



children first.

# UNICEF: We Put Children First

**F**or 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 half since 1990 and save nearly 50 million children’s lives since 2000.

In 2016, UNICEF responded to 344 humanitarian crises in a record 108 countries. At a time when one out of every four children in the world lives in countries and areas affected by armed conflicts, UNICEF and partners work tirelessly to reach those in greatest need.

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



UNICEF programs have helped cut child mortality rates in half since 1990.

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

### HEALTH CARE

The world’s largest procurer of vaccines, UNICEF immunizes 45% of all children and promotes high-impact interventions.

### 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, and unite families after disaster.