

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age has increased by 1.2 billion, from 1.1 billion in 1980 to 2.3 billion in 1999 (United Nations 2000).

There is a growing awareness that the needs of children are not being met in many parts of the world. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has estimated that 100 million children are malnourished, 100 million are illiterate, 100 million are in need of shelter, and 100 million are in need of health care (UNICEF 1999). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has estimated that 1 billion children are living in poverty (UNDP 1999). The World Bank has estimated that 1 billion children are living in poverty (World Bank 1999).

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