

Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee GA3

Addressing the humanitarian crisis regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.



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Positions: Main-
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Introducing Your Chairs

Main chair

[Meike Clahsen](#)

Hi, I am your main chair Meike Clahsen. I am in my senior year of highschool at the Isendoorn College, Warnsveld. I was born in the Netherlands and still live there. I would love to study in The Hague. MUN is a main hobby of mine, but I also enjoy working as a server at Bro Lunch & Borrel, and going on walks with my dog. This will be my first time chairing at FAMUN, and my 9th MUN conference. I cannot wait for FAMUN! I am very excited to meet all of you and I am confident that our committee is going to be the most fun of all!! See you at FAMUN.

An Introduction To The Topic

The impact that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has on the humanitarian crisis is immense. Communities are suffering, people are dying, and nations are fighting. This crisis needs global collaboration for a long-lasting solution.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict originates from the 1980s, and is still affecting communities till this day. It endures the consequences of territorial disputes, ethnic tensions, and proactive hostilities. The conflict takes place within the South Caucasus region, it has not only left a trail of its political purpose but also created a humanitarian crisis.

This research report will delve into the origin of the conflict, its impact on populations, major parties that are involved in this conflict, some past solutions and some future solutions that could eventually be implemented in a long-lasting resolution. This issue requires united effort from every nation involved.

Definition of Key Terms

Humanitarian aid

Humanitarian aid is assistance that is used to relieve suffering during emergency situations.

Humanitarian crisis

Humanitarian crisis is an event or series of events that represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security or well-being of a community or other large group.

Displaced populations

The displacement of human populations means the relocation of large numbers of people from their homes.

Internally displaced people (IDP)

Internally displaced people are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, or violations of human rights.

Refugee

A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or a natural disaster.

South Caucasus region

The South Caucasus region is a mountain system and region lying between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, and occupied by Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia.

Non-governmental organization (NGO)

A non-governmental organization generally refers to a non-profit, private organization that operates outside the control of the government.

A General Overview of the Issue

Addressing the humanitarian crisis originating from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach, which involves local, regional, and international contributions. This conflict, known for its decades of territorial disputes, has resulted in disturbing humanitarian challenges, including displacement, infrastructure damage, and loss of lives. As the world deals with the urgent need for the cease of human suffering, and the promotion for long-term stability, various strategies emerge to tackle the multiple challenges caused by this conflict.


The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, originated from historical, ethnic and territorial difficulties, has witnessed immense escalations over the years. The region declared independence in 1988, followed by violent confrontations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Despite the ceasefire in 1994, the issues still remained unresolved, eventually erupting into open hostilities. The humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict can be characterized by its mass displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and the significant impact it had on the lives of civilians affected by the conflict.

Diplomatic initiatives are an important part of any solution. The OSCE Minsk Group, co-chaired by Russia, France, and the United States, plays an important role in mediating between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The urgency of diplomatic dialogue, facilitated by such international mediators, is critical for resolving the main causes of the conflict and for addressing the humanitarian fallout. The main focus is to find a negotiated settlement that respects the rights and interests of all parties involved. The main basis for any humanitarian response is the establishment and maintenance of a durable ceasefire. They do not only provide instant relief to affected populations by reducing violence, but it also creates a better environment for human aid delivery. International peacekeeping forces may be considered to monitor and enforce such ceasefires, providing a sense of security for civilians in conflict zones.

Humanitarian access is crucial for delivering aid to those who are in need. By establishing safe and secure humanitarian corridors there is a creation of insurance for the undisturbed flow of essential resources, including food, medicine, and shelter materials. Cooperation from all conflicting parties is essential to guarantee the effectiveness of these corridors, emphasizing the neutral and impartial nature of humanitarian assistance.

Efforts should be made towards addressing the needs of refugees and IDPs. There should be a creation of programs that provide housing, healthcare, education, and livelihood support to facilitate their new integration in new communities, but ideally, their return to their places of origin. This also involves collaboration between governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide proper assistance.

The reconstruction and development initiatives are essential for rebuilding the regions that are affected by the conflict. There should be a focus on rehabilitating



critical infrastructure such as schools and hospitals, revitalizing local economies, and creating conditions for sustainable livelihoods. The investment in long-term development of these areas can contribute to a nation's ability to foster stability and resilience, and mitigating the risk of any future crises.

Human rights protection is fundamental to any humanitarian response. There should be strengthened mechanisms that monitor and address human rights violations, with accountability for perpetrators. This does also include addressing issues related to the protection of minority rights, ensuring the safety and dignity of all individuals.

In conclusion, addressing the humanitarian crisis resulting from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict requires a united effort. Diplomatic dialog, ceasefire agreements, humanitarian access, refugee assistance, reconstruction, human rights protection, international assistance, inclusive peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and media and education initiatives to collectively form a comprehensive strategy. This humanitarian crisis should be prioritized, this crisis requires a united effort to find a resolution.

Historical Background

The humanitarian crisis surrounding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict originates from deep historical roots, changing over decades as the region started struggling with ethnic tensions, political complexities, and territorial disagreements. The understanding of the history of the humanitarian crisis provides insight into the challenges that the affected populations face and how the crisis has evolved through time.

The Origins

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict originated from the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s. As the Soviet Union collapsed, the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, mostly dominated by ethnic Armenians, declared independence from Azerbaijan in 1988. This created ethnic tensions and territorial disagreements, which led to violent confrontations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Escalation of Hostilities and Humanitarian Fallout (1988-1994)

The escalation of hostilities in the early 1990s resulted in the widespread displacement of populations. Ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan and ethnic Azerbaijanis in Armenia were forced to flee their homes, which led to a great complex refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) crisis. This conflict also included the targeting of civilian populations, resulting in the loss of lives, destruction of homes, and severe psychological trauma for those affected by the conflict.


The situation even worsened as both Armenia and Azerbaijan engaged in an intense struggle for control over Nagorno-Karabakh. The conflict resulted in a great humanitarian toll, which includes human rights abuses, displacement, and a breakdown of several essential services.

Ceasefire and Fragile Stability (1994-2016)

In the year 1994, a ceasefire arranged by Russia brought a temporary pause to active hostilities. However, the underlying issues still remained unresolved, and sudden escalations continued to occur over the years. During this period, the humanitarian crisis remained, with displaced populations facing challenges with rebuilding their lives.

The ceasefire provided a similarity of stability, it allowed for some humanitarian efforts to address immediate needs. However, the lack of a proper political resolution continued a cycle of vulnerability for affected populations, especially for those living in contested territories.

Renewed Escalations and Escalating Humanitarian Challenges (2016-



2020)

There were renewed escalations in 2016, with a flare-up of violence along the Line of Contact. These incidents further worsen the humanitarian crisis, causing additional displacement and furthermore restraining already limited resources for humanitarian aid. The situation further highlighted the fragility of the ceasefire and the urgent need for a proper long-lasting political solution.

One of the most significant escalations that occurred in 2020, led to a full-scale military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The hostilities resulted in a huge surge of displacement, extensive damage to infrastructure, and increased urgency for humanitarian interventions. The targeting of civilian areas and use of heavy weapons intensified the humanitarian toll, creating international calls for a ceasefire and renewed diplomatic efforts.

Ongoing Humanitarian Challenges

According to the latest information, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains a dynamic and evolving crisis. The more recent hostilities have further complicated the humanitarian situation, with displaced populations facing horrid challenges related to food, shelter, and medical care. The destruction of critical infrastructure, which includes schools and hospitals, furthermore worsens the challenges faced by the already affected communities.

The current situation underscores the necessity for a comprehensive and sustained humanitarian response. The international community, including organizations like the UN and the ICRC, continues to actively engage in addressing the needs of those affected by the conflict. Humanitarian actors face the difficult task of navigating ongoing security concerns, ensuring access to areas affected by the conflict, and coordinating aid delivery.

Major Parties Involved

Armenia and Azerbaijan

These nations are directly involved with this issue, both countries are responsible for the well-being of their citizens affected by the conflict. Some of these responsibilities include providing humanitarian aid, ensuring the safety of any displaced populations, and to address the needs of those affected by the crisis. They both also endure a lot of international pressure and obligations, the pressure mostly surrounds the humanitarian fallout caused by the conflict between both nations. They are also criticized for not upholding human rights standards, for not providing enough assistance for displaced persons, and for not working towards sustainable solutions. They are also expected to play a role in coordinating efforts with the UN, regional powers, and NGO's to ensure an effective and comprehensive humanitarian response. And they are expected to contribute to the long-term goal of stability in the region.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross is known for its neutrality, they operate independently meaning that they do not pick sides. The neutrality of the ICRC means that they are able to provide humanitarian assistance for all parties involved with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Moreover, the ICRC is also known for protecting the lives of civilians who are affected by armed conflicts, they want to mitigate suffering. The ICRC provides humanitarian aid, this includes water, food, shelter, and medical assistance. In the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict there are displaced populations and individuals who have critical human needs, the ICRC plays a critical role in addressing these challenges caused by the conflict. The ICRC can also help with long-term solutions by advocating for humanitarian principles and for parties to refrain from using armed conflict.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe has been involved in mediating the conflict through its Minsk Group. The main focus of the OSCE is more political, but the humanitarian crisis is important for achieving a long-lasting resolution to the conflict. The OSCE also monitors the dialogue and ceasefires between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This reduces the risk of violence and displacement, so it indirectly supports the humanitarian efforts. The OSCE also promotes international cooperation and the prevention of human suffering.

The Russian Federation, the Republic of Türkiye, and Iran

The conflict concerns Russia, Turkey, and Iran because of its regional influences. They all have great historical, cultural, and geopolitical ties to the South Caucasus region. This creates a collective interest in maintaining stability and influence in the strategic region. The conflict also endangers regional security, by the participation in humanitarian efforts these countries aim for stability and the prevention of any escalation of tensions that could endanger the regional security. The conflict also led to population displacements, Russia, Turkey, and Iran want to manage the refugees to ensure their well-being. The destabilization created by the conflict can also create conditions for extremism and terrorism, they want to prevent these threads to ensure long-term stability.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Humanitarian Aid

Various nations and organizations have provided financial and/or material assistance to support the affected populations, by delivering food, water, and medical supplies.

Displaced Persons Assistance

There is a focus on assisting any displaced individuals and refugees, they are provided with shelter, healthcare, and education.

Medical Support

There have been efforts to strengthen the healthcare structure, to ensure the accessibility to healthcare for those who are affected by the conflict, the increased demand of medical services is also addressed.

International Organizations

The United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other humanitarian agencies are actively engaged in coordinating and delivering aid that is needed, they also address immediate needs, and advocate for long-term solutions.

Ceasefire Agreements

There have been diplomatic initiatives and peace talks that have been pursued to secure a ceasefire to reduce violence, which creates a more safe environment for any humanitarian efforts.

Refugee and IDP Protection

There has been action to protect the rights and well-being of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP's), to emphasize their safety, dignity, and eventual return.

Infrastructure Rehabilitation

This aims to restore essential infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and housing, to support communities which are affected by the conflict.

Dialogue and Mediation

Diplomatic channels like the OSCE Minsk Group are engaging in dialogue and mediation to find a solution to the conflict, a solution for long-term commitment and humanitarian relief.

Human Rights Monitoring

Organizations are focusing on reporting any human rights violations, ensuring that affected populations are protected by international humanitarian law.

Possible Solutions For The Issue

Diplomatic Dialogue

Encouragement to include all parties in sustained diplomatic efforts, supported by international mediators such as the OCSE, to find a peaceful, carefully negotiated resolution to all the underlying issues causing the conflict.

Ceasefire and Security Guarantees

Establish a maintainable durable ceasefire, which ensures the security of civilians and facilitates human access to any affected areas. There could be a consideration for international peacekeeping forces to monitor and enforce the ceasefire.

Humanitarian Corridors

Establish safe, secure humanitarian corridors to facilitate the delivery of aid, which includes food, medicine, and other essentials, to any populations affected by the conflict. This requires cooperation of all parties related to the conflict.

Refugee and IDP Assistance

The implementation of programs to address the needs of refugees and IDPs, providing support for housing, healthcare, education, and livelihoods.

Reconstruction and Development

Invest in the reconstruction and the development of any affected regions, with focus on rebuilding infrastructure, including school, and hospitals, to enhance the quality of life of citizens.

Human Rights Protection

Strengthen the mechanisms to monitor and protect human rights, and ensure accountability for any violations, and promote the culture of respect for fundamental rights and freedom.

Regional Cooperation

Encourage neighboring countries to cooperate regionally to address shared challenges, promote stability, and contribute to the overall development of the South Caucasus region.

International Assistance and Funding

Mobilize international support and funding for humanitarian efforts, reconstruction and development. This includes contributions from governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

Inclusive Negotiations

Promote inclusive peace negotiations that involve representatives from all involved communities and address the concerns of all parties involved, creating a sense of ownership and commitment to the peace process.



Conflict Prevention

Invest in long-term strategies for conflict prevention, addressing root causes such as economic disparities, historical grievances, and issues related to identity and self-determination.

Media and Education Initiatives

Support initiatives that promote unbiased and accurate reporting to counter any misinformation and to contribute to building understanding and trust among different communities. And invest in educational programs that foster tolerance and dialog.



Timeline Of Key Events

Year	Event
1988-1994	The Nagorno-Karabakh region declares independence
1194	Ceasefire arranged by Russia end the active conflict
2008	Discussions fail to produce a resolution
2016	Escalations in violence arise
2018	Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan is elected
2019	Discussions resume, minimal process
2020-September	Escalation arises with clashes around borders
2020-November	Ceasefire arranged by Russia
2021-2022	Humanitarian challenges intensify
2023	Ongoing efforts to address the humanitarian crisis

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