

# United Nations Development Programme

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The United Nations Development Programme is based on the merging between two previous UN programmes: the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (founded in 1949) and the United Nations Special Fund (founded in 1958)<sup>1</sup>. This merger resulted in the creation of the UNDP in 1966, with the main mission of the Programme focusing on ending poverty, building democratic governance and rule of law globally, and inclusive institutions<sup>2</sup>. The United Nations Development Programme continues to follow this mission, and is now the global lead agency for international development with service in 170 countries and are now working on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>3</sup>. Currently, around 41% of the global population is under the age of 24, but this global youth has been underrepresented in both private and public decisions, so in 2018 the United Nations commenced the Youth 2030 strategy, which works hand in hand with transnational youth networks consisting of professionals under the age of 40<sup>4</sup>.

## I. Empowering Youth Economically

### Statement of the Issue:

Around 1.8 billion people are considered youth today, with a majority of this youth in poverty which prohibits larger economic and social mobility for up and coming global demographics<sup>5</sup>. The current youth demographic is known by the United Nations as “rejecting status quo”, more politically active than previous generations, and more willing to take larger risks for better lifestyles<sup>6</sup>. Certain goals are known on an international level when it comes to economic youth empowerment, such as the understanding of education as a necessity for economic empowerment, increasing employment opportunities for youth, and the incorporation of women and girls into economic youth empowerment<sup>7</sup>. Economically, the global youth

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<sup>1</sup> "About Us." United Nations Development Programme. <https://www.undp.org/about-us>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> "Youth Economic Empowerment." Plan International . <https://plan-international.org/eu/what-we-do/youth-economic-empowerment/>.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

demographic would benefit greatly from overall empowerment, but this empowerment must occur on regional or national basis with international financial and non-financial support<sup>8</sup>. For millennials and following generations, generational inequality, amongst other inequalities, is at a peak with decline in youth employment, affordable housing, welfare, social benefits, and high cost of education. Additionally they face pressure from older generations to uphold previous standards, with economic systems (capitalist & non-capitalist states)<sup>9</sup> attempting to mitigate difficulties<sup>10</sup>. Economic youth empowerment requires a multitude of approaches, focusing on gender equalities as well as private/public interaction for more vulnerable groups<sup>11</sup>. Addressing youth in both urban and rural regions is necessary, as economic development for urban and rural vary greatly. Considering industry of the region from agriculture to urban business and private interactions<sup>12</sup>.

Vulnerable groups are frequently overlooked in the production and usage of economic empowerment programs for youth, particularly those suffering from both mental and physical disabilities<sup>13</sup>. Youth economic empowerment in the destination countries of migration, or asylum-seekers will require specific programs that can allow for their access to education and resources<sup>14</sup>. Economic youth empowerment will vary greatly from region to region. On one hand, certain developing regions having a larger youth population that will require programs with a more beneficial integration of youth into economic development and activities. On the other hand, developed countries face a youth deficit, so they will require designs that aid economic integration for a smaller youth population<sup>15</sup>.

Gender issues in economic empowerment of youth occur in all regions of the world, with women and non-male youth facing income inequality, educational inequality, and gender divisions in labor<sup>16</sup>. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa, one of the limitations that economic empowerment runs into is many women being limitedly employed in private and public formal

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Sukarieh, Maysoun & Tannock, Stuart. (2008). In the best interests of youth or neoliberalism? The World Bank and the New Global Youth Empowerment Project. *Journal of Youth Studies*. 11. 301-312. 10.1080/1367626080194643

<sup>10</sup> Ogamba, Ikedinachi. (2018). Millennials empowerment: youth entrepreneurship for sustainable development. *World Journal of Entrepreneurship, Management and Sustainable Development*.

<sup>11</sup> "Evaluation of UNDP Support for Youth Economic Empowerment." *IEO/UNDP* (December 2021).

<sup>12</sup> "Evaluation of UNDP Support for Youth Economic Empowerment." *IEO/UNDP* (December 2021)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Chaaban, Jad. "Youth and Development in the Arab Countries: The Need for a Different Approach." *Middle Eastern Studies* 45, no. 1 (2009): 33–55. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40262641>

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> E. Okojie, Christiana E. "Employment Creation for Youth in Africa: The Gender Dimension." *National Strategies for Employment Promotion* (January 2003): 15-16. [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Christiana-Okojie/publication/237205858\\_Employment\\_Creation\\_for\\_Youth\\_in\\_Africa\\_The\\_Gender\\_Dimension/links/5652123808ae1ef929755808/Employment-Creation-for-Youth-i](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Christiana-Okojie/publication/237205858_Employment_Creation_for_Youth_in_Africa_The_Gender_Dimension/links/5652123808ae1ef929755808/Employment-Creation-for-Youth-i).

wage jobs<sup>17</sup>. The formal sector of sub-Saharan Africa has been dominated by men, and this is not uncommon in both developed and developing countries, where women face more limited opportunities of employment in both private and public formal sectors globally<sup>18</sup>. Women and non-male youths face limitations and constraints through multiple channels, such as customary laws and norms that limit access to: education, finances, information, land, credit, and healthcare; restrictive marriage laws, gender bias in jobs, income, education, and more<sup>19</sup>. Due to norms such as families preferring to educate male children over female children, economic empowerment will need to increase participation in education and professional skill programs that can prepare all youth<sup>20</sup>. Economic empowerment requires an emphasis on preparation through education, especially for those most affected by gendered norms and standards<sup>21</sup>.

Currently, the UNDP aims for incorporation of all other agencies and other UN entities through using the SDGs as a guideline for youth development programs, but this incorporation across the UN will require UN agencies acting in national and regional projects tailored to the conditions of the area<sup>22</sup>. The consistent development goal of reducing income poverty has both historically and currently resulted in the incorporation and collaboration of the International Labor Organization (ILO), a UN organ focused on labor engagement in youth programs through the creation of the UN & ILO collaborated Youth Employment Network<sup>23</sup>. Another UN organ that interacts with the issue of empowering youth economically is the World Bank, with previous empowerments of youth economically resulting in the Small Grant Program, supporting activities through Small Grant Workshops in regions such as the Middle East and North Africa<sup>24</sup>. More World Bank involvement in economic youth empowerment has also occurred through the Bank's own youth programs, such as the Dominican Republic's Youth Development Project and the Youth Innovation Fund<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> E. Okojie, Christiana E. "Employment Creation for Youth in Africa: The Gender Dimension." *National Strategies for Employment Promotion* (January 2003): 15-16. [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Christiana-Okojie/publication/237205858\\_Employment\\_Creation\\_for\\_Youth\\_in\\_Africa\\_The\\_Gender\\_Dimension/links/5652123808ae1ef929755808/Employment-Creation-for-Youth-i](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Christiana-Okojie/publication/237205858_Employment_Creation_for_Youth_in_Africa_The_Gender_Dimension/links/5652123808ae1ef929755808/Employment-Creation-for-Youth-i).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Halpern, J., Walther, C. (2022). Design Thinking and the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Design Thinking and Youth Empowerment Case Study ForUsGirls (US) and Start-up Africa (Kenya). In: Meinel, C., Krohn, T. (eds) *Design Thinking in Education*. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-89113-8\\_16](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-89113-8_16)

<sup>23</sup> Chaaban, Jad. "Youth and Development in the Arab Countries: The Need for a Different Approach." *Middle Eastern Studies* 45, no. 1 (2009): 33–55. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40262641>.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Chaaban, Jad. "Youth and Development in the Arab Countries: The Need for a Different Approach." *Middle Eastern Studies* 45, no. 1 (2009): 33–55. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40262641>.

## History:

Historically, youth development programs were mainly aimed towards a general global youth, with the creation in 1995 of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 (WPAY), covering development issues such as drug abuse, education, employment, hunger, poverty, the environment, leisure activities, and gender inequality<sup>26</sup>. In 2005, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution of the 10th anniversary of the WPAY, followed by a 2006 commission for youth employment and a 2007 World Bank report on youth development<sup>27</sup>.

In terms of youth development evaluation, and how youth development and economic empowerment is determined, there exists two large perspectives in economic youth empowerment today. These two perspectives include young people seen as in need of welfare and are a potential moral threat to the current social order, the other describes young people as agents of change and imperative to national development (deficit vs. asset perspectives)<sup>28</sup>. The asset-based perspective on youth empowerment view young people as agents of beneficial change, whether that change is economic or not, and is the guiding principle behind the Youth Empowerment programs of the United Nations Development Programme, and in regional programs such as the Commonwealth Youth Program<sup>29</sup>. The Caribbean and the Commonwealth Youth Program first came into the youth development scene during the Second World War, where young people in allied countries their territories created a World Youth Council. They held a conference on November 10th of 1945 that marked the creation of an international youth movement that consisted of over 30 million young people from 63 different countries and nations<sup>30</sup>. This large youth empowerment movement culminated in the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and focused primarily on seeing youth through an asset-based perspective, where youth could bring progression and beneficial change to society<sup>31</sup>.

Countries such as Pakistan have one of the largest youth populations in the world, with more than 60% of the population under the age 30, and the implementation of economic youth programs has mainly occurred through UNDP Pakistan, with the creation and implementation of

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Charles, Henry, and Madgerie Jameson-Charles. "Youth Development Policy and Practice in the Commonwealth Caribbean: A Historical Evolution." *Social and Economic Studies* 63, no. 3/4 (2014): 23–57.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/44732886>.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Charles, Henry, and Madgerie Jameson-Charles. "Youth Development Policy and Practice in the Commonwealth Caribbean: A Historical Evolution." *Social and Economic Studies* 63, no. 3/4 (2014): 23–57.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/44732886>.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

the Youth Empowerment Programme<sup>32</sup>. This programme works directly with the Pakistani government, and with other stakeholders, highlighting the public and private engagement in economic youth empowerment. The UNDP has been involved in Pakistan for over 66 years<sup>33</sup>. Some of the outcomes of economic youth empowerment from the Pakistan Youth Empowerment Programme are increased youth in the public sector, participation in economic growth, and social stability through implementation of marketable skills and increased employment opportunities<sup>34</sup>.

The UNDP from 2014-2017 created and used a Youth Strategy, which informed programs around the world and was based around the global capitalist system, with three action-oriented approaches<sup>35</sup>. This 2014-2017 strategy pushes forward implementation of economic youth empowerment through six entry points in three perspectives: demand for labor, supply for labor, and policy environment<sup>36</sup>. Socio-political and economic development in the past did not focus on youth, specifically issues of youth development, leading to consequences such as low-level participation in governments, unemployment, in both developing and developed countries<sup>37</sup>. Following the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals address economic youth empowerment, as economic inequality amongst youth across the globe has continued to increase, with unemployment double as high for women and girl youths amongst both developed and developing countries<sup>38</sup>.

### **Analysis:**

Although previous solutions aimed towards a one goal for all approaches, the solution to empowering youth economically must come from multiple regional perspectives that produces multiple regional-based solutions tailored towards said specific youth<sup>39</sup>. Many scholars and political elite find that the global youth population has been marginalized and global development programs have created further challenges for countries attempting to achieve

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<sup>32</sup> "Youth Empowerment Programme Pakistan." UNDP Pakistan. <https://www.undp.org/pakistan/projects/youth-empowerment-programme>.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ogamba, Ikedinachi. (2018). Millennials empowerment: youth entrepreneurship for sustainable development. World Journal of Entrepreneurship, Management and Sustainable Development.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Success of 2030 Agenda Depends on Empowering Young People, Speakers Tell Social Development Commission, Stressing Perils of Exclusionary Economic Growth." UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. Last modified February 2, 2017. <https://press.un.org/en/2017/soc4844.doc.htm>.

<sup>39</sup> Ogamba, Ikedinachi. (2018). Millennials empowerment: youth entrepreneurship for sustainable development. World Journal of Entrepreneurship, Management and Sustainable Development.

global development goals<sup>40</sup>. National programs face limitations in funding specifically, which then limits job opportunities and can also exacerbate gender gaps and other socio-economic divisions of labor in a country<sup>41</sup>. With ⅓ of the SDGS for 2030 aimed towards youth development and youth across the globe, the current involvement from the UN includes UNDP consultancy into national governments' youth programs<sup>42</sup>. Programs, such as Startup Africa which is form of economic youth empowerment in Kenya, create a market-based capitalist economy that focuses of economic empowerment through youth entrepreneurship<sup>43</sup>.

COVID-19 damaged economic youth programs across the globe, with low investment and participation, resulting in program termination<sup>44</sup>. However, programs in Pakistan focused around economic youth empowerment incorporated the outcomes of the pandemic into their programs, with 2,399 doctors trained on critical care and tele-ICU services for COVID-19 response, 10 parliamentarians participated in the sessions on policy challenges resulting from the pandemic, 102 journalists trained on different aspects of COVID response, 28 youth-led innovative solutions implemented to support COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement, and more than 10,000 rural women reached out for creating awareness related to COVID<sup>45</sup>.

Economic youth empowerment also translates into the incorporation of youth into larger regional or national decision making, giving the large global youth an opportunity to have say in their own economic and political future<sup>46</sup>. The design and implementation of youth economic empowerment with the goal of eliminating and mitigating poverty must include youth entrepreneurial development to increase economic growth. For example, programs, such as the YouWiN in Nigeria, rely on a national or regional solutions, rather than a large "one-size-fits-all", as this does not incorporate the different conditions youths across the globe exist in, whether political, social, economic, or cultural<sup>47</sup>.

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Halpern, J., Walther, C. (2022). Design Thinking and the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Design Thinking and Youth Empowerment Case Study ForUsGirls (US) and Start-up Africa (Kenya). In: Meinel, C., Krohn, T. (eds) Design Thinking in Education. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-89113-8\\_16](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-89113-8_16)

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> "Youth Empowerment Programme Pakistan." UNDP Pakistan. <https://www.undp.org/pakistan/projects/youth-empowerment-programme>.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ogamba, Ikedinachi. (2018). Millennials empowerment: youth entrepreneurship for sustainable development. World Journal of Entrepreneurship, Management and Sustainable Development

### Questions:

1. How will the UNDP committee create regional and/or national standards, goals, programs, or plans that can empower youth economically?
2. Will these goals reflect the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and will they incorporate other UN bodies such as the ILO?
3. How will gender relations be incorporated into the creation of economic youth empowerment to ensure equality?

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7. Chaaban, Jad. "Youth and Development in the Arab Countries: The Need for a Different Approach." *Middle Eastern Studies* 45, no. 1 (2009): 33–55.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40262641>.
8. Omeje, Ambrose N., Augustine Jidefor, and Michael O. Ugwu. "Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship in Nigeria: Implication for Economic Diversification." *Economics, Entrepreneurship/Small Business, Political Science* 10, no. 4 (December 22, 2020).  
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[http://www.ilo.org/global/docs/WCMS\\_622394/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/docs/WCMS_622394/lang--en/index.htm).
13. "Success of 2030 Agenda Depends on Empowering Young People, Speakers Tell Social Development Commission, Stressing Perils of Exclusionary Economic Growth." UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. Last modified February 2, 2017.  
<https://press.un.org/en/2017/soc4844.doc.htm>

## II. Drawing Initiatives to Address Resource Scarcity in Conflict Zones

### Statement of the Issue:

Currently, conflict zones today face high levels of real resource scarcity. However, the incorporation of artificial scarcity in conflict zones has enabled conflict and must be addressed through incorporation of historical and political contexts to find the root of conflict, as opposed to only addressing the aftermath of conflict<sup>48</sup>. With armed conflict posing the largest cause of food insecurity and resource insecurity, hunger has become a tool of war and conflict, for example, famine being used a tool in cases such as Ethiopian and Tigre conflicts<sup>49</sup>. Crises of conflict today have become more internal, posing issues to previous strategies of post-conflict development concepts and strategies<sup>50</sup>. Real resource scarcity is increasing due to climate

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<sup>48</sup> "RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND CONFLICT." The EU-UN Partnership on Land, Natural Resources and Conflict Prevention. <https://www.un.org/en/land-natural-resources-conflict/renewable-resources.shtml>.

<sup>49</sup> Allouche, Jeremy. "The sustainability and resilience of global water and food systems: Political analysis of the interplay between security, resource scarcity, political systems and global trade." *Food Policy* 36, no. 1 (January 2011): S3-S8

<sup>50</sup> "SHARING NEW GROUND IN POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS; THE ROLE OF UNDP IN SUPPORT OF REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES." *UNDP Evaluation Office* (January 2000).



change along with the combination of changing socio-economic patterns, conflict zones are in need of a specialized regional response that incorporates both climate change in the future and the historical socio-economic patterns of the past<sup>51</sup>.

Communities that endure conflict enter the post-conflict stage with high levels of resource scarcity and displacement, increasing vulnerability to disease, famine, and loss of economic livelihoods<sup>52</sup>. Resolving conflict based around real or artificial scarcity incorporates different communities in a region or a country who may have dealt with poor resource access in the past, and solving these tensions requires an incorporation of historical contexts to prevent conflict based upon real and/or artificial scarcity<sup>53</sup>. Artificial and real scarcity can cause competition over resources, and in the case of artificial scarcity, the competition over resources is based in political intentions<sup>54</sup>. Forms of artificial of scarcity has empowered different political regimes in using resources as tools of power and conflict, while real scarcity also exists as outcomes of conflict and the usage of food, water, and other resources as tools of conflict<sup>55</sup>.

Resources scarcity has historically been based in, not in total lack of resources, but a lack of allocation in these resources in conflict zones, with more than three quarters of incidents relating to natural resources were related to governmental rhetoric at the time; deeming, at times, artificial scarcity towards a political goal<sup>56</sup>. Globally, around 24 million people face real resource scarcity due to war and conflict, with refugees and displaced persons being the most affected<sup>57</sup>. With many groups in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa relying on the production of agricultural resources for livelihood, resource scarcity in conflict zones, and scarcity caused through conflict poses massive socio-economic threats to these people<sup>58</sup>. Ongoing development assistance to conflict zones facing high levels of resource scarcity has been described by development scholars and active participants in the international development world as

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<sup>51</sup> "Conflict and Natural Resources." United Nations Peacekeeping. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/conflict-and-natural-resources>

<sup>52</sup> Allouche, Jeremy. "The sustainability and resilience of global water and food systems: Political analysis of the interplay between security, resource scarcity, political systems and global trade." *Food Policy* 36, no. 1 (January 2011): S3-S8

<sup>53</sup> "UNDP Links Resource-based Conflicts in Asia-Pacific to Climate Change." IISD: SDG Knowledge Hub; A Project by IISD. Last modified April 29, 2013. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/undp-links-resource-based-conflicts-in-asia-pacific-to-climate-change/>.

<sup>54</sup> "Conflict and Natural Resources." United Nations Peacekeeping. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/conflict-and-natural-resources>

<sup>55</sup> Allouche, Jeremy. "The sustainability and resilience of global water and food systems: Political analysis of the interplay between security, resource scarcity, political systems and global trade." *Food Policy* 36, no. 1 (January 2011): S3-S8

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

ineffective, as the previous policies formed through a “one-size-fits-all” perspective did not address the holistic needs of conflict zones facing resource scarcity<sup>59</sup>.

With conflict being the response to both real and artificial resource scarcity, this conflict results out of socio-economic and political contexts leading culminating into real and/or artificial scarcity<sup>60</sup>. Countries such as Chad have faced periods of internal and external conflict, and dealing with conflict rooted in colonialism has resulted in high amounts of resource scarcity in a continuous conflict zone<sup>61</sup>. Conflict zones are not limited to state violence, but also to organized crime which produces both real and artificial scarcity, as some countries and regions face increases in organized crime which in turn increase resource scarcity through as a means to constrain the public<sup>62</sup>. In artificial scarcity, conflict zones face artificial scarcity through resources such as water, which can cause socio-economic problems such as social and economic exclusion, which can in turn perpetuate conflict in the region even further<sup>63</sup>.

### **History:**

Historically, addressing resource scarcity existed through combining conflict with water, food and other forms of resource scarcity to become more central to international, national, and regional policies<sup>64</sup>. In the past 60 years, more than a third of intrastate conflict has been linked to some form of resource scarcity, and these conflicts hold a high level of potential conflict relapse<sup>65</sup>. Resource scarcity in conflict zones is becoming more centered around conflict stemming from natural depletion of resources, such as resource-based conflicts in Southeast Asia, and many scholars and institutions calling for regional based solutions to prevent artificial scarcity<sup>66</sup>. Integration of scarcity into contexts of ongoing economic, social, and political

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<sup>59</sup> Klem, Bart, and Henk Hilderink. "Dealing With Scarcity and Violent Conflict." *Clingendael Seminar Proceedings* (July 2003).

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Champeyrache, Clotilde. "Artificial Scarcity, Power, and the Italian Mafia." *HAL Open Science* (January 2014).

<sup>63</sup> Champeyrache, Clotilde. "Artificial Scarcity, Power, and the Italian Mafia." *HAL Open Science* (January 2014).

<sup>64</sup> Allouche, Jeremy. "The sustainability and resilience of global water and food systems: Political analysis of the interplay between security, resource scarcity, political systems and global trade." *Food Policy* 36, no. 1 (January 2011): S3-S8

<sup>65</sup> "Conflict and Natural Resources." United Nations Peacekeeping. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/conflict-and-natural-resources>

<sup>66</sup> "UNDP Links Resource-based Conflicts in Asia-Pacific to Climate Change." IISD: SDG Knowledge Hub; A Project by IISD. Last modified April 29, 2013. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/undp-links-resource-based-conflicts-in-asia-pacific-to-climate-change/>.

movements is also essential, and must be put into the localized perspective of how these movements and regimes affect the conflict zone<sup>67</sup>.

Resource scarcity is likely in conflict zones, as these areas face weak governments, corruption, and destabilized political environments due to previous conflict or ongoing conflict<sup>68</sup>. People in a more resource-abundant conflict zone may also separate themselves from a more scarce area to become potentially protected and more safe in post-conflict<sup>69</sup>. In Liberia, resource scarcity in conflict zones began with civil war in the 1980s, with Liberia's natural resources being minerals, timber, and rubber. These industries made Liberia a large exporter of minerals. Following descent into conflict during the late 1980s and early 1990s, Liberia's mineral economy and mines fell to damage and neglect, with resource scarcity increasing through low economic production<sup>70</sup>. In the post-conflict period, Liberia's industries did not receive proper resource management, with the Taylor regime exploiting natural resources greatly, creating large amounts of scarcity in Liberia's production of rubber, timber, and minerals<sup>71</sup>.

Addressing resource scarcity in conflict areas can be divided into three different sections: pre-intervention, security and control, and internal governance. All three of these sections focus on the region and or conflict area, and the incorporation of social, historical, political, and economic contexts is essential for successful resource governance in conflict zones<sup>72</sup>. Previous UNDP responses to resource scarcity to areas of conflict had reflected the Millennium Development Goals, areas such as Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Kosovo reflected the resource scarcity response from UNDP, with large actions being monetary donations to the area, rather than a larger incorporation of social & historical contexts by a more regionalized and local response<sup>73</sup>. This form of addressing resource scarcity is not highly viable in today's world, as many resource scarcity responses based around strictly monetary donations are subject to the effects of conflict such as weak governments and institutions, corruption, etc<sup>74</sup>. Although, the UNDP historically has worked based around regions and national

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<sup>67</sup> Klem, Bart, and Henk Hilderink. "Dealing With Scarcity and Violent Conflict." *Clingendael Seminar Proceedings* (July 2003).

<sup>68</sup> Whittemore, Luke A. "Intervention and Post-Conflict Natural Resource Governance: Lessons from Liberia." *Minnesota Journal of International Law* (2008).

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Whittemore, Luke A. "Intervention and Post-Conflict Natural Resource Governance: Lessons from Liberia." *Minnesota Journal of International Law* (2008).

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> "Meeting the challenge: the role of UNDP in crisis, post-conflict and recovery situations, 2000-2003." *Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund* (April 7, 2000).

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

governments, and this form of local and regional response has become even more essential today<sup>75</sup>.

### **Analysis:**

Responses to resource scarcity in conflict zones require rapid action, as conflict zones are ever changing and could become more or less active over the course of weeks<sup>76</sup>. Accuracy in response of resources in a resource-scarce conflict zone is also essential for a beneficial response and initiative towards these areas<sup>77</sup>. Conflicts in the future are more than likely to be based around real resource scarcity, specifically natural resource scarcity, and understanding what factors contribute to conflict will be essential for preventing artificial scarcity and conflict<sup>78</sup>. This does not mean that all artificial scarcity will disperse, as artificial scarcity is certain to persist as a political tool in conflict zones, both active and post-conflict zones.

Climate change has already taken a large toll on conflict zones, increasing resource scarcity for extremely vulnerable groups, but this too will need to be incorporated into initiatives to address resource scarcity alongside larger historical and social contexts to find and define root causes of resource scarcity and conflict. Similarly, minority groups in conflict zones will require an incorporation of their own political, social, economic, and historical contexts to find the basis of conflict, for example the incorporation of Palestinian contexts into the Israel-Palestine conflicts will be essential to understand resource scarcity of this conflict zone. Social and historical contexts of conflict zones include previous and or current entitlements: either economic or political to different resources<sup>79</sup>.

Currently, the United Nations Development Programme has employed special resource mobilization strategies for conflict areas, and this approach could become even more specific towards separate conflict areas through larger incorporation of socio-economic contexts and history of the region or country of conflict<sup>80</sup>. Regional approaches to present and future conflicts will aid real resource scarcity, as many regions face different effects from climate change, and resource depletion by political and economic regimes<sup>81</sup>. Resource scarcity in conflict zones

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<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> "RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND CONFLICT." The EU-UN Partnership on Land, Natural Resources and Conflict Prevention. <https://www.un.org/en/land-natural-resources-conflict/renewable-resources.shtml>.

<sup>79</sup> Klem, Bart, and Henk Hilderink. "Dealing With Scarcity and Violent Conflict." *Clingendael Seminar Proceedings* (July 2003)

<sup>80</sup> "SHARING NEW GROUND IN POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS; THE ROLE OF UNDP IN SUPPORT OF REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES." *UNDP Evaluation Office* (January 2000).

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

results in poor governance of said resources, which in turn can create more violence through the general public's resource dependence on the government, or leading group<sup>82</sup>. Real resource scarcity in areas of conflict had previously been addressed by the UNDP in a highly regional way, but was set under a "one-size-fits-all" policy context, that did not allow much room for regional voices of the conflict zone to advocate for economic and social resources following conflict<sup>83</sup>. Addressing resource scarcities in conflict zones occurs during transition periods, specifically the transition from conflict to post-conflict, and the transition away from being a post-conflict area<sup>84</sup>.

### Questions:

1. How can the UNDP create initiatives that are highly regionalized, or aimed towards specific countries' conflict zones?
2. How will the incorporation of social, historical, political, and economic contexts in conflict zones look for different regions, and how will these contexts be implemented?
3. Between artificial and real scarcity, what ways can the UNDP combat artificial scarcity as a political tool?

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<sup>82</sup> Whittemore, Luke A. "Intervention and Post-Conflict Natural Resource Governance: Lessons from Liberia." *Minnesota Journal of International Law* (2008).

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