Council: Arab League
Country: Libya
Name:

First issue: Tackling the issue of poverty in developing Middle Eastern countries.

The eradication of poverty is the number one developmental goal of both the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. Moreover, in reference to the UNDP, between the years of 2010 and 2012 the percentage of the population in the (Arab) region making less than $1.25 a day increased. The UN believes that the main causes of this increase are conflicts and wars. Arabian people live in poverty because of the lack of many countries in the Arab region in achieving complete development. The lack of development is due to the majority of Arab countries gaining their independence after the rest of the world. The late independence can also be to blame for the increase in conflict (which is a main cause of poverty).

In 1967 Colonel Muammar Gaddafi inherited one of the poorest nations on the African continent; however, by the time he was assassinated, Gaddafi had revolutionized Libya into Africa's wealthiest nation. Under Gaddafi, less people lived below the poverty line than in the Netherlands (8%). Furthermore, Libyan citizens received free education and free healthcare ;education levels increased by 62%, with more people becoming literate. Additionally, bursaries were given to mothers with newborn babies. One of Gaddafi's achievements is the building of the world's largest irrigation project, that was throughout Libya. Unfortunately, after NATO's intervention in 2011, Libya is now considered "a failed state" and Libya's economy is a mess. In 2012, it is noted that a third of the Libyan population lives below the poverty line. As the government's control slips from Libyan government forces and into to the militia fighters' hands, oil production has all but stopped. Many believe that due to NATO's intervention in various nations, the economies of these nations are plummeting.

The United Nations have been involved, such that they have placed MDG's and SDG's in order to further eradicate poverty, and the number one goal of both of these is the eradication of poverty. Despite the tremendous effort of the United Nations in lowering the rates of poverty (from 1.9 billion in 1990, to 836 million in 2008), the Arab world is still facing great poverty, which is only increasing over time. Furthermore, The United Nations have also written and published the "Report on the World Social Situation", which seeks to contribute to rethinking poverty in the world today and its eradication. The General Assembly (in December 2007) declared that 2008-2017 is the Second Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. In the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development's resolution, the UN decided to convene a high-level meeting of the Assembly on the MDG's in 2010 in order to speed up global progress for poverty eradication. The UN's Report on the World Social Situation creates a compelling arguable case for rethinking poverty in general and poverty reduction efforts. Ultimately, the main task {of the UN} going forward is to implement and put in place both comprehensible, and sustainable approaches, such as implementing strict laws, that put people at the center of achievable national development strategies to rapidly improve the quality of life of both current and future generations.

Proposed solutions for this issue would be using international funding to develop new industries, such as the development of biodegradable polymers since the Libyan economy already has natural resources such as natural gas and gasoline. Another solution would be educating both the adults, and the young adults interested in facilitating an industrial change in the field of polymers, and in the field of the creation of gypsum (what is used to build walls).

citations for both issues are at on the last page

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Name:
Second issue: Preventing cases of child, forced, and early marriages in Arab countries.

Child marriage is a violation of the rights of females (girls and women). Girls who are married as children are more likely to be out of school, suffer domestic violence, contract HIV/AIDS and die due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Many families believe that when they marry off their daughters at such a young age, that it is in the girl's' best interest, and therefore not realizing that they are violating their daughters' basic human rights.Child marriage often maintains a cycle of poverty, low education, and poor health, which delays societies' economic and social development. In the Arab region, the highest rates of child marriage are seen in the poorest countries. Compared to 25+ years ago, rates of child marriage have decreased in Arab countries. Moreover, even with the decreasing rates, a significant number still marry too young.

In the Arab region, one in seven girls marries before her 18th birthday, that's almost 15%. However,, child marriage is rare in Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya. In 2007, only 2% of Libyan Women Ages 20 to 24 Married Before Their 18th Birthday. Unfortunately, Child marriage in Libya appears to be increasing. Girls as young as 12 years old are reportedly married to IS fighters in Derna to protect their families, thus due to increasing amounts of conflict throughout the nation, child marriage seems to be rising in Libya. Libya does have low rates of child marriages, but the nation hasn't implied any laws against it.

The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution dedicated to ending the woe of child marriage. Over 100 countries co-sponsored the resolution titled "Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps" that was adopted on september 27, 2013. However, Libya was not one of the countries who co-sponsored this resolution. Several countries with high rates of child marriage adopted the resolution. However, many South Asian countries with reasonably high rates of child marriage neglected to co-sponsor the proposal. The United Nations announced a new initiative (by UNICEF and the UNFPA on International Women's Day), as part of a global effort in preventing girls from marrying too young, and supporting those already married young in 12 countries {across Africa, Asia and the Middle East where child marriage rates are high}.

A solution that may be proposed, with the involvement of families, communities, governments and young people, the UN initiative will succeed and focus on proven strategies, including increasing girls' access to education and health care services, and strengthening and enforcing laws that establish 18 as the minimum age of marriage. Another solution may be increasing the awareness of the negative side effects of child marriages, and educating the public about the dangers of child marriages mainly to the poorer and uneducated families (due to this category facing a larger number of child marriages than educated and middle classed) thus increasing the knowledge of this issue.

citations for both issues are at on the last page

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