

Keep in Mind

Use the **Volunteer Resources** on our website to help further guide your conversations.

Support UNICEF USA Book Club



A UNICEF USA Book Club is a great way to bring together family, friends and/or colleagues who love to read and discuss important issues relevant to the work of UNICEF around the world. Starting a Book Club is fun and easy. Follow these steps to build a community of informed advocates prepared to take action on behalf of children worldwide. This guide contains recommended books, guiding questions and information about what UNICEF and UNICEF USA are doing to put children first.

Books on the list do not necessarily reflect the official views of UNICEF USA or UNICEF. Neither UNICEF USA, nor UNICEF has independently confirmed the veracity of each book's content. The inclusion of book titles should not be construed as an explicit or implicit endorsement of the publications, the authors' or publishers' views or interpretations. The content of some books may be considered inappropriate for readers under 18 years of age.



Getting Started

Spread the word

- Gather a group of friends, family and/or coworkers together — between 5 and 15 people.
- Post flyers around your community; send out emails to those you know; tell your community members to spread the word.

Choose your environment

 Do you prefer to meet at someone's house? A quiet café or restaurant is also a great option. Or, you can also mix it up each time.

Coordinate meeting details

 Coordinate with everyone the best day, time and place everyone can meet. Don't forget to schedule in time for a meal or some snacks.

Communicate expectations

- Before your first meeting, send an email to everyone about how the book club will run.
- Set expectations: how often will you meet (once a month is typical), for how long will you meet (about two hours is a good amount of time), location and address of where you are meeting.

Determine how books and moderators will be chosen

- Choose from the many books listed below. You may want to do a bit of research first on the author, topic, time period, etc.
- Members should have a voice in the book that will be chosen.
- Choose who is going to moderate the meeting each time.

Share What You Learn

Take action

Together with your Book Club, think about taking action together:

- Host an awareness-raising event and/or a panel discussion to educate your larger community on the issue about which your book club just read: unicefusa.org/fundraisers.
- Host a fundraiser and raise crucial funds for children around the world: unicefusa.org/fundraisers.
- Advocate with your local representatives: unicefusa. org/advocate.

Share your story

 We want to hear from you and share your story with other volunteers to inspire them to take action: unicefusa.org/form/share-your-story.

Follow us on social media

- Facebook: UNICEF USA
- Instagram and Twitter: @UNICEFUSA

More Information

For more information on the issue areas in this guide, check out our **Volunteer Resources** page for UNICEF Program Area information sheets.



Philanthropy

The world today spends around US \$25 billion to provide lifesaving assistance to 125 million people devastated by wars and natural disasters — twelve times greater than fifteen years ago. There is still a funding gap for humanitarian action of an estimated US \$15 billion. Funding by individuals, foundations and companies has grown from 16 per cent of recorded humanitarian aid in 2006 to 24 percent in 2014. (High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing Report to the Secretary-General, Jan 2016)

Books

- Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World Bill Clinton
- A Mighty Purpose: How UNICEF's James P. Grant Sold the World on Saving It's Children Adam Fifield
- Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World Tracy Kidder
- Strength in What Remains Tracy Kidder
- The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time Jeffrey Sachs
- I Believe in Zero: Learning from the World's Children Caryl M. Stern
- Love in the Driest Season: A Family Memoir Neely Tucker
- Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty Muhammad Yunus (2006 Nobel Peace Prize Winner)
- Creating a World Without Poverty Muhammad Yunus (2006 Nobel Peace Prize Winner)

Guiding Questions

- **1** How have you been taught to think about philanthropy?
- **2** What motivates you to give?
- **3** Do you believe you have a serious role to play in changing the world? Why?
- 4 What role do you think UNICEF plays in changing the world?
- **5** Why do you think supporting UNICEF is a good investment in the future?

UNICEF and UNICEF USA

As a development organization, UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, help meet their basic needs, and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

- UNICEF is 100 percent funded by voluntary contributions — relying on individuals, governments and partners.
- UNICEF USA is one of 34 national committees around the world that secures crucial financial support and government funding for UNICEF. Ninety cents of every dollar is given directly to UNICEF's life-saving programs.
- Since its inception, UNICEF USA has provided UNICEF and various NGOs with \$6.3 billion in cash and gifts-in-kind.
- UNICEF USA also continues to receive the highest ratings for transparency, accountability and administration from Charity Navigator.
- UNICEF USA is working to build a culture of philanthropy in the next generation through our volunteers, UNICEF Clubs, UNICEF Next Generation, our Civil Society Partners, corporate partnerships, and donors.

View more resources about UNICEF and UNICEF USA at the end of this guide.

Wherever the poorest children are, wherever the most vulnerable children are, wherever the forgotten children are, that is where we must also be — in even greater measure.

- Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF

Child Protection

Two hundred and fifty million children around the world live in countries affected by violent conflicts. Violations of children's right to protection occur in every country and transcend ethnic and economic lines. Children subjected to violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect endure the highest risk of death, poor physical and mental health, HIV infection, educational problems, displacement and homelessness.

Books

- I Am Nujood: Age 10 and Divorced Nujood Ali with Delphine Minoui
- The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today
 Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter
- A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier Ishmael Beah
- Not On Our Watch: The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond
 Don Cheadle and John Prendergast
- Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale, an Activist Finds Her Calling and Heals Herself Rachel Lloyd



Guiding Questions

- **1** What is child protection? What is a child protection policy?
- **2** Why do we need child protection policies and procedures?
- **3** Why do you think it's important to have a UN agency (UNICEF) specifically devoted to the rights of children?
- 4 What responsibility do governments have to protect the rights of children?
- **5** What role can you play in supporting child protection?

What UNICEF is doing?

UNICEF aims to protect children around the world from violence, exploitation, and abuse so that they can lead healthy and productive lives.

- UNICEF identifies child protection risks and gaps.
- UNICEF assists governments to develop the right budgets, policies and legislation to protect children in a variety of dimensions: juvenile justice, special support to unaccompanied and separated children, addressing discriminatory practices, supporting birth registration, preventing trafficking, and child labor.
- UNICEF strengthens systems to report cases of violence, exploitation, and abuse, and provides referrals, follow-up and services for the most vulnerable children.
- A core component of UNICEF's approach is to empower youth as agents of change.
- UNICEF works with local community leaders and families to address harmful attitudes, customs, and practices such as child marriage.

View more resources about UNICEF and UNICEF USA at the end of this guide.

Violence against children is not inevitable. Every child has the right to grow up free from violence and we all need to work together to realize that vision.

> Dr. Susan Bissell, Director of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

Education

If all students in low-income countries had basic reading skills, global poverty could drop by 12% — transforming the lives of 171 million people. Currently, there are 59 million children out of primary school and 65 million adolescents are out of secondary school — a total of 124 million children who are missing out on their education.

Books

 The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope

William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

 Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations...One School at a Time Greg Mortenson and David Relin

Guiding Questions

- Why is education critical to the development of both societies and individuals?
- 2 What impact does receiving an education have on a child's potential to not just survive, but thrive?
- 3 Why is investing in girl's education particularly important?
- 4 How can you support UNICEF's work to support a child's right to learn?

What UNICEF is doing?

Education is one of the smartest investments to support child survival, growth, and development. UNICEF works in 156 countries to scale up access to quality education for the most marginalized children.

- On average, just one additional year of education can increase a child's earnings later in life by 10 percent.
- UNICEF works in direct partnership with governments at the highest levels to establish the right policies and budgets based on country-specific needs.
- UNICEF works at the community level with administrators, teachers, parents, and children themselves to increase access to education in a quality learning environment.

View more resources about UNICEF and UNICEF USA at the end of this guide.

Social Inclusion

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. Many children are excluded from realizing their basic rights because of their gender, race, ethnicity, geographic location, or disability.

Books

 Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan Greg Mortenson

Guiding Questions

- **1** Why is social inclusion critical in early childhood development?
- **2** How can this practice impact long-term growth in societies?
- 3 Does inclusive quality education lead to more inclusive societies?

What UNICEF is doing?

UNICEF works in direct partnership with governments to identify who the most vulnerable and excluded children are, and what they need.

- 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 empowers children to have a voice and be agents of change for the world they want.



Emergencies

Today, 40 percent of the 1.4 billion people living in countries affected by crisis are under the age of 15. Nearly 50 million children have been uprooted from their homes, fleeing war, conflict, and persecution, or are on the run in search of a better, safer life.

Books

- They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan Benjamin Ajak, Benson Deng
- Where Soldiers Fear to Tread: A Relief Worker's Tale of Survival John Burnett
- The House on Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood Helene Coopert
- Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy Carlos Eire
- Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo Zlata Filipovic
- We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families: Stories from Rwanda Philip Gourevitch
- A Thousand Splendid Suns Khaled Hosseini
- Rutka's Notebook: A Voice from the Holocaust Rutka Laskier
- Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid in South Africa Mark Mathebane
- All Things Must Fight to Live: Stories of War and Deliverance in Congo Bryan Mealer
- Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood Marjane Satrapi
- First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers Loung Ung

Guiding Questions

- **1** Why should the global community be responsible for protecting children in emergencies?
- 2 How do emergencies uniquely affect children?
- **3** How can you motivate others to respond in times of emergency, such as supporting UNICEF's lifesaving work?
- 4 What can we learn from past emergencies, and the world's response to them?

What UNICEF is doing?

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

- UNICEF leads other humanitarian partners on WASH, nutrition, and gender-based violence preparedness and response, and co-leads the education cluster.
- With program offices in 157 countries, seven regional offices, and headquarters in six different cities, UNICEF can tap into existing partnerships and systems, mobilizing a fast and efficient response.
- UNICEF is constantly tapping into innovative tools and approaches.
- In Copenhagen, UNICEF operates the largest humanitarian warehouse in the world, and can pack and ship supplies anywhere within 48–72 hours.



Gender

Despite great progress on the road to realizing the rights of women and girls, some 63 million girls are out of school around the world. The reduction of maternal mortality has been uneven and slow, with more than 800 women dying every day from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Books

- Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into **Opportunity for Women Worldwide** Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
- Unbowed: A Memoir Wangari Maathai (2004 Nobel Peace Prize Winner)
- Falling Leaves: The True Story of an Unwanted **Chinese Daughter** Adeline Yen Mah
- Prisoner of Tehran: One Woman's Story of Survival Inside a Torture Jail Marina Nemat
- This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President





Guiding Questions

- 1 When you hear the words gender equality, what comes to mind?
- 2 What is the difference between gender equity, gender equality, and women's empowerment?
- 3 Why are women's rights so important to development and peace-building?
- 4 Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in program design and implementation?
- 5 How is gender equality a concern for both men and women?

What UNICEF is doing?

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.

- UNICEF's equity approach ensures that the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, especially girls, are empowered so they can grow up to lead healthy, productive lives.
- UNICEF helped shape the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (2015-2030) to ensure that girls' needs were properly reflected and prioritized.
- UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 is to achieve gender equality, and empower all women and girls.
- UNICEF works directly with governments and with local actors at the community level in 157 countries to advocate for girls, promote gender equality, and realize the rights of girls and women in a variety of ways.
- In emergency settings, UNICEF provides violence prevention and support services to millions of girls and women.

View more resources about UNICEF and UNICEF USA at the end of this guide.

In 2016, UNICEF conducted gender-based violence prevention and protection for 4.6 million children in emergency settings in 54 countries

Health

Every day, some 16,000 children under the age of five die from things we can prevent. Between 1990 and 2015, the number of children under five dying every year fell from 12.7 million to 5.9 million. Yet 236 million children died from preventable causes during this period.

Books

 The First 1,000 Days: A Crucial Time for Mothers and Children – and the World Roger Thurow

Guiding Questions

- Why is health so critical in the first 1,000 days of a child's life?
- 2 Why do you think improving the health of the world's children is a core UNICEF objective?
- **3** What role does culture play in promoting practices that support children's health?

What UNICEF is doing?

UNICEF helps shape governments' health policies and budgets, trains health care workers, and strengthens immunization and community health programs.

 UNICEF works with local actors, religious leaders, community health workers, municipal authorities, and families to generate demand for health services.

View more resources about UNICEF and UNICEF USA at the end of this guide.

HIV/AIDS

About one-third of babies with HIV die before their first birthday, and half of children with HIV die before they are two years old. UNICEF has been working with partners on a concerted global effort to fight HIV/AIDS for over two decades. This international response has prevented 30 million new HIV infections and nearly 8 million AIDS-related deaths, since 2000.

Books

- Ana's Story: A Journey of Hope Jenna Bush
- 28 Stories of AIDS in Africa Stephanie Nolen

Guiding Questions

- **1** What is the first thing you think of when you hear the words HIV/AIDS?
- **2** What can be done to stop the stigma people may have about HIV/AIDS?

What UNICEF is doing?

UNICEF is working to achieve an AIDS-free generation by 2030.

 UNICEF's HIV/AIDS programs are closely planned and carried out with other programs, including health, social protection, nutrition, WASH, emergency programming, and an overall focus on empowering girls and women.



Nutrition

Some 159 million children under five — about 1 in 4 worldwide — are chronically malnourished. Nutrition is critical for a child's mental and physical development, particularly in the first 1,000 days, spanning from conception to age two.

Books

 The Soul of a New Cuisine: A Discovery of the Foods and Flavors of Africa Marcus Samuelsson

Guiding Question

What are some of the underlying causes as to why children aren't getting the necessary nutrients they need?

What UNICEF is doing?

UNICEF is working in 127 countries to carry out maternal and child nutrition programs.

- 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.
- 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.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Globally, 2.4 billion people lack access to improved sanitation facilities, and 663 million people use unsafe drinking water sources. The lack of these basic necessities isn't just inconvenient — it's lethal. Illness caused by unsafe drinking water, lack of sanitation, and poor hygiene are among the leading causes of death for children under five, contributing to nearly 1,000 preventable child deaths every day.

Books

- Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water Aude Barlow
- Elixir: A History of Water and Humankind Brian Fagan
- The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water Charles Fishman
- Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What to Do About It Robert Glennon
- A Long Walk to Water Linda Sue Park
- When the Rivers Run Dry: Water The Defining Crisis of the Twenty-first Century Fred Pearce
- The Ripple Effect: The Fate of Freshwater in the Twenty-First Century Alex Prud'homme

Guiding Questions

- Why are water, sanitation and hygiene important in one's daily life?
- **2** How is your access to water different from the millions of children around the world?
- **3** What factors in the area of WASH prevent a child from attending school?
- 4 Why do you think improving access to clean drinking water is a core UNICEF objective?
- **5** What can you do in your community to help UNICEF's lifesaving work in the area of WASH?

What UNICEF is doing?

Since 1990, UNICEF and partners have played a key role in helping to ensure that 2.6 billion people gain access to safe drinking water.

- Today, UNICEF has WASH programs in 107 countries to promote the survival, protection and development of children and support behavior change around WASH.
- UNICEF works directly with governments, communitybased organizations and families to ensure access to clean and secure supplies of water and convenient sanitary facilities.
- Improving sanitation and hygiene in schools is a core pillar of programs to increase school attendance and empower 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 amid complex emergencies.
- In 2015, UNICEF helped over 25 million people in 70 countries gain access to safe water for drinking, cooking and bathing in emergency settings.





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 34 organizations, called national committees, around the world that secures crucial financial support and government funding for UNICEF.
- Together, the national committees, including UNICEF USA, raise approximately 30% of the operational budget of UNICEF.
- 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, UNICEF USA has provided UNICEF and various NGOs with \$6.8 billion in cash and gifts-in-kind.
- In fiscal year 2016, 426,558 individuals as well as 10,458 partner corporations, foundations, NGOs, schools and clubs made our work possible by generating more than \$568 million in support of UNICEF's work.
- UNICEF USA successfully advocated for Congress to direct the U.S. Government to allocate \$132.5 million to UNICEF in fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017.



Top 10 Things To Know About UNICEF



LUNICEF 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 2016, UNICEF supplied 2.5 billion vaccine doses, reaching almost half of the world's children under age 5.
- UNICEF and partners have helped 2.6 billion people access safe drinking water since 1990.
- UNICEF programs in 121 countries help to prevent and treat malnutrition — linked to nearly half of all deaths of children under age 5.
- Over the last two years, UNICEF has helped register nearly 22 million births, providing children with legal identities and helping prevent them from missing out on critical services.
- Over the last three years, UNICEF has provided nearly 47 million children, many affected or displaced by conflict, with education materials.

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 16,000 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 34 countries conducting advocacy, education and fundraising.
- Oldest and largest of the national committees, UNICEF USA was UNICEF's fourth largest donor in 2016.

4 UNICEF delivers results for children at scale.

- In 2016, UNICEF spent \$4.7 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 and adolescent development.

5 UNICEF is a leader in emergencies.

- In 2016, UNICEF responded to 344 humanitarian emergencies
 from conflicts to natural disasters in 108 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.

BUNICEF 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 gives children a voice.

- 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 70!

- 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.