



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), originally known as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, was established during the aftermath of World War II on December 11th, 1946. Although it initially had the aim of assisting children in desperate need of food and other emergency supplies, this temporary relief fund from the United Nations (UN) later on became the flagship organization that sought to protect children. In October 1953, the General Assembly determined that UNICEF would continue to support vulnerable children indefinitely (Tomassini and Yi, n.d.).

Currently present in over 190 countries, UNICEF is nowadays an organization that seeks to respond to all sorts of human rights violations against children, thus saving their lives and aiming to develop them toward reaching their full potential. Moreover, this organization has developed several programs which ought to promote child and adolescent development in areas such as social and behavior change, education, child protection, gender equality, health, sexually transmitted diseases, and nutrition, amongst others. In this manner, UNICEF has largely become a global presence in the political, social, cultural, and economic sectors of various countries and thus contributed to a general improvement in child well-being across the globe (UNICEF, n.d.).

With regard to their objectives, UNICEF is strongly committed to supporting every possible child who is affected by a humanitarian crisis, as well as seeking to guarantee good health, education, protection, and social inclusion for them (UNICEF, n.d.). That being said, there are several ongoing issues that currently affect the reach UNICEF could have across the globe. For instance, conflict zones, unprecedented global hunger, two years of disrupted education, and climate change have posed unprecedented complications that have not been easy to overcome (Save The Children, 2023).

Nevertheless, the achievements this organization has reached throughout the past four years alone have also heavily impacted children in a positive manner. In 2021, the COVAX Mechanism allowed UNICEF to provide 958 million COVID vaccine doses to 144 countries. Moreover, from 2018 to 2021, almost 70 million people were able to access clean and drinkable water. Lastly, in 2021, UNICEF responded to 483 new humanitarian crises, as well as 153 chronic ones (UNICEF, 2021).





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