



Country: Switzerland

Committee: UNDP

Topic(s) / Agenda Item I : Quality Education Interruptions Due to Territorial Disputes in the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Region

Agenda Item II: Development of Nuclear Energy and Its Effects on Environmental Matters

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As Switzerland, we are aware and saddened that the ongoing conflicts and terrorism in MENA is abusing education and children's rights. MENA is a complex region that includes many races. This brings with it difficulties that we must strive against. Protracted and high intensity conflicts; massive conflict-induced displacement, within and across borders; enormous and ever growing humanitarian and protection needs; grave and widespread child rights violations; constant erosion of the laws of war: these are some of the main challenges for advancing the child protection agenda in MENA in humanitarian contexts. The huge access and security constraints, the complexity and fragmentation of armed actors, the lack of adequate funding and the limited partners' capacity on the ground, are significantly hindering UNICEF's capacity to protect children in war and deliver services at scale.

There are over 61 million children living in countries affected by war in MENA out of a total child population of nearly 166 million. This is to say that over a third

of children in MENA are affected by ongoing conflicts and violence. One in every three children. In this region, living in war is becoming the “new normal” for millions of children. Adolescents and youth comprise a significant proportion of the population in humanitarian contexts. This age group is the most exposed to protection risks such as child marriage, recruitment and child labor. These are not the only problems in MENA. Under the influence of terrorism and religious oppression, children are easily manipulated and their rights are taken away by being included in terrorist groups. Along with this, lack of education begins and unconscious families are raised. In MENA, children cannot receive education, struggle with psychological problems and are exposed to violence.

There is mounting evidence of the violence and exploitation suffered by refugee and migrant children throughout their journeys, particularly affecting those who travel unaccompanied. Smuggling and trafficking of children throughout the main MENA migration routes are issues of greatest concern.

Violence in the home is widespread in the region, between 82-88% on average. Over 46 million children under 5 (88% average) experience/or are impacted by some forms of violence in MENA. After child marriage has been steadily declining in the MENA region there is now disconcerting evidence that it is increasing once again as a result of protracted conflict and prolonged displacement (e.g. child marriage in Syria’s refugee hosting countries tripled in the last few years). A UNICEF recent study found that 77% of adolescents and youths moving through the Central Mediterranean route reported exploitation with those from sub-Saharan countries facing considerably higher protection risks, including trafficking.

As Switzerland, which has always been based on the importance of peace and education, we think that we need to fight these problems. The solutions we propose to combat these will be based on peace and volunteerism.

- Strengthening child protection in humanitarian action by scaling up mental health and psychosocial programming and specialized services for children and caregivers, including to address GBV issues, particularly in high intensity conflicts where the impact on children is the greatest. For these, volunteer trainers are selected from every country and encouraged to volunteer by ensuring that volunteer trainers benefit from the opportunities under UN organizations for a lifetime. The UN can also support education programs that are specifically designed for conflict-affected areas, such as programs that provide psychosocial support to students who have experienced trauma.
- Promoting secular and modern education in the region in response to the manipulation of children with religion, publishing educational reports by the UN, and raising awareness of children and families using media tools. Updating and aligning the curriculum with international and secular standards can improve the quality of education and can raise conscious young people.
- Addressing socio-economic inequalities and ensuring equal access to education for all students will raise children's awareness and move them away from terrorism. For this reason, we recommend sending volunteer trainers again. But when sending these volunteer trainers, we aim to increase the incentives by collaborating with other organizations. We propose to cooperate with the United Nations Security Council to ensure the safety of visiting instructors. We also recommend working together with UNICEF for the psychological support of children and the protection of their rights. Because it can help leverage resources and expertise to improve the quality of education with international organizations and the private sector.
- We are also aware that gender inequality and social norms in the region are causing civil unrest. We aim to ensure that all children have equal access to quality education, regardless of gender, socio-economic status and location. We plan to send qualified teachers carefully selected by the UN to the region. Training teachers in gender-sensitive teaching methods and strategies to meet the specific needs of girls and boys can help promote gender equality in education. Strengthening policy and legal

frameworks to promote gender equality in education, including laws and policies that prohibit discrimination based on gender.

These are just a few examples of our solutions to explain the trend and how the solutions we plan in the future will be.

About nuclear energy policies, nuclear power plants are one of the intensive sales of fuel energies. We decompose carbon dioxide, so it does not create a greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect means that it does not pollute the environment. The fuels used in nuclear energy processes are recyclable. Thus, it can be used initially as fuel. The presence of nuclear power plants also reduces the consumption of imported energy. It has both benefits and harm. We did not mention uranium, the raw material of nuclear energy. It is possible to obtain uranium material and then also cause significant radioactive pollution. Failure to ensure proper operation of a nuclear power plant can cause significant damage. We saw the most well-known and hundredth example of this in 1986. The Chernobyl disaster, which took place in 1986, caused a major disaster. For this reason, it is one of the systems that requires the most attention in terms of security measures. The resulting radioactive waste must be strictly prevented from entering the nature. Because these radioactive wastes cause great harm not only to nature but also to the human body.

The first idea of nuclear energy in Switzerland was put forward in 1966. In 1970, this idea became official. The power plant, whose construction started in the summer of 1973, was completed on September 29, 1979.

As Switzerland, we want to continue using nuclear energy with a tendency to minimize the environmental damage of nuclear energy use. These are some of our solutions:

- Developing and deployment of advanced reactor designs, such as small modular reactors (SMRs) and Generation IV reactors, that are more efficient, safer, and lower cost than currently used nuclear reactors.

- Integrating nuclear energy with renewable energy sources such as wind and solar to create a more resilient and sustainable energy system that can meet the needs of a growing population.
- As UNDP, UNDP can work with countries to improve nuclear safety and security standards, improve regulatory frameworks, and strengthen emergency preparedness and response mechanisms to address nuclear energy concerns. UNDP can support research and innovation in nuclear energy technologies, including advanced reactor designs and nuclear waste management, to meet the challenges of nuclear energy and maximize its benefits.
- We also aim to work to reduce the harmful aspects of nuclear energy and nuclear events that negatively affect the world: Implementing rigorous safety measures at nuclear facilities, including regular inspections, maintenance, and upgrades to infrastructure, to prevent accidents. Increasing public awareness and education about nuclear risks and the importance of nuclear safety and security measures. Engaging in diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts and tensions that could lead to the use of nuclear weapons

By implementing these measures we have chosen from our plans, the risk of catastrophic nuclear events can be minimized and the world can move towards a safer and more secure nuclear future.

As Switzerland, we aim for the continuation of world peace and a world where no individual can live in peace without being hurt, a clean environment, and we will work for this.

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