

Forum: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Issue: Assisting Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDC's) affected by the application of sanctions

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INTRODUCTION

Sanctions are punitive or coercive measures enforced against member states, target groups and even specific individuals. Their purpose varies based on their type, but also depending on the instrument that enshrines them. Generally, though their goal is to alter the behavior of the sanctioned entity.

After having been endorsed, then questioned, and later modified, the international community has been using sanctions for a while now as a foreign policy tool. While they are thought to be an alternative to war by many, it is no secret that they can and most certainly have had detrimental effects to the livelihoods of common civilians, while also exacerbating poverty and inequality in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDC's). However, let's bear in mind that the world as we know it now may not even exist if all disputes and rivalries were confronted through violent means.

In addition, while most sanctions have a specific aim and do not intend to damage the vulnerable population who have neither committed crimes nor otherwise bear responsibility for improper conduct, it is not uncommon for disastrous consequences to only be faced by them. Therefore, vigilant efforts need to be made in regard to ensuring that the sanction regimes of restrictive measures both secure respect for human rights and foster accountability. For instance, economic sanctions should not have a negative impact on neither children's education nor societal health.

Lastly, even though the majority of restrictions, embargoes and penalties are eventually lifted, LEDC's hardly ever recover from the scars that the effects of sanctions have left. This is not only due to the countries' initial disadvantaged position but is also a result of inadequate international support. Hence, global mechanisms focusing on good governance, sustainable development, societal welfare and economic growth are essential for resolving the issue discussed.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDC's)

Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDC's) are defined as nations with low Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that have been found incredibly necessitous in their development process due to certain structural, historical, and geographical barriers. Generally, they indicate high vulnerability to external economic and environmental upsets, such as man-made disasters and trade-related shocks, but they also demonstrate low standards of living and low levels of human assets. Most LEDC's are located in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific region. Some LEDC's also fall in the broader categories of Least-Developed Countries (LDC's) or Developing Countries.

Sanctions

An official order, such as the stopping of trade, that is imposed on a country with the purpose of forcing it to comply with international law or a specific rule. It can also take the form of punishment enacted when the party doesn't obey a current rule.

Economic growth

"Economic growth - measured as an increase of people's real income - means that the ratio between people's income and the prices of what they can buy is increasing: goods and services become more affordable, people become less poor."¹

¹ Roser, Max. "What is Economic Growth? And Why is It So Important?" *Our World in Data*, 13 May 2021, ourworldindata.org/what-is-economic-growth. Accessed 15 July 2022.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

“GDP is the total market value of the goods and services produced by a country’s economy during a specified period of time. It includes all final goods and services—that is, those that are produced by the economic agents located in that country regardless of their ownership and that are not resold in any form.”²

Foreign direct investment (FDI)

FDI is when a company takes controlling ownership in a business entity in another country. With FDI, foreign companies are directly involved with day-to-day operations in the other country. This means they aren't just bringing money with them, but also knowledge, skills and technology.

Inflation

Inflation is the rate of increase in prices over a given period of time. Inflation is typically a broad measure, such as the overall increase in prices or the increase in the cost of living in a country.

Embargo

“An embargo is a trade restriction, typically adopted by a government, a group of countries or an international organization as an economic sanction. Embargoes can bar all trade, or may apply only to some of it, for example to arms imports. They are designed to punish the targeted country for its actions, and to deny it the means to carry out objectionable policies.”³

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

² Callen, Time. “Finance & Development.” Finance & Development | F&D, www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/basics/gdp.htm#:~:text=GDP%20measures%20the%20monetary%20value,the%20border%20of%20a%20country.

³ Liberto, Daniel. "Embargo Definition." *Investopedia*, 17 June 2007, www.investopedia.com/terms/e/embargo.asp. Accessed 23 July 2022.

Historical Background

The first recorded use of sanctions was in 432 BC, when the Athenian Empire banned traders from Megara from its marketplaces, thereby strangling the rival city state's economy. It was not however until the 20th century that the use of sanctions became more prominent. The ability to impose sanctions was structured directly into the United Nations (U.N.) Charter as one central means by which the organization and its "nations united" could respond to military aggression or other Charter violations. Sanctions were meant to provide a serious and damaging response to aggression, while also serving as an alternative to collective military force that is considerably stronger than mere diplomatic protest.

When it comes to country-based sanctions, the League of Nations, and later the United Nations, played a key role in forging them in the early 20th century, often lazily imposing such measures on countries they wanted to pressure into complying with a specific foreign policy objective. Country-based sanctions are a form of restrictive measure enshrined by one country or entity on another with the aim of limiting the target country's trade and business relations. Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria and Vietnam are all countries that have had country-based sanctions imposed upon them.

The imposition of country-based sanctions can have a massive adverse effect on the economy and humanitarian wellbeing of the targeted country. As recognised by Kofi Annan, the former Secretary General to the United Nations in his 1997 report to the UN, country-based sanctions tend to inflict the most harm on vulnerable civilian groups and can cause great collateral damage to third states.

Sanctions include the withholding of diplomatic recognition, the boycotting of athletic and cultural events and the sequestering of property of citizens of the targeted country. However, the forms of sanctions that attract the most attention and are likely to have the greatest impact are composed of various restrictions on international trade, financial flows or the movement of people.

Economic sanctions as Post-Cold War policy

Economic sanctions have been part of the diplomatic repertoire for centuries. They actually took on new importance in form and in practice following the end of the Cold War, which was an intense forty-year standoff between the Soviet Union and the United States in the late 20th century. The sanctions made concerted international action possible where previously any action by the West was countered by the United Socialist Soviet Republic (U.S.S.R). and vice-versa. This meant that for the first time the UN Security Council (UNSC) could impose economic sanctions that all member states were required to take part in. With this came the possibility to inflict serious damage.

Most notable during this period were the comprehensive sanctions imposed on Haiti, the former Yugoslav republics and Iraq. The harms caused to Haiti and the former Yugoslav republics were severe, but the harms suffered by Iraq were the worst ever caused by the use of economic sanctions outside of a war situation. For instance, the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) reported that the sanctions imposed on Iraq led to the deaths of more than 500,000 children aged under five with main causes being malnutrition as well as disease.⁴

Although originally forged as a strategy for waging economic war during ongoing hostilities, in the modern era sanctions have assumed varying purposes. Their form ranges from being a coercive foreign policy measure taken "short of war" or a multilateral instrument of preventive diplomacy to a strategy to spark political and social change within a target country, or even a prelude to war. In the post-Cold War world, the prominence of economic sanctions has increased dramatically, as have the different situations in which they are employed.

The aim of sanctions

The UN and most commonly the UNSC, the European Union (EU) as well as individual states are usually the main instruments that impose sanctions. More specifically, the UNSC can impose sanctions at the height of a threat to international peace and security. In regard to the EU, in practice, sanctions are first instituted by the Security Council and then adopted by the EU in the

⁴ LOPEZ, GEORGE A., and DAVID CORTRIGHT. "THE SANCTIONS ERA: AN ALTERNATIVE TO MILITARY INTERVENTION." *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, vol. 19, no. 2, 1995, pp. 65–85. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45288941>. Accessed 15 Jul. 2022.

form of Council decisions and regulations. On occasion, however, the EU will approve sanctions on its own without any prior action on the part of the UN - for example, in connection with the situation in Syria. Additionally, the United States has had a long history of sanctioning entire nations and specific individuals or entities within nations, focusing to a large extent on economic penalties.

Types of sanctions

Sanctions are implemented with the purpose of changing undesirable behavior of a member state, limiting opportunities for undesirable behavior and deterring other countries from choosing an undesirable course of action. Moreover, they are aimed at specific policies. In other words, they can target terrorism, nuclear proliferation activities, human rights violations, annexation of foreign territory, deliberate destabilization of a sovereign country, as well as cyber-attacks. What’s more, sanctions are focused on specific areas, and thus they tend to vary based on the field that a country/organization wants to target. Some of the most common types are analyzed below.

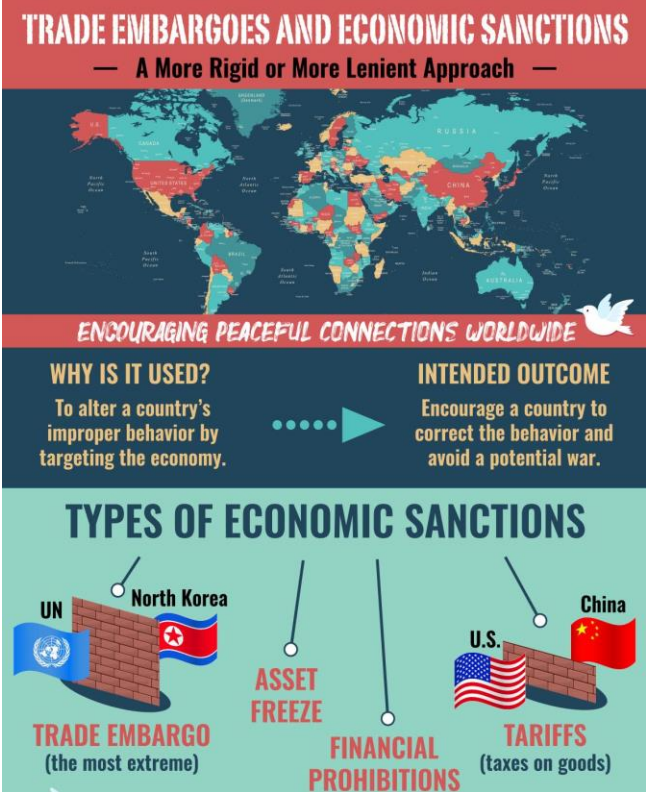


Figure 1: Trade Embargoes & Economic Sanctions⁵

Economic Sanctions are commercial and financial penalties that typically ban customary trade and financial relations. These penalties can include levying import duties on goods to the sanctioned country, restricting the export of particular goods from the country, and blocking the sanctioned country’s ports.

⁵ Betts, Jennifer. "Trade Embargo: Definition, Examples, and Effects." Example Articles & Resources | Your Dictionary, examples.yourdictionary.com/trade-embargo-definition-examples-and-effects.html. Accessed 15 July 2022.

Diplomatic sanctions are political measures that aim to demonstrate displeasure with or disapproval of certain actions, stopping short of taking economic or military steps. Such sanctions generally involve reducing or removing diplomatic ties, such as eliminating embassies or canceling high-level government meetings.

Military sanctions, called on only in extraordinary circumstances, involve the intervention of armed forces. Such sanctions can vary from arms embargoes to targeted military strikes.

Sport sanctions are restrictions that prevent a country's athletes from competing in international events. The idea behind these types of sanctions is to draw the world's attention to the sanctioned entity and to hurt the spirit and morale of the country and its people.

Sanctions on individuals can be established by the UNSC and often target political leaders or economic individuals. Sanctions against individuals might include freezing the person's assets or imposing travel bans on them.

Sanctions on the environment are reasonably new, but international environmental protection cooperation and efforts are ongoing given recent concerns over environmental issues. Such issues typically might apply to endangered species, environmental laws and ozone-depleting chemicals.

Social Impact

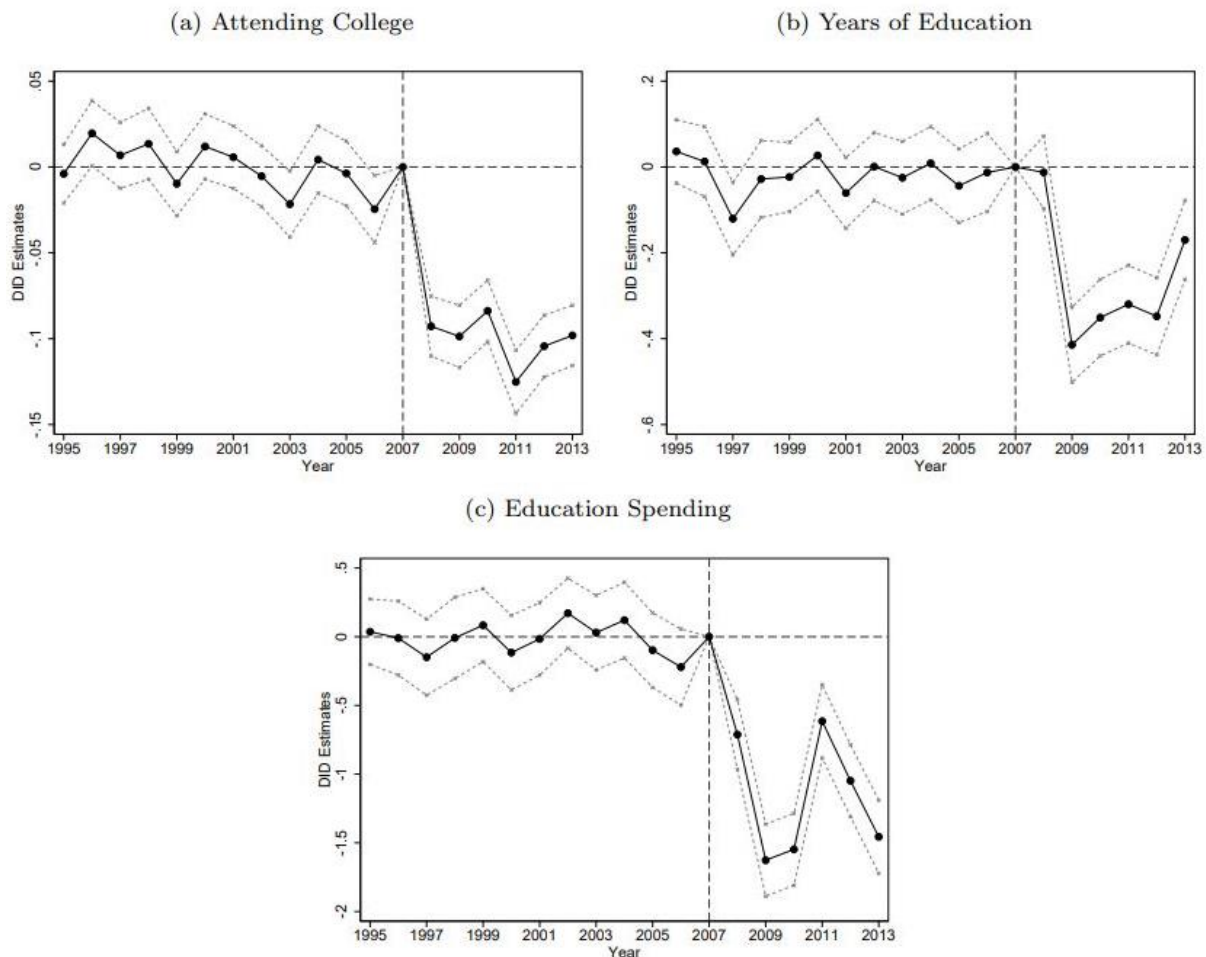
The social impact of sanctions and mostly economic sanctions is reported on the sectors of health, including labor, as well as children's education. Especially in LEDC's and developing countries, the application of sanctions has incredibly influenced health indices, food security, medicines and treatment, air pollution, but also the education level due to family budget constraints, decreasing returns to education, changes in the government's budget and in relative prices, which may result in decreased households' spending capacity.

Children's education

While economic sanctions are successful in achieving political goals, it is undeniable that they hurt the civilian population. These negative effects could be even more devastating and

long-lasting for future generations. A study operated by the World Bank Group in 2021 found that sanctions imposed on Iran in 2006 decreased children's total years of schooling by 0.1 years and the probability of attending college by 4.8 percentage points.⁶

Households reduced education spending by 58 percent, particularly on school tuition. These effects are larger for children who were exposed longer to any kind of sanctions. The results imply that sanctions have a larger effect on the income of children than their parents. In other words, the intergenerational impact of sanctions is devastating and will permanently scar nations that have already been struggling with reaching the poverty line and increasing their literacy rates.



⁶ "The Intergenerational Effects of Economic Sanctions." *World Bank Economic Review*, 8 June 2022, elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/10.1093/wber/lhab024. Accessed 25 June 2022.

Figure 2: Results from study on Iranian population affected by economic sanctions⁷

Health

The health labor market is a severely important factor for economic growth. Clearly, when people are susceptible to different diseases, and the health and nutrition of the workforce are not at the standard levels, sustainable development may be at risk. Therefore, paying attention to the physical and mental health of workforce and ensuring its realization in all situations, especially when a shock inflicts the economy, are essential for development. Moreover, the certain market is interconnected with individual and societal welfare. In this regard, a recent study considered the impacts of sanctions on the health of Iranian citizens to explain how they affect the health sector.

First and foremost, sanctioned countries face lack of proper nutrition. Cuts in food imports lead to shortages in calories intake and undernutrition, and thus children and other vulnerable groups, such as the chronically ill, become more easily exposed to tuberculosis, measles, and other infectious diseases. Increases in prices of food lead to poor nutrition during pregnancy, affecting the fetus as well. In embargoed countries there are witnessed shortages of materials and substances needed to clean the water, so access to clean water is limited. Dirty water can cause an outbreak of diseases among people, particularly children and vulnerable groups.

Another issue generated due to embargoes is the lack of medicines. Imports of authorized medicines drop and imports of unauthorized and counterfeited drugs increase which lead to decreases in efficiency of these drugs and severe side effects. A common incident in LEDC's is that due to lack of proper medicines the authorities encourage pharmacists to prepare old-fashioned remedies and the population to self-diagnose as well as use traditional cures. Although drugs and food are regularly excluded from the sanctioned list, there is not

⁷ Moeeni, Safoura. Google Scholar, Nov. 2021, scholar.google.com/scholar_url?url=https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/36548/The-Intergenerational-Effects-of-Economic-Sanctions.pdf&hl=en&sa=X&ei=eC_jYo2BBeGSy9YP7dq6Al&scisig=AAGBfm2yHNT7GPmQNI-YI_I-NnAfWmH-pg&oi=scholar. Accessed 13 July 2022.

adequate foreign currency for imports of these goods because of the decrease of exports in sanctioned countries. Even if there is sufficient foreign currency, the exchange is usually very difficult. As a result, drug shortages will be widespread in countries under sanctions. While it might be possible to produce some vital and rare drugs in sanctioned countries, the massive drop in the import of raw materials needed for drug production is an obstacle to deal with the lack of drugs.

In addition, due to lack of foreign currency, the exchange rate is likely to rise, increasing prices of imported goods. Consequently, foreign currency shortage, difficulty of currency exchange among foreign banks and the sanctioned country and increase in prices of raw materials needed for domestic production is likely to elevate prices in the sanctioned country. Hence, the purchasing power of people for buying health-related goods and medical services is reduced, which means that the health of people is negatively affected. Also, insufficient vaccines in sanctioned countries can be the cause of outbreaks of diphtheria contagious diseases among children. Shortages of oil, gas, and electricity come with frequent power cuts and fuel shortages that influence emergency medical services, heating hospitals, and patient transportation to hospitals. These poor conditions in hospitals lead to an increase in mortality.

Lastly, sanctions can indirectly affect health through air pollution. Because of restrictions on the entry of new technologies, and the use of obsolete machinery in sanctioned countries, air pollution may rise, and therefore societal health is jeopardized. Sometimes countries under sanctions produce some essential goods to compensate for their shortages. However, in LEDC's usually due to lack of access to updated technology and knowledge for producing these goods, the produced goods may have low quality, and this may also affect the health of citizens. These are only some of the channels through which sanctions affect the health and mortality of people, mostly children. Indeed, sanctions that have been enshrined to force the government of the target country to respect human rights may violate human rights themselves.

Economic Impact

The economic impact of sanctions includes a decrease in economic growth and increase of risk for poverty. These effects begin to develop during the implementation process and are typically widened after the regime's response, mainly because LEDC governments don't have the resources or sometimes the will to reverse the detrimental consequences that the sanction had to their civilians.

Widening of poverty gap

65-95% of Sanctions cases fail, so the poorest citizens are affected a lot more through their implementation in comparison to the "elites" (which are the target in reality). Through the economic damage of the sanctions, there is a decrease in GDP per capita, exports and imports, international capital decreases, and inflation increases. Due to the already fragile economies of sanctioned countries, the sanctions run the risk of leading to an economic collapse, which in turn leads to greater impoverishment.

Income inequality

Unintended consequences of sanctions usually affect the general population more than the sanctioned country's leaders, exacerbating income inequality even in the post-sanction era (when they are lifted)

Significant drop in GDP

Predicted GDP reduction generally ranges from 0.75 up to 5 percentage points. In fact, between 1976 and 2012 UN sanctions led to a 25.5 percent aggregate decline in GDP per capita of the embargoed countries.

Impact on Women

Sanctions in several cases negatively influence women's access to economic and social status, as well as the traditional patriarchal norms and attitudes, which lead to greater violations of women's rights.

The lack of effective emergency response

Regimes targeted by sanctions, and especially LEDCs, often do not try to counteract the impact of sanctions, but rather follow policies that magnify the sanctions' negative effect on the economy with the aim of preventing the population from revolting. The state intentionally deteriorates the economic productivity in order to increase the economic hardship of the population so that any revolt proves costly for citizens. Although the sanctions aim to impact the elite, due to their strong economic starting position, funds hidden around the world and international collaborators, it is the local population who feel the impact the most. The regime will look for ways out of the sanctions, which will either be to find a suitable exile opportunity or to carry on with its strategy until the sanctions end.

Case study of impact on Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

In response to the situation in Somalia after its detrimental and chaotic civil war, the UN Security Council imposed sanctions in January 1992 (Resolution 733) which are still valid today. Throughout the years, the UN and its instruments modified, changed and improved the conditions of the embargoes with the purpose of targeting a specific group of people rather than the whole population. Nevertheless, the consequences were severe, due to the fact that since 1993 (the year after the imposition of sanctions), GDP per capita in constant prices began to decline and has not recovered, having not yet even reached the level of 1992. The overall drop was almost 31 percent.

The DRC has also been forced to comply with a variety of terms that UNSC sanctions have authorized, mainly due to its extreme political instability, human rights violations, but also due to past and ongoing conflicts. The sanctions regime was actually renewed a month ago because of the deteriorating security situation in the nation. These have had an impact on the volume of exports as well as the FDI inflows of the country, indirectly affecting the majority of the population as well.

Sudan incident: situation during and after the 20-year sanctions by the US

Due to numerous human rights violations, crimes against humanity, and state sponsorship of terrorism, Sudan had been facing sanctions during the time period of 1997-

2017, yet human rights violations, war crimes, and undemocratic governance have not come to end, whilst the humanitarian situation has deteriorated, especially since 2021 as conflict intensified and the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) increased to 3.2 million.⁸ Although the US terminated its sanctions recently, Sudan's continuous economic crisis has led to skepticism about the effectiveness of sanctions relief. It is generally thought that the process which led to the lifting of sanctions lacked transparency and did not sufficiently involve or inform Sudanese citizens outside the government-connected elite, therefore preventing the country from effectively adjusting.

Moreover, there are devastating outcomes from sanctions, as the individuals that the US meant to target actually hold the political and economic levers of the country. So, instead of leading to compliance, the sanctions have resulted in poor military and economic choices by the regime, such as increased expenditure on arms and the increase of conflicts. As a result, between 2011 and 2013 inflation on fuel and food was at 65 percent, the economy contracted at a rate of 11.2 percent⁹, there was also a shortage of supplies and public services, high rates of unemployment among the educated youth and a lack of foreign reserves. At the same time oppression of the population and opposition continued through the military. While it is well-known that the country had been suffering from poverty at the time due to its political instability and internal disputes, but the sanctions only exacerbated the situation by disrupting the ongoing aid process that aimed to promote development, thus enabling less aid to get through, as well as preventing the efficient operation of regional services. Apart from that, the cycle of economic hardship, misrule and conflicts that were fed by the application of sanctions, have confined freedom, limited the space for advocacy and activism for fostering change and manifested to defeat the core purpose of the sanctions.

Apart from that, the government of Sudan seems to have used poverty and starvation as a tool to control the population, meanwhile the elites have managed to negotiate the sanctions through the sale of oil to their allies. For instance, the government has close economic relations

⁸ "Impact of Economic sanctions on poverty and economic growth." *GSDRC*, 14 June 2017, gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/136-Impact-of-economic-sanctions-on-poverty-and-economic-growth.pdf. Accessed 26 June 2022.

⁹ *Ibid*, 8

with China, linked to China's need for Sudan's oil, which has allowed the regime to circumvent sanctions, leaving the population in a much worse fate. To put this into perspective, it is estimated that the regime spends less than 4 percent of its annual official budget on public health and education combined, while spending over 60 percent on the military and security sector.¹⁰

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Burundi

In 2015, the EU enshrined sanctions against Burundi in response to the political crisis in the East African country, after President Pierre Nkurunziza's extension of tenure, which sparked protests and raised tensions in the region. In the beginning of February this year, the EU announced its official lifting of the sanctions and has stated its dedication in assisting the LEDC in its efforts to rehabilitate as well as achieve sustainable development with the help of the union itself and other global efforts.

Haiti

The implementation of multiple sanctions in Haiti throughout the 20th and 21st century, but mainly economic ones, has resulted in extensive violations of rights. The impact was greatest on the most disadvantaged Haitians. The impact continues now, multiple years after most sanctions, such as those by the EU, the US, Canada and the UNSC have ended. Modified policies fortunately reduced some of the burden of sanctions, and international assistance prevented what otherwise might have become a humanitarian disaster during sanctions.

The United States of America (USA)

The US implements economic sanctions through the financial intelligence and enforcement agency of its Treasury Department, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). This body administers and enforces economic sanctions programs primarily against countries

¹⁰ "Impact of Economic sanctions on poverty and economic growth." *GSDRC*, 14 June 2017, gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/136-Impact-of-economic-sanctions-on-poverty-and-economic-growth.pdf. Accessed 26 June 2022.

and groups of individuals, such as terrorists and narcotics traffickers. The sanctions can be either comprehensive or selective, using the blocking of assets and trade restrictions to accomplish foreign policy and national security goals.

European Union (EU)

Restrictive measures or 'sanctions' are an essential tool of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). They are used by the EU as part of an integrated and comprehensive policy approach, involving political dialogue, complementary efforts and the use of other instruments at its disposal.

Sanctions seek to bring about a change in the policy or conduct of those targeted, with a view to promoting the objectives of the CFSP. They can target governments of non-EU countries because of their policies, entities (companies) providing the means to conduct the targeted policies, groups or organizations such as terrorist groups, individuals supporting the targeted policies, involved in terrorist activities etc.

UN Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP is an instrument operated by the UN, which works to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities through the sustainable development of nations, in more than 170 countries and territories. Throughout the years, it has initiated multiple operations to assist developing countries and LEDC's in their efforts to achieve sustainable development and recover from the damage caused by the application of international and regional sanctions. Specifically, it has shown its support to poverty reduction in the least developed countries (LDCs), covering the period 2014 to 2017, contributing to sectors such as but not limited to inclusive growth and employment, local economic development, sustainable livelihoods, early economic revitalization, and Millennium Development Goal (MDG)/Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) integration.

UN Security Council (UNSC)

The Security Council can take action to maintain or restore international peace and security under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. Sanctions measures, under Article 41, encompass a broad range of enforcement options that do not involve the use of armed force. “Since 1966, the Security Council has established 30 sanctions regimes, in Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, the former Yugoslavia (2), Haiti, Iraq (2), Angola, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Eritrea, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Liberia (3), DRC, Côte d’Ivoire, Sudan, Lebanon, DPRK, Iran, Libya (2), Guinea-Bissau, CAR, Yemen, South Sudan and Mali, as well as against ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.”¹¹

Security Council sanctions have taken a number of different forms, in pursuit of a variety of goals. The measures have ranged from comprehensive economic and trade sanctions to more targeted measures such as arms embargoes, travel bans, and financial or commodity restrictions. The Security Council has applied sanctions to support peaceful transitions, deter non-constitutional changes, constrain terrorism, protect human rights and promote non-proliferation.

TIMELINE OF EVENT

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1892-1894	Through multiple European council meetings, member states endorse peaceful “sanctions,” borrowing a legal term that originated in the 17th century.
1918	After World War I, French statesmen Léon Bourgeois and Paul Henri d’Estournelles de Constant call for a “society of nations” that could isolate a “recalcitrant nation” by applying sanctions, a “diplomatic

¹¹ "Sanctions." *Welcome to the United Nations*, www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/information. Accessed 12 July 2022.

	expression,” they analyze, “meaning the various steps for enforcing compliance.” ¹²
July 1919	Promoting the League of Nations, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson advocates “absolute” boycotts, in which all citizens of an aggressor country would not have the opportunity to either trade, communicate or do business with League members.
1935-1936	League of Nations sanctions against Italy, defanged by British and French noncompliance, unsurprisingly fail to persuade Benito Mussolini to withdraw his troops from Abyssinia (modern-day Ethiopia).
1940-1941	U.S. trade sanctions against Japan contribute to Tokyo’s decision to enter World War II. Japanese Foreign Minister Teijiro Toyoda denounces “this ever-strengthening chain of encirclement” months before the Pearl Harbor attack.
24 October 1945	The UN imposes sanctions in its charter and centralizes the act of decision-making in the UNSC. Yet, it will only impose mandatory sanctions twice, against white-minority governments in Rhodesia and South Africa, during the Cold War, when superpowers compete for influence by adopting unilateral sanctions such as the U.S. embargo of Cuba.
1967	Norwegian sociologist Johan Galtung highlights the fact that sanctions should inflict maximum harm on an economy, stating that people adapt to the measures and may rally around their leaders. “The

¹² Friedman, Uri. "Smart Sanctions: A Short History." Foreign Policy, 23 Apr. 2012, foreignpolicy.com/2012/04/23/smart-sanctions-a-short-history/. Accessed 16 June 2022.

	<p>collective nature of economic sanctions makes them hit the innocent along with the guilty,” he supports.</p>
<p>April 1991</p>	<p>The UNSC, united by alarm over Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait, imposes “comprehensive sanctions” on Baghdad. The most powerful sanctions in history, with the purpose of damaging Saddam Hussein’s regime and slowing down the development of weapons of mass destruction, inspire measures against the former Yugoslavia and Haiti later in the decade.</p>
<p>23 January 1992</p>	<p>The UNSC adopted unanimously resolution 733</p>
<p>1993-1994</p>	<p>The UNSC authorizes economic sanctions on members of Haiti’s military junta, targeting for the first time individual leaders rather than a whole country. However, due to numerous mistakes made by both the UNSC and the US they sanctioned a priest rather than the intended military official, because they shared their last name</p>
<p>1995</p>	<p>As evidence of the collateral damage inflicted by sanctions on Iraq mounts, the terms “smart” and “targeted” sanctions become more prominent.</p>
<p>1997-1999</p>	<p>The UN generates and shares a template for targeted sanctions by aiming travel bans, asset freezes, and blood-diamond embargoes at the Angolan rebel group UNITA and organizing a committee and expert panel to monitor related non-compliances.</p>
<p>September 2001</p>	<p>Weeks after the 9/11 attacks, the UN imposes unprecedented counterterrorism obligations on its 189 member states, mandating that they freeze the assets and restrict the movement of designated terrorists and their supporters.</p>

30 July 2004	Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the UNSC adopted Resolution 1556 imposing sanctions against Sudan at the height of the humanitarian crisis and human rights violations caused due to the disputes in the Darfur region.
2006-2009	U.S. Treasury Department official Stuart Levey begins its efforts to convince international banks to comply with U.S. sanctions against Iran.
2011-2012	The United States and Europe impose their toughest sanctions yet on over its nuclear program, though countries like China resist such efforts. Nearly a year of targeted sanctions against Syria, meanwhile, end up being unsuccessful.
2014-2017	The UNDP operates a mission to show support to poverty reduction in the least developed countries (LDCs)
September - October 2021	The 48th session of the Human Rights Council takes place in Geneva
17 March 2022	The Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031 begins, while also the 8962ND Meeting (AM) of the UNSC is held

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

8962ND Meeting (AM) of the UNSC

After having observed the deterioration of situations in multiple nations impacted by sanctions, delegates of the UNSC recommended an establishment of more efficient and drastic regulation to better protect the civilians, while ensuring that their needs are adequately met.

The speakers highlighted that under no circumstances should the measures included in the sanction's regime damage the populations they're trying to keep safe. In this way, not only did they help raise awareness on the matter, but also since they are responsible for enforcing a majority of sanctions, they'll begin to bear in mind the impact of sanctions when designing them.

The aforementioned can be accomplished if monitoring by the Council's sanctions committees for possible negative consequences and increasing cooperation with humanitarian actors and the private sector begins, but also if the international community continues to review the design and implementation process of sanctions. Ensuring that measures applicable in armed conflict do not impede the assistance and protection activities of impartial humanitarian organizations for the unarmed population is vital if we want to avoid the unintended consequences of sanctions.

Finally, according to the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, "in all contexts, they should ensure that sanctions do not restrict the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights including the right to food, water, shelter and health".¹³

48th session of the Human Rights Council

On September 16th, 2021, the 48th session of the Human Rights Council was held, during which UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, made some exceedingly important points concerning sanctions and their adverse impact on human rights and everyday lives of civilians. More analytically, she encouraged the critical reassessment of the use of sanctions by member states stressing that non-targeted economic sanction usually manage to accomplish the exact opposite of their original purpose as they let those "sought to

¹³ United Nations Press. "Concerned by Unintended Negative Impact of Sanctions, Speakers in Security Council Urge Action to Better Protect Civilians, Ensure Humanitarian Needs Are Met." *Frontpage | UN Press*, press.un.org/en/2022/sc14788.doc.htm. Accessed 25 June 2022.

be targeted” to “perversely benefit through gaming sanctions regimes” and unfairly benefit “from the economic distortions and incentives introduced by them”.¹⁴

Moving on, during the session it was highlighted that food security issues and lack of medical equipment as well as materials is often caused due to punitive embargoes on banks and financial institutions, thus removing all constraints from “causing more suffering and death and wider contagion around the world”.¹⁵ Ms. Bachelet successfully managed to shed light into an increasingly important issue that had been neglected for years, therefore encouraging member states and UN bodies to act in order to shield sanctioned countries from facing poverty as well as food and health crises.

Resolution A/76/L.47, adoption of Doha Programme of Action (DPoA)¹⁶

The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031 (DPoA) was initiated by the UN and its member states in order to assist countries in overcoming poverty and recovering from the pandemic. The completed text of the DPoA was adopted during the first part of the LDC5 conference on March 17, 2022 and endorsed by the General Assembly through resolution A/76/L.47 on April 1st.

Thanks to the fact that the plan includes detailed measures in fields such as health, finance and infrastructure, previously sanctioned LEDC’s will undeniably benefit from it, because the above-mentioned sectors face disastrous consequences due to sanctions. Although the DoPA has just been adopted so its scope of effectiveness can’t be defined yet, the program has been endorsed and supported by multiple UN as well as international organs for its initiative. Also, the project aims to enhance the cooperation between the least developed countries and their development partners, with operating programs to strengthen the private sector, civil society, and governments at all levels. This will help member states achieve good governance and eliminate violations of the international law, which have previously cost them their “freedom”.

¹⁴ “Report on the 48th Session of the Human Rights Council.” *Universal Rights Group*, 13 Oct. 2021, www.universal-rights.org/blog/report-on-the-48th-session-of-the-human-rights-council/. Accessed 12 July 2022.

¹⁵ Ibid, 14

¹⁶ United Nations General Assembly. "Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries." ODS, 28 Mar. 2022, documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N22/302/22/PDF/N2230222.pdf?OpenElement. Accessed 14 July 2022.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Assistance provided to Burundi following EU's termination of sanctions

After lifting the sanctions on Burundi in February this year, the EU worked on revoking the suspension of financial aid to the Burundian government, a decision made, as the EU Ambassador to Burundi said, following the remarkable progress under the new administration headed by Ndayishimiye in regard to promoting governance, rule of law and human rights.

Additionally, it was mentioned by the ambassador that there will be an upcoming partnership between the EU and other partners, such as the African Development Bank, to finance the reconstruction of the Port of Bujumbura and its surrounding areas, as well as to contribute funds to the farming sector. According to the EU, the termination of the sanctions “is a result of the peaceful political process that started with the general elections of May 2020 and which has opened a new window of hope for the population of Burundi”.¹⁷ Besides that, the EU brought into discussion the implementation of a roadmap in accordance with the results of the continuous political dialogue between the two bodies.

Having evaluated the EU's view we conclude that it indicates the willingness of the international community in helping the Burundian government during its process of stabilization and creation of democratic institutions as well as mechanisms for good governance, so that the rule of law isn't violated again. Lastly, the East African Community (EAC) bloc also promoted the recent decision supporting that “the country needs to move forward” and has supported that the Burundians and the general East African society was negatively influenced by the sanctions.

Plans for creation of a Sanction Research Platform by the Special Rapporteur

The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights is part of the Special Procedures mechanism of the Human Rights

¹⁷ Council of the EU. "Burundi: EU Lifts Existing Restrictions Under Article 96 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement." Consilium, 8 Feb. 2022, www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/02/08/burundi-eu-lifts-existing-restrictions-under-article-96-of-the-acp-eu-partnership-agreement/.

Council. The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights is collecting articles, reports, videos and any research material and information, for the establishment of an online research platform on sanctions and human rights (Sanctions Research Platform). The Sanction Research Platform plans to be sustainable in the long-term and to be updated through a continuous data creation, collection, and integration system.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Although multiple types of sanctions have slowly become a tool of foreign policy, all UN member states as well as organization must be reminded of the fact that in order to fulfill their goals when imposing a sanction and not violate international law at the same time, they must ensure that the sanctions themselves and the means of enforcement do not violate human rights. Otherwise, the impact on the society, and in the long run on the economy and the developmental rates of countries, specifically of LEDC's, will be so detrimental that it wouldn't be worth making efforts for rehabilitation afterwards.

Minimizing impact of sanctions on welfare, health, and education

In a plethora of case studies, it has been reported that a relatively small amount of governmental funds is actually used for promoting children's education, eliminating illiteracy and assisting countries in managing school expenditure. Therefore governance policies must be enhanced, renewed and especially after a sanction is lifted, the regime must act drastically to reform its regulations on education. External financial aid, teaching staff and learning materials are needed, so a relevant international program or volunteering organization will help achieve the aforementioned.

Besides that, the health sector that is most likely to face challenges related to nutrition, medicine, clean water, vaccines, infants, and pregnant women, must always be strengthened and thus not only funding, but also scientific and medical personnel will be needed in the beginning, the duration and sometime after the application of sanction. This is because unlike other countries, LEDC's are already at the risk of collapsing, so an additional burden, meaning a sanction, will only deteriorate the already weakened state.

Mechanisms for preventing and/or overcoming economic damage

Financial Advice, Support and Help Organizations that are able to support LEDCs by scrutinizing economic policies can help minimize negative effects of embargoes, such as but not limited to widening of poverty gaps and income inequality, decrease in GDP.

Imports and FDI inflows highly depend on the relationship between the sanctioned LEDC country and neighboring or other nations, so if such nations don't participate in the sanction's regime, they shall be encouraged to invest but also cooperate with such LEDC's. In the case that the restrictions have been terminated a Funding or Rehabilitation Program would definitely benefit the previously embargoed LEDC, as it will attract foreign investment and slowly but steadily re-enter the member state into the market.

Establishing monitoring agents

Humanitarian agencies can boost confidence by investing in risk management and due diligence. That is to say, monitoring mechanisms will be formed, thus preventing an unprecedented crisis from sparking.

Bodies that impose sanctions can design beforehand an analytical guide for the implementation process to enable transparency, but also ensure that the goal is successfully reached. Then, an international committee consisting of government officials from sanctioned countries and other diplomats can structure roadmaps for preventing unintended consequences, maintaining the societal levels and economic growth. In this way the regime's response won't favor the "elite" population, it will assist all civilians in experiencing a smooth recovery from any and all harms that the application of sanctions may have caused.

Promoting awareness-raising on the effects of sanctions

Awareness-raising along with exchange of information is essential for supporting sanctioned and post-sanctioned LEDCs, especially the ones which have been affected socioeconomically by their implementation.

Therefore, a research body, platform, organization or network should be created with the main purpose of gathering information and raising awareness on the issues that come with different types of sanctions. Moving on, it's of major importance to foster as well as enable an

environment that promotes information exchange among stakeholders and assists in enhancing their network. For instance, access to files that illustrate the progress of legal and policy approaches on sanctions throughout the years would be incredibly helpful for countries encountering relevant situations.

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