



children first.

UNICEF: We Put Children First

For over 70 years, the United Nations Children's Fund has been putting children first, protecting their rights and providing the assistance and services they need to survive and thrive. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization in the world.

UNICEF was created in 1946 to provide lifesaving assistance to children who were devastated by World War II. UNICEF USA was the first National Committee created to support UNICEF's activities; as UNICEF expanded its reach and the scope of its work over the last seven decades, UNICEF USA has been there, providing major fundraising and advocacy support for UNICEF's global programs for children.

UNICEF has a presence in 190 countries and territories, carrying out programs, fundraising, and advocacy. UNICEF provides children with water, nutrition, health care, education, protection and emergency relief, using low-cost, high-impact, sustainable solutions. These efforts have helped slash child mortality rates by more than half since 1990 and save 122 million children's lives.

At a time when one out of every four children in the world lives in a country or area affected by armed conflicts, UNICEF and partners work tirelessly to reach those in greatest need. In 2017, UNICEF responded to 337 humanitarian crises in 102 countries.

The gravest humanitarian emergency of our time, the child refugee crisis, has grown to engulf nearly 50 million children, including 28 million children forcibly uprooted by



violence and conflict. The Syrian civil war is at the heart of this crisis. Since the conflict began in 2010, the number of child refugees worldwide has jumped by roughly 75 percent. These children are among the most vulnerable on earth.

UNICEF receives no funds from the United Nation's member state dues and so relies on voluntary contributions. More than 88 cents of every dollar spent by UNICEF USA supports UNICEF's work helping the world's most vulnerable children and their families. ●

UNICEF Program Highlights

EMERGENCY RELIEF

UNICEF provides lifesaving aid to victims of drought, famine, earthquakes, floods and violent conflict.

EDUCATION

UNICEF shapes education policy, promotes teacher training, creates temporary learning centers for kids caught in conflict and provides schools with classroom materials.

HEALTH CARE

UNICEF provides vaccines to 45% of all children and promotes high-impact health interventions for mothers and children.

NUTRITION

UNICEF works to prevent mother and child malnutrition, promote breastfeeding, and respond to severe acute malnutrition by providing 80% of the world's therapeutic food.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In poor and conflict-affected communities, UNICEF provides water and improves sanitation and hygiene to prevent waterborne illness.

CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF works to end child marriage, labor and conscription, unite families after disaster, and strengthen national protection systems.



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Top 10 Things To Know About UNICEF



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1 UNICEF is a human rights and development organization, not a charity.

- UNICEF has a United Nations mandate to advocate for children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.
- UNICEF is charged with supporting the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a global human rights treaty for children.
- UNICEF programs on health, education, water and sanitation, protection, nutrition and more are designed to ensure and protect children's rights and development.
- In conflicts, UNICEF's commitment to neutrality allows the organization to negotiate cease-fires and set up humanitarian corridors to save and protect children.
- UNICEF holds everyone equally accountable to children — calling out rights violations of governments and non-state actors alike.

How UNICEF Helps

- In 2017, UNICEF supplied 2.44 billion doses of vaccines for 102 countries, reaching almost half of the world's children under age 5.
- UNICEF and partners reached 45 million people with improved water supplies in 2017.
- UNICEF programs in 120 countries help to prevent and treat malnutrition — linked to nearly half of all deaths of children under age 5.
- In emergency situations in 2017, UNICEF and partners provided 8.8 million children with formal and non-formal education.
- 8.8 million children in 2017 accessed some form basic education in emergency situations through UNICEF's programming.

How You Can Help

Write a check to UNICEF USA:

125 Maiden Lane,
New York, NY 10038

Give online: unicefusa.org

Give by phone:
1-800-FOR KIDS

Put UNICEF USA in your will: contact legacygifts@unicefusa.org

2 UNICEF believes in equity.

- Every child, everywhere, has a right to survive, develop and reach his or her full potential. Yet, every day, more than 15,000 children under age 5 die from preventable causes.
- UNICEF is committed to changing this for all children — including the most marginalized and vulnerable.
- UNICEF works to address inequity at its root — from child poverty, to education and health.

3 UNICEF is (almost) everywhere.

- UNICEF is present in over 190 countries and territories, with programs in 157 countries and National Committees in 33 countries conducting advocacy, education and fundraising.
- Oldest and largest of the national committees, UNICEF USA was UNICEF's sixth largest donor in 2017.

4 UNICEF delivers results for children at scale.

- In 2017, UNICEF spent \$5.8 billion on program activities and had a staff of nearly 13,000.
- UNICEF's core programs include health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, HIV/AIDS, education, child protection, social inclusion, gender equality/girls' empowerment and emergency relief. UNICEF also works on disabilities, early childhood, safe and healthy environments, and adolescent development.

5 UNICEF is a leader in emergencies.

- In 2017, UNICEF responded to 337 humanitarian emergencies — from conflicts to natural disasters — in 102 countries.
- UNICEF is the global leader in emergencies on WASH, nutrition and gender-based violence, and is the co-lead on education in emergencies.
- UNICEF is dedicated to ensuring a set of core commitments to children in humanitarian crisis, no matter where they are.
- UNICEF's humanitarian warehouse in Copenhagen, the world's largest, can ship supplies anywhere in 48–72 hours.

6 UNICEF has access and influence.

- UNICEF partners with governments, shaping policies from the top down, while also working at the community level.

- This vertical access allows UNICEF to ensure the sustainability of programs and to leverage resources across partnerships, borders and programs for maximum impact.

7 UNICEF is a leader in shaping the global development agenda.

- By the end of the 2000–2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) period, great strides had been made on goals such as poverty reduction and drinking water access, but uneven progress left millions of children behind.
- UNICEF helped shape the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs) for 2030 to reach every child, tackle child poverty, achieve gender equality, end violence against children, end preventable child and maternal deaths, empower adolescents and break the cycle of chronic crises.

8 UNICEF has the expertise and data to do the job right.

- UNICEF is the global leader for data on children. UNICEF data shapes policies and programs at the highest levels to reach millions of children with lasting solutions.
- UNICEF offices share knowledge with peers and partners across the world, working both regionally and globally.
- UNICEF funds critical research to identify barriers to progress and continually improve its effectiveness in providing evidence-based solutions for children.

9 UNICEF amplifies children's voices.

- UNICEF advocates for children to have a seat at the table when it comes to issues affecting their lives and futures, from helping shape the SDGs or calling on governments to mitigate the risks of climate change.
- UNICEF's innovative U-Report empowers adolescents to hold leaders accountable and to report problems like sexual exploitation in schools, or shortages of drugs in local clinics.

10 UNICEF is over 70 years old!

- Founded in 1946 to meet the emergency needs of children after World War II, UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations in 1953.
- On December 11, 2016, UNICEF celebrated its 70th anniversary, resolving to continue its mission to realize the rights of every child, everywhere.



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UNICEF vs. UNICEF USA

What's the Difference?

Mission

- To advocate for children's rights, help meet their basic needs and expand their opportunities to reach their potential.
- To ensure special protection for the most disadvantaged children — victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation, and those with disabilities.
- To promote the equal rights of women and children and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities.

Background

- Founded as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund in 1946 to meet the emergency needs of children in post-WWII Europe and China, UNICEF's mandate was broadened in 1950 to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries. UNICEF became a permanent part of the UN system in 1953.
- UNICEF is non-partisan and its cooperation is free of discrimination. The most disadvantaged children and the countries in greatest need have priority.

Impact

- UNICEF views the survival, protection and development of children as universal imperatives, integral to human progress.
- UNICEF helps countries mobilize the political will and resources to form policies and deliver services for children.
- UNICEF works towards the attainment of the sustainable human development goals and vision of peace and social progress enshrined in the UN Charter.
- UNICEF responds in emergencies to protect the rights of children. In coordination with UN partners and humanitarian agencies, UNICEF makes its unique rapid response facilities available to provide care for children and relieve their suffering.

Mission

- To work for the survival, protection and development of children worldwide through advocacy, education and fundraising for UNICEF's work.
- To increase the engagement of all Americans who care about the well-being of children. Our vision is a better world for children everywhere.

Background

- UNICEF USA is one of 33 organizations, called national committees, around the world that secures crucial financial support and government funding for UNICEF.
- UNICEF USA and other private sector donors raised approximately 26% of UNICEF's operational budget in 2017.
- UNICEF USA is headquartered in New York and has regional offices in Boston, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Impact

- Since its inception in 1947, UNICEF USA has provided UNICEF and various NGOs with \$7.2 billion in cash and gifts-in-kind.
- UNICEF USA successfully advocated for Congress to direct the U.S. Government to allocate \$132.5 million to UNICEF in fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018.

To donate or learn more about our work, please visit unicefusa.org.



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Adolescent Empowerment

As we make advances on the unfinished business in the first decade of a child's life, we are also compelled to do more to address their second decade.

Young People: A Global Perspective

We have a duty to adolescents — to prepare them for a world that is rapidly evolving, where education and skills can mean the difference between employment and unemployment, between prosperity and poverty, between hope and despair. With that in mind, UNICEF aims for every young person to be in school, learning, training or employed. By 2030, the goal is that every young person will have achieved literacy, numeracy and acquired skills for employability, with knowledge of human rights, gender equality, nonviolence and citizenship.

Of the 1.2 billion adolescents around the world, more than 200 million of them are out of school. Lack of schooling and skill-building leaves them with few long-term employment options. With the current pace of change, it will take 100 years for poor children and adolescents to have the same skill development opportunities as children in rich countries. Girls are at a greater disadvantage than boys. Of the over 156 million youth not in employment, education, or training, 75% are women or girls.

Investing in adolescents contributes to a competitive labor force, sustained economic growth, improved governance and vibrant civil societies.



U-Report is a social platform created by UNICEF where young people express their opinions and can be positive agents of change in their communities.

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UNICEF in Action

UNICEF is building a partnership dedicated to supporting young people in their second decade of life — an agenda focused on each of them being in school, learning, training, or employed by 2030, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable, including girls, the poorest, those with disabilities, or young people affected by armed conflict and displacement.

About UNICEF

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Key Terms

CHILDREN

Ages 0–18

YOUNG PEOPLE

Ages 10–24

YOUTH

Ages 15–24

ADOLESCENCE

Ages 10–19

UNICEF's support to governments and communities includes:

- Maximizing adolescents' physical, mental and social well-being
- Empowering adolescents to learn and acquire relevant skills
- Ensuring that adolescents are safe and supported
- Creating spaces for adolescents to be civically engaged in their communities

Program Snapshot

Below are a few examples of what UNICEF's adolescent programming will look like:

UPSHIFT empowers marginalized youth and adolescents to become social innovators and entrepreneurs through training and workshops for young people, focusing on personal empowerment, workforce readiness and active citizenship skills. Through a selection process, youth-led initiatives gain access to financial and mentorship support. UPSHIFT was piloted in a number of countries, including Jordan, Montenegro, Vietnam and Kosovo. In Vietnam, 30,000 young people benefited from four UPSHIFT workshops wherein 40 youth-led projects were developed, with half of them for young people with disabilities.

Empowered Adolescent Girls in Nepal: The teenage girls of Basantpatti are out on the streets, knocking on doors, stopping women on their way to the market and handing out flyers. They learn about violence, sexual and reproductive health, child marriage, and negotiation and decision-making skills. Afterward, they head out to spread the word. At their helm is Priyanka Singh: "We go around the community and we speak to them about child marriage... We also put posters up on houses with information about child marriage and its consequences. It includes the legal age for marriage and where to go and who to tell if there are incidents."

Youth Employment Solutions (YES!) utilizes the power of information, communication and technology (ICT) to close the skills gaps among the world's young people. Operating since 2013, the new YES!DIGITAL Ecosystem takes the program's work a step further by providing youth with a "one-stop eShop" for skills training and multiyear data collection. The program not only focuses on broad interventions, but also provides localized support, coaching, and connections to labor and training opportunities that may have otherwise been out of reach to the most digitally disadvantaged. ●

Investing in adolescents contributes to a competitive labor force, sustained economic growth, improved governance and vibrant civil societies.



Girls leave after attending computer classes at Nari-O-Sishu Kalyan Kendra (Women and Child Betterment Centre) in West Bengal.

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To learn more, contact
Some NameHere at
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or 212-000-0000.



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Child Protection

535 million children — nearly 1 in 4 — live in countries affected by violent conflict or disaster.

Millions of children experience the worst kinds of rights violations, including violence, trafficking, sexual exploitation, child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). Child protection is the prevention and response to such abuse. This includes reaching the most vulnerable, such as children on the move, those living without family, on the streets, in conflict settings, or natural disasters.

Violations of children's rights to protection occur in every country and transcend ethnic and economic lines. Every seven minutes an adolescent is killed by an act of violence. If current rates prevail, more than 150 million additional girls will marry before their 18th birthday and 68 million more girls will undergo female genital mutilation (FGM) by 2030. More than 650 million children under the age of 16 never had their births registered, which puts them at risk of missing out on health care and education, and makes them vulnerable to exploitation, child labor and trafficking.

Economic and social inequities often underpin such violations, which are in turn fueled by social norms that condone violence. Without effective social protection and judicial systems, and evidence-based policies to protect children, harmful practices proliferate. Victims find themselves without means to report their situations, hold perpetrators accountable, or gain access to support services.

These problems call for solutions that address the systemic and social drivers of protection issues, so that government leaders, communities, schools and families can take meaningful protective action.



The parents of Madhalsi Sarkar, 17, unaware of India's child marriage act, tried to marry her to a 27-year-old man, but the marriage was prevented thanks to a UNICEF-supported help line.

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For more information, visit unicefusa.org.

UNICEF in Action

UNICEF aims to protect children around the world from violence, exploitation and abuse so that they can lead healthy and productive lives. To achieve this mission, UNICEF identifies child protection risks and gaps, assisting governments on budgetary policies and legislation to protect children: juvenile justice, support for unaccompanied and separated children, discriminatory practices, birth registration, trafficking and child labor prevention. Working in direct partnership with

social welfare ministries, UNICEF strengthens systems to report cases of violence, exploitation and abuse, and protect vulnerable children.

UNICEF is harnessing data to illuminate the drivers of violence and inform effective policies and programs. At the country level, UNICEF works with national and community-based leaders to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, exploitation by armed groups, and violence in the home and in schools. In 2013, UNICEF launched the End Violence against Children initiative. The initiative aims to build political will, accelerate action to end violence at the country level, and build the capacity of governments and partners to work together in ending violence against children. As of 2018, 20 countries are working under a global partnership to end violence. Convening governments, UN agencies, civil society, faith-based, private-sector, and NGO actors, the partnership is drawing on lessons learned and bringing successful initiatives to scale.

Empowering youth as agents of change is a core component of UNICEF's approach. For example, in Liberia, UNICEF heard that students were being exploited for sex in return for grades. In just days, UNICEF polled more than 60,000 youth through a free, open-source SMS system called U-Report, and found that 86 percent of children said sexual exploitation was a problem in schools. Using this evidence, UNICEF quickly set up a legislative task force to create a hotline to report abuse — something that might otherwise have taken years to establish through traditional evidence gathering.

Working with local community leaders and families is critical to addressing harmful attitudes, customs and practices, such as FGM/C and child marriage. For example, in several West African countries, UNICEF is working with governments and NGO partners to combat FGM/C by informing communities about human rights and health risks, and fostering community dialogues about traditional practices. In just ten years, the prevalence of FGM/C dropped by half in communities engaged in the program.

Some 535 million children live in countries affected by violent conflict or disaster — from Syria to Nigeria and beyond. Nearly 65 million people have been uprooted from their homes,

driven by war and conflict, poverty and climate change. UNICEF is on the ground before, during and after emergencies to stem the protection risks children face in times of natural disaster and man-made crises.

In humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF sets up child-friendly spaces to give children a safe space to rest, play, learn and receive psychosocial support. In 2017, UNICEF responded to 337 emergencies in 102 countries, reaching 3.5 million girls and boys with psychosocial support. UNICEF also works to release children from armed groups and provide them medical support, counseling and education to help them reintegrate into their communities.

2017 UNICEF Child-Protection Snapshot

In 2017, UNICEF:

- Spent nearly \$690 million on child protection programs, with 790 child protection staff in 119 countries.
- Since 2014, 25 million girls and boys involved in child labor were reached by one or more UNICEF-supported interventions.
- Helped over 24 million people in almost 9,000 communities make public declarations to abandon FGM since 2014.
- Helped more than 16 million children to have their births registered in 58 countries.
- Reached more than 5.9 million children with mine-risk education.
- Reached nearly 870,000 girls and women at risk or affected by FGM with services.
- Helped about 36,000 unaccompanied or separated children receive care, reuniting 19,000 children with their families or caregivers.
- Assisted in the release of 12,000 children from armed forces and groups and then reintegrated them with their families or communities.
- Reached 3.5 million girls and boys with psychosocial support in humanitarian emergencies. ●

Humanitarian aid alone is not enough. Children need peace and protection at all times.

— UNICEF Executive Director, Henrietta Fore



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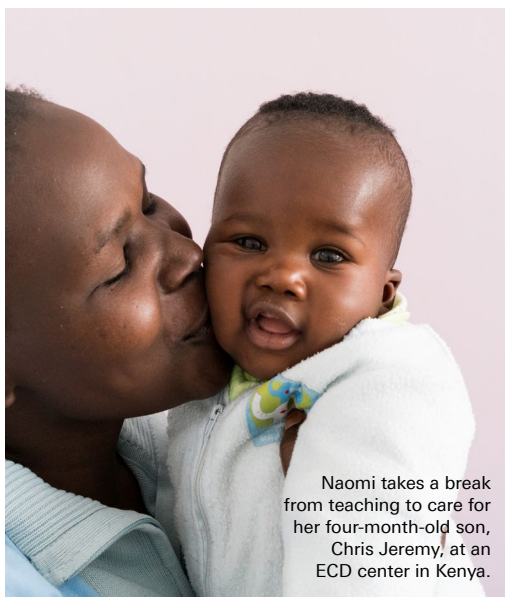
Early Childhood Development

Nearly 250 million children under age 5 — about 1 in 3 children worldwide — are at risk of never reaching their full potential.

Advances in neuroscience show that social environments are as important as genetics in influencing how children develop. Good parenting, strong families and enriching environments are key drivers of optimal early development. During the first years of life, a child's brain has the potential to activate 1,000 brain cells every second. Each one of those neurons has the power to connect to another 10,000 neurons thousands of times per second.

Yet nearly half of all three- to six-year-olds don't have access to early education, and nearly one in four children under age five is stunted. When children experience neglect, violence and emotional distress in early childhood, their brain development can be compromised by stress, which can have lifelong negative consequences. By the end of 2017, approximately 350 million children were living in areas affected by conflict. This can be devastating for the brain development of young children, reducing their future earning potential and costing billions in foregone GDP.

Early childhood development (ECD) includes investments in a child's health, education, protection and non-cognitive skills, from before birth until age eight. Effective ECD is achieved when children feel cared for, nurtured and protected. It can break intergenerational cycles of poverty in marginalized communities. It can improve parent-child interactions, help children develop a critical foundation for learning and improve readiness for school. Quality ECD



Naomi takes a break from teaching to care for her four-month-old son, Chris Jeremy, at an ECD center in Kenya.

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makes it more likely that children will succeed in school, earn higher incomes as adults, and provide better education, nutrition and health care for their own children.

UNICEF in Action

UNICEF's global vision for ECD is that all children should be physically healthy, mentally alert and ready for school through an integrated approach that includes family support, health, nutrition, early education and social and emotional learning.

UNICEF invests in scaling up access to health services and support for the most vulnerable.

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Every day, 15,000 children under age five die from preventable causes. About half of those deaths occur in the first 28 days of life. UNICEF works with governments to strengthen health systems, while also investing in community health workers to provide access to routine immunization and maternal, newborn and child health care.

Nutrition is especially critical from conception to age two — the first 1,000 days. During this window of opportunity, mothers and babies need proper nutrition to ensure that children's brains and bodies develop fully. UNICEF works to prevent malnutrition by educating and empowering mothers with services in support of good nutrition for infants and young children: the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding from birth until six months, followed by the introduction of safe complementary foods and continued breastfeeding for at least one year. UNICEF also works to prevent and treat maternal malnutrition, address micronutrient deficiencies and treat severe acute malnutrition.

In terms of early childhood education, UNICEF is helping shape national policies, through applying standards for early learning, and strengthening teachers' and parents' abilities to support children as they transition to school. UNICEF uses evidence to pilot successful programs and policies and hands these over to governments for long-term implementation at scale. For example, in China, prior to 2010, only about half of children attended early childhood education programs. UNICEF invested \$8 million to pilot such programs in 29 rural areas, demonstrating their importance for all children. Based on the program's success and UNICEF's guidance, the government committed to invest \$7.8 billion, with a goal to reach all children in China with early childhood education by 2020. This approach — using evidence to design smart pilot programs that shape national policies — is one of UNICEF's strengths and leads to lasting change at scale.

UNICEF also integrates peacebuilding into its early education programs. Attitudes can be shaped more easily during early childhood, as children are amenable to bonding with others, including those who are different from them. Integrating peacebuilding into early childhood programs can build critical social and

emotional skills, reduce behavioral problems and build empathy and resilience when children experience difficult situations later in life. For example, in Bangladesh, UNICEF has invested in structured play programs designed to teach children ways to peacefully resolve conflicts and problems through teamwork.

Globally, 1 in 11 young children has spent their most critical period of development growing up in conflict. These children need safe spaces to learn, play and recover a sense of normalcy amid crisis. UNICEF's ECD kits provide tools to help caregivers meet the special needs of young children in emergencies: brightly colored paper and pencils, construction blocks, hand puppets, puzzles and memory games to stimulate learning, creativity and problem-solving skills. Coupled with support from teachers, caregivers and parents, young children can use the kits to recover from trauma — in the aftermath of a natural disaster or during a protracted crisis.

2017 UNICEF Early Childhood Development Snapshot

In 2017, UNICEF:

- Reached 45% of the world's children with vaccines, helping to avert millions of child deaths from preventable diseases.
- Provided 12.5 million children with learning materials through over 250,000 classrooms and self-learning programs.
- Improved WASH facilities and services in over 51,000 schools and 5,000 health centers, since 2014.
- Treated 4 million children for severe acute malnutrition in 67 countries.
- Delivered micronutrient powders to more than 15.6 million children across 91 countries.
- Helped over 70% of women living with HIV receive treatment for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.
- Provided 8.8 million children access to some form of basic education, including pre-primary and early childhood education. ●

Globally,
51% of
preschool
age children
are not
enrolled in
early
childhood
education.



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Education

263 million children and youth are out of school.

Education is one of the smartest investments to support child survival, growth and development. Targeted investments in education lead to higher income, poverty reduction, and the empowerment of girls, the poor and the excluded. On average, just one additional year of education can increase a child's earnings later in life by 10 percent.

From 1970 to 2009, the world saw immense reductions in child mortality. An estimated 50 percent of that progress is linked to an increase in the education of girls and young women. Educated women are more likely to see a doctor for pre-natal care, and their children are more likely to be vaccinated against deadly diseases and see a doctor when they are sick.

And yet, 263 million children are out of school. Some 63 million children are missing out on their education due to conflict and crisis. Even when children are in school, the quality of education is often poor, and they are learning very little. This is not only a missed opportunity. It's a denial of children's basic human right to learn and become productive members of society.

Children in the poorest, most marginalized communities and situations have the worst chances to gain an education. Those living in conflict settings and fragile states, refugees and the internally displaced, children with disabilities, and ethnic minorities are least likely to get a quality education. Approximately half of children with disabilities who live in developing countries are not in school. Girls living in conflict contexts are more than twice as likely to be out of school. In general, girls are more likely than boys to never set foot in a



In the Côte d'Ivoire, an enthusiastic schoolgirl raises her hand in class.

© UNICEF/UN061310/DEJONGH

classroom, despite all the efforts and progress made on girls' education over the past two decades. In fact, some 15 million girls of primary school age will never get the chance to learn to read or write in primary school compared to about 10 million boys.

UNICEF in Action

UNICEF works in 155 countries to scale up access to quality education for the most marginalized children. Using an evidence-based approach, UNICEF collects and analyzes data — through traditional household surveys and real-time crowdsourcing via chat, text, and social media — to illustrate why and how children aren't getting the education they're entitled to. UNICEF then works in

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direct partnership with governments at the highest levels to establish the right policies and budgets based on country-specific needs. For example, in Georgia, UNICEF's advocacy was instrumental in the government's adoption of national standards for early childhood education to all public and private preschools.

At the same time, UNICEF works at the community level with administrators, teachers, parents and children themselves to increase access to education in a quality learning environment. Focusing on early childhood education, increasing spending for children in rural areas, and tackling barriers to girls' education bring massive returns on investment. Oftentimes, families simply cannot afford to send their children to school due to the costs of uniforms, books and transportation. Cash transfer programs for those families can increase school enrollment and retention rates. To ensure the full participation of girls, UNICEF links its education programs with WASH in schools, to make sure girls and boys have separate latrines, and that schools have handwashing facilities and safe drinking water.

Once children are in school, they need a quality learning environment to succeed. UNICEF supports teacher training and curriculum development for basic math and literacy skills, social and emotional learning, promotion of education in the children's mother tongue, and behavior change to tackle discrimination against children with disabilities and ethnic minorities, and prevent violence in schools.

For children who cannot attend formal school, such as those living in conflict settings or children from nomadic communities, UNICEF works to provide non-formal education and accelerated learning programs that meet local needs. For example, in 2017, UNICEF and partners provided curriculum to 75,000 vulnerable, out-of-school children through applied gaming and personalized engagement.

UNICEF invests in disaster risk planning, peacebuilding and emergency preparedness in schools by supporting risk assessments, and providing training to prepare for and respond to crises. For example, in 2017, UNICEF worked with Sierra Leone's government to pilot a national school safety guide in 924 schools, including the training of school personnel and the development of school



Children sit in a class at a refugee learning center in Athens, Greece.

action plans. In 2017, UNICEF led or co-led the emergency education cluster response in 48 countries. In Syria alone, UNICEF enrolled 2.2 million children into formal education.

2017 UNICEF Education Snapshot

In 2017, UNICEF:

- Provided 12.5 million children with learning materials through nearly 250,000 classrooms and supported approximately 48,000 communities with school management, planning, and inclusive education training.
- Had over 750 experts working on education programs in 155 countries.
- Spent \$1.2 billion on education, including \$46 million for girls' education; \$11 million to reach children with disabilities; and \$62 million for life skills, vocational training and development for adolescents.
- Helped 8.8 million children in need of access to quality formal and non-formal education services in 48 countries and all 7 regions affected by natural or human-made crises. ●

Global poverty could be cut in half if all adults completed high school.



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Gender Equality and Girls' Empowerment

The Situation for Women and Girls

Despite great strides in realizing the rights of women and girls, 5 million more girls of primary school age than boys are out of school globally. Maternal mortality reduction has been uneven; more than 800 women die every day from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. New HIV infections are rising disproportionately among adolescent girls, the only group for which AIDS-related deaths are increasing. And despite declines, 12 million girls are still married every year, and in countries where it is practiced, around a third of girls between 15 and 19 have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM).

These are not only violations of girls' rights to health, education and protection, but they impede development progress. The fifth Global Goal for Sustainable Development is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Achieving this will require ending discrimination, violence and harmful practices such as forced marriage, child marriage and female genital mutilation. It also means investing in women's and girls' health and protection, and ensuring equal participation of women and girls in political, economic and public life.

UNICEF Empowers Girls

UNICEF advocates for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and expand opportunities so they can reach their full potential. Promoting the equal rights of women and girls and investing in their full participation in political, social and economic spheres are essential to achieving this mission. UNICEF's equity approach



Best friends Genet and Misra smile after getting back from collecting water, a task that can sometimes take hours in the very hot sun.

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ensures that the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, especially girls, are empowered so they can grow up to lead healthy, productive lives.

UNICEF's gender work has four pillars: violence in emergencies; girls' secondary education; ending child marriage; and promoting girls' health. Each of these issues cuts across UNICEF's core programs of health, HIV and AIDS, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), nutrition, education, child protection and social inclusion.

UNICEF is a founding partner of the Global Program to Accelerate Action to End Child

About UNICEF

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Marriage. Child marriage denies girls the right to a childhood, limits girls' right to education, perpetuates cycles of poverty, and heightens the risk for complications from pregnancy and childbirth for mothers and babies. The global program focuses on 12 priority countries in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East to reach 2.5 million girls by 2019 who are at risk of child marriage or already married. UNICEF is also working at the national level in 48 additional countries to prevent child marriage through advocacy, new legislation and enforcement of existing laws to establish the legal age of marriage at 18.

Girls' education is a powerful development tool and creates a virtuous cycle. Educated girls are less likely to marry young and are more likely to become healthy women and mothers with healthy babies, escape poverty and influence their communities to empower their own girls. Great progress has been made on girls' education at the primary and secondary levels, but the most vulnerable girls remain out of school. Twice as many girls as boys will never start school. UNICEF is working to increase enrollment for girls, achieve gender parity in secondary education, and increase the number of women in educational leadership positions to ensure sustainable progress. For example, the 'Let Us Learn' program in Madagascar provided cash transfers to more than 100,000 girls in seven regions, enabling over 21,000 out-of-school girls to access catch-up classes and re-enter formal schooling. Education programs are closely linked with WASH programs to reduce the barriers adolescent girls face in attending school and managing menstrual hygiene, by ensuring separate latrines. UNICEF also supports social protection programs, including cash transfers to help cover the cost of school fees, books, transportation and uniforms.

Adolescent girls face a number of health challenges, including HIV and AIDS, anemia, and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). UNICEF continues to prioritize HIV/AIDS prevention for young people as part of its vision to achieve an AIDS-free generation by 2030 through investing in treatment and support for people living with HIV and ensuring that HIV-positive adolescents have access to antiretroviral treatment services, even in times of crisis. UNICEF works directly with young women to develop policies that benefit them — from reproductive health and HIV prevention to the prevention of gender-based violence.

UNICEF is a leader when it comes to data and evidence on the situation for girls and women. Knowing where the most vulnerable groups are and what is driving their exclusion shapes UNICEF's evidence-based policies and programs.

In emergency settings, UNICEF provides violence prevention and support services to millions of girls and women. Whether in protracted conflicts, or the aftermath of a natural disaster, UNICEF is on the ground before, during and after an emergency to reduce risks before a crisis hits, and respond quickly to the needs of girls and women.

2017 Gender Equality Snapshot

In 2017, UNICEF:

- Spent \$46 million on girls' education.
- Ending child marriage and early unions was a targeted priority for UNICEF in 64 countries.
- Directly supported 7,800 schools with girl-friendly WASH programs, bringing the total number of schools covered from 2014–2017 to more than 50,000.
- Supported 50,000 schools to build girl-friendly sanitation facilities in 58 countries.
- Increased implementation of menstrual health management in WASH in Schools programs, doubling from 22 to 44 countries.
- Over 25 million live births were delivered in health-care facilities supported by UNICEF programs that provided technical and financial assistance.
- Supported more than 46,000 pregnant women living with HIV to continue antiretroviral therapy.
- Reached 3.6 million women and children with services to prevent and respond to GBV in crises.
- 25 million child marriages were averted in the past decade through the strong support and commitment of resources from UNICEF and partners.
- Worked in 90 countries prioritizing gender-responsive adolescent health.
- Provided life skills and educational support for 2 million adolescent girls, to help them stay in school and pursue alternatives to early marriage. ●

UNICEF works with governments and community actors in 157 countries to advocate for girls, promote gender equality and realize the rights of girls and women.



children first.

Health and Immunization

Every day, some 15,000 children under the age of five die from things we can prevent.

Maternal and Child Health around the World

Great progress has been made in the past 25 years in preventing the deaths of children under five. Between 1990 and 2016, the number of children under five dying every year fell from 12.7 million to 5.6 million. But this progress has not been universal. Still, every day about 15,000 children die from things we can prevent.

Malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia are among the top five killers of children under the age of five. Low-cost, proven solutions like oral rehydration salts to treat life-threatening diarrhea or insecticide-treated mosquito nets to prevent malaria are still not available for every child who needs them.

Meanwhile, millions of children lack access to simple and affordable vaccines to protect them from diseases like polio, measles and tetanus. Nearly half of all child deaths happen in the first 28 days of life. One in every three births takes place without a skilled birth attendant or health care worker. Babies who don't survive their first month often perish from preventable causes such as sepsis, respiratory infections, or contaminated water.

These preventable child deaths are linked to a lack of national capacity to design, carry out, and maintain national health systems. Many countries still lack trained health workers, adequate supply chains, well-equipped and sanitary health facilities, and policies that meet the needs of marginalized and poor families.



Five-month old Alexander receives a check-up and immunizations.

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UNICEF in Action

UNICEF helps shape governments' health policies and budgets, train health care workers, and strengthen immunization and community health programs, while simultaneously working with local actors — religious leaders, community health workers, municipal authorities and families — to generate demand for health services.

UNICEF's support to governments and communities includes:

- Scaling up maternal, newborn and child health care services.

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- Ensuring the availability of pre-natal and post-natal obstetric and newborn care.
- Promoting breastfeeding and vaccinating children against deadly diseases.
- Ensuring the availability of essential medical supplies and drugs.
- Increasing access to rapid diagnostic testing for killer diseases.
- Strengthening national health systems to prepare and respond to health crises.

2017 UNICEF Health and Immunization Snapshot

In 2017, UNICEF:

- Invested \$1.37 billion in its health programs around the world.
- Reached 45% of the world's children with vaccines, procuring 2.4 billion doses of vaccines for 102 countries, valued at \$1.3 billion.
- Helped vaccinate 60.6 million children against measles and 60.4 million against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.
- Engaged in polio eradication programs in over 50 countries.
- Delivered more than 1.3 billion doses of oral polio vaccines.
- Since 2014, an additional 10 countries have eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus, averting an estimated 81,000 newborn deaths.
- Helped reduce the price of a complete set of childhood vaccines to \$18, including a 50% reduction in the cost of pentavalent vaccine.
- Supported the training of over 83,000 community health workers, with more than 240,000 such workers trained since 2015.
- Ensured access to health care services for 15.2 million women and children in emergencies.
- Provided insecticide-treated bednets to nearly 1 million families. ●

Simple, proven, low-cost solutions could save millions of mothers' and children's lives every year. UNICEF works at the highest levels of government and with grassroots actors to ensure that every child can survive and thrive.



Two little girls wait to be seen by health workers in a camp for the displaced near Baghdad, Iraq. The medical center provides vaccinations, nutrition and health services to vulnerable children displaced by conflict and crisis.



children first.

Humanitarian Emergencies

In 2017, 1 of every 4 children in the world was living in a country affected by emergencies.

From deadly natural disasters to public health emergencies and protracted conflicts, children are facing an unprecedented number of humanitarian emergencies. Some 350 million children are living in countries affected by conflict and crisis, many of them missing out on their rights to education, health and protection. Nearly 65 million people have been uprooted from their homes, fleeing war, conflict and persecution, or are on the run in search of a better, safer life. And children are increasingly the targets of war — violently attacked at home, at school and in the street.

The poorest countries feel the effects of climate change most acutely — and no one suffers more from these disasters than children. Hundreds of millions of children live in areas that are most affected, and UNICEF estimates that almost 600 million children will be living in areas of extremely high water stress by 2040. Phenomena like El Niño exacerbate already harsh conditions and weather. The 2015–2016 El Niño effect put over 26 million children in eastern and southern Africa at risk — increasing cases of severe acute malnutrition and water shortages, and even the risk for HIV infection, as many lacked the food they needed to take HIV drugs.

Now more than ever, the international community must invest in emergency preparedness and measures to build the resilience of vulnerable populations to reduce the risks of disasters before they strike. This includes everything from shoring up public health systems to stave off



Iraqi Kurdish refugee Barzan Hassan holds one-year-old Yamar, outside their shelter in Ritsona refugee camp north of Athens, Greece.

epidemics, to pre-positioning nutrition and WASH supplies in drought and flood-prone areas. It also means investing in disaster risk assessments to understand where vulnerable communities are, providing appropriate training for local authorities, and setting up social safety nets for vulnerable families to withstand shocks and crises.

UNICEF in Action

UNICEF is on the ground before, during and after emergencies strike, to respond quickly and help communities build back better.

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Through its Core Commitments to Children in Humanitarian Action (the CCCs) UNICEF is dedicated to emergency preparedness, response and recovery that ensures children's rights are met, even in times of crisis.

In 2017, UNICEF responded to 337 humanitarian emergencies in 102 countries, providing life-saving health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and protection services.

Through the global emergency cluster system, UNICEF leads other humanitarian partners on WASH, nutrition and gender-based violence preparedness and response, and co-leads the education cluster. In these leadership roles, UNICEF is responsible for coordinating the response, convening partners, and ensuring there are no gaps or duplications of effort in emergency response.

With program offices in 157 countries, 7 regional offices, and global headquarters in 6 cities, UNICEF can tap into existing partnerships and systems — from heads of state down to local communities — mobilizing a fast and efficient response when disaster strikes. UNICEF is committed to reaching children no matter where they are, operating in some of the most difficult conditions and hard-to-reach places in the world, from Syria to South Sudan and beyond.

In New York, UNICEF operates a 24/7, 365-days-per-year operations center. The center is constantly monitoring the movements of UNICEF staff for their safety and security, and closely following political upheavals, conflicts, weather patterns and other threats to children and UNICEF programs. The operations center serves as a first port of call when disaster strikes, allowing UNICEF to account for staff's whereabouts and convey the latest news from the ground to senior leadership at headquarters and regional offices to help activate a timely, efficient response.

In Copenhagen, UNICEF operates the largest humanitarian warehouse in the world, and can pack and ship supplies anywhere within 48–72 hours. UNICEF also has supply hubs in Dubai, Panama, Shanghai and Djibouti, to surge supplies regionally as needed. At the country level, program teams pre-position life-saving stocks of water purification tablets, ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), education materials, health equipment and other supplies to reach remote populations quickly in the event a disaster strikes.

UNICEF is constantly adapting to new challenges. For the first time in decades, as migrants and refugees made their way to Europe in 2015 amid the Syrian war, UNICEF reestablished programs in some European countries where the organization hadn't been operating since World War II, providing support in child-friendly spaces for those traveling in search of refuge. UNICEF learns from past emergencies and values innovative approaches to do things smarter, faster, and better. Whether it's developing collapsible jerry cans to reach more people with clean water, or using mobile phones to track the spread of a disease, UNICEF can pivot quickly to deliver lifesaving aid to children wherever they are.

To address recent public health emergencies — from Ebola to Zika — UNICEF launched a new Health Emergency Preparedness Initiative. The initiative provides a package of support for priority diseases, to allow for quick response rooted in evidence-based approaches that can halt the spread of diseases and address the underlying drivers of an outbreak.

2018 UNICEF Humanitarian Action Snapshot

In the first 10 months of 2018, UNICEF:

- Responds to more than 300 humanitarian situations every year.
- Helped 5.9 million children access formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- Reached 2.6 million children with treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- Vaccinated 4.7 million children against measles.
- Provided over 35 million people with access to safe water.
- Provided psychosocial support for 3.1 million children and caregivers.
- UNICEF's global cluster rapid response teams supported 28 countries, including four Level 3 emergencies.
- Reached over 1 million children with cash transfers.
- Reunited nearly 6,000 children with their families in South Sudan. ●

Every \$1 invested in emergency preparedness returns \$2 in efficiency gains that reduce the risk of future disasters.



children first.

Children, HIV and AIDS

Every day, more than 100 adolescents die of AIDS.

Worldwide, fewer than half of all infants born to mothers with HIV are tested for infection by 2 months of age. Left untreated, half of children with HIV will die before the age of 2 years. For adolescents, the stakes are even higher. AIDS is the second most common cause of death among adolescents globally, and the leading cause in Africa.

UNICEF has been working with partners on a concerted global effort to fight HIV/AIDS for over two decades, helping to prevent over 30 million new HIV infections — including 1.6 million among children — and over 8 million AIDS-related deaths since 2000. One major success is increased access to antiretroviral treatment for HIV+ pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

However, children living with HIV haven't benefited from the same level of treatment as adults. Only one-third of children under 15 with HIV are getting the lifesaving treatment they need, though 70 percent of pregnant and breastfeeding women with HIV are. An estimated 120,000 children under age 15 died of AIDS-related causes in 2016. While deaths due to AIDS have decreased overall since 2010, deaths among adolescents have actually increased to about 55,000 per year.

An AIDS-Free Generation Is Within Reach

UNICEF is working to achieve an AIDS-free generation by 2030 — for all children to be born free of HIV and remain so for the first two decades of life. UNICEF's strategy focuses on eliminating mother-to-child transmission, preventing infection among adolescents, providing treatment for children and



Felix, 18 months old, plays with a ball. He tested negative for HIV, thanks to a UNICEF-supported PMTCT program.

© UNICEF/UNI102430/NESBITT

adolescents with HIV and tackling underlying factors that cause HIV among children and their families.

Ensuring that mothers with HIV have access to antiretroviral therapy remains a top child survival priority. UNICEF is working to reduce new infections in children and reduce infant deaths, providing innovative point-of-care HIV diagnostic tools for early identification, so that babies can start life-saving treatment as soon as possible if they are found to be HIV-positive. Children already living with HIV must have access to treatment. To achieve this, UNICEF is working to scale up access to HIV drugs.

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Adolescent HIV prevention is a special focus for UNICEF. By investing in proven HIV prevention strategies, we could avert 2 million new infections among adolescents by 2020. Ensuring that adolescents have access to new HIV diagnostics with same-day test results can save lives. UNICEF has helped reduce the time it takes to get HIV test results from over 20 days to less than a day in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and also dramatically reduced the time it takes patients to start antiretroviral treatment once they find out their HIV status.

UNICEF is also working hand-in-hand with families and young people themselves to raise awareness on HIV prevention and tackle discrimination against those living with HIV/AIDS. It is critical that children affected and infected by HIV/AIDS receive special care and support, and that parents and caregivers have access to information and skills to provide for their children. Cash transfer programs are helping to stem the underlying drivers of risky behavior, reduce infection rates for vulnerable groups, and provide greater access to treatment. And UNICEF is empowering youth with innovative, free technologies, such as U-Report, which allows teens to anonymously text questions about HIV and AIDS and provide feedback to health care providers.

UNICEF's HIV/AIDS programs are closely planned and carried out in harmony with its

other programs, including health, social protection, nutrition, WASH, emergency programming in conflict and natural disaster settings, and an overall focus on empowering girls and women. In 2016, 16.5 million children had lost one or both parents to AIDS. These children still often face significant economic and social obstacles. They require protection, care and support. UNICEF supports HIV-sensitive social protection programs in Lesotho and Tanzania to lower HIV risk and vulnerability among adolescents (especially for girls).

HIV/AIDS Snapshot

UNICEF:

- Has worked with partners to avert more than 1.6 million new HIV infections among children since 2000.
- Has helped more than 18.2 million people worldwide have access to HIV treatment — about half of all people currently living with the virus.
- Worked on an aggressive scale-up of AIDS treatment with partners, leading to a drop in AIDS-related deaths from 2 million in 2005 to 1.1 million in 2015 (a 45% decline).
- Supported more than 46,000 pregnant women and 40,000 children in emergency settings who were living with HIV to continue treatment. ●

Every 2 minutes, an adolescent is infected with HIV — most of them girls. AIDS is the leading cause of death among adolescents in Africa and the second highest cause of death among adolescents globally.



A health worker in Malawi laughs and cuddles with an eight-month-old baby. His mother is HIV-positive, so he was tested for HIV six weeks after his birth — he was HIV-free. He'll continue to be tested as long as he is breastfeeding.



children first.

Nutrition

Some 155 million children under five — about 1 in 4 worldwide — are chronically malnourished.

Every day, 15,000 children under age five die from things we can prevent — that's about 10 children every minute. Nearly half of these deaths are attributable to malnutrition. Some 155 million children — about 1 in 4 worldwide — are chronically malnourished; their brains and bodies are stunted.

Nutrition is critical for a child's mental and physical development, particularly in the first 1,000 days of life. After this golden window of opportunity, if malnutrition is not addressed, children will be at a higher risk of infection, disease and long-term health risks, and will be less likely to do well in school and reach their full potential. Meanwhile, millions of children suffer from a lack of essential vitamins and minerals, such as vitamin A, folic acid, iodine, iron and zinc, which leaves them prone to infection and disease.

Some 17 million children under age five were severely acutely malnourished in 2017, putting them at high risk of death. In early 2017, a famine struck Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and Nigeria, with a famine looming in nine other countries, tipping the scale of severe malnutrition even higher. Many countries are saddled with a double burden of under- and over-nutrition, with 42 million overweight children under 5 in 2017 — an increase of 12 million children since 2000 — putting them at higher risk for diabetes and heart disease. Millions of mothers are also malnourished, which increases the risks for impaired fetal development, low birth weight and suboptimal breastfeeding.

Globally, 2.3 billion people lack access to basic



Girls in Ethiopia cook nutritious food together. In 2016, El Niño had devastating effects for child nutrition in Ethiopia and other eastern and southern African countries.

© UNICEF/UN024888/SEWUNET

sanitation services and 844 million people lack access to safe drinking water. For babies and young children, this can be lethal. The lack of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene leads to nearly 1,000 child deaths every day. The best way to prevent these deaths and chronic malnutrition among young children is to breastfeed. Breastmilk is a baby's first vaccine — the first and best protection infants have against illness and disease.

UNICEF Nutrition Programs

UNICEF is working in 120 countries to carry out maternal and child nutrition programs. Working in direct partnership with

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governments, UNICEF is helping drive policies and budgets, while also partnering at the grassroots level with community leaders and families themselves to ensure nutrition for the most vulnerable.

As the leader of the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, UNICEF is working with 60 SUN countries to expand proven, cost-effective nutrition interventions to ensure good maternal and child nutrition. Priorities include:

- Promotion of breastfeeding, including counseling and support for mothers.
- Food fortification, such as salt iodization and micronutrient supplementation, including vitamin A and zinc for children, and iron and folic acid for pregnant women.
- Linking nutrition programs to WASH, early childhood health, education, and social protection programs.
- Communicating with families and communities to raise awareness and demand for maternal and child nutrition support.
- Preventing and treating life-threatening severe acute malnutrition (SAM) among young children.
- Generating malnutrition data and raising awareness with governments, civil society and community leaders on proven, cost-effective nutrition solutions.

UNICEF is also the global leader when it comes to nutrition emergency preparedness and response. In 2017, UNICEF responded to 337 humanitarian situations in 102

countries, including 58 nutrition crises. UNICEF works to build communities' resilience to disasters before they strike, and strengthen government health and nutrition systems to reduce the risks of malnutrition in times of man-made and natural disasters. For example, drawing on lessons learned from the nutrition crisis in the Sahel, UNICEF strengthened contingency plans in eastern and southern Africa in preparation for widespread floods and droughts caused by El Niño in 2015, equipping 21 country offices in the region with early warning action plans to quickly respond to malnutrition crises and save lives. UNICEF also scaled up a rapid response to the famines in Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen, and Nigeria in 2017.

2017 UNICEF Nutrition Snapshot

In 2017, UNICEF:

- Invested \$665 million in nutrition programs, with approximately 560 nutrition experts around the world.
- Treated 4 million children for severe acute malnutrition in 67 countries — 75% of whom were treated as part of emergency nutrition responses.
- Was the largest global supplier of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), purchasing 80% of the world's RUTF as well as the majority of therapeutic milk.
- Delivered micronutrient powders to more than 15.6 million children across 91 countries — three times the number of children reached in 2014.
- In collaboration with partners, supplied approximately 553 million vitamin A capsules to 58 priority countries. ●

The reduction of stunting is one of the most cost-effective development tools. On average, one dollar invested in the prevention of stunting leads to a \$16 return on productivity.



Children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in northeast Nigeria have been admitted to therapeutic feeding programs run by UNICEF and partners.



children first.

Social Inclusion

UNICEF is working harder than ever to promote the rights of children everywhere.

Every child has a right to a fair chance in life, to live free from extreme poverty and discrimination. Fairness has always been at the heart of UNICEF's work — from the time UNICEF was established to meet the needs of children after World War II, to today, as millions of children are uprooted from their homes due to conflicts and wars they did nothing to create.

Despite great progress over the past two decades to improve the situation for children, crushing poverty and widening disparities in health, education and protection still undermine the lives of millions of children. Between 1990 and 2016, the number of children who died each year from preventable causes fell by more than half, from 12.7 million to 5.6 million. But 15,000 children still die every day from things we can prevent. Children in the poorest households are nearly twice as likely to die as those from the wealthiest households. 385 million children still live in extreme poverty and 689 million children live in households deprived of nutrition, health care, education, or water and sanitation — being denied, from early on, an equitable chance in life.

Many children are excluded from realizing their basic rights because of their gender, race, ethnicity, geographic location or disability. Children are excluded from education because they are poor. They are denied health services because they live in remote areas or urban slums. They are at risk of physical injury and loss because they live in communities hit hard by climate change. Marginalized children are at greater risk for exploitation and abuse. And many children experience several of



In Armenia, UNICEF's 'Together We Can' campaign provides supportive and developmental day care for children with disabilities.

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these deprivations at once: the same girl who doesn't have enough to eat is often also out of school; she may also be living with a disability and at risk for exploitation and abuse.

Protracted conflicts, often fueled by the inequitable distribution of resources and marginalization of ethnic or religious groups further compound the suffering of children and young people. In humanitarian situations, the poorest children are the hardest hit. Communities devastated by climate-related disasters often have the fewest resources to rebuild and recover, and remain at greater risk to future disasters.

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UNICEF in Action

Of all the world's inequities and injustices, this is perhaps the most fundamental: Children growing up in poverty are nearly twice as likely to die before reaching their fifth birthday as are children growing up in better circumstances. An unconscionable majority of them die of preventable causes. Most of these deaths could have been averted with low-cost, high-impact solutions. UNICEF has found that investments in the most deprived children and communities provide greater value for money spent than equivalent investments in less deprived groups. Every \$1 million invested in the poorest children and communities saves nearly twice as many lives as equivalent investments that do not reach the poor. By reaching those poorest communities with cost-effective health interventions, we can avert 70 million under-five deaths by 2030.

UNICEF works in direct partnership with governments to identify who the most vulnerable and excluded children are, and what they need. Through evidence gathering and policy guidance, UNICEF helps shape social protection systems that affect children nationwide. UNICEF policy experts help governments monitor their budgets to allocate resources to the poorest and most marginalized children, and design programs that will bring the greatest results. UNICEF also champions children's rights and promotes access to justice, ensuring that legal frameworks protect minorities from discrimination and exclusion.

Cash transfer programs are an important social protection tool that can help keep the poorest, most vulnerable households out of extreme poverty and ensure access to health care and quality education. Women-headed households are often the recipients of these cash grants, which have been proven to strengthen women's financial security, social status and participation in the labor force. In Nigeria, poverty is a primary barrier keeping children out of school. A cash transfer program was specifically designed by UNICEF to foster gender equality and was implemented in selected schools. Evaluations showed strong results, and the program will begin to be scaled up. In Yemen, UNICEF partnered with

the World Bank Group to deliver cash transfers to over 1.3 million of the most vulnerable households, reaching nearly one third of the population, including many in humanitarian situations, by strengthening national social protection systems.

In addition to partnership with governments, UNICEF also works with civil society actors, local leaders and families themselves to tackle the underlying drivers of child poverty and exclusion. For example, UNICEF worked with the civil society partner BRAC International in Bangladesh to unpack the drivers of harmful social norms and customs that exclude children from school. This is leading to an increase in school enrollment among children with disabilities, girls and other disadvantaged groups. UNICEF also empowers children to have a voice and be agents of change for the world they want. UNICEF's free, open-source SMS platform, U-Report, is reaching more than 2 million users in 45 countries in 2018. Through this tool, young people can voice their opinions, share information on what is happening in their schools and communities, and demand that local leaders make changes to improve their lives.

UNICEF Social Inclusion Snapshot

- Children make up only a third of the global population, but account for half of the people living in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.90 a day.
- There are an estimated 93 million children with disabilities in the world. They are often the most marginalized and vulnerable.
- From 2014 to 2017, UNICEF invested over \$1.2 billion in social inclusion programs, supported by over 195 professional staff in 155 country offices.
- UNICEF helps governments in 157 countries to provide critical social protection legislation and programs for the most vulnerable and marginalized children.
- UNICEF worked to strengthen social protection systems for humanitarian action in 40 countries. ●

Discrimination creates and compounds inequity. In the face of social exclusion, children in the most dire situations are the least likely to receive the care, resources and services they need.



children first.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH and Children

Globally, 2.3 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services and 844 million people lack access to clean drinking water. The lack of these basic necessities isn't just inconvenient — it's lethal.

Over 800 children die every day — about 1 every 2 minutes — from diarrhea due to unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, or poor hygiene. Suffering and death from diseases like pneumonia, trachoma, scabies, skin and eye infections, cholera and dysentery could be prevented by scaling up access to adequate water supply and sanitation facilities and eliminating open defecation.

Ensuring access to water and sanitation in schools can also help reduce the number of children who miss out on their education — especially girls. Scaling up access to WASH also supports efforts to protect vulnerable children from violence, exploitation and abuse, since women and girls bear the heaviest burden in water collection, often undertaking long, unsafe journeys to collect water.

UNICEF and WASH

Since 2014, more than 150 million people benefited from improved water supplies as a result of UNICEF's direct support; two thirds of these individuals were in emergencies contexts. UNICEF programs that started with an emphasis on water supply hardware, such as drilling rigs and hand pumps, have evolved toward a focus on sanitation and the "software" of supporting policy development, building the capacity of institutions and raising awareness about hygiene.



UNICEF has helped increase school enrollment in Malawi through the provision of safe drinking water.

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Today, UNICEF has WASH programs in 113 countries to promote the survival, protection and development of children and encourage behavior change around WASH. UNICEF works directly with governments, community-based organizations and families to ensure access to clean and secure supplies of water and convenient sanitary facilities. Improving sanitation and hygiene in schools is essential to increasing school attendance and empowering children as agents of change in their homes and communities. As the lead emergency agency in the WASH sector, UNICEF offers a core package of water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in times of humanitarian emergency.

About UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization, by providing health care and immunizations, safe water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more. UNICEF USA supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States. Together, we are working toward the day when no children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood.

For more information, visit unicefusa.org.

2017 UNICEF WASH Snapshot

In 2017, UNICEF:

- Invested over \$1 billion to reach the most vulnerable children and families around the world with WASH.
- Carried out water, sanitation, and hygiene programs in 113 countries with 650 experts.
- Continued to coordinate WASH humanitarian action as lead agency of the WASH Cluster, in a total of 69 countries.
- Reached 45 million people with improved water supplies and 22 million with improved sanitation, the highest numbers ever reached.
- Distributed 3.5 million hygiene kits, including immediate response kits, family hygiene and dignity kits and locally designed kits — more than double the number procured the year before.
- Improved WASH facilities and services in over 51,000 schools and 5,000 health centers, since 2014. ●

Community health workers have taught Amnata child health-related interventions, including hand washing and other good hygiene practices.



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