500 civil society people who are not even related to the conflict in the sense of innocence and even become victims until some die due to violations of humanitarian law at the Geneva conventions. And from the data it can also be seen that 30% of them are children and the remaining 20% are women. Vulnerable groups such as women and children are the main victims of protracted conflicts and deteriorating humanitarian conditions (Dharma, 2023)

Reporting from OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) in the above data shows that the protection and well-being of these vulnerable groups are often neglected, increasing their risk of unnecessary suffering and deepening inequality and suffering in the midst of ongoing conflicts. Therefore, awareness is needed from certain parties to help and protect vulnerable groups, so that there are no human rights violations in these groups ((Hartono, n.d.)As attached to the Humanitarian Law of the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention, 1949), article 14 relates to "Establishing special protection for women and children" (Turllel, 2017). Protecting vulnerable groups in conflict situations is important, considering that these groups have a higher risk of being injured than other civil society groups.

The determinant of the success of a country is its successor, namely, children. So in this study, the Palestinian crisis caused by the conflict with Israel must pay more attention to the aspects of protection for vulnerable groups, specifically the protection of children. With this restriction, children are one of the most vulnerable and significantly affected groups. The impact, which often extends to various aspects of life, including education, mental and physical health, and life security, illustrates how severe the humanitarian situation they face (Khurun'in, n.d.).

Most children in Gaza and the West Bank have been forced to face serious disruptions in their access to decent education, whether due to conflict-damaged school infrastructure, road closures that limit mobility, or a lack of adequate educational resources and facilities. Not only does it limit educational opportunities, but it also hinders the development of human resources that are needed to build a sustainable future for all. Therefore, special attention is needed to physical and mental health services, as well as social support and access to education for the people of Gaza.



Figure 2. Data

For example, in the picture above, it is known that of the 10 victims who died, 4 of them were children. This certainly has to do with the protection of civilians, especially vulnerable groups such as children, the Israel military or anyone who participates in the war should be able to distinguish and help these vulnerable groups. Perhaps in this case, considering the movement of vulnerable groups that are sluggish and difficult such as children. They will have difficulty finding shelter/assistance. In fact, it is not uncommon for some of them to still be minors and toddlers who do not understand what war is? It can be seen from the data of the missing child who was destroyed by the ruins of 1,270 buildings. It can also be seen from the data that has been presented that the children there were kidnapped and held hostage with unwarranted accusations.

Factors that Make the Gaza Strip Strategic: Implementation of the Influence of Natural Resources and Geographical Conditions

Behind the ongoing conflict, with a rich history of political, religious, and economic tensions. There must be reasons why this territory has been contested to date, whether it is because of land tenure, its high historical and religious value, to access to natural resources that demonstrate persistent economic and humanitarian instability, has made the Gaza Strip a focal point in peace efforts in the Middle East and demonstrates its complexity and significance in the context of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. As a region that combines strong religious symbolism with conflicting political claims, as well as a fairly complex history, the Gaza Strip represents a complex battle between national aspirations, regional security, and intertwined religious identities. A deep understanding of the Gaza Strip's role is essential to respond to and properly understand the challenges and dynamics in identifying a path to peace and justice in the region.



Figure 3. Geographical Condition of Gaza

The picture above shows the geographical condition of Gaza which has an area of about 365 KM, with a length of 41 km, a width of 6 to 12 km, bordering Israel to the north and east, and Egypt to the south. The geographical coordinates are around 31°30' N and 34°30' EAST (BBC NEWS Indonesia, 2020). Then topographically, the Gaza Strip consists of relatively flat coastal plains along the Mediterranean coastline, which gradually become slightly undulating plains towards the interior. This region is also marked by small rivers and irrigation canals flowing north to south (CNN Indonesia, 2023). Despite its relatively small size, the Gaza Strip has the characteristics of important natural resource potential, as well as the geographical strategic position that makes this strip special so that it has become an object of concern and debate between various parties, especially Israel and Palestine.

Another resource concerns that the soil in this region is very fertile (SINDONEWS.COM, 2022) and suitable for agriculture, especially for vegetable and fruit crops. However, restrictions on agricultural land and access to water by Israel have hampered the development of the agricultural sector in Gaza. Then the waters along the Gaza coast also have the potential for tourism development because the scenery and atmosphere are very beautiful (Travel Tempo.co, 2023). If regulated, it can create business opportunities that attract many tourists to come and visit there. Meanwhile, if there are many tourists who come to visit, it will have an impact on the country's income, so the economy of the Palestinian state will improve because the state deficit is increasing. Nonetheless, Israeli authorities have also restricted access to Gaza waters, both for tourism activities and maritime trade, which has led to a decline in production and revenues in the sector.

Overall, the geographical location and natural resources of the Gaza Strip have potential for economic development and the welfare of its population. However, the restrictions imposed by Israel, both in the form of an economic blockade and restrictions on access to natural resources, have hampered the development of the territory and caused a serious humanitarian crisis for the people of Gaza. Although the Gaza Strip has significant natural resource potential, everything is limited because various factors, including political conflicts, unstable security, access restrictions, and lack of resource management often constrain the Gaza Strip. Therefore, although its geography has important potential for regional economic and political development, the realization of this potential is often not realized due to complex challenges and ongoing conflicts in the Gaza Strip.

In addition to geographical factors, there are also complex political factors because they involve both parties, namely Israel and Palestine. In the context of domestic politics, the Gaza Strip has significant implications for the Israel government and the Palestinian Authority. In Israel, policies related to the Gaza Strip are often debated between different political parties, with approaches ranging from tough security policies to diplomatic efforts to reach a ceasefire. On the Palestinian side, Hamas' control of the Gaza Strip brings complex internal political dynamics, including in relation to the Palestinian Authority based in the West Bank. In the context of armed conflict, control over the Gaza Strip provides

strategic advantages for those who control it in terms of security and border control. From a military point of view, the geographical location of the Gaza Strip adjacent to Israel and Egypt provides strategic advantages in terms of security and defense. The area can be used as a base for surveillance and control of movements at the border, as well as a strategic point for military and security operations.

As a densely populated and limited territory, the Gaza Strip has also become a focal point in efforts to control population movements and illegal trade, both by Israel and by the Palestinian Authority that controls the territory. The Gaza Strip is also a source of regional and international tension because of its implications for Middle Eastern stability. The conflict in the Gaza Strip has often triggered tensions between Israel and the surrounding Arab countries, as well as provoked reactions and attention from the international community, including the United Nations (UN) and major countries such as the United States and the European Union. Thus, the politics surrounding the Gaza Strip not only reflect the internal dynamics of Israel and Palestine, but also have broader implications for regional stability and international peace because this conflict has become a crucial topic even for some countries to focus their foreign aid.

Political reviews based on historical elements also have a crucial influence on the wars that occurred. The long history of conflict between Israel and Palestine, involving territorial disputes, land tenure rights, and national identity, has created political complexities rooted in the experience of persistent history. The division of the Palestinian territories in 1947 by the United Nations (UN) as part of a plan to establish the state of Israel created the political basis that became the forerunner of the conflict, including claims to the Gaza Strip by both sides. Control over the Gaza Strip has been at the center of a constant political debate between Israel, Palestinians, and other regional and international actors. In addition, the history of armed conflict in the Gaza Strip, including a series of insurgencies and intifadas, has shaped the modern political landscape in the region. The historical experience of previous conflicts, including experiences of trauma and injustice, has strengthened political identity and nationalism among the population of Gaza, influencing the political and policy dynamics in the region.

For Palestinians, control of the Gaza Strip is an integral part of the aspiration to establish an independent and sovereign Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Where the indigenous Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip is mostly Muslim, and for local residents in the Gaza Strip, only half of the majority of people in Gaza are refugees from the Palestinian territories who fled as an effort to save themselves, most of whom adhere to the Sunni Islamic faith (BBC NEWS Indonesia, 2024). So they want independence and territorial recognition as a sovereign state, so they must be freed from the influence of Israel which clearly has an ideology that is contrary to their beliefs. Judging by the historical sites found in Gaza, for Muslims including in the teachings of the Quran, this land is considered a promised historical place and has high religious value, especially with the existence of holy sites such as the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem (CNBC Indonesia, 2023).

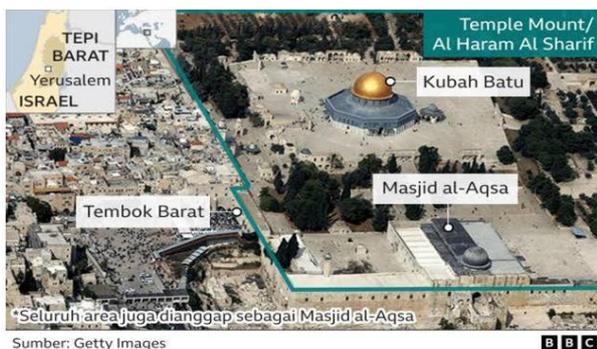


Figure 4. the al-Aqsa Mosque

As shown in the picture, for Muslims themselves, the al-Aqsa Mosque is one of the largest religious places of the four holy places in the Quran. Other holy places that are no less influential are the Dome of the Rock as well as the Haram al-Sharif plateau. This mosque is managed by a waqf institution, and for Muslims this place is the third holiest place after the Grand Mosque located in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque located in Medina (BBC NEWS Indonesia, 2017). Muslims believe that the Prophet Muhammad PBUH once visited the Aqsa Mosque after returning from Mecca during the night trip of Isra Miraj, where the Prophet Muhammad PBUH once prayed with the spirit with the prophets in the temple. For the As-Shakrah Dome itself, it is believed by Muslims to contain the foundation stone of Muhammad's last place before going to heaven which is attached in the history of Isra Miraj so that this site becomes a very sacral historical site for Muslims (DETIK.COM, 2023), thus Palestine, which is mostly for Muslims, also wants to claim this area, as to protect the existing historical site.

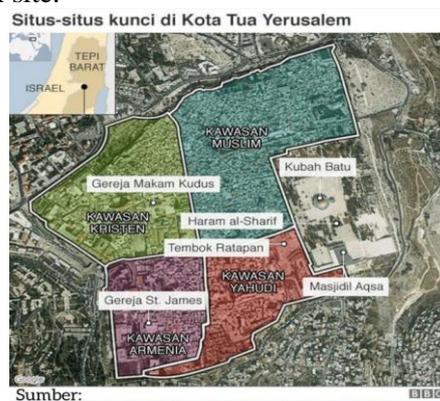


Figure 5. Israel

As can be seen in the picture for the nation Israel, control of the Gaza Strip is considered part of efforts to ensure the national security and sustainability of the Israel country amid the perceived threat from armed groups in the region. Meanwhile, for Christians, especially for Jews, the Gaza Strip has high historical and religious value judging from the many historical sites that are the center of attention and claims to this area. Where this region has links to many important events in the Old and New Testaments, which makes it a spiritual and pilgrimage destination. Gaza is considered to be part of the Land of Israel that was promised in the Old Testament Bible for the Jews to occupy (God's Promised Land), so the ownership of Gaza will continue to be fought until the territory fully belongs to the nation of Israel because the Jews believe that Jerusalem should be the capital of the Jewish nation (Shihab, 1999).

For Jews, Jerusalem has a deep spiritual significance because it is a holy place associated with various important events in the history of Judaism, including the location of Solomon's Temple which is considered home to the Ark of the Covenant and a major center of worship for Jews at that time. In addition, Jerusalem is also considered the holy city where Abraham went to slaughter Isaac in the biblical story, as well as the place where King David established the kingdom of Israel. On the other hand, this place is still an important religious location in Jesus' journey starting from Jesus being brought to be offered to the temple, then the journey for the Easter celebration, the process of Jesus walking and performing miracles, His death, the process of Christ's crucifixion located on the hill of Calvary (Golgotha), to the moment of His resurrection. In addition, Jerusalem is located within the stone walls around which there are many holiest places for several religions (KOMPAS.COM, 2017). For Christianity itself is divided into 2, in which there is a Church which is also believed to be the Holy Sepulchre, of Jesus Christ.

This research brings novelty by examining the role of UNICEF specifically in the context of humanitarian diplomacy in the Gaza Strip, especially through the application of human security principles in the protection and fulfillment of children's rights during the Palestinian crisis. In contrast to Dewi Suratiningsih and Suci Lukitowati's (2022) research that highlights the role of NGOs such as ACT in humanitarian diplomacy, as well as previous studies that discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in general (Fitria, 2021), this study emphasizes the contribution of international actors - in this case UNICEF - in the integration of non-traditional security principles and humanitarian diplomacy. In addition, this study also provides a new perspective by linking the *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* framework, especially the aspects of *hifz al-dīn* (protection of religion) and *hifz al-nafs* (protection of the soul), to the practice of protecting children's rights in areas of armed conflict, which has not previously been widely reviewed in similar studies.

The purpose of the study was to analyze the role of UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) in exploring the application of Humanitarian Diplomacy, and the integration of human security principles in improving the effectiveness of the protection and fulfillment of children's rights in the war in the Palestinian Crisis in the Gaza Strip.

The benefit of this research is that it can be a reference for academics, government practitioners and readers as a recommendation on humanitarian diplomacy and the role of UNICEF (*United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund*) in the protection, assistance, and fulfillment of children's rights in the Palestinian Crisis with integration into the principles of human security. This research provides in-depth insights into the role of UNICEF, the application of *Humanitarian Diplomacy*, and its integration with human security principles, thereby improving understanding of how these efforts can contribute to the effectiveness of humanitarian protection in the context of the Palestinian crisis.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Approach and Type

To support the research data, the researcher uses a type of descriptive research, where descriptive research is research with a method to describe a research result. As the name implies, this type of descriptive research aims to provide descriptions, explanations, and validation regarding the phenomenon being studied. Researchers will use theory to analyze data (Ramdhan, M. 2021). Descriptive research is used to look at the effectiveness of the implementation of human diplomacy to support the fulfillment of children's rights from the role of UNICEF in humanitarian diplomacy for children as an effort to apply the principles of *human security* to the Palestinian crisis.

Unit Amatan

In conducting research, researchers understand the importance of a unit that provides information called an observation unit (Sugiono, 2014). In this study, researchers identified the role of UNICEF as an effort to humanitarian diplomacy as a policy from vulnerable in 2018-2022 as a unit of observation

Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis in this study aims to show the essence of the object being studied. in the context of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. The main focus of the analysis includes UNICEF's effectiveness in providing humanitarian assistance and emergency response, its role as a mediator and facilitator in humanitarian diplomacy, and its contribution to the concept of human security for vulnerable groups, in this case children whose privileges have been violated. This research aims to provide a holistic understanding of the impacts and challenges faced by UNICEF in supporting the implementation of humanitarian law so that the guarantee of life for children can be realized properly. Integrate on the aspects of diplomacy, human rights protection, and human security in one comprehensive analytical framework.

Data Collection Techniques

The method used in this study is a literature study, by looking for data from books, government publication documents, research results, publication articles, and research results.

Types and Data Sources

Data Type

In this study, the data used is qualitative data. The use of qualitative data in verbal form and not in numbers (Abdurahman, 2007). This qualitative research includes the background of the Israel-Palestine conflict, the impact of the conflict on vulnerable groups, as well as a review of *human security*, as well as the effectiveness of UNICEF's role in transforming Humanitarian Diplomacy.

Data Source

The source of data in the study is the subject from which the data can be obtained. In this writing, the author uses secondary data sources, namely data collected by the author as support from the first source. It can also be said that data is compiled in the form of documents. The data used includes books, journals and official documents from government websites. This research will produce data in the form of words, sentences and images that the author can get from various literature.

Drawing conclusions

Drawing conclusions is the final stage of research to ensure all the data and information obtained. This conclusion must also be based on theoretical and conceptual analysis to be able to answer the problem formulation validly while being able to summarize all research results in the form of a narrative.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Children's Rights Violations in War: Causes of Children Groups Can Be Affected by the Israel-Palestine Conflict in the Gaza Strip

The war that occurred between Israel and Palestine is a prolonged conflict caused by several influences such as: History, politics, religion, and goals of each country so that this conflict seems to have no end, and has attracted the attention of the world. The consequences of this conflict have also caused many losses, both in terms of economy, military, geography, to the many victims who have fallen, most of whom are civilians, and vulnerable groups (children, women, and the elderly). However, this conflict is increasingly stealing the world's attention, especially because of the military aggression carried out on the Gaza Strip. The ongoing armed conflict between Israel and armed groups in Gaza, such as Hamas, often leads to human rights violations. Air strikes, ground strikes, and economic blockades carried out by Israel in response to rocket attacks from Gaza often reap civilian casualties and damage to infrastructure that violates human rights.

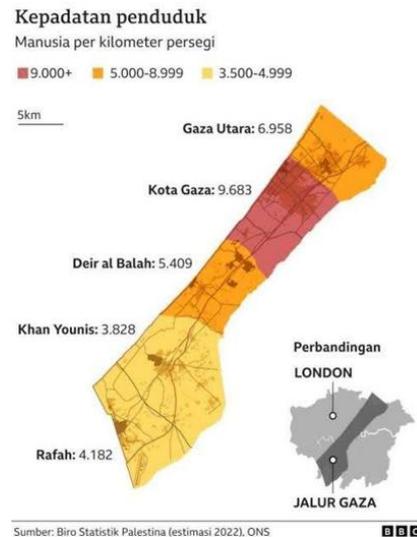


Figure 6. Gaza Strip

As attached to the picture on the side, the Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated areas in the world (Gisha, a non-profit organization outside the Israel government), on the other hand, because this area has the most population so that the presentation of victims due to the war that occurred is also high, which means, the number of human rights violations in the Gaza Strip is also significant. Therefore, the settlement of human rights violations in the Gaza Strip is important because of the many cases of human rights violations that occur. This situation can also worsen existing problems because the excessive increase in the community causes the rapid spread of diseases so that the sanitation system will also be burdened.

These settlement efforts involve a wide range of parties, including international organizations, governments, NGOs, and civil society, working together to uphold justice, champion human rights, and create sustainable peace. The difficult humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including lack of access to clean water, food, health services, and education, has also led to human rights violations.

The tight controls imposed by the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip can also lead to human rights violations. The prohibition of freedom of expression, the suppression of political opposition, and the use of violence and torture against political prisoners by the Hamas government have caused serious concern from various international human rights institutions. Meanwhile, Israel's years-long blockade has created a humanitarian crisis in the region, exacerbating the suffering of Gazans and violating their human rights. Thus, human rights violations in the Gaza Strip are caused by a combination of armed conflict, authoritarian control, and a prolonged humanitarian crisis. Resolving conflicts and improving the humanitarian situation in the region are essential to prevent further human rights violations and achieve sustainable peace. Human rights violations in the Gaza Strip are closely related to the complex conditions of conflict and the difficult humanitarian situation in the region.

Children in the Gaza Strip are vulnerable to conflict and human rights abuses because they are trapped in an environment filled with violence, instability, and ongoing humanitarian crises. First of all, the armed conflict between Israel and armed groups in Gaza often causes casualties and injuries among children. Air strikes, artillery fire, and ground attacks often do not distinguish between the military and civilians, leaving children vulnerable to inevitable danger and trauma. For example, in the year

In addition, Israel's years-long blockade has created a humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, with limited access to basic resources such as food, clean water, health services, and education. As such, children in the Gaza Strip face a high risk of becoming victims of

conflict and human rights violations, and protection of their privileges in war is essential to prevent unnecessary suffering and ensure that they can live with dignity and proper safety.

The Application of Humanitarian Law in Seeing Child Victims in War

Children are a vulnerable group that especially needs to be protected in war situations. First of all, children have the same human rights as adults, but they often do not have the same physical, mental, or emotional abilities to protect themselves. Therefore, the protection of children in war is essential to ensure that they do not fall victim to violence and brutality that could permanently damage their future. On the other hand, humanitarian law provides a clear framework for protecting children during armed conflict. Humanitarian law affirms the prohibition of the use of children as fighters, as well as prohibits inhumane treatment of them, including torture, unfair treatment, or detention without due process (Melzer, N, 2019). By providing clear guidelines on how children should be treated during conflict, humanitarian law ensures that their rights are recognized and respected even in the midst of violence.

The application of humanitarian law in the context of child protection in the Gaza Strip has profound relevance in ensuring the continuity of life and well-being of future generations amid armed conflict and regional instability. Humanitarian law, as a framework that affirms the principles and rules governing behavior during conflict, provides an important foundation for protecting children from the adverse effects of war, including violence, torture, and inhumane treatment. Taking into account the universal principles of human rights, the application of humanitarian law aims to ensure that the rights and dignity of children are respected and defended, as well as to minimize their risk of unnecessary harm during periods of conflict. Therefore, considering the important role of humanitarian law in the context of the protection of children in the Gaza Strip becomes very relevant and urgent in efforts to ensure justice and welfare for children affected by armed conflict.

So that International Humanitarian Law can also be used as a review of every country in the world to minimize conflicts, especially to reduce the suffering of victims due to war. The study of humanitarian law can be applied to countries in conflict or neutral countries that want to help countries in conflict. Humanitarian law, which falls under the law of war or the law of armed conflict, establishes a set of rules and principles designed to limit the use of military force and protect civilians, including children, during conflict (Anastasya Y. Turler, 2017). Humanitarian Law here is a basic review of the principles, roles, and practices of international actors themselves as an effort to resolve existing international issues related to losses to victims of war.

The collaboration of global actors in the principles of liberal-institutionalism

The collaboration of global actors on children's rights in the Israel-Palestinian conflict in the Gaza Strip can include a range of efforts to promote the fulfillment of children's rights and the enforcement of international humanitarian law. First, organizations such as the United Nations (UN), including UNICEF, can play a key role in mobilizing resources and coordinating humanitarian efforts to protect children in the Gaza Strip. They can provide medical, educational, and psychosocial assistance to children affected by the conflict, as well as facilitate access to health and education services. In addition, UN member states and regional organizations can play a role in urging parties involved in the conflict, including Israel and Palestine, to respect international humanitarian law and take concrete steps to protect children from violence and abuse. Through multilateral diplomacy and dialogue between countries, global actors can work together to promote the implementation of relevant UN resolutions and strengthen monitoring and accountability mechanisms related to children's rights.

In helping children affected by the war, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) can also play an important role in

monitoring child rights violations in the Gaza Strip and providing direct assistance to children in need. They can provide advocacy, advocacy, and legal support to victims of violence and their families, as well as rally the support of international civil society to fight for children's rights at the global level. As the collaboration of global actors within the framework of the principles of liberal-institutionalism becomes balanced and works well, it can form a strong alliance to protect children in the Gaza Strip and promote peace, justice, and well-being for all parties involved in the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Through these joint efforts, it is hoped that a safer and more stable environment can be created for children in the Gaza Strip, as well as strengthen the foundations for a long-term peaceful settlement of the conflict.

In 2018 (UNICEF, 2018), UNICEF worked with various organizations and government agencies to provide humanitarian assistance in the Gaza and West Bank affected by the prolonged conflict. This cooperation involves collaborating with a number of international agencies, UN agencies, and NGOs to address the urgent needs of children and families in the area. In early 2018, UNICEF coordinated with the Palestinian Authority (PA) and was involved in several working groups under the UN humanitarian team. UNICEF leads the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster together with the Palestinian Water Authority, and collaborates with Save the Children in the Education cluster in Gaza and the Education in Emergency Situations in the West Bank working group (UNICEF, 2018). Under the Protection cluster led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNICEF leads the Child Protection Working Group as well as the Mental Health and Psychosocial Services Group (MHPSS). In the health sector, UNICEF is also working with the Palestinian Ministry of Health and WHO in leading the Nutrition Working Group in Gaza and at the national level (UNICEF, 2018).

This cooperation has resulted in important contributions from various international donors. In mid-2018, UNICEF received contributions from *the Central Emergency Response Fund* (CERF), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) that helped in responding to urgent needs in the areas of health and emergency preparedness. UNICEF also receives funding from the France National Committee for UNICEF, SIDA (*Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency*), and other agencies. However, in July 2018, of the total humanitarian needs of US\$ 25.8 million, UNICEF only received about US\$ 9.1 million (36 percent). This indicates a significant funding gap, which affects UNICEF's capacity to provide essential services and emergency preparedness for children in dire need (UNICEF, 2018).

In 2020, UNICEF continued to work with international and local organizations in an effort to provide humanitarian assistance in the Palestinian territories, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank. UNICEF works in close coordination with UN humanitarian teams and country organizations, leading several key clusters in the humanitarian response, including the WASH Cluster focused on water, sanitation and hygiene. In addition, UNICEF collaborates with Save the Children in leading the Education Cluster and takes a leading role in the Child Protection Working Group and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Group under the Protection Cluster (UNICEF, 2020). In the nutrition cluster, UNICEF is collaborating closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) at the national level and in Gaza to ensure that child nutrition remains a priority, especially amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis (*Peran World Health Organization (WHO) Dalam Penanganan Wabah Pandemi COVID-19 Di Korea Selatan*, n.d.).

In addition to these collaborations, UNICEF is also actively balancing emergency assistance and long-term development in Palestine. In the area of health and nutrition, UNICEF provides support in the form of emergency health services for neonatals, postnatal care, and early childhood development with a focus on children with developmental delays and disabilities. This program is important given the worsening water and sanitation crisis,

as well as the prolonged energy crisis in Gaza. UNICEF facilitates access to clean drinking water through solar installations, water tank rehabilitation, and improved water distribution networks. The program also includes support for vulnerable households, including the provision of drinking water taps, toilets, sewer connections, and hygiene promotion activities. In addition, UNICEF plays an active role in flood preparedness and mitigation activities in high-risk areas. UNICEF also regularly distributes health supplies and other essential aid to Gaza to respond to urgent humanitarian needs.

In addition, UNICEF also continues to strengthen community resilience through flood preparedness and risk mitigation programs in high-risk areas. Through the distribution of critical health supplies and other basic necessities in Gaza, UNICEF ensures that aid reaches those most in need amid a prolonged crisis. Financially, although the amount or nominal amount of assistance received by UNICEF in 2022 has not been specifically detailed, it can be seen that collaboration with various international parties, including UN agencies and international NGOs, has made it possible to sustain these important programs (UNICEF, 2022). Resources obtained from donors and international partners are used to ensure that UNICEF's key programmes, such as education, health, nutrition, clean water, and child protection, can continue. By coordinating the efforts of various actors, UNICEF can maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of its programmes. This cooperation system reflects how international institutions and NGOs can act as a catalyst in distributing aid faster and on target

(Cadet M.AU3 - French Arghum Group, 2021)

Implementation of UNICEF's Role in Children's Rights in 2018-2022

The deterioration of the socio-economic situation in the Gaza Strip, which is characterized by a reduction in electricity and fuel resources, has made the region even worse with the existing situation, on the other hand, the uncertainty for the financing of essential facilities and infrastructure, exacerbated by the constant new clashes between the parties to the conflict, exacerbating the humanitarian system in the region, especially children who are vulnerable to humanitarian violations. The condition is getting worse, especially because of the issue of the United States Embassy moving to Jerusalem around the end of 2017. On the other hand, this has an impact on the cessation of the Palestinian reconciliation process which makes Gaza's economy decline and children's lives are also not improving. From 2018-2022, in an effort to help children and families affected by the conflict, UNICEF as an NGO ran various programs. which can be categorized as long-term, and short-term programs consistently to fight for world leaders to provide extended humanitarian access throughout the Gaza Strip. The organization has issued a call for an immediate and sustained response to the situation of children in Israel and Palestine (Israel, n.d.; Setiaji, n.d.; Shabita Y. E., 2019).

The call includes calls for a ceasefire that is not only temporary but also long-term, as well as safe and unrestricted humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip to reach the affected population in every region, including the northern region. UNICEF is also calling for the opening of all crossings to ensure the supply of fuel and materials needed to run and rehabilitate critical infrastructure and to strengthen commercial supplies. In addition, there is a need to ensure the safe movement of humanitarian workers and supplies throughout the Gaza Strip and the availability of reliable telecommunications networks to coordinate emergency response efforts. UNICEF also urges the immediate, safe and unconditional release of all abducted children, and an end to all serious violations against them, including murder and wounding

(Tenti O.AU3 - Cheleschi S.AU4 - Reginster J. Y., 2023)

Protection and respect for civilian infrastructure such as shelters, schools, health facilities, electricity, water, sanitation, and telecommunications are also the focus, with the

aim of preventing the loss of civilian and child lives, as well as disease outbreaks. All parties involved in the conflict are expected to respect international humanitarian law. In the interest of urgent medical care, UNICEF urges that access to essential health services in Gaza be guaranteed and that injured or sick children be safely evacuated to be accompanied by family members. Lastly, continued protection of children and their families is encouraged, including for those who are unable or reluctant to move after evacuation orders are imposed.

Short Term Programme

In 2018, short-term programs were designed to provide immediate relief and emergency response to urgent crises. For example, in the case of Israel-Palestine in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF runs various short-term programs aimed at responding to the urgent needs of the Palestinian community, especially in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, especially to protect vulnerable groups, such as children. UNICEF is supplying clean drinking water to 15,000 people living in remote areas of the West Bank, as well as providing water supplies to vulnerable communities in Gaza through water trucks, ensuring that children and their families continue to have access to clean water. In addition, the hygiene package distribution program to 15,000 households in Gaza is designed to protect children and families from the risk of disease due to poor hygiene conditions, amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis (UNICEF, 2018).

UNICEF also plays an important role in building community resilience to the threat of natural disasters, such as floods, by building a rainwater reservoir in Rafah to protect 20,000 people, including children, from the risk of flood damage (UNICEF, 2018). In addition, UNICEF is distributing emergency medicines, including vaccines and critical medicines, to hospitals in Gaza to ensure timely assistance to pregnant women, newborns and children in need of emergency care, as well as distributing emergency fuel to more than 130 vital WASH installations in Gaza during the clean water crisis due to the lack of electricity so that the program can continue to operate and serve children and their families. On the other hand, UNICEF provided support through the distribution of hygiene kits to families affected by the crisis, and the delivery of emergency medical supplies following the escalation of violence that occurred in April 2018.

In 2019, UNICEF launched a range of short-term programmes with a primary focus on meeting the urgent needs of vulnerable groups, especially children, in Gaza and other Palestinian territories. One of the most significant interventions is carried out through the *Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)* program. The program runs throughout 2019, with monthly distribution of sodium-hypochlorite solutions to water facilities in Gaza. The goal is to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases due to sanitation crises that worsen children's health conditions. In addition, more than 3,200 portable water tanks were distributed to households in dire need, as a direct effort to ensure access to safe drinking water. Emergency rehabilitation efforts are also being carried out against the water network at Al Shifa Hospital, which targets to serve up to 135,000 people, including children in need of intensive medical care (UNICEF, 2019).

In terms of child protection, UNICEF provided much-needed psychosocial and legal assistance to children injured or arrested in demonstrations in Gaza throughout mid to late 2019 (UNICEF, 2019). Through individual and group counseling, as well as legal assistance in East Jerusalem, the program aims to restore mental well-being and provide legal protection to children directly affected by the conflict. The program runs intensively for several months and targets hundreds of children in vulnerable situations. The impact felt by this program is that children become more healed of their mental and physical wounds, so that existing trauma can slowly be recovered, although it is not 100% gone, but this program helps speed up recovery. Nutrition counseling sessions and cooking demonstrations are also held regularly to help improve the nutritional quality of children and breastfeeding mothers, thereby preventing further deterioration of their health conditions.

On the other hand, the long-term program run by UNICEF throughout 2022 aims to strengthen child protection services in a sustainable manner. One of the main focuses is child protection case management, which includes psychosocial support (PSS) and coordinated handling of child protection cases. The program runs throughout the year as part of an ongoing child protection strategy. In addition, UNICEF is also involved in the rehabilitation of conflict-damaged schools, which run from January to June but have a long-term impact because it involves improving educational infrastructure. Overall, UNICEF's programmes in 2022 aim to provide immediate and immediate assistance to children and families affected by the crisis, as well as build stronger and more sustainable child protection systems (UNICEF, 2022).

Long Term Programme

UNICEF's long-term programmes focus on developing sustainable strategies and systemic improvements to ensure the long-term well-being of children and their families. Various long-term programs are implemented with a significant focus on child protection in Palestine, especially in Gaza and the West Bank. The goal of the program is to ensure sustainable child protection through capacity building of local communities and the institutions that manage these centers. The program involves increasing local involvement and aims long-term to create more independent and sustainable child protection mechanisms.

In addition, there is a neonatal unit rehabilitation project in hospitals in the West Bank, which aims to increase the capacity of newborn care through the improvement of neonatal facilities. The project provides life-saving neonatal services, with the long-term goal of reducing infant mortality in Palestine. The program operates throughout 2018, with the first phase starting at the beginning of the year and the second phase lasting until September. Approximately 1,000 babies benefit from this service each year, reinforcing its long-term impact on children's health (UNICEF, 2018). The program to improve maternal and child health services involving the training of medical personnel and the improvement of health facilities is also part of a long-term program aimed at improving the quality of health care for children and mothers in Gaza and the West Bank. The program has a sustainable positive impact in improving neonatal care services and overall health services.

Another long-term program that supports children is the continuing education project. This includes positive discipline training for teachers and peer mediators in schools as well as parent training to support their children's education. The program aims to build educational capacity and create a safe environment for children in schools, with a long-term focus on emergency preparedness and student safety. The water desalination program with solar energy in Gaza is also part of an innovative long-term initiative. This desalination prototype is designed to provide clean drinking water for 3,000 people in a sustainable manner (UNICEF, 2018). The project not only ensures access to clean water for children and families in Gaza, but also addresses significant challenges in the clean water sector in a sustainable manner. Through these long-term programs, the focus on child protection in Palestine remains a top priority, with ongoing efforts to improve local capacity, health infrastructure, education, and access to clean water for the future well-being of children.

The long-term programs implemented throughout 2022 focus on sustainable development and strengthening systems in various important sectors, including child protection, health, education, water and sanitation, and strengthening social mechanisms. One of the important long-term programs is the repair and rehabilitation of schools that took place from January to June 2022, with a focus on rehabilitating educational infrastructure damaged by the conflict. This program not only aims to provide safe and proper educational facilities for children, but also has a sustainable impact in building a more stable learning environment in the future. The project is part of a long-term rehabilitation effort, which continues to strengthen the quality of education in crisis-affected areas.

In the health sector, the health and nutrition service program for neonates and children under five years old also started in early 2022, and although the immediate time span

is limited to the first half of the year, the effects of this program are sustainable as it improves maternal and child health in the long term. The program ensures that newborns, children under five years old, and pregnant women receive comprehensive health services, which directly support the growth and development of children in critical times of their lives. Moreover, just like in previous years, child protection case management and psychosocial support management (PSS) are running throughout 2022 to provide protection for vulnerable children with a coherent and coordinated case management approach of child protection networks with impacts that are expected to continue for the next few years, along with the development of stronger and more sustainable protection systems. This program is not only reactive to crises, but also aims to build a more resilient and sustainable child protection system in the future. By focusing on strengthening the capacity of local institutions and better management, the program enables a more effective response to the challenges of child protection in times of crisis and post-crisis.

Implications for UNICEF programme implementation

UNICEF faces major implications and challenges in implementing its assistance programs for children in the Gaza Strip. Prolonged conflicts and frequent violence create a highly volatile environment, which makes it difficult to implement aid programs. Destroyed infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, and clean water facilities, left many children unable to access vital basic services. In the absence of safe places in the region, children continue to be exposed to the risk of death, injury, and illness due to lack of access to clean water, food, and medical care. For UNICEF and its partners, working in areas surrounded by active violence and often targeted by attacks, rescue efforts and aid delivery are often hampered by restrictions imposed by parties to the conflict. Thus creating a significant gap in children's access to quality education, a safe environment, and humanitarian protection.

In the midst of these conditions, UNICEF is faced with logistical and operational challenges that threaten the effectiveness of its programmes. The number of trucks available is insufficient, and the fuel supply is very limited, which means the distribution of aid is severely hampered. The process of inspecting trucks entering Gaza is often slow and unpredictable, leading to delays in the distribution of aid to those most in need. Even when aid made it into Gaza, its damaged infrastructure, including roads and warehouses, worsened the situation (UNICEF, 2021). Vehicles carrying aid often face dangerous conditions, from unexploded ordnance to streets filled with refugees, slowing distribution efforts. Frequent communication outages have also disrupted coordination efforts, leaving many families unsure of how they can access assistance. The safety and security of UNICEF staff and their partners is also a critical issue. Attacks on civilian facilities and public services often pose a direct threat to program implementers, who have to work in risky conditions. The trauma experienced by children as a result of conflict also adds to the complexity of the assistance needed, as in addition to providing basic services such as education and health, UNICEF must also focus on providing intensive psychosocial support. These services are important to help children cope with the emotional and psychological impact of violence they witness or experience.

Looking at all the challenges that exist, resource limitations, both in terms of funding and workforce, are an additional obstacle. The needs of children in Gaza are enormous, and often exceed UNICEF's capacity to respond quickly and comprehensively. Nevertheless, UNICEF remains committed to continuing its long-term programs, such as strengthening the education system, rehabilitating health infrastructure, and building child protection capacity. On the other hand, UNICEF continues to do its best to provide medical assistance, nutritional supplements, water supplies, tents, blankets, and other necessities. However, this aid can only alleviate a small part of the suffering experienced by children and their families in Gaza.

The impact children have felt from UNICEF's Programme Implementation & Assistance

Amid the endless conflict in the Gaza Strip, the lives of nearly 1.9 million people, mostly children, have changed drastically. More than half of this population has been forced to flee, losing access to basic necessities such as clean water, food, fuel, and medicine. Their homes were destroyed, families were scattered, and many children lost parents and loved ones. Some of them experience repeated displacement, living in uncertainty that undermines their physical and mental health. In the midst of this devastation, essential services such as health facilities and shelters are increasingly threatened. Against the backdrop of this very complex crisis, UNICEF's role is more important than ever. Their long-term programs aim not only to provide emergency relief, but also to restore hope to Gaza's children, ensuring they continue to have the protection, education, health, and psychosocial support they need to survive and thrive even in challenging war situations.

The impact of UNICEF's programmes during the 2018-2022 period in the Gaza Strip, despite facing tremendous challenges, has made a significant contribution to the development, protection and well-being of children during times of war. One of the main impacts seen is the increase in children's access to educational services. UNICEF's school rehabilitation programme has allowed thousands of children to return to school in safer and more decent environments, even though many schools have been damaged by the conflict. This rehabilitation not only provides a physical place for children to learn, but also creates a sense of normalcy and stability in the midst of uncertain situations.

In addition, in the health sector, programs focused on providing health services and essential nutrition have helped prevent worse health conditions among children, especially those in vulnerable groups such as newborns and children under five years old. UNICEF's health and nutrition programme during this period has been able to provide vital support to pregnant and lactating women, as well as children in need of medical care. This contributes to a decrease in child mortality from preventable diseases, even in war situations. Mental health services and psychosocial support (PSS) provided by UNICEF are also very influential in helping children overcome psychological trauma caused by prolonged conflict (Vitry, H. S., Syamsir, S., Ummatin, K., Azzahra, M. H., Amanda, A. P., & Suci, D. P. 2023).

UNICEF's child protection programs also have a significant impact on the protection of children from violence and exploitation. Through child protection case management systems and strengthening protection networks from gender-based violence (GBV), UNICEF ensures that children at risk of violence have access to the help and protection they need. The program helps children avoid more dangerous situations and provides them with access to psychosocial support services, which are essential for their recovery from war trauma. Strengthening the child protection system also helps build children's resilience in facing conflict situations.

In terms of long-term well-being, UNICEF's programmes contribute to the development of stronger and more sustainable systems. The capacity building program of local partners in providing health services, child protection and clean water helps build a foundation that will continue to provide long-term benefits to Gaza's children, even after the conflict period ends. Improving access to clean water and sanitation also has a direct impact on children's welfare, reducing the risk of diseases associated with poor sanitation, and improving their daily quality of life. Overall, although significant challenges remain, UNICEF's programs during 2018-2022 have managed to bring a real positive impact to children in Gaza. The program not only provides emergency assistance during wartime, but also builds the foundation for a safer and more prosperous future for the region's young people. The impact created by these programs provides hope for Gaza's children to live a

better life despite the violence and uncertainty (*Strategi Komunikasi Dalam Diplomasi Kemanusiaan: Best Practice ACT Dalam Isu Kemanusiaan Palestina*, n.d.).

The Success of Humanitarian Diplomacy by UNICEF in Fulfilling Children's Rights in the War in the Gaza Strip

In the context of the Israel-Palestinian war, particularly in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF is committed to providing humanitarian assistance to children affected by prolonged violence, including physical and psychological protection, access to health services, education and other basic needs. The success of UNICEF's humanitarian diplomacy in the context of Gaza can be reviewed from the extent to which UNICEF's vision and mission have been achieved in the midst of extreme conflict conditions. UNICEF's humanitarian diplomacy aims to open access for humanitarian aid to affected areas, ensure the safety of children, and urge respect for international humanitarian law that protects children in conflict. So it can be said that UNICEF has succeeded in carrying out and providing vital assistance for children experiencing humanitarian crises in the Gaza Strip judging from the achievement of UNICEF's goals and vision and mission.

On the one hand, the success of UNICEF's humanitarian diplomacy is reflected in its ability to remain present on the ground and continue to provide assistance to affected children. UNICEF has been able to mobilize international assistance, raising global awareness of the plight of children in Gaza and the West Bank, by engaging in collaboration with various stakeholders, both international and local. This helps the large number of aid supplies that come in to support the running of every humanitarian program created by UNICEF. The success of diplomacy can be measured by UNICEF's ability to establish effective partnerships with governments, local NGOs, and international organizations in delivering aid and building local capacity. If UNICEF manages to build a strong network of partnerships and is able to optimize local resources, then this is an indication that their humanitarian diplomacy has been successful.

UNICEF also works to protect children affected by this condition by pressuring warring parties to comply with the principles of international law that protect children in conflict situations. For example, UNICEF has played an important role in urging the opening of humanitarian pathways, and the effectiveness of other UNICEF-initiated child protection programs can be seen from UNICEF's performance in ensuring that children affected by war are protected from violence, exploitation, and psychological trauma. The child protection case management programme, psychosocial support (PSS), and advocacy for the legal protection of children from violence, when able to reach and protect the most vulnerable children in the Gaza Strip, show that UNICEF's child protection goals are partially achieved.

UNICEF also ensures the delivery of medical assistance, as well as supports health programs, for example, UNICEF's health and nutrition program that has successfully reached thousands of children and ensured they have access to nutritional supplements and medical services can be seen as evidence that humanitarian diplomacy has helped to fulfil their fundamental rights. UNICEF has succeeded in reducing the rate of child mortality due to conflict, malnutrition, or infectious diseases in the Gaza Strip. If UNICEF's health programmes are able to reduce the prevalence of diseases and improve the health status of children, then this is an indicator of the success of diplomacy in achieving the children's health goals (UNICEF).

Indicators supporting UNICEF's success are also included in UNICEF's vision of access to quality education for every child. In the context of the Gaza Strip, where many schools have been destroyed by attacks, the success of UNICEF's humanitarian diplomacy can be measured by the extent to which school rehabilitation programmes and the provision of emergency education are able to ensure that children continue to have access to education despite conflict situations. The school rehabilitation and emergency education program

that successfully returned thousands of children to a safe learning environment is one of the indicators of UNICEF's success in implementing and creating programs that are suitable for the needs of children in the Gaza Strip.

CONCLUSION

Humanitarian Diplomacy through UNICEF plays an important role in efforts to protect and fulfill the rights of children in conflict areas, especially in the Gaza Strip. This study finds that the application of Humanitarian Diplomacy integrated with the principles of Human Security can increase the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions in conflict situations. UNICEF, as an international non-governmental organization, demonstrates the ability to operate in highly challenging environments, such as in Gaza, where children's rights are often neglected due to prolonged armed conflict. Through an analysis of UNICEF's role in implementing *Humanitarian Diplomacy*, which not only provides material assistance but also promotes legal protection and psychosocial support for children affected by conflict. This study shows that the integration of *Human Security* in humanitarian diplomacy approaches is key to ensuring more comprehensive and sustainable interventions, which ultimately contribute to improving child protection in conflict areas. This study emphasizes the importance of synergy between international organizations such as UNICEF and innovative approaches in *Humanitarian Diplomacy* to achieve the goal of protecting human rights, especially the rights of children in conflict areas. By incorporating the principles of *Human Security* in humanitarian interventions, UNICEF has been able to increase the effectiveness of its programmes in the Gaza Strip, although there are still significant challenges to be faced. These conclusions provide a basis for more effective policy recommendations in the future, especially in designing humanitarian interventions that are more sensitive to the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as children in conflict areas.

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