



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 on December 11, 1946, during the aftermath of World War II. It was created to aid children in Europe who were in urgent need of food and other emergency supplies. However, in October 1953, the General Assembly decided that UNICEF would continue to serve children and adolescents in vulnerable situations indefinitely and on a global level. Thus, what was created as a temporary relief agency became a permanent agency with a mandate to protect children and adolescents, promote their rights and ensure their well-being.

UNICEF is currently present in more than 190 countries and its actions are based on the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It focuses on addressing issues related to the development of children and adolescents, such as child protection and inclusion; child survival; education; health and nutrition; social policies; protection from violence and abuse; access to safe water and sanitation supplies; protection from climate change; and assistance in emergency and/or human mobility contexts. In addition, UNICEF pays special attention to helping children and adolescents who are in particularly disadvantaged circumstances, whether they are children with disabilities, migrants, refugees or displaced, or immersed in armed conflicts, natural disasters, conditions of extreme poverty and inequality, environments of violence and exploitation, etc.

Thus, UNICEF is based in New York, United States, and has an Executive Board that functions as its governing body. It consists of 36 Member States, elected based on a principle of regional representation to serve a three-year term. They meet three times a year and their work consist of providing intergovernmental support, overseeing UNICEF's activities and approving its policies, programs and budgets. However, UNICEF is funded by entirely voluntary contributions from individuals, companies and public and private institutions. Unfortunately, the contributions it receives, especially from partner governments, are often insufficient to fully achieve its objectives. This restricts its ability to respond to various humanitarian crises and limits the effectiveness, scope and continuity of its efforts.





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