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**Website Used:** [http://teachunicef.org/sites/default/files/documents/units-lesson-plans/Martha\\_Grades\\_9\\_to\\_12\\_Final.pdf](http://teachunicef.org/sites/default/files/documents/units-lesson-plans/Martha_Grades_9_to_12_Final.pdf)

**Lesson/Unit Name and Content Area:** Martha's Story-The Impact of Armed Conflict (English/Interdisciplinary)

**Lesson Description:** The two lessons in this unit aim to educate students on the impact of armed conflict. Martha, a 15-year-old girl from Sierra Leone, tells her story so others will learn of the impact armed conflict has on children. UNICEF's purpose is to raise awareness, increase understanding, and encourage global solutions-these are presented throughout the lesson.

**Assessment of its Global Competence:** In regards to the four proficiencies in the Global Competence Matrix, the two lessons outlined are well thought out when dealing with "investigating the world", but need a little work when it comes to "recognizing perspectives", "communicating ideas", and "taking action". My summary of each category is below.

#### *Investigating the World*

Strengths: Martha's Story does a great job helping students learn about global conflict in other areas of the world. This particular lesson focuses on Sierra Leone, but touches upon many other regions that are ravaged by war. These lessons are specifically designed to "raise students' awareness of the impact of armed conflict upon civilians, increase students' understanding of the effect of armed conflict upon children in particular, and to explore solutions and programs that can help children and teens in times of armed conflict." Students investigate through articles, videos, and research while diving into the world of armed conflict.

#### *Recognizing Perspectives*

Strengths: Martha's Story helps to students realize what other children are facing when dealing with armed conflict. Her poignant story gives a perspective many students would otherwise probably never even imagine.

Areas for Improvement and Recommendations: I would add additional perspectives to these lessons. Martha's perspective is very enlightening, but I would like to hear from others as well. Hearing from an adults' perspective (civilian and military) and a child soldier's perspective would add another dimension to the lesson.

### Communicating Ideas

Strengths: There are many opportunities for communicating ideas throughout these lessons. Students have the opportunity to discuss the events describe, and come up with possible ways to help children in war-torn areas. This topic could also lead to powerful discussions on ethics and world involvement in situations such as Sierra Leone.

Areas for Improvement and Recommendations: It would be incredible for students to engage in communication with people who have experience with or knowledge in this subject. Perhaps adding a video conference with a knowledgeable source could be arranged. Even adding a component such as a digital writing piece between the students and a knowledgeable party would be beneficial.

### Taking Action

Strengths: This lesson helps open students' eyes to the horrors occurring elsewhere in the world. There are specific links provided for students should they choose to act on the global issue they have just learned about.

Areas for Improvement and Recommendations: There are suggestions mentioned in the lesson for how the students can take action, but taking action is not directly built into the lesson. The ideas presented for possible service projects are great; see the following links for more information: <http://www.voicesofyouth.org/> and <https://www.unicefusa.org/help/advocate>. I particularly like the idea of having students write to their elected officials in an effort to voice their support of issues raised by UNICEF.