

UNICEF works in 190 countries and territories to protect the rights of every child. UNICEF has spent 70 years working to improve the lives of children and their families. Defending children's rights throughout their lives requires a global presence, aiming to produce results and understand their effects.

UNICEF's History

For over 70 years, UNICEF has been the defender of children around the world, regardless of gender, religion, race or economic background. When the world's most vulnerable need a champion in the face of conflict, disease or exclusion, UNICEF has been there.

Get to know UNICEF through our work on behalf of the world's most vulnerable.

https://www.unicef.org/about-us/70-years-for-every-child



UNICEF's Mission

The world has changed, but children's needs have not.
See how UNICEF's commitment to children remains as strong as ever despite the complexities of our world.



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Several children stand next to one another in an informal settlement, in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. Photograph by Sara, 9, a Syrian refugee, who lives in the settlement and wanted to show the conditions in which residents live.



"The next steps of our journey will depend on our willingness to adapt to the changing world around us... to infuse equity throughout our programmes... and to find new ways to realize the rights – and brighten the futures – of the most disadvantaged children around the world". Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

In all of its work, UNICEF takes a life-cycle based approach, recognizing the particular importance of early childhood development and adolescence. UNICEF programmes focus on the most disadvantaged children, including those living in fragile contexts, those with disabilities, those who are affected by rapid urbanization and those affected by environmental degradation.

UNICEF was created with a distinct purpose in mind: to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child's path. We advocate for measures to give children the best start in life, because proper care at the youngest age forms the strongest foundation for a person's future.

We promote girls' education – ensuring that they complete primary education as a minimum – because it benefits all children, both girls and boys. Girls who are educated grow up to become better thinkers, better citizens, and better parents to their own children. We act so that all children are immunized against common childhood diseases, and are well nourished: no child should suffer or die from a preventable illness. We work to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people because it is right to keep them from harm and enable them to protect others. We help children and families affected by HIV/AIDS to live their lives with dignity.

We involve everyone in creating protective environments for children. We are present to relieve suffering during emergencies, and wherever children are threatened, because no child should be exposed to violence, abuse or exploitation.

UNICEF upholds the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We work to assure equality for those who are discriminated against, girls and women in particular. We work for the Millennium Development Goals and for the progress promised in the United Nations Charter. We strive for peace and security. We work to hold everyone accountable to the promises made for children.

We are part of the Global Movement for Children – a broad coalition dedicated to improving the life of every child. Through this movement, and events such as the United Nations Special Session on Children, we encourage young people to speak out and participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

We are active in more than 190 countries and territories through country programmes and National Committees. We are UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.

UNICEF's Vision

All children have a right to survive, thrive and fulfill their potential – to the benefit of a better world.



UNICEF's Market

UNICEF is committed to the effective use of resources to bring about change in the lives of millions of children around the world each day. Partners can provide these resources in the form of direct or indirect funding, people (volunteers, consultants and seconded personnel), partnerships, or equipment and other in-kind donations.

- Market sales. http://www.market.unicefusa.org/
- Fundraising

Types of support from resource partners 2007–2016 divided by Regular Resources and Other Resources - Regular and Emergency.

2016 Contributions by Funding Type



Good / Service

UNICEF is dedicated to protecting children's and women's rights through helping them meet their basic needs and expanding their opportunities. Making essential supplies available, accessible and affordable is core to this commitment.



In 2016, innovation is vital to improving the state of the world's children. The speed at which global problems -- from disease outbreaks, to the global refugee crisis, to millions of out-of-school children -- disrupt the lives of children around the world is only getting faster.

UNICEF innovates in order to stay agile and find solutions to the evolving challenges affecting all children.



Innovation at UNICEF is driven by an interdisciplinary team of individuals around the world tasked with identifying, prototyping, and scaling technologies and practices that strengthen UNICEF's work for children. Innovations range from new ways to structure programmes to new products and technologies.

To create these solutions, UNICEF works with a network of global problem solvers who can find new ways to accelerate results that reduce inequities for children. These innovators are also creating a new global infrastructure of openness, of collaboration across borders, of exploration, and of innovation for equity.

We see, in countries around the world, young people pushing the boundaries of what's possible and creating a future they want – and the future is appearing in the places that UNICEF works before it happens in the "global north."

From innovations like mobile birth registration in Nigeria, to using drones in Malawi to transport blood samples for early infant diagnosis of HIV, to using SMS to support mothers in Mexico – the connected world that we live in is generating and sharing opportunities in a fundamentally different way than it ever has before.

Access to information is essential to achieving equity. The biggest change that we need to foster, and that is happening already in some places, is the push to connect the world's most marginalized populations so they have access to information, to opportunity, and to choice. This underlies a great deal of the innovation agenda – because without access to information and connectivity young people are stifled and put at risk.

Within UNICEF, innovation is led by:

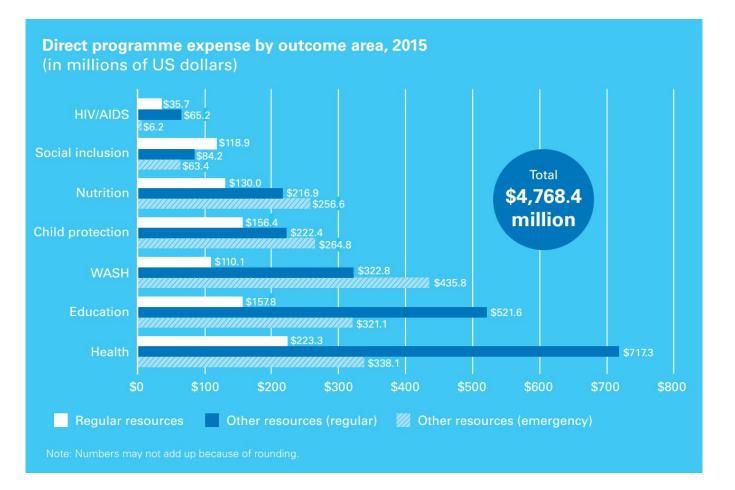
- The Office of Innovation, which focuses on solutions at varying stages: Futures, Ventures, and Scale.
- An Innovation Unit within the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen, which focuses on improving the designs of product innovation that help children.
- A network of Innovation Labs and problem solvers around the world that bring together the private sector, academia, and the public sector to develop solutions for key social issues, and ensure we are always watching for new ideas from unexpected places.

UNICEF's approach to innovation is based on our Innovation Principles, which highlight the importance of designing with the end-user, understanding local ecosystems, designing for scale, and using open source technology and open data.

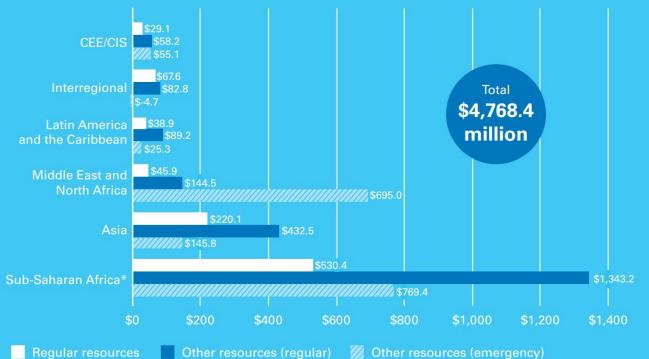
UNICEF expenditure, 2015 (in millions of US dollars)

BUDGET CATEGORY	
Development	\$4,675
Programme	\$4,546
Development effectiveness	\$129
Management	\$312
United Nations development coordination	\$6
Special purpose (including capital investment)	\$22
Other (including private fundraising and partnerships)	\$97
Total expenditure	\$5,112

Note: The UNICEF expenditure by budget categories in this table is presented on a modified cash basis and reflects cash disbursements and internal obligation documents (such as purchase orders) created in 2015.







^{*} Programme expenses for Djibouti and the Sudan are included under sub-Saharan Africa

Note: Numbers may not add up because of rounding

Results

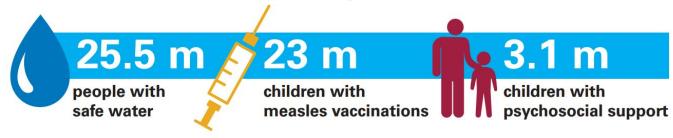
13.5 m

people are in urgent need of life-saving assistance

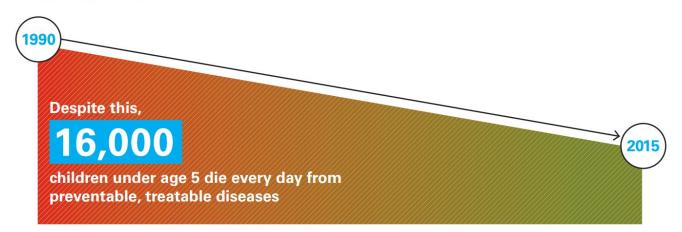
6 m

are children

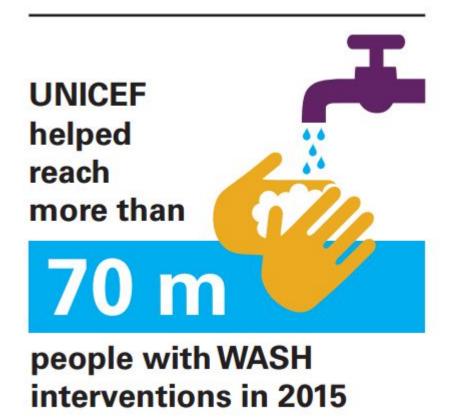
In humanitarian situations in 2015, UNICEF provided



The number of children who died before turning 5 fell by more than 50 per cent worldwide between 1990 and 2015



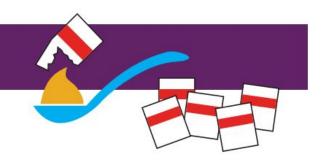
Results



Results

2.9 m

children with severe acute malnutrition treated



Along with our partners, UNICEF supplied







9 m

people visited or interacted with UNICEF's web content in 2015



27.2 m

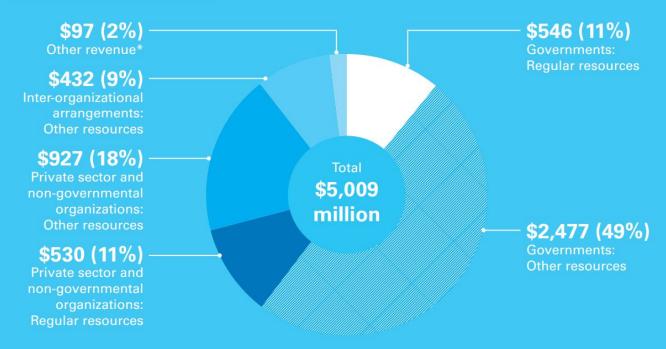
UNICEF's total global fan base on social media

\$3.4b

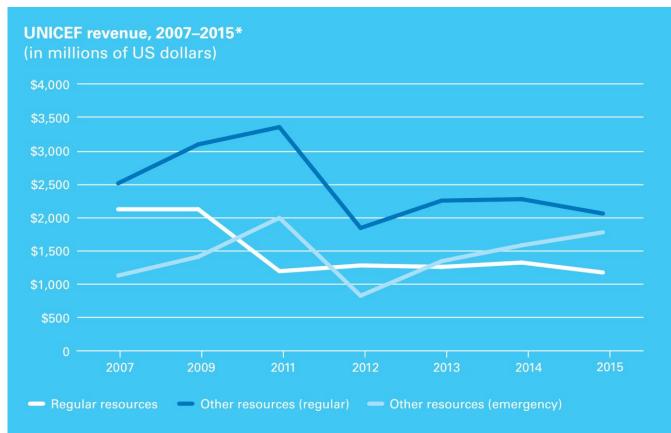
total value of supplies and services procured by UNICEF during the year



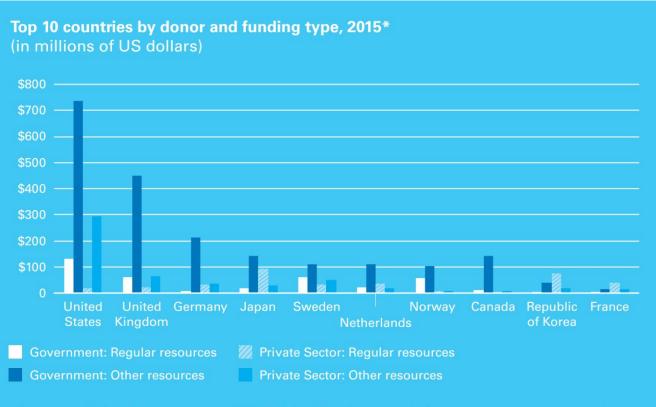
Total UNICEF revenue by source and funding type, 2015 (in millions of US dollars)



^{*} Other revenue includes income from interest, procurement and other sources



Prior to 2012 and International Public Sector Accounting Standards adoption, UNICEF issued Financial Statements every two years



Includes contributions from governments and UNICEF National Committees; excludes intergovernmental, non-governmental, inter-organizational and pooled funds contributions.

Data credits: https://www.unicef.org