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PRESS RELEASE

Global violence is hurting children more than ever, says REACH-Network.

The network urges governments to step up, end the violence, and provide holistic services to young children caught in crisis.

At the end of its quarterly meeting recently, the REACH-Network, a global initiative of the [Moving Minds Alliance](), comprising reporters and journalists focused on improving early childhood development in humanitarian crises, called on global leaders to stop the violence around the world, noting that more children have become victims of these avoidable crises.

The world is witnessing unprecedented crises since World War II, and this violence must stop now.

Recent reports reveal that children as young as two-year-olds have been [killed]() by Israeli forces in Gaza. And with Israel blocking food aid, children are skin and bones with long-term health damages, even as their equally malnourished mothers look on helplessly.

As Gaza faces these harrowing conditions, other parts of the world are in deep crises too.

[Malnutrition]() among children under five has worsened in war-torn Sudan. Hundreds of children have been trapped in El Fasher in the Darfur region for a year due to a tight siege on the city and the complete absence of food. Both UNICEF and WFP confirmed the third level of malnutrition and the complete absence of goods, which threatens the lives of children in the region.

These global bodies have, therefore, called for urgent interventions to facilitate access to pharmaceutical and food aid in the city.

In Ukraine, since the Russian invasion, children [are growing up traumatised](#) [without access to basic rights](#). These harrowing conditions are the same in Afghanistan under the Taliban rule, and Rohingya children are [growing up without enough food and education](#).

From Plateau to Benue, Sokoto, Zamfara, and Niger states in Nigeria, Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps are filled with children whose fate hangs in the balance, as they are unsure of their survival due to persistent violence.

There are reports of snake bites in the camps in Benue State, in particular, where many families now take refuge after gunmen sacked their villages, and the people's cry for help has fallen on the government's deaf ears.

In Cameroon, children in the conflict-hit English-speaking regions remain out of school, unlike their peers in the rest of the country, who resumed classes in early September. Their absence from classrooms is the result of an enforced month-long lockdown imposed by armed separatists, further deepening the education crisis in these areas.

Away from war zones

Away from the war zones, children continue to suffer through trafficking, child labour, early marriage and pregnancy, detention, and incarceration for petty crimes with little or no hope of rehabilitation. The violations of child rights around the world are not isolated incidents. This is a clear violation of the lack of child protection, with the world looking away as these unconscionable violations continue to happen on a large scale.

Consequences

With global conflicts intensifying and tectonic shifts in geopolitics, [more than 473 million children](#) now live in conflict-affected areas. Children are suffering from diseases, hunger, displacement, and the climate crisis. UNICEF [has urged](#) that a strong alignment between global and national priorities is urgent to protect children.

Recommendations

REACH-Network calls on governments all over the world to urgently look into child rights and stop the carnage in Gaza, and violations in Sudan, Ukraine, and other parts of the world where children are being used as pawns in armed conflicts.

Children must be registered at birth and supported through comprehensive protection schemes and rehabilitation programs to recover from large-scale abuse. Whether the crisis stems from war or climate disasters, the burden should not fall on children. Governments must take accountability for their actions, not only by providing food to war-ravaged regions, but by ensuring access to holistic services that support the full development of the child. This includes health care, legal aid, psychosocial support, education, and safe environments that nurture healing and growth.

Apart from the quest for the governments to take responsibility, REACH-Network also demands the establishment and enforcement of mechanisms for accountability, such as international courts, human rights monitoring, and sanctions against violations, targeting children. Accountability is crucial to deter future abuses.

E-Signed

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