



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 5

SEZMUN II. HRD SYMPOSIUM

ISSUE OF: FUNDING THE PROTECTION OF
HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS IN ACTIVE WAR
ZONES

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to GA5 of SEZMUN 2025. We are very excited and honoured to welcome you to our Second annual conference. We, Mehmet Efe Acar and Duru Solmaz, prepared this chair report as guidance to our topic.

Our main topic will be Funding the protection of humanitarian corridors in active war zones. The protection of humanitarian corridors remains one of the most pressing challenges faced by the international community today. These corridors are not only vital pathways for the delivery of aid, but also lifelines for civilians trapped in the midst of armed conflict. Ensuring their safety and accessibility requires coordinated global action, sustainable funding mechanisms, and a strong commitment to the principles of international humanitarian law. Our mission as the General Assembly's 5th Committee is to help the continuation of the funding of these Humanitarian Corridors

We wish all Delegates a productive and inspiring and Fruitful Debate, and we look forward to witnessing your dedication to addressing one of the most urgent humanitarian issues of our time.

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Key Words

- **Humanitarian Corridor:** A temporary demilitarized zone established through negotiation, allowing the safe passage of civilians, humanitarian aid, and medical assistance in or out of conflict areas
- **Humanitarian Aid:** Assistance provided to people affected by conflict or natural disasters, including food, water, shelter, and medical care. It is guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.
- **Protection of Civilians (PoC):** A core mandate of the United Nations that aims to prevent harm to civilians during armed conflict through peacekeeping, policy frameworks, and legal measures.
- **Armed Conflict / Active War Zone:** An area where organized armed groups or states engage in sustained combat, posing direct threats to civilian populations and humanitarian operations
- **International Humanitarian Law (IHL):** A body of international law, also known as the laws of war, that regulates conduct during armed conflict. It seeks to protect those not participating in hostilities and to limit the means and methods of warfare.

Key Words

- **Funding Mechanisms:** Financial structures or instruments through which resources are mobilized and allocated for humanitarian purposes. Examples include UN trust funds, international aid programs, and public–private partnerships.
- **Donor States:** Countries that contribute financial, logistical, or material assistance to humanitarian operations, often through the United Nations or international organizations.
- **Non-Governmental Organizations:** (NGOs): Independent organizations that provide humanitarian relief, advocacy, and operational support in conflict zones, often partnering with UN agencies
- **Responsibility to Protect (R2P):** A global principle affirming that states have the primary responsibility to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. When a state fails to do so, the international community has a role to intervene through diplomatic, humanitarian, or collective means.

Key Words

- **Humanitarian Access:** The ability of humanitarian actors to reach affected populations safely and without hindrance. Ensuring such access is a central challenge in active war zones.
- **Multilateral Cooperation:** Collaboration between multiple states and international organizations to coordinate funding, logistics, and political support for humanitarian efforts.
- **Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs):** Funds managed locally by OCHA in specific countries, allowing donors to pool their contributions for coordinated humanitarian response efforts, including the establishment and protection of humanitarian corridors.
- **Assessed Contributions:** Mandatory payments made by UN Member States to finance the organization's regular budget and peacekeeping operations, which can indirectly support the protection of humanitarian routes.
- **Voluntary Contributions:** Non-obligatory financial or material support from states, organizations, or private actors directed toward specific humanitarian projects or emergencies.

Key Words

- **Donor Fatigue:** A reduction in willingness or capacity of donor states or organizations to continue funding humanitarian operations due to prolonged crises or competing global priorities.
- **Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Collaborations between governments, international organizations, and private sector entities to mobilize funding, technology, and logistics for humanitarian protection initiatives.
- **Humanitarian Trust Funds:** Specialized financial mechanisms, often established under the UN or regional organizations, designed to collect and allocate resources for specific humanitarian objectives.
- **Accountability and Transparency in Aid:** Principles ensuring that financial resources are managed efficiently and ethically, preventing misuse or corruption in humanitarian funding.
- **Financial Tracking Service (FTS):** A global database managed by OCHA that records all humanitarian funding flows, ensuring transparency and coordination among donors.

Key Words

- **Bilateral and Multilateral Aid:**

- 1) **Bilateral Aid:** Direct financial assistance from one state to another.

- 2) **Multilateral Aid:** Funding channeled through international organizations such as the UN or the World Bank to support broader humanitarian efforts.

- **Conditionality of Aid:** The practice of attaching political, security, or policy-related conditions to humanitarian funding, which can impact neutrality and access in conflict zones.

- **Cost-Sharing Mechanisms:** Agreements among multiple actors—states, NGOs, and international organizations—to divide the financial responsibility for maintaining and securing humanitarian corridors.

- **Emergency Funding Appeals:** Calls for financial support issued by the UN or humanitarian agencies in response to emerging crises requiring immediate protection or logistical funding.

- **Development–Humanitarian Nexus:** An approach that connects short-term humanitarian funding with long-term development financing to ensure sustainability and resilience in conflict-affected regions.

Related Organisations

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA):

(OCHA) coordinates international humanitarian response, mobilizes funding, and manages pooled funds such as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs). It plays a central role in planning and securing humanitarian corridors.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):

UNHCR protects and supports refugees and displaced persons. The agency works to ensure safe passage along humanitarian corridors and provides logistical and financial support for the evacuation and shelter of civilians in conflict zones.

World Food Programme (WFP): (WFP) is responsible for delivering food assistance in emergencies. It frequently operates along humanitarian corridors to transport aid to populations trapped in conflict areas, requiring both secure passage and financial support.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): The UNDP uses AI to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Related Organisations

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): ICRC is a neutral and independent organization that provides humanitarian protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict. It has historically negotiated access and established safe corridors, particularly in complex conflict zones.

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF): A UN-managed fund that provides rapid and flexible financing for life-saving humanitarian activities, including the maintenance and protection of humanitarian corridors.

Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs): Managed by OCHA at the country level, CBPFs pool resources from multiple donors to finance humanitarian operations, including corridors, in specific conflict-affected regions.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF / Doctors Without Borders): MSF delivers emergency medical care in conflict areas and works along humanitarian corridors to reach civilians. The organization often highlights funding gaps and security challenges affecting aid delivery.

Topic Introduction

The question of funding the protection of **humanitarian corridors in active war zones** has become increasingly **urgent** in recent years. As conflicts continue to erupt and intensify across the globe, millions of civilians find themselves trapped in areas of violence, deprived of access to food, water, and medical care. **Humanitarian corridors—safe routes established to allow the evacuation of civilians and the delivery of essential aid** have played a crucial role in mitigating suffering in such crises. Yet, the success of these corridors depends not only on political negotiation but also on the availability of consistent and reliable funding.

The past decade has provided sobering examples of both the necessity and fragility of humanitarian corridors. During the **Syrian Civil War**, corridors such as those in **Aleppo in 2016 and Eastern Ghouta in 2018** were repeatedly undermined by **violations of ceasefire agreements and inadequate protection measures**. In Yemen, limited humanitarian access has exacerbated what the United Nations has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with funding gaps hampering the UN's ability to reach those in need. More recently, **the war in Ukraine since 2022** has demonstrated **both the potential and challenges of coordinating safe passage for civilians**, as international agencies struggled to secure the financial and logistical resources necessary for large-scale evacuation and aid delivery.

Topic Introduction

These experiences have underscored the pressing need for sustainable funding mechanisms dedicated to the protection and maintenance of humanitarian corridors. Despite the establishment of tools such as the **UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** and **Country-Based Pooled Funds managed by OCHA**, global humanitarian financing continues to fall short of actual needs. In 2024, the United Nations reported a record **funding gap of over 55 percent** across humanitarian appeals worldwide, leaving millions without critical assistance.

As the international community faces an increasingly complex humanitarian landscape, this issue calls for **renewed commitment and creativity**. Delegates are encouraged to **consider how international and regional actors can pool resources**, engage the private sector, and strengthen accountability in financial operations. The protection of **humanitarian corridors is not merely a logistical or financial matter—it is a moral imperative** grounded in the principles of international humanitarian law and the shared responsibility to preserve human life amid conflict.

Key Issues

- **Insufficient and Unsustainable Funding:**

Many humanitarian operations face chronic underfunding, which directly impacts the establishment and security of humanitarian corridors. **In 2024, the United Nations reported that less than half of global humanitarian appeals were met,** leaving critical protection and logistics programs without the necessary financial support. This lack of predictable funding undermines long-term planning and the safety of civilians and aid workers in conflict zones.

- **Allocation and Coordination of Resources**

The financial support available for humanitarian corridors is often fragmented **among various donors, agencies, and NGOs. This lack of coordination leads to inefficiencies,** overlapping responsibilities, and gaps in coverage. **A coherent funding framework is needed** to ensure that resources are distributed strategically and transparently, according to humanitarian priorities rather than political interests.

Key Issues

- **Political and Security Challenges:**

Securing **humanitarian corridors in active war zones often requires agreements between conflicting parties**. In many cases, warring sides refuse to guarantee safe passage or intentionally **obstruct humanitarian access**. **Funding protection efforts without addressing the political complexities of ceasefires and security guarantees risks rendering financial contributions ineffective.**

- **Dependence on Voluntary Contributions:**

The United Nations and its agencies rely heavily on voluntary donations from Member States, international organizations, and private actors. This system leaves **humanitarian financing vulnerable to political shifts, donor fatigue, and competing global crises**. Without a more stable funding mechanism, the protection of humanitarian corridors cannot be guaranteed in the long term.

- **Accountability and Misuse of Funds**

Ensuring transparency in how funds are spent remains a major concern. In conflict environments, where **governance structures may be weak or contested**, the diversion or **mismanagement of funds can compromise both humanitarian integrity and security**. Establishing clear oversight mechanisms is therefore essential to maintain donor confidence and operational effectiveness.

Key Issues

- **Safety of Humanitarian Personnel and Infrastructure**

Funding the protection of humanitarian corridors includes not only the movement of aid and civilians but also the safety of humanitarian workers and facilities. In several conflicts, such as in Sudan and Gaza, aid convoys and personnel have come under direct attack, highlighting the urgent need for financial investment in security training, technology, and protective measures.

- **Balancing Sovereignty and Humanitarian Access**

While states have the sovereign right to control activities within their borders, this **principle can conflict with the international community's obligation** to ensure humanitarian access. **Funding the protection of corridors often raises questions about external intervention and national consent**, requiring careful diplomatic navigation to respect sovereignty while fulfilling humanitarian objectives.

- **Integration of Private Sector and Innovative Financing**

Traditional donor models may no longer be sufficient to meet the growing scale of humanitarian needs. New approaches—such as **public-private partnerships, impact bonds, and insurance-based mechanisms—are being explored** but remain underutilized. Ensuring effective collaboration between public institutions and private entities could provide a more resilient funding base for humanitarian operations.

Key Issues

- **Monitoring and Evaluation of Impact**

Even when funds are successfully mobilized, assessing their real-world impact remains a challenge. Many **humanitarian programs lack comprehensive monitoring systems** that track how financial investments translate into tangible protection outcomes on the ground. **Strengthening evaluation frameworks is essential** to improve accountability and inform future funding strategies.

- **Growing Humanitarian Demands and Global Inequality**

The increasing frequency and intensity of conflicts, coupled with climate-related disasters and economic instability, have placed unprecedented strain on the global humanitarian system. As crises multiply, funding for **humanitarian corridors competes with other urgent needs, raising difficult questions about prioritization, fairness, and burden-sharing among Member States.**



3,500 civilians in Ukraine's Sumy evacuated through humanitarian corridors

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/russia-ukraine-war/at-least-3-500-civilians-in-ukraine-s-sumy-evacuated-through-humanitarian-corridor/2528254>

Historical Background

The concept of humanitarian corridors emerged in the **mid-20th century** as the international community sought structured mechanisms to protect civilians and ensure the delivery of aid during armed conflict. One of the earliest formal examples occurred during the **Biafran War in Nigeria (1967–1970)**. In this conflict, widespread famine and civilian suffering prompted international actors, including the **International Committee of the Red Cross**, to negotiate safe passages for food, medicine, and humanitarian personnel. Although these early corridors faced significant challenges, including attacks on aid convoys and restrictions imposed by the warring parties, they demonstrated the potential of designated routes to save civilian lives.

In the following decades, the concept evolved through various conflicts. During the **Bosnian War (1992–1995)**, humanitarian corridors were established around Sarajevo and other besieged areas to allow the **delivery of food, medical supplies**, and evacuation of civilians. These operations underscored both the importance of international coordination and the necessity of securing political agreements and funding to ensure corridors were effective.

Historical Background

A more recently, humanitarian corridors have been employed in the **Syrian Civil War**, the **conflict in Yemen**, and the war in Ukraine, highlighting both their continuing relevance and the increasing complexity of their protection. These modern experiences demonstrate that, while corridors provide critical lifelines for civilians, their **success depends on sustainable funding, robust security arrangements, and adherence to international humanitarian law.**

The historical evolution of humanitarian corridors thus illustrates a broader lesson: **they are not merely logistical constructs but instruments of international responsibility, requiring political negotiation, financial support, and multilateral cooperation to uphold the principles of humanity in times of conflict.**



A banner at Rome's Fiumicino airport welcoming a group of refugees who arrived thanks to humanitarian corridors

<https://www.infomigrants.net/ar/post/36289/italy-1200-afghans-to-arrive-with-humanitarian-corridors>



Red cross Humanitarian corridor between DR and Haiti
<https://www.ifrc.org/press-release/red-cross-opens-humanitarian-corridor-between-dominican-republic-and-haiti>

Possible Solution

- **Establishing Dedicated Humanitarian Corridor Funds**

Member States could support **the creation of specialized financial mechanisms** dedicated **solely to the establishment, maintenance, and protection** of humanitarian corridors. These funds could operate under the UN or regional organizations, ensuring rapid and predictable allocation of resources in crisis situations.

- **Strengthening and Expanding Existing UN Funding Mechanisms**

Enhancing the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs)** could provide **more flexible and substantial funding for corridors**. Increasing contributions from Member States, ensuring timely disbursement, and prioritizing corridor protection within these funds would help mitigate current funding gaps.

- **Encouraging Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs)**

Collaboration with private sector actors, including logistics companies, financial institutions, and technology providers, could supplement state contributions. **PPPs could provide funding, technological solutions for monitoring**, and secure transportation for aid deliveries along humanitarian corridors.

Possible Solution

- **Integration with Peacekeeping and Security Efforts**

Funding for corridors could be linked to UN peacekeeping or observer missions that provide security and monitoring. This **integration ensures that resources are not only used for logistics but also for protecting civilians and aid workers in high-risk areas**

- **Enhancing Accountability and Transparency**

Strengthening monitoring systems, such as the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), and **establishing independent audits can ensure that allocated funds are used efficiently and ethically**. Transparent reporting would also build donor confidence and encourage additional contributions.

- **Regular International Pledging Conferences**

Holding frequent global or regional pledging conferences could **mobilize additional resources specifically for corridor protection**. These conferences would encourage Member States, **NGOs, and private donors to commit funds, technology, and personnel to ensure that corridors remain operational in critical periods**.

Possible Solution

- **Regional Cooperation and Joint Funding Initiatives**

Neighboring states and regional organizations could establish joint funding mechanisms to support corridor operations within conflict zones. **Regional engagement may improve coordination, reduce political barriers, and increase accountability** while ensuring rapid response in crises.

- **Conditional but Neutral Funding Agreements**

Donors could develop funding mechanisms that respect state sovereignty while ensuring neutrality. For example, **agreements could guarantee that funds are allocated solely for humanitarian purposes**, monitored by independent observers, and shielded from political or military manipulation.

- **Innovative Financing Models**

Exploring new financial instruments such as humanitarian impact bonds, contingency funds, and insurance-based mechanisms could provide reliable funding for corridor protection. **Such models could allow rapid mobilization of resources when conflicts erupt** and reduce dependency on unpredictable voluntary donations.

Resources

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Resources

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