



for every child

TOP TEN THINGS ABOUT UNICEF



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Children make up close to 30% of our global human family. Over eight decades, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has built an unprecedented global support system to help protect children and their rights. UNICEF relentlessly works day in and day out to deliver the essentials that give every child an equitable chance in life. Here are ten facts about UNICEF and its work.

1 UNICEF is a human rights 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 believes in and promotes the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a global human rights treaty for children.
- UNICEF protects children’s rights and development through programs on health, education, water and sanitation, protection, nutrition and more.
- In conflicts, UNICEF’s commitment to neutrality allows the organization to help negotiate cease-fires and set up humanitarian corridors to save and protect children.
- UNICEF holds everyone equally accountable to children, calling out rights violations by governments and non-state actors alike.

2 UNICEF believes in equity

- Every child, everywhere, has a right to survive, develop and reach his or her full potential. Yet, as of 2019, 14,000 children under age 5 die every day from preventable causes.
- UNICEF is committed to helping every child thrive, particularly 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 works in over 190 countries and territories, with programs in 157 countries and National Committees in 33 countries conducting advocacy, education and fundraising.
- The oldest and largest of the national committees, UNICEF USA was UNICEF’s largest private sector donor in 2020.

For more information, visit [unicefusa.org](https://www.unicefusa.org).

4 UNICEF delivers results for children at scale

- In 2020, total expenses for UNICEF programs amounted to \$5.715 billion.
- 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 development, safe and healthy environments, and adolescent development.

5 UNICEF is a leader in emergencies

- In 2020, UNICEF responded to 455 new and ongoing humanitarian crises in 152 countries.
- UNICEF is the global leader in humanitarian response on WASH and nutrition, and co-leads the response on education. UNICEF also supports child protection in response to disasters and conflict (other than internally displaced persons).
- UNICEF is dedicated to ensuring special protection for children in humanitarian crises.
- UNICEF's humanitarian warehouse in Copenhagen, Denmark, 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 helps shape 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 to 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 75 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.
- Today, UNICEF remains as committed as ever to its mission of helping every child, everywhere, realize his or her rights.