

UNICEF AT A GLANCE

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY

unicef 

UNICEF
IS THE
UNITED
NATIONS
CHILDREN'S
FUND



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We are unique among world organizations and unique among those working with young people. We have the authority to influence decision makers and the diversity of partners to turn the most innovative ideas into reality. Around the world, we use our expertise to meet the

challenges facing children and those who care for them.

Our history has given us a profound understanding of development and how important children are to progress.

All that we do helps children realize their full potential.

WHO

WE

ARE

UNICEF is more than 7,000 women and men working around the world to promote and protect the rights of children. We advocate for their rights and contribute to their well-being through programmes that help them survive and thrive to adulthood, and that provide essential medicines, vaccines, educational, health and emergency supplies. In 158 countries and territories, UNICEF brings its influence to bear on the individuals and institutions that serve the youngest generation.

National Committees are a vital part of UNICEF. In 37 countries, they advocate, educate and raise money for the critical actions that improve children's lives. National Committees are UNICEF's outreach in the industrialized world, our partners in giving voice to children and their concerns.

Goodwill Ambassadors are the more than 300 well-known actors, musicians, athletes and artists who, at the international and national level, speak out for children, using their celebrity to support our work.

The Executive Board comprises delegates from 36 different countries who govern our policies, our programmes and our finances. The Board's authority comes from the General Assembly of the United Nations.

WHAT

WE

STAND

FOR

Every child is born with rights.

Each has the right to an education, the right to health and proper health care, the right to a name and a nationality.

Each has the right to participate in matters that affect them, and the right to be treated equally.

Every child has the right to be protected from harm.

These rights are among the ones set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since it was first adopted in 1989, the Convention has become the most widely accepted human rights accord in history. Its principles guide all that UNICEF does in the world.

We speak out for the rights of every child in village squares when communities debate the future. We stand for them in capitals when parliaments decide new law and approve budgets. We defend child rights whenever countries meet, in peace and in war.

UNICEF espouses peace, security and a vital United Nations system. We work towards the Millennium Development Goals. We work for equal rights for girls and women and their participation in community development. We work for the progress promised in the Charter of the United Nations.

WHAT

WE

DO

Give children the best start in life

Help children survive and thrive

Get kids in school

**Create a protective environment,
especially in emergencies.**



Give children the best start in life

Giving girls and boys equally the best start in life means ensuring them good health care and proper nutrition. It means laying the foundation for learning and achieving in school. It means providing safe water and basic sanitation. It means protecting them from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination. It means providing quality health care and support for their mothers.

We create a foundation of support for children, their caregivers and the community.

We take action to ensure that preventive and curative health care, adequate nutrition, safe water and sanitation are made available to all children and those who care for them.

We teach families about the importance of breastfeeding and monitoring their children's growth and we strengthen their abilities to manage childhood illnesses at home.

We demonstrate the basics of good hygiene and proper sanitation.

We support communities to ensure that all children are registered at birth. We educate them on why their children need stimulation and opportunities to play and learn. We assist them to provide their youngest members with quality childhood care.



Help children survive and thrive

We act to make certain that children survive and thrive all the way to adulthood.

We act to ensure that pregnant women have access to proper nutrition, prenatal and delivery care, knowing that children's well-being depends on their mother's good health.

We help children survive their earliest years through immunization, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, the use of insecticide-treated nets to protect them from malaria-carrying mosquitos, and the use of oral rehydration salts to fight diarrhoea. We help families protect their children.

We purchase and distribute vaccines and inoculate children around the world. As the main supplier of vaccines to developing countries, we supply vaccines to 40 per cent of the world's children. Nearly 100 million children are now immunized against the most common illnesses, saving 2.5 million lives every year. We ensure that important micronutrients like vitamin A and iodine are added to children's diets.

We are a member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. We are also working with a multitude of partners to make polio a disease of the past and to eliminate child deaths due to measles.

We act to ensure that all children enrol and stay in school and that they are equipped with the basic tools they need to succeed in later life.

We act to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS among young people by sharing information that will keep them safe. We assist HIV-positive parents reduce the risk of transmitting the virus to their children. We make special efforts to see that children who are orphaned by HIV/AIDS receive care and attention. And we help women and children with AIDS live with dignity.

During humanitarian crises, we provide children and adolescents with basic health care and nutrition; safe environments for learning; recreation and psychosocial support; and information on HIV/AIDS.



Get kids in school

Education is critical to a child's development and well-being. It is equally important to social stability and economic development. It is, not least, the right of every child. UNICEF supports many different initiatives that educate children from pre-school age through adolescence. Sports and recreation are equally important to a child's progress. Even in times of conflict, we make sure that children have the chance to learn.

Following the war in Afghanistan, UNICEF delivered more than 7,000 tons of learning materials to virtually every school in the country. Textbooks, blackboards, pencils, notebooks, teaching aids and tents for temporary classrooms were provided to a people eager to return to normalcy.

Supplies are just one component of the education campaigns that UNICEF manages in emergency and post-emergency situations. From Timor-Leste to Mozambique, Sierra Leone to Colombia, UNICEF helps

mobilize teachers, register children, prepare school facilities and organize curricula, sometimes rebuilding entire educational systems.

UNICEF devotes special efforts to giving girls and boys equal learning opportunities. We try to remove the barriers that keep girls from enrolling in school, or keep them from graduating. We advise teachers on courses of study that are relevant and fair to both sexes. We make schools safer and better by renovating them – by providing separate bathrooms for girls and boys, for example. We urge governments to devote more attention and money to improving girls' education.

Girls' education is too important to leave to chance. '25 by 2005' is UNICEF's campaign to close gender gaps in schools in 25 countries by the year 2005. We've started to make it happen where the situation is most critical. Without closing the gender gap, the goal of Education for All cannot be met.



Create a protective environment, especially in emergencies

Every adult bears the responsibility for protecting children from harm. Governments have to enact and enforce laws to stop and punish those who abuse and exploit children. Communities need to openly discuss customs and attitudes that damage the young. Children must be given the awareness and skills to protect themselves.

UNICEF helps create a protective environment for children that fortifies them against abuse the same way that good nutrition and adequate health care fortify them against disease. We encourage programmes to end child labour and legislation that bans it. We seek to end female genital mutilation/cutting. We develop education programmes to transform harmful attitudes and customs. We help communities to recognize the signs and symptoms of abuse and treat victims. We help children to develop skills to survive and thrive. We make it

difficult to exploit children for sexual and economic ends. We develop landmine-awareness campaigns and we help remove under age children from armed forces.

War and natural disaster have a fierce effect on children. Both put children's health and well-being at risk. Both can separate them from their parents, or make them orphans. UNICEF supplies food, water and health care to young people caught in conflict. We insist that, even in times of war, children attend school and have safe places to play and learn.

We help reunite parents with their children when they've been separated by conflict and make certain that children who are orphaned receive care and protection. We pioneered the idea of 'days of tranquillity', when hostile forces agree to peace for long enough to allow all children to be vaccinated.

HOW

WE

DO

IT

UNICEF always works with others to make things better. Partnerships are essential because the challenges before us are too great to solve alone. When we say “UNICEF does this,” we always mean that we have done it together with others.

Who do we work with to build a world fit for every child?

Governments are our main partners. We collaborate with everyone from Heads of State and ministers to governors, mayors and community councils.

Non-governmental organizations, both international and national, youth groups, women’s organizations, religious groups, community and family collectives. We work with all at one time or another.

Young people are deeply involved in what UNICEF does. When they have a voice in public debate, everyone benefits.

Leaders in the world – influential men and women from all walks of life – work with us to make change happen in the present and to plan for it in the future.

Donors, as UNICEF is funded entirely by voluntary contributions. While the majority come from governments, we also receive considerable help from the private sector, and from some 6 million individuals who support our work through the efforts of National Committees for UNICEF. Businesses contribute funds or in-kind support to many aspects of our work.

Empowering people to manage for themselves is a significant part of what UNICEF does. Through cooperation and partnership, we share our global knowledge and experiences to help others find local solutions.



CHILDREN
BY THE
NUMBERS



Child mortality, poverty and hunger

- ▶ Nearly 11 million children die each year before their fifth birthday – about 30,000 children a day – mostly from preventable causes. Four million of them die in their first month of life
- ▶ More than 30% of children in developing countries – about 600 million – live on less than US \$1 a day. Even in the world's richest countries, one in every six children lives below the national poverty line
- ▶ About 150 million children under five – one in four – are malnourished.

HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- ▶ Of the 4.2 million new adult HIV infections in 2003, half were among young people between the ages of 15 and 24
- ▶ 700,000 children under the age of 15 were newly infected with HIV in 2003, mostly through mother-to-child transmission
- ▶ Sub-Saharan Africa is the worst affected region – about 10 million young people and 2 million children under 15 are living with HIV/AIDS
- ▶ 14 million children currently under 15 have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS
- ▶ Malaria kills nearly 3,000 children under five every day in sub-Saharan Africa.

Education and gender equality

- ▶ 121 million primary-school-age children are not in school, 65 million of them girls
- ▶ 70 countries have primary school attendance and enrolment rates for girls less than 85%
- ▶ 76% of girls complete primary school compared to 85% of boys
- ▶ Gender inequalities in primary school are greatest in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Middle East and North Africa
- ▶ Two thirds of the world's 862 million illiterate adults are women
- ▶ Every year of schooling increases individual wages for both women and men by a worldwide average of about 10%.

Maternal health

- ▶ Each year, more than 500,000 women die due to complications related to pregnancy and childbirth
- ▶ A woman living in sub-Saharan Africa has a 1 in 16 chance of dying during pregnancy or childbirth. This compares with a 1 in 4,000 risk for a woman from industrialized countries
- ▶ Out of 100 women aged 15-49:
 - 30 do not have antenatal care
 - 42 do not have a skilled attendant at delivery.

Child abuse and exploitation

- ▶ Some 50 million births go unregistered every year – about 40% of all estimated births worldwide
- ▶ An estimated 246 million children are exploited through child labour
- ▶ An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year
- ▶ Some 2 million children (mainly girls, but also a significant number of boys) are exploited every year in the multibillion-dollar sex industry, specifically prostitution and pornography
- ▶ Child marriage deprives girls of education and threatens their health and lives. The practice of girls marrying at a young age is most common in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. However, in other parts of Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, marriage at or shortly after puberty is common among some groups
- ▶ More than 2 million children died as a direct result of armed conflict during the 1990s. More than three times that number, at least 6 million children, have been permanently disabled or seriously injured
- ▶ At least 100 million women and girls alive today have undergone some form of female genital mutilation or cutting. As a result, they face lifelong health problems, including increased risk of dying or becoming disabled while giving birth
- ▶ An estimated 20 million children have been forced to flee their homes because of conflict and human rights violations and are living as refugees in neighbouring countries or are internally displaced within their own national borders.

Water, environment and sanitation

▶ In developing countries:

Over half a billion children (31%) have no toilet facilities whatsoever

Over 20% of children (nearly 376 million) have more than a 15-minute walk to water, or are using unsafe water sources

Over 614 million children have to live in dwellings with more than five

people per room or that have mud flooring. Rural children are almost three times more likely than urban children to live in such conditions

One in four children lack access to television, radio, telephone or newspapers.

United Nations Millennium Development Goals for 2015

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Achieve universal primary education

Promote gender equality and empower women

Reduce child mortality

Improve maternal health

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Ensure environmental sustainability

Develop a global partnership for development

TIMELINE

- 1946** UNICEF is created by the United Nations to provide emergency aid to European children after World War II.
- 1950** UNICEF's mandate is expanded to benefit children in developing countries.
- 1953** UNICEF becomes a permanent part of the United Nations, its mandate reaffirmed and extended indefinitely.
- 1959** The Declaration of the Rights of the Child is adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, focusing on a child's right to education, health care and good nutrition.
- 1965** UNICEF is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "the promotion of brotherhood among the nations."
- 1989** The Convention on the Rights of the Child is adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and becomes the most widely accepted rights treaty in history.
- 1990** The World Summit for Children, an unprecedented gathering of leaders, sets goals for children's health, nutrition and education.
- 2000** The Millenium Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly sets development goals that make child heath and education global priorities.
- 2001** The Global Movement for Children begins mobilizing citizens of the world for child rights. The 'Say Yes for Children' campaign secures more than 94 million pledges.
- 2002** The United Nations Special Session on Children is held in New York. It re-energizes commitments to children's rights and agrees on the steps needed to build 'A World Fit for Children'.

United Nations Children's Fund
3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA
pubdoc@unicef.org
www.unicef.org

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