# Protecting Children's Healthcare in warzones

**United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**



Empowering Future Generations: Cultivating Global Literacy
and Enlightenment

**Forum**: United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
**Issue**: Protecting children's healthcare in warzones
**Student Officer**: Aisha de Groot
**Position**: President

# Introduction

Children in warzones face some of the most severe hardships imaginable, with their basic rights to healthcare, education, and safety often stripped away. Protecting children's healthcare in conflict zones is a critical issue that demands urgent attention from the global community. These children often have little to no access to essential medical care. They suffer from the effects of violence, frequent attacks on healthcare facilities, and the denial of humanitarian aid. UNICEF plays a vital role in advocating for their safety and ensuring their well-being during conflicts.

Healthcare in warzones refers to the medical services provided to individuals, especially vulnerable groups like children, living in or fleeing from areas of active conflict. For children, access to healthcare is not only about treating injuries from violence but also ensuring they receive life-saving vaccinations, adequate nutrition, and mental health support to deal with trauma. Unfortunately, in many conflict zones, hospitals and clinics



*Figure 1: Children living in conflict [1]*

are deliberately targeted. This leaves children without access to basic or emergency medical services and severely worsens their chances of survival.
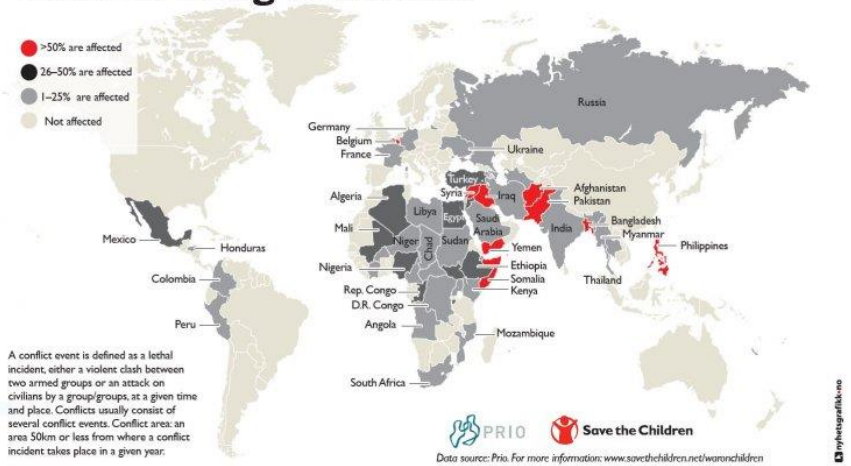
The scale of the problem is staggering. Millions of children are currently living in areas where healthcare systems are destroyed or severely disrupted by conflict. Reports show a sharp rise in attacks on healthcare facilities over the last decade. In 2023 alone, incidents of denial of humanitarian aid reached unprecedented levels, particularly in regions like Sudan, Ukraine, and the occupied Palestinian territories. These areas are marked by continuous violence, making it nearly impossible for humanitarian organisations to provide aid, leaving children in dire conditions.

The lack of healthcare in warzones has devastating consequences. Many children die from injuries or diseases that could be prevented with proper medical care. Others suffer

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[1] https://blogs.prio.org/2018/02/new-mapping-of-children-affected-by-armed-conflict/

from malnutrition or untreated illnesses that result in long-term physical and mental damage. The destruction of healthcare systems also causes a ripple effect, destabilising entire communities and making recovery after conflicts even harder.

# General Overview

## Causes of the Crisis

### Armed Conflict and Targeted Attacks on Health Facilities

Armed conflict directly impacts the ability to provide healthcare, and attacks on medical facilities have become a grim reality in many warzones. Hospitals, clinics, and health workers often find themselves directly targeted during hostilities, severely limiting access to necessary care for children and adults alike. In some conflict zones, attacks on healthcare infrastructure are systematic, leaving healthcare systems unable to respond effectively to the needs of the population.

### Increased Vulnerability of Children in Conflict

Children in conflict zones face increased vulnerability, both physically and mentally. Their immune systems are often weaker than adults, making them more susceptible to malnutrition, dehydration, disease, and injuries. The stress of living in constant danger, coupled with the disruption of daily life, increases the risks of psychological trauma. In many cases, children under five years old are especially vulnerable to these health risks, with malnutrition and preventable diseases being leading causes of death.

### Blockades and Access Restrictions

The restriction of movement and the imposition of blockades are significant barriers to delivering humanitarian aid to children in need of healthcare. In conflict zones, armed groups may intentionally block the flow of essential supplies to weaken opposing forces or control populations. The blockade of medical supplies, food, and water has devastating effects on the health and survival of children.
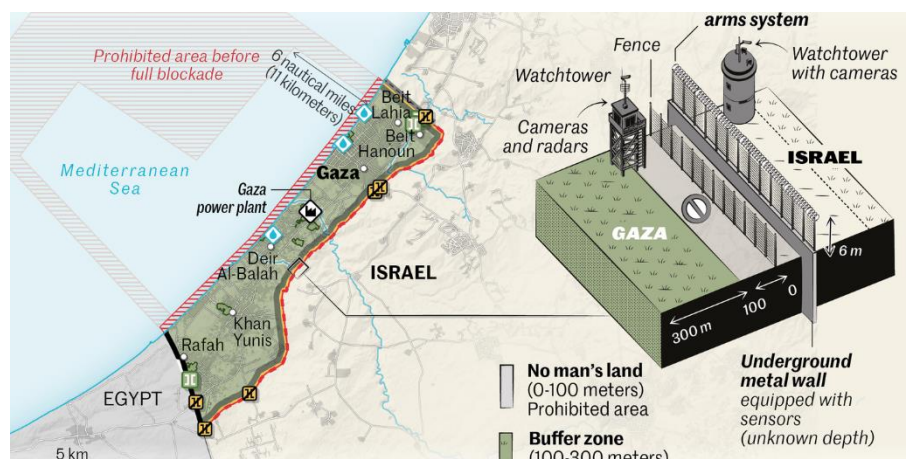


*Figure 2: The Gaza Strip blockade [2]*

supplies, food, and water has devastating effects on the health and survival of children.

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[2] https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2023/10/10/the-gaza-strip-blockade-explained-in-one-map_6162224_4.html

**Lack of Adequate Healthcare Infrastructure**

Warzones often suffer from a complete breakdown in healthcare infrastructure. Hospitals and clinics may be destroyed or repurposed for military use, while the remaining facilities become overwhelmed with patients. This lack of capacity leads to an overall decline in health standards and a direct increase in preventable deaths among children. Even where healthcare facilities still function, the lack of resources and trained personnel means that only the most critical cases can be treated.

## Consequences of the Crisis
**Rising Child Mortality Rates**

One of the most immediate and devastating consequences of the inability to protect children's healthcare in warzones is the rise in child mortality rates. Children in conflict zones are at risk of dying from preventable causes such as malnutrition, disease, and untreated injuries. The lack of essential healthcare, coupled with the breakdown of healthcare systems, results in the loss of thousands of young lives each year.



*Figure 3: Children killed and maimed globally 2005-2022*

**Psychological and Emotional Impact on Children**

The psychological impact of living through war is another significant consequence of conflict on children's health. Exposure to violence, displacement, loss of family members, and the constant threat of death causes lasting emotional and psychological trauma. The long-term effects of psychological trauma can hinder children's development, making it more difficult for them to recover from the physical and emotional scars of conflict.

**Disruption of Education and Social Services**

Healthcare is not the only service disrupted by war; education and social services also break down in conflict zones, leading to long-term negative consequences for children. Many children lose the opportunity to attend school due to the destruction of educational infrastructure or displacement. Without access to education, children face a future of limited opportunities, which in turn can increase the cycle of poverty and violence in affected regions.

**Strain on International Aid and Humanitarian Organisations**

As the crisis in conflict zones deepens, international aid organisations, including UNICEF, face an increasing strain on their resources. The demand for healthcare, food, and shelter overwhelms the capacity of humanitarian agencies, leading to delays in aid delivery. Despite the significant efforts of organisations like UNICEF and the ICRC, the scale of the crisis often outpaces the available support.

# Major Parties Involved

## United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF is a United Nations agency established in 1946 to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries devastated by World War II. Today, UNICEF's mission is to advocate for children's rights and ensure their access to essential services, including healthcare, education, and protection from violence. UNICEF plays a critical role in providing healthcare and emergency relief in conflict zones, including the delivery of medical supplies, the establishment of temporary health centres, and vaccination programs. In warzones, UNICEF works tirelessly to protect children from preventable diseases, malnutrition, and the devastating effects of trauma.

## World Health Organisation (WHO)

The WHO, established in 1948 as a specialised agency of the United Nations, is responsible for international public health. Its mission is to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable. In conflict zones, the WHO provides vital healthcare support, such as coordinating emergency medical responses, delivering essential medicines, and assisting with the rebuilding of health infrastructure. WHO also works to combat the spread of infectious diseases and organises vaccination campaigns in areas affected by war.

## International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Founded in 1863, the ICRC is a humanitarian organisation that operates worldwide to provide assistance in conflict zones, ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law. Its mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict, offering medical care and assistance to civilians. The ICRC plays a central role in providing emergency healthcare in warzones, including setting up field hospitals and providing medical supplies to areas under siege. They also work to reunite families separated by conflict and promote respect for international humanitarian law to protect civilians and healthcare workers.

## Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) United

NGOs such as Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), Save the Children, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) provide vital healthcare and humanitarian assistance in conflict zones. These organisations are independent of government influence and are often on the front lines, delivering medical aid, establishing field hospitals, and providing mental health support. NGOs play a critical role in filling gaps in healthcare provision, especially in places where national governments or UN agencies cannot operate. They provide essential services to children, including emergency nutrition, trauma care, and rehabilitation.

## United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the UN, responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The UNSC can take action on situations that threaten global peace, including conflicts where children's healthcare is at risk. Through resolutions, the UNSC has called for ceasefires, the protection of healthcare facilities, and unrestricted humanitarian access. The council's involvement in the issue of children's healthcare in warzones lies in its ability to demand compliance with international law and secure the necessary support for humanitarian interventions.

## World Food Programme (WFP)

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food assistance branch of the United Nations, established in 1961. Its goal is to combat hunger and improve food security globally. In conflict zones, WFP provides emergency food aid, which is essential to preventing malnutrition, particularly among children. WFP works in partnership with UNICEF and other agencies to deliver food packages, fortify nutritional support, and distribute food to vulnerable populations. Children in warzones are particularly at risk of malnutrition, and WFP's role in addressing this issue is vital for protecting their health.

## Docters Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières - MSF)

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international humanitarian medical organisation founded in 1971 to provide emergency medical care to populations affected by conflict, epidemics, or disasters. MSF operates in some of the world's most dangerous warzones, delivering life-saving healthcare to children and families in need. In conflict areas, MSF sets up field hospitals, provides trauma care, and runs vaccination campaigns. The organisation is particularly focused on ensuring that children have access to essential health services, including emergency surgeries and mental health support for trauma victims.

## Human Rights Watch (HRW)

Human Rights Watch is an international non-governmental organisation that conducts research and advocacy on human rights issues. Founded in 1978, HRW monitors the conditions in conflict zones, including the protection of children's rights and healthcare. The organisation advocates for the implementation of international law, including the protection of healthcare facilities and medical personnel. HRW plays a key role in raising awareness of violations against children, such as the targeting of healthcare centres and the recruitment of child soldiers and calls for accountability in these cases.

## International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), founded in 1919, is a UN specialised agency dedicated to promoting social justice and fair labour standards. In conflict zones, the ILO works to protect vulnerable populations, including children, from the worst forms of labour, such as child soldiering and exploitation in conflict. Through its advocacy and direct interventions, the ILO ensures that children's rights to safety, education, and healthcare are protected during and after conflicts.

## Palestine

Palestine, particularly the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, has been heavily affected by ongoing conflicts and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The repeated escalation of violence has led to significant damage to healthcare infrastructure, limited access to medical supplies, and restricted movement of healthcare professionals. In Gaza, children are disproportionately affected by the conflict, facing high rates of malnutrition, trauma, and preventable diseases due to damaged hospitals and the blockade that restricts the delivery of aid. The Palestinian Authority, with support from international organisations like UNICEF and WHO, works to provide healthcare services, though challenges persist due to ongoing violence and resource constraints.

## Israel

Israel, as one of the main parties involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, plays a significant role in the humanitarian situation in the region. While Israel's healthcare system is highly developed, the ongoing conflict with Palestine has created situations where medical supplies, including those for children, are disrupted. The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) are often involved in actions that affect medical facilities and humanitarian efforts, resulting in restricted access to healthcare for Palestinian civilians, especially children. Israel's involvement in the protection of children's healthcare is shaped by its military actions and the broader context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including international pressure for compliance with humanitarian law.

## Yemen

Yemen has been enduring a brutal civil war since 2015, which has had a devastating impact on the country's healthcare system, especially for children. The war has caused widespread destruction of health facilities, and millions of children have been exposed to malnutrition, preventable diseases, and a lack of basic medical care. The conflict involves multiple international actors, including a Saudi-led coalition and Houthi rebels. Yemen's healthcare system has been overwhelmed, and the country faces one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with the majority of children in need of urgent healthcare. UNICEF and other international organisations are working on the ground to deliver critical health services to children.

## Afghanistan

Afghanistan has experienced decades of armed conflict, and the recent resurgence of the Taliban has had significant impacts on healthcare, particularly for women and children. Many healthcare facilities in the country have been destroyed or are under-resourced, limiting the ability to provide essential services like vaccinations, nutrition programs, and trauma care. Afghanistan's health system has struggled with staffing shortages, lack of

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[3] https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/yemen-famine-civil-war-banking-crisis-port-blockades-a7345331.html

medical supplies, and insecurity, which have disproportionately affected children's health. International organisations like UNICEF and Médecins Sans Frontières are working to provide medical support, though access remains difficult in many parts of the country.

## Ukraine

Ukraine's ongoing conflict with Russia, which escalated significantly in 2022, has caused immense suffering for the civilian population, especially children. Healthcare systems in many conflict-affected areas have been severely damaged, and the displacement of families has left millions of children without access to essential healthcare services. Children have been exposed to trauma from bombings, and the healthcare system is overwhelmed by the large number of injuries and medical needs. UNICEF and the WHO have been actively providing medical supplies, mental health support, and nutritional aid to children in Ukraine, although the war continues to disrupt healthcare access.

## Sudan

Sudan has been embroiled in armed conflict for many years, and the recent escalation of violence between the Sudanese military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has severely impacted the healthcare system. Hospitals and clinics in conflict zones are often destroyed or targeted, and the country faces widespread food insecurity, leading to increased child malnutrition. Sudan's healthcare system has been overwhelmed by the ongoing conflict, leaving children vulnerable to disease outbreaks and lack of access to medical treatment. The country has seen a significant rise in the number of displaced persons, exacerbating the challenges of providing healthcare.

## South Sudan

South Sudan has faced ongoing violence and instability since its independence in 2011, which has led to a collapse of essential services, including healthcare. The country has one of the highest child mortality rates in the world, largely due to diseases like malaria, pneumonia, and malnutrition, as well as trauma from conflict. Healthcare facilities have been looted or destroyed, and healthcare workers have been targeted or forced to flee. UNICEF, the WHO, and other international agencies are working to provide healthcare and humanitarian assistance to children in South Sudan, but challenges like insecurity and resource shortages continue to hinder their efforts.

## Iraq

Iraq has experienced multiple conflicts, including the Iraq War and the rise of ISIS, which have devastated its healthcare infrastructure. The destruction of hospitals, clinics, and medical supplies has made it extremely difficult to deliver care to vulnerable populations, especially children. In addition to trauma from the violence, Iraqi children are also at risk of diseases such as cholera, which spreads more easily in conflict settings due to poor sanitation. UNICEF and other organisations are working to restore healthcare services in

Iraq, but ongoing security concerns and the destruction of infrastructure present significant barriers to providing care.

## Libya

Libya's ongoing conflict, which began in 2011 and continued with sporadic violence, has led to significant destruction of the country's healthcare infrastructure. Access to healthcare services has been limited, especially for children in conflict zones. The country faces challenges like shortages of medicines, inadequate hospital facilities, and the displacement of large numbers of people. Children in Libya are at increased risk of malnutrition, disease outbreaks, and injuries due to the breakdown of healthcare systems. The international community, through UNICEF and other NGOs, is providing assistance, but the country's fragmented political situation hinders effective healthcare delivery.

## United States

The United States, as a global superpower, plays a significant role in shaping international responses to conflict and humanitarian crises. It is a key donor of humanitarian aid and has provided significant financial support for children's healthcare in conflict zones through organisations like UNICEF, the World Health Organisation (WHO), and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Additionally, the U.S. has been involved in military interventions in countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, with varying impacts on children's access to healthcare. The U.S. government often advocates for international laws that protect healthcare workers and facilities, but its military actions have sometimes been criticised for contributing to the destruction of healthcare infrastructure in conflict zones.

## United Kingdom

The United Kingdom, like the U.S., is a major donor of humanitarian aid and plays a significant role in supporting children's healthcare in warzones. The UK government provides substantial funding to international organisations like UNICEF and the WHO to improve healthcare access in conflict areas. The UK has also been involved in military interventions in regions such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. While the UK works to ensure that children's healthcare is a priority in conflict settings, its military actions have sometimes been linked to the destruction of health facilities and disruptions to aid delivery. The UK is also a vocal advocate for international humanitarian law and the protection of children in armed conflict.

## France

France has long been involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts in conflict zones, particularly in Africa and the Middle East. The French government provides funding and support to organisations like UNICEF, WHO, and MSF, which work on the ground to deliver healthcare to children in war-affected areas. France is particularly active in addressing the needs of children in regions such as Syria, Mali, and the Central African Republic. As a member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), France also advocates

for the protection of children in conflict through its diplomatic influence and supports resolutions aimed at improving access to healthcare for children in warzones.

## Russian Federation

As a member of the United Nations Security Council and a key player in global geopolitics, Russia's involvement in protecting children's healthcare in warzones is complex. Russia has been a key factor in conflicts such as Syria, where its military interventions have had a significant impact on the healthcare system, including the targeting of medical facilities in some cases. While Russia has provided humanitarian aid to some areas, its military actions in regions like Syria and Ukraine have contributed to the destruction of critical infrastructure, complicating the delivery of medical care to children. Russia's role in the UNSC also means it has a powerful influence on the resolution of conflicts and the implementation of international laws to protect civilians and children.

## China

China, as another permanent member of the UN Security Council, plays a crucial role in shaping international responses to conflicts, particularly in Asia and Africa. China is involved in peacekeeping operations and provides financial support to various humanitarian efforts, including those aimed at improving children's healthcare in warzones. In countries like Syria and Yemen, China has provided diplomatic support for humanitarian efforts, although its involvement in military interventions is limited compared to other P5 members. China's involvement in peacebuilding efforts, such as in Sudan and South Sudan, has focused on providing humanitarian aid and rebuilding healthcare systems. However, its influence in the UNSC is often focused on political solutions rather than military interventions.

## India

India, though not a permanent member of the Security Council, plays an important role in global humanitarian efforts, especially in neighbouring regions like Afghanistan and Myanmar. India has provided medical assistance, including healthcare services for children, through both bilateral aid and international organisations. India's healthcare initiatives focus on vaccinations, malnutrition prevention, and trauma care. In conflict zones, India supports international resolutions in the UNSC for the protection of civilians and healthcare workers, though it does not have the military presence of P5 countries in many of these conflicts. India also contributes to peacekeeping efforts under the United Nations, providing troops for missions in conflict-affected regions like South Sudan and Congo.

## European Union (EU)

The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 European countries that plays a significant role in humanitarian aid and child protection in conflict zones. The EU provides substantial funding to humanitarian organisations working in warzones, including UNICEF, MSF, and the WHO. The EU is also involved in diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts in regions like Syria, Yemen, and Ukraine, with a focus on ensuring that children have access

to healthcare and protection. The European Union often advocates for the enforcement of international humanitarian law and works to ensure that children are not targeted during conflicts. The EU has also supported various initiatives to improve child healthcare through development aid.

# Timeline of Events

1949            **Geneva Conventions Adopted**

The four Geneva Conventions were adopted to establish international humanitarian law, focusing on the protection of civilians, including children, during armed conflict. These conventions outlined the protections for healthcare workers, medical facilities, and civilians, providing the foundation for later child protection efforts.

1996            **UNICEF's "The State of the World's Children" Report**

UNICEF's report highlighted the dire conditions for children in warzones, focusing on access to healthcare, education, and safety. It raised global awareness of the significant health risks faced by children living in conflict-affected regions.

1999            **UN Security Council Resolution 1261**

Resolution 1261 addressed the vulnerability of children in armed conflicts and called for greater international action to protect them. It emphasised the need for safe access to healthcare and other humanitarian services for children in conflict zones.

2000            **UN Security Council Resolution 1314**

Resolution 1314 expanded the focus on the protection of children in conflict, urging the international community to ensure their access to health services and humanitarian aid. It stressed the importance of ending the use of children in warfare and protecting them from violence.

2011            **Syrian Civil War Begins**

The outbreak of the Syrian Civil War devastated healthcare infrastructure, severely limiting children's access to medical services. Children in Syria faced a health crisis, with widespread malnutrition, disease outbreaks, and inadequate healthcare provision due to the ongoing conflict.

2013            **MSF Report on Attacks on Healthcare**

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) released a report detailing the increasing attacks on healthcare facilities and workers in conflict zones. The report highlighted how these attacks disrupted healthcare services for children, making it even harder for them to receive essential medical care.

2016          **UN Security Council Resolution 2286**

Resolution 2286 condemned the deliberate targeting of healthcare workers and facilities in conflict zones. It called for international accountability and urged all parties in conflicts to ensure the protection of children's healthcare and humanitarian access.

2020          **COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Conflict Zones**

The COVID-19 pandemic worsened healthcare access in conflict zones, particularly for children, by further straining already fragile health systems. In countries like Syria, Yemen, and South Sudan, the pandemic compounded the ongoing health crises, making it even more difficult to deliver life-saving medical services to children.

# Previous attempts to solve the issue

## UN Security Council Resolution 2286

In 2016, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2286, which condemns attacks on healthcare facilities and workers in conflict zones. The resolution explicitly calls for the protection of medical personnel and infrastructure, including those providing services to children in warzones. While this resolution brought global attention to the issue of healthcare protection in conflicts, its enforcement has been limited due to non-compliance by warring parties and the ongoing targeting of health facilities in some regions.

## International Humanitarian Law and Geneva Conventions

The Geneva Conventions (1949) and their Additional Protocols aim to protect civilians, including children, during armed conflicts. These conventions outline the protection of medical services, hospitals, and personnel, and demand that parties to a conflict allow unimpeded humanitarian aid to reach civilians, particularly children. Despite these legal frameworks, the enforcement and application of these protections have been inconsistent, with many violations, particularly in areas like Syria, Yemen, and Gaza, where healthcare infrastructure has been deliberately targeted.

## Humanitarian Assistance and Child Health Programs by NGOS

NGOs such as UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have been at the forefront of providing healthcare in warzones. These organisations deliver emergency medical aid, vaccines, and nutritional support, often focusing on children, who are the most vulnerable in conflict. Programs such as UNICEF's health and nutrition initiatives aim to protect children's well-being by providing healthcare, vaccinations, and mental health support. However, the effectiveness of these efforts is often

limited by access issues, security concerns, and the ongoing destruction of healthcare facilities in conflict zones.

# Possible solutions

## Improving and Expanding Humanitarian Aid Access

One effective way to address the issue is to ensure that humanitarian aid organisations have safe, unhindered access to conflict zones. This could be achieved through negotiations for humanitarian corridors or temporary ceasefires, allowing aid organisations like UNICEF, the Red Cross, and MSF to enter areas where children need medical care. International agreements should ensure that aid is not blocked, especially when it's intended for children's healthcare, such as vaccinations, nutrition, and emergency medical treatment.

Humanitarian organisations already operate in conflict zones, but their access is often restricted due to active fighting or political barriers. By negotiating safe passage for aid, healthcare workers can reach children in need, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. This solution is practical and can be implemented with the cooperation of international actors, such as the United Nations and other countries invested in reducing the impact of war on civilians.

## Strengthening Heath Infrastructure in Conflict Zones

Strengthening and rebuilding healthcare infrastructure in conflict zones, even if temporarily, can provide a critical solution for protecting children's health. This includes providing portable field hospitals, emergency medical teams, and rebuilding damaged hospitals. International partners can work with local governments to rebuild key healthcare infrastructure or set up temporary facilities to ensure children have access to basic medical care and vaccinations.

While rebuilding healthcare infrastructure in conflict zones is difficult and costly, it is crucial for providing children with continuous access to healthcare. Temporary healthcare units can be set up quickly, providing immediate relief, while long-term solutions work toward rebuilding hospitals. This solution can be implemented with support from the international community and NGOs, ensuring that healthcare services remain functional throughout the duration of a conflict.

## Training and Supporting Local Healthcare Workers

Training and supporting local healthcare workers in conflict zones can help ensure children receive medical care despite ongoing violence. This could involve providing education on emergency paediatric care, trauma treatment, and vaccination. International organizations can also provide resources and supplies to support local clinics and medical staff, empowering them to care for children in challenging conditions.

Local healthcare workers are often the first line of defence in providing care to children in conflict zones, but they often lack the resources, training, and support to do so effectively. By training these workers and equipping them with the necessary tools, they can provide crucial healthcare services even during war. This solution is sustainable and effective, as it builds the capacity of local communities to respond to their own healthcare needs.

# Useful documents

**Geneva Conventions (1949) and Additional Protocols (1977)**

These foundational international treaties set the legal standards for the treatment of civilians, including children, during armed conflicts. They outline the protection of medical personnel, facilities, and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

**United Nations Security Council Resolution 1261 (1999)**

This resolution focused on the protection of children in armed conflict, highlighting the need to ensure their access to medical care and other humanitarian services. It called on parties to conflicts to take steps to protect children from harm, including healthcare disruptions.

**United Nations Security Council Resolution 2286 (2016)**

This resolution condemns attacks on healthcare workers and facilities in conflict zones, emphasising the importance of safeguarding medical services for vulnerable populations, including children, during warfare.

**Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)**

The CRC is a key international human rights treaty that sets out the rights of children, including their right to healthcare. It applies in conflict zones, where the protection of children's health is paramount.

**UNICEF Child Protection Framework**

This framework guides UNICEF's work in conflict zones to protect children's health and well-being. It provides standards for humanitarian assistance, including healthcare, nutrition, and psychosocial support for children.

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