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## 硕 士 学 位 论 文

国际组织在支持冲突中的儿童方面的作用：也门案例  
的研究

**The Role of International Organizations in Supporting  
Children under Conflicts: the case study of Yemen**

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Date:

(Dr. Meiting Li)

Professor of Internatinal Relations

Xiamen University

## **Dedication**

I would like to dedicate this work with my most profound love and great gratitude to those who deserve it, my dear and loving mother and father.

I also dedicate it to my beloved wife and my sisters Dr. Aisha, Ola, Abeer, and Alya with love and thanks and I wish them pleasant and flourishing life.

I take the honor to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Meiting Li, and to all the teachers and professors of the Department of International Relations at Xiamen University.

I also want to use the chance to dedicate this work to the future of the world, the children, by standing with them and delivering their silent voices in all situations and everywhere.

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## 摘要

不同国家的一些国际组织正在努力打击侵犯儿童的行为，并给予他们足够的照顾，尤其是在冲突时期。为了履行自己的职责和工作，他们必须面对许多挑战，包括国际社会的不作为，捐款人资助活动的缺乏、政府的缺位以及对儿童权利认识的缺乏。

研究的题目是，国际组织对战区儿童的生计有积极贡献吗？为了回答这一问题，本研究旨在调查国际组织对战区儿童在营养、健康、教育和保护方面的基本生活需要的贡献。同时，本研究以发展中国家儿童的实际情况为例，以也门最近的危机为个案研究。

研究问题通过强调讨论的中心四项决定来回答。在调查过有关国际组织工作的论证和事实之后，很明显，在各种各样的情况下，国际组织确实有通过记录和提供帮助的方式在行动。国际组织利用每一个机会要求国际社会以政治、甚至武力等方式来制止冲突。国际组织在战争中发挥积极和公正的作用，帮助受影响最严重的人民，特别是儿童，努力满足所有儿童的健康、食物、教育、保护和打击招募的基本需要。

研究表明，国际组织在为战区儿童在处理 and 记录其实际情况和需要中有着积极的贡献，并成为他们在国际社会和世人面前发声和辩护的代表。同时，全球组织正在努力将儿童问题的意识带到世界各地，同时建立一些项目，以触及敏感和关键的地方拯救儿童的生命。

### 关键词：

国际组织，儿童权利，武装冲突，联合国儿童权利公约，也门危机



## ABSTRACT

Several International Organizations in the different countries are trying to counter the violations against children and provide the sufficient care for them especially in the conflicting periods. To do their roles and work, they are required to face many challenges including the international community's inaction, the scarcity of donations to finance their activities, the absence of the government, and the lack of awareness about children's rights.

The research question is, do the International Organizations have positive contributions to the livelihoods of children in war zones?. To answer the research question, the study aims to examine the contribution of International Organizations to the livelihoods of children in war zones for the basic needs of the child in term of Nutrition, Health, Education, and Protection. Also, the study takes real examples about the situation of children from the developing countries and then will focus on the recent crises of Yemen as a case study.

The research question is answered through highlighted the central four determinations from the discussions. After reviewing the arguments and facts about the work of international organizations, it was clear that in all situations the International Organizations in the place of action by documenting and giving helping hands. The International Organizations use every single chance to demand the International Community to stop the conflicts in all ways such as politically, or even by force. International organizations play an active and impartial role in wars to help the most affected people, especially children and strive to meet all the children's essential needs of health, food, education, protection and fight against recruitment.

The study showed the positive contribution work that played by the International Organizations for children in addressing and documenting their actual situations and needs as well as becoming their voice who advocate and defend on behalf for them in front of the international community and the world. Also, the global organizations are trying to bring the awareness of the children issues around the world alongside with establishing projects that reach sensitive and critical places to save people lives.

**Key words:**

International Organizations, The Rights of the child, Armed Conflicts, UNCRC, Yemen Crises

## Table of Contents

<b>Dedication</b> .....	I
<b>Acknowledgment</b> .....	II
<b>Abstract</b> .....	III
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	V
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction</b> .....	1
<b>1.1 Background</b> .....	1
<b>1.2 Definitions and Terminology</b> .....	3
1.2.1 International Community.....	3
1.2.2 Internatinoal Organizations .....	3
1.2.3 Child .....	4
1.2.4 Children’s Rights.....	5
1.2.5 Conflicts .....	6
<b>1.3 Statement of Problem</b> .....	6
<b>1.4 Motivation</b> .....	8
<b>1.5 Research Question and Objective</b> .....	10
<b>1.6 Research Method – Scope and Limitations</b> .....	11
<b>1.7 Thesis Organization</b> .....	12
<b>Chapter 2 Theoretical and Framework Discussions</b> .....	13
<b>2.1 Introduction</b> .....	13
<b>2.2 Schools of thoughts in Children’s Rights</b> .....	15
<b>2.3 Theoritecal Prespective on the role of International Organizations</b> .....	21
<b>2.4 How Conflicts Impacts Children</b> .....	25
<b>2.5 Thesis Framework Discussion</b> .....	27
2.5.1 Nutrition .....	28
2.5.2 Health .....	31
2.5.3 Education.....	34
2.5.4 Child Protection.....	36
<b>2.6 Internatinoal Organizations and their Efforts</b> .....	40
2.6.1 Rights of Child .....	41
2.6.2 Examples of International Organizations Efforts on Children Rights	42
<b>2.7 Internatinoal Organizations Roles</b> .....	48
<b>2.8 International Organizations’ Achievments toward Children in Facts and Numbers in glance</b> .....	50
2.8.1 Syria.....	52
2.8.2 Iraq .....	54
2.8.3 Sudan and South Sudan .....	55
<b>2.9 Conclusion</b> .....	56
<b>Chapter 3 The Role of International Organizations in Supporting Yemeni Children under the current conflict in Yemen</b> .....	58
<b>3.1 Introduction</b> .....	58
<b>3.2 Brief Overview of Yemen</b> .....	59
3.2.1 History of Yemen and Conflicts Timeline .....	61
<b>3.3 Identity of Yemen</b> .....	65

3.4 Yemen and Children Situations .....	67
3.4.1 Yemeni Children Nutrition Situation .....	70
3.4.2 Yemeni Children Health Situation .....	74
3.4.3 Yemeni Children Educational Situation .....	78
3.4.4 Yemeni Children Protection Situation.....	78
3.5 Yemeni Government .....	81
3.6 International Organizations in Yemen.....	82
3.6.1 Examples of Role of International Organizations in Yemen in Nutrition	84
3.6.2 Examples of Role of International Organizations in Yemen in Health Sector	86
3.6.3 Examples of Role of International Organizations in Yemen in Educational Sector	90
3.6.4 Examples of Role of International Organizations in Child protection and	
Soldiering .....	92
3.7 Challenges of International Organizations in Yemen.....	94
3.8 Conclusion .....	96
<b>Chapter 4 Findings, Discussions, Conclusion, and Recommendations.....</b>	<b>98</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	98
4.2 Findings and Implications of the Research .....	99
4.3 Recommendations and Suggestions .....	101
<b>References .....</b>	<b>102</b>

## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

Throughout the recent decades, the world had witnessed many changes and transformations that made this world more connected than ever before, and the information became so easy to be accessed which in turn lets people from different corners around the globe contribute heavily to the “International Community.” It goes without saying that the need of International Community is essential to regulate how the countries and actors can work together in a systematic way to solve conflicting issues and set the international standards. As previously mentioned about changes and transformations, which are positive in many forms of life and adverse in so many others, there are many actors in the International Community play significant roles in the worldwide changing and transformations. One of those actors is the International Organizations. The International Organizations are considered as one of many players who are responsible for these changes. Nowadays, the term International Organization is readily known and understood more or less by everyone. Simultaneously, Human rights awareness is gradually reaching far and wide. In fact, that is because of the untiring work of the Organizations, notably the International Organizations.

“The rights of human are universal, indivisible and interdependent and related. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis”(Daniel J. Whelan 2010), reported by the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action(Vienna Declaration 1993). When referring to Human rights, they can be defined as the rights inherent to all people, whatever the nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status(Thomas Fleiner 1999). Without any discrimination, we are all equally entitled to our human rights, which are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.(Daniel J. Whelan 2010) Human Rights simply are norms that help to protect all people everywhere from severe political, legal, and social abuses. Thus, the universal human rights are often guaranteed and expressed by law, in different kind of forms. These forms shaped as treaties, customary international law, general principles and other sources

of international law perhaps the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 was the first.

The idea of having an International Organizations is the idea of having one community and equity between people around the world. One World One Nation is the slogan and the primary goal for most of the International Organizations. This world is vast and cannot be controlled by itself or by only one significant power. In practice, the role of International Organizations is very challenging and unstable, and indeed, it is full as thoroughly, especially, when it deals with different people around the world who have different perspectives, backgrounds, and needs. For that, International Organizations are working in many areas and fields. International organizations took upon its shoulder the responsibility to promote standards for the human to live. Therefore, they are trying in helping the states to make development in the standards of living. Portions of people think that the role of International Organizations is just publishing reports and statistical data, although it is only one of the functions of the international organizations, yet there are much more other functions. International Organizations are creating various projects for people not only in peaceful time for development but also plans in wartime for surviving, which does not affect the reporting role they carried out, mainly, they are considered as mentioned before the voice of people in the International Community. In the last decades, the world witnessed many wars that harmed and scratched the fabric society in the conflicts areas. People suffered a lot, and many lost their houses while many others have been displaced and many more others fled their home countries. In such cases, the International Organizations are heavily present on the ground carrying out another responsibility by giving a helping hand to the surviving people.

However, in most situations either in war or peaceful time, most of the people naturally could fight to get their rights or at least they will be able to protect themselves, but there is a category of the people who could not. Children are the category who do not have anything to do with the surrounding atmosphere and have no idea what is going on. Mostly, children have no consciences and enough knowledge about their rights, and even if they have, still they are unable even to speak, especially, when they cannot find hearing ears. Naturally, all children need someone to look for their rights and to give them the adequate care. The Rights of the Child's Convention by the United Nations (hereafter referred to as CRC or

the Convention), which is the most important conventions that define a child and around 192 countries ratified the Convention as of November 2005(David Weissbrodt 2006). Thus, this paper will be about the Role of International Organizations in Supporting Children in the conflicts, and it will take Yemen as a case study.

## **1.2 Definitions and Terminology**

### **1.2.1 International Community**

The international community can be defined as “countries of the world acting together as a group,” (Dictionary) to share one vision to all people in regarding have a better life. This International Community is an essential tool to shape international norms as a moral concept. Moreover, helping in turn to establish institutions and policies. Also, can acts as a potential source of power, which promote the common cause and legitimize standard action. Through, in the international law, international institutions, selfless humanitarian acts of disaster relief and peacekeeping, and social movements(Barry Buzan 2005).

### **1.2.2 International Organizations**

There are many definitions present in the academic literature regarding the term International Organization. According to one such definition, the international organizations are defined to be associations of the particular specified type of actors, most commonly being the countries(Lisa Martin). Indeed, to be a part of these international organization, it is mandatory that the nations become a regular member of it, which might include either a membership cost or an agreement to abide by specific common rules(Lisa Martin). Depending upon the nature of these organizations, the level of bureaucracy involved might be different. For example, for a forum like United Nations, is more of a platform for the member countries to come together, deliberate and discuss the common issues and agendas and find solutions. On the other hand, a forum like World Bank or International Monetary Fund, the degree of bureaucracy is relatively lower, and the economic interests of the countries involved are provided the maximum focus.

According to a different definition of International Organization, it is stated that the international organizations have the involvement of the State driven actors as opposed to being governed by private entities. Those private entities differentiate them from a Non-

Governmental Organization (NGO) and even a corporation (a commercial entity) which is operating across international borders(J Samuel Barkin 2006). This is the reason why a UNICEF is an example of an International Organization and why a Unilever is not. However, alliances, which are purely military, are not referred to as International Organizations. The example of such collaborations includes NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).(J Samuel Barkin 2006)

In fact, International Organizations are actors that play a significant role in defining Human Rights since the recognition of the International Community, and currently, they are still considered as an instrument and are called “the voice of the people in the International Community.”(Peter Willetts 2002)

In the subject of conflicts and political races, it is hard to take local organizations, which probably will select a side position. Consequently, to avoid this issue, this study is making International Organizations rather than any other agencies like regional organization, civil society, global civil society, Intergovernmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations.

This study adopted the definition of International Organization as any group had an international presence and recognized or working under the umbrella of the International Community that represented by United Nations. Those International Organizations included the United Nations Organizations as well as International Non-governmental Organizations like Oxfam, Save the Children International.

### **1.2.3 Child**

The age of the child can be different from country to country. For example, in U.S. Immigration Law, a child refers to anyone who is under the age of 21 and not married (Allison). In the term of the Right of the Child, the rights of the child are the human rights of children with proper attention to the rights of individual protection and care afforded to minors. For international law and humanitarian activities, the term “Child” is provided a precise definition. According to the Convention on the Rights of Child, as followed by the United Nations and all of its subsidiary organizations (Like UNICEF), a child is defined as any individual who is below the age of 18 years (UNICEF). However, this definition does

incorporate the legal provision unique to the countries, as it contains a provision to override this limit of 18 years, in case the country in question acknowledges adulthood at an earlier age. In general, this definition of a child is adhered to by most of the international organizations, and there is no conflict or dispute present in the academic literature regarding it. However, even if the age of majority as declared by the State is lower than 18 years, according to the convention of rights of Child, protection, and support needs to be provided to all individuals below 18 the of age, particularly in the situation of conflict (UNICEF).

#### **1.2.4 Children's Rights**

Humanium is an international child care non-governmental organization dedicated to halting violations of children's rights worldwide and stated that the rights of the child are the human rights that protect the child as a person. As human rights, human rights constitute fundamental guarantees and fundamental human rights. The children's rights recognize the necessary guarantees of all people: the right to life, the protection of physical and mental integrity that reflected the fundamental principle of non-discrimination and the right to dignity (such as freedom from slavery, torture, and ill-treatment). That is including civil and political rights, economic, Individual rights and collective rights and considers that the child rights are human rights explicitly adapted for the child because they take into account his fragility and specificities and needs appropriate to age.

Child rights bear in mind the need for child development. Thus, children have the right to live and develop materially and physically. The Plan of Rights of the Child aims at meeting the basic needs of proper child development, such as access to appropriate treatment, care, and education. The rights of the child are considered to be of a weak nature to the child. It implies the need to protect them, which means giving special help to them, giving protection adapted to their age and maturity. Therefore, children must be assisted and supported, and they must be protected from exploitation at work, abduction, or abuse.(Humanium International NGO 2017)

This study would take this definition in a broad sense, the child rights to live free from all forms of inhumane conditions including hunger, abuse, neglect; and to have access to the essential and primary needs even in the worst situations. Those needs must be saved and



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