

Ending Trafficking in the U.S. and Making a Safer World for our Children

Overview

Violations of the child's right to protection take many forms, occurring in every country and transcending ethnic and economic lines. UNICEF focuses on the children who are especially vulnerable to these threats, such as children living amidst warring factions, those in conflict with the law or children living without parental care. The most susceptible children also include the poorest, those belonging to marginalized or indigenous groups, children living in urban slums, institutions or detention centers, the disabled and girls.

UNICEF in Action around the World

UNICEF is working at the global, regional, country and local levels to protect children through a rights-based approach, taking into account a range of possible threats and outcomes, and effective prevention and response mechanisms. A rights-based approach means that UNICEF presupposes every child has a right to a healthy, safe, productive life, and works to protect and ensure these rights, which is different from a charity approach. UNICEF's approach to child protection prioritizes strengthening systems that account for multiple risk factors, negative and overlapping outcomes, and the linked and nested components of a responsible and responsive system. By working with governments, community and religious leaders, civil society organizations and families, **UNICEF is building a protective environment for children that will help prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation.** UNICEF's work in child protection focuses on eight essential components, including:

UNICEF defines "child protection" as the responsibility to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse against children, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, bullying, gang violence, physically and emotionally violent child discipline, child labor, sex-selective infanticide and harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation and cutting and child early and forced marriage. Child protection also means protecting children from themselves when they become agents of violence and crime.

- Strengthening government commitment and capacity to fulfill children's right to protection
- Promoting the establishment and enforcement of adequate legislation
- Addressing harmful attitudes, customs and practices
- Encouraging open discussion of child protection issues with media and civil society partners
- Developing children's life skills, knowledge and participation
- Building capacity of families and communities to protect children and respond to violations
- Providing essential services for prevention, recovery and reintegration
- Establishing and implementing ongoing and effective monitoring, reporting and oversight

UNICEF is able to work at the highest levels of government to influence policy, while simultaneously working with community leaders to ensure norms and practices respect basic child rights and educate about the threats facing many children.

SNAPSHOT OF STATISTICS: VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

- In 2012 alone, almost **1 in 5 of all homicide victims was a child**.
- About **120 million girls** under the age of 20 (about 1 in 10) have been **subjected to forced sexual intercourse** or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives. Boys are also at risk, although a global estimate is unavailable due to the lack of comparable data in most countries.
- Around **6 in 10 children** between the ages of 2 and 14 worldwide **are subject to physical punishment** by their caregivers on a regular basis.
- More than 700 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday.
- Slightly more than **1 in 3 students** between the ages of 13 and 15 worldwide **experience bullying** on a regular basis.
- **1 in 3 adolescent girls** aged 15 to 19 worldwide (84 million) has been the **victim of emotional, physical or sexual violence committed by their husbands or partners** at some point in their lives.

End Trafficking: U.S. Fund for UNICEF in Action in the United States

While UNICEF works to protect children on a global scale, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF (USF) has created the End Trafficking project to increase awareness and advocacy around child trafficking within the U.S. This initiative raises awareness about child trafficking and mobilizes communities to take meaningful action to help protect children. In partnership with concerned individuals, active citizens, and groups, the End Trafficking project aims to bring us all closer to a day when there are zero exploited children.

Child trafficking, defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation, is a grave violation of the rights of children and denies them the opportunity to reach their full potential. There have been reports of human trafficking in all 50 U.S. states. The U.S. is also a source and transit point for trafficking, and is considered one of the major destinations for trafficking victims. In the U.S., more citizens are victims of sex trafficking than labor trafficking (Trafficking in Persons Report, 2012). Pimp-controlled prostitution is one of the most common forms of sex trafficking. It occurs at truck stops, massage parlors, residential brothels, and through escort agencies and online solicitations. The most commonly reported forms of labor trafficking in the U.S. are in domestic work, restaurants,

peddling rings, and sales crews (Polaris Project).

USF is uniquely positioned to educate the American public -- especially young adults -- on human trafficking and other humanitarian issues. USF's commitment and action to build a movement to combat child trafficking is making positive changes around this issue. In January 2013, a national public awareness campaign was launched, generating a significant amount of attention for the issue of child trafficking and the National Human Trafficking Hotline. With help from UNICEF Ambassador Angie Harmon, the campaign garnered nearly a billion media impressions.

Over the last year, USF has worked in close collaboration with anti-trafficking groups such as the Polaris Project and the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) on public awareness efforts focusing on some of the most vulnerable children in the U.S. - kids in foster care. In order to maximize outreach, USF leverages an array of media platforms including television and radio Public Service Announcements, print and digital advertisements, billboards, and mall posters. Together with partners, USF is engaging and equipping a broad audience to speak out in support of strengthening the child welfare system's response to human trafficking.

The Impact of Your Support

With support from NextGen, the UNICEF Child Protection and USF End Trafficking project will ensure the safety and rights of more children around the world. An investment of \$200,000 will be split evenly between UNICEF's

child protection work and USF's End Trafficking programming. By giving thematically to both programs, NextGen will enable technical experts to allocate towards those programs and children most in need in a flexible and transparent way.

UNICEF Child Protection Thematic

By supporting UNICEF's child protection work thematically, NextGen will enable UNICEF to direct funds towards the most pressing child protection needs, ensuring swift and flexible response to emergent situations and providing funding to some of the most neglected streams of child protection work.

Below are examples of the impact a \$200,000 investment from NextGen could have on those children most in need*:

- Provision of a minimum package of services for 195 orphaned and vulnerable children in Burundi;
- Support of recovery services including temporary accommodation, food, basic personal needs and counselling for 100 child victims of abuse, sexual exploitation and human trafficking;
- Creation of access to physical rehabilitation, prostheses and wheelchairs for more than 700 survivors of landmines in Cambodia; and
- Reintegration of 250 victims of trafficking and unsafe migration into communities and provide follow up support by social workers.

The U.S. Fund for UNICEF End Trafficking Project

In partnership with NextGen, the End Trafficking project will continue to expand its constituency across the U.S. and ramp up education and advocacy efforts. Below are examples of the expanded programming work that could be made possible in partnership with NextGen:

- Creation of additional and new End Trafficking Resources that can be used for advocacy and education purposes such as one pagers, toolkits, and postcards;
- Expand End Trafficking trainings through the Global Citizenship Fellow program, campus and high school clubs, faith-based communal organizations, etc.; and
- Develop Public Awareness Campaigns leveraging various media outlets (PSAs, posters, billboards, et.) in order to expand awareness and reach of End Trafficking campaign.

Contact Information

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