## Child Protection and Inclusion

Adolescents

UNICEF takes a life-course approach to adolescent development and participation, identifying critical risks and opportunities that have implications for the realization of children’s rights, from the first decade through the second.

We address gaps in data to build evidence that drives action where it is most needed. With Governments and other partners, UNICEF works to strengthen health care, education and protection systems to ensure critical supplies and services reach the last mile, even in emergencies.

We advocate for adolescents’ rights at the national level, while locally engaging families and communities – often through programmes that change behaviours and social norms.

Our emphasis on equity puts the most marginalized adolescents – including girls, those who belong to ethnic or racial minorities, and those with [disabilities](https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/) – at the centre.

[**Health and well-being**](https://www.unicef.org/health/adolescent-health-and-well-being)

UNICEF works with health providers to support gender-responsive services tailored to adolescents’ needs, including for HIV prevention and treatment. We support nutrition to fuel developing bodies and brains, work to ensure that girls have what they need to manage their menstrual health and hygiene, and generate evidence on adolescent mental health.

[**Learning and skills**](https://www.unicef.org/education/skills-development)

UNICEF works with Governments and other partners to expand and protect access to quality, gender-equitable education, and to improve student participation and learning. We work alongside adolescents to co-create solutions that support their transition into adult life and work, like traditional and non-formal paths to education and skills development.

[**Protection**](https://www.unicef.org/adolescence/protection)  
To keep adolescents safe and supported, UNICEF works to prevent and respond to violence within families, among peers, in schools and online. We also tackle the growing risks adolescents face in [humanitarian settings](https://www.unicef.org/adolescence/humanitarian-action), promote adolescent-friendly justice systems, and address harmful practices like [child marriage](https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-marriage) and [female genital mutilation](https://www.unicef.org/protection/female-genital-mutilation).  
 [**Participation and civic engagement**](https://www.unicef.org/adolescence/participation)

To expand opportunities for adolescents to participate meaningfully in their communities and the political processes that affect them, UNICEF empowers them to actively engage and voice their views and opinions. We also work with partners, including youth organizations, to change the social norms that stand in the way, and develop platforms for adolescents to share their experiences and propose solutions.

Children uprooted  
  
UNICEF works around the world to help make sure migrant and refugee children are protected and that their rights are respected. We provide lifesaving humanitarian supplies in refugee camps. We run child-friendly spaces – safe places where migrant and refugee children can play, where mothers can rest and feed their babies in private, where separated families can reunite. We support national and local governments to put in place laws, policies, systems and public services that are inclusive of refugee and migrant children, address their specific needs and help them thrive.  We collect, analyse and disseminate data. We help keep families together and provide support to family-based solutions that are alternatives to the detention of migrant and displaced children. We work with governments, the private sector and civil society. We want to empower children and youth who are uprooted with cutting-edge solutions, and make their voices heard.

Communication for Development

C4D involves understanding people, their beliefs and values, the social and cultural norms that shape their lives. It involves engaging communities and listening to adults and children as they identify problems, propose solutions and act upon them. Communication for development is seen as a two-way process for sharing ideas and knowledge using a range of communication tools and approaches that empower individuals and communities to take actions to improve their lives.

UNICEF has a strong track record of amplifying the voices of children and communities by harnessing the power of communication to promote child survival, development, protection and participation. Successful case studies range from polio immunization, curbing maternal mortality, delaying child marriage for girls and use of ITCs for development.

Gender Equality

We increase quality maternal care, and the professionalization of the mostly female front-line community health workers. We recognize and empower the role of women in the design and delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene ecosystems.

In schools and communities across the globe, we promote strategies to prevent violence and discrimination against girls, boys and women. We work with adolescent girls and boys to thrive in their learning and pathways to meaningful employment.

UNICEF supports the most marginalized girls – including those in conflict and crises or those with disabilities - to complete secondary education. Our targeted initiatives, such as those to [end school-related gender-based violence](http://www.ungei.org/news/247_srgbv.html) and those that provide adolescent girls with the ability to safely manage their monthly menstrual cycle help make it happen.

We empower adolescent girls at risk of child marriage, or who are already married, by providing them with information and fundamental life skills while helping them build support networks and remain in school.

Parents and community members are often primary decision-makers on child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and girls’ access to social networks so we educate and mobilize them to invest in girls.

We help countries advance adolescent girls’ health and wellbeing, especially in nutrition, HIV/AIDS and pregnancy care.

We support platforms to train and recognize applied gender skills among staff and partners globally to deliver on our shared programming visions for gender equality.

We collect, quantify and share data that are critical to better understand ongoing and emerging challenges and solutions. Every year, we further [*International Day of the Girl*](mailto:https://www.unicef.org/gender/gender_dayofthegirl.html)with action and activities on issues that matter most.

And finally, we look for innovative solutions – such as digital technology and exciting new partnerships – to achieve our vision for gender equality at scale. We tap into the power and promise of youth to guide and shape what works for their generation.

Child protection

Children with disabilities

Protecting the rights of children with disabilities is not a new theme for UNICEF. It has been an integral part of our programming since the Convention on the Rights of the Child ([CRC](https://www.unicef.org/crc/index.html)) – the first international treaty to explicitly recognize the rights of children with disabilities. With the passing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ([CRPD](http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=150)), our disability work has gained momentum.

UNICEF work has a renewed and intensified focus on equity, which seeks to identify and address the root causes of inequality so that all children – particularly those who face the worst deprivations in society – can realize their rights.

**The equity-based approach**is one of the foundations of our disability agenda, the main goals of which are to mainstream disability across all of our policies and programmes – both in development and humanitarian action – and to develop leadership on the rights of children with disabilities, building capacity among staff and partners.

Environment and Climate Change

Climate action provides an exceptional opportunity to unlock massive economic and social benefits that can help us achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)](https://data.unicef.org/resources/progress-for-every-child-in-the-sdg-era-2019/). Addressing the challenges of environmental sustainability is imperative for UNICEF to fulfil its mandate and protect the world’s most vulnerable children.

UNICEF works with partners at global and local level to ensure that children can live in a safe and clean environment. Our actions are structured around four approaches:

1. [Making children the centre of climate change strategies and response plans](https://www.unicef.org/environment-and-climate-change#makingchildren)
2. [Recognizing children as agents of change](https://www.unicef.org/environment-and-climate-change#recognizingchildren)
3. [Protecting children from the impact of climate change and environmental degradation](https://www.unicef.org/environment-and-climate-change#protectingchildren)
4. [Reducing emissions and pollution](https://www.unicef.org/environment-and-climate-change#reducingemissions)

#### 1. Making children the centre of climate change strategies and response plans

UNICEF works with governments and partners globally to ensure children are an essential part of climate change strategies and disaster response plans.

In Bolivia, for example, UNICEF supported the Youth Summit on Water and Climate Change to strengthen youth leadership in climate change adaptation and integrated water resources management. In Papua New Guinea, children are actively engaging in developing climate disaster response plans for their schools.

#### 2. Recognizing children as agents of change

Children’s participation in issues that affect them is part of their fundamental rights ([Article 12, Convention on the Rights of the Child](https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text)). UNICEF works with young people to elevate their [voices on climate change](https://www.unicef.org/environment-and-climate-change/youth-action) through creative platforms, advocacy and participation at major United Nations summits.

Children and young people can also play a key role in addressing climate-related risks by promoting environmentally sustainable lifestyles and setting an example for their communities.

#### 3. Protecting children from the impact of climate change and environmental degradation

UNICEF supports initiatives to make schools, health centres, water and sanitation facilities – and other services critical to children’s well-being – resistant to climate and environmental shocks. This not only improves children’s resilience to future shocks, but also makes it less likely that today’s inequities will be exacerbated by climate change. Specifically, we aim to support governments in the following areas:

**Climate-smart water, sanitation and hygiene services**

Among the biggest impacts of climate change is water scarcity and/or contamination as a result of floods, droughts or severe weather. UNICEF is working to scale a package of solutions that include remote sensing to improve the identification of water sources, solar energy to help pump water, and smart management systems to use water efficiently.

**Sustainable energy and disaster risk response in schools**

Schools that are environmentally sustainable and resilient to natural disasters are some of the best ways we can protect children in the face of a changing climate. Renewable energy (e.g. solar power) enables lighting and connectivity in areas where grid power is lacking. This supports education by allowing school meals to be cooked and solar lanterns to be charged for students to take home to do their homework.

In Kenya, for example, UNICEF has supported sustainable energy solutions, including solar lighting for schools, solar pumps in communities vulnerable to drought and floods, and a pilot social protection cash transfer programme which provides off-grid energy solutions to improve children’s learning and health.

**Sustainable energy and disaster risk response in health centres**

Reliable energy and resilience to disasters is often a barrier to providing health services to children. Over 60 per cent of health facilities in low and middle-income countries and 25 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa are without reliable electricity for basic services such as lighting, heating and the powering of medical equipment.

Building on our experience with [solar fridges](https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/stories/how-solar-power-fridges-are-helping-save-lives-worlds-least-electrified-country) for vaccine delivery, we focus on solar power. This enables water to be heated, vaccines to be preserved, medical equipment to be powered, and health centres to be lit.

In sub-Saharan Africa, UNICEF continues to support the upgrade of national vaccine cold chains with solar power. We do so to improve reliability and sustainability, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and provide vaccines to children in remote areas.

In Ethiopia, 70 per cent of the 6,000 solar fridges procured by UNICEF in 2018 were installed in new sites to reach previously unreached children.

#### 4. Reducing emissions and pollution

Taking decisive action to cut greenhouse gas emissions to slow, and ultimately stop, the advance of climate change is crucial to tackle the climate crisis before it’s too late.

*The evidence for the impacts of climate change and air pollution on children is firm and growing.*

UNICEF works to improve air pollution monitoring and advocacy, especially in countries and regions where these systems are sparse or non-existent. A big part of our work is also to support governments to respond to the increased incidence of [pneumonia](https://www.unicef.org/health/childhood-diseases) and other respiratory diseases that arise as a consequence of air pollution.

UNICEF is also dedicated to environmental sustainability in its own operations. We are working to transform how and where we work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact, and we have established a dedicated internal fund to support this process. This also includes reducing water and energy consumption, paper use, and waste.

We are implementing solutions to reduce our environmental footprint in over 70 offices worldwide and counting ─ for example energy efficient lighting, heating, ventilation and cooling systems, water efficient fixtures, solar water heating and energy systems, and more. An increasing number of our offices are running on solar power, including in Jordan, Zimbabwe and India ─ with the Haiti office generating 100 per cent of its power from the sun.

Social inclusion

UNICEF focuses on the critical impact social and economic policy issues have on children. Our work is centered around [Global Economic Crisis and Recovery](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_economiccrisis.html), [Child Poverty and Disparities](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_childpoverty.html), [Social Budgeting and Public Finance](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_socialbudgeting.html), [Migration](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_migration.html) and [Social Protection](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_socialprotection.html).

Building on field experience and working in alliance with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF collaborates with partners to stimulate dialogue around macrolevel policies that guide national frameworks, legislative reform and budgetary allocations affecting children and families. Read more on [Policy Matters](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_62040.html); which showcase results of UNICEF's upstream policy analysis and advocacy and highlights new thinking on social policy areas.

A network of UNICEF social policy advisors and officers work to develop and strengthen important external partnerships at country[,](https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Young_and_out-of-school_FINAL.docx(1).pdf) regional and global levels with ministries of finance, parliaments, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, among others.

Upstream policy work, within a rights and gender framework, has generated increasing engagement with, and capacity-building of, civil society, enabling citizens to exercise their rights to participate in public policy decisions. UNICEF uses [statistics](http://www.devinfo.org/) to monitor progress toward the Millennium Development Goals and subjects national and international policies to scrutiny against the norms and standards set out in the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](https://www.unicef.org/crc/)and the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/), so children's rights can be at the centre of global and country-level policy debates.

## Child Survival

Early Childhood Development

Good news: the right interventions at the right time can bolster development, break intergenerational cycles of inequity and provide a fair start in life for every child. For babies born into deprivation, intervening early, when the brain is rapidly developing, can reverse harm and help build resilience. For children with disabilities, it means making sure they have access to the individual, family and community services available to all children; combined with programmes that address each child’s specific needs.

We can support #EarlyChildhoodDevelopment by expanding existing programmes, especially health services. For example, The Lancet series found it would cost only an additional US$0.5 per person annually to add two services to support nurturing care of children into an integrated maternal and child health and nutrition service package.

Thanks to the compelling scientific evidence and sustained advocacy, governments and society are beginning to realise the criticality of investing in the earliest years of a child’s life. In 2015, early childhood development was included in the Sustainable Development Goals, reaffirming its growing status in the global development agenda. This built on earlier efforts which saw early childhood development included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that a child has a right to develop to “the maximum extent possible” and recognised “the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.”

HIV/AIDS  
UNICEF supports governments and communities in their efforts to reduce inequities in HIV service delivery and to address the underlying factors of gender, age and poverty that make people vulnerable to HIV. UNICEF supports governments to deliver services that prevent mother-to-child transmission, test infants early, link children diagnosed with HIV to treatment and care and prevent new HIV infections in adolescents.

To do this, UNICEF implements country-specific priorities and interventions and integrates HIV prevention and treatment with maternal, newborn and child health, nutrition, and early childhood development services. We also strengthen and leverage partnerships to widen the reach and impact of our efforts on the ground.Additionally, UNICEF provides innovation and knowledge leadership to help disseminate evidence on children and AIDS to shape policies and programmes  and strengthen data systems to effectively map the trajectory of the HIV epidemic, zero in on gaps in the response, and address social determinants of HIV .

Increased access to lifelong treatment for pregnant and breastfeeding women has significantly reduced the number of HIV infections among children. Since 2000, the number of children (0–19 years) newly infected with HIV decreased by 49 per cent, and 1.8 million new infections in children under five have been averted. The Optimizing HIV Treatment Access (OHTA) Initiative, funded by the Governments of [Sweden](http://www.sida.se/English/) and [Norway](https://www.norad.no/en/front/), supported the scale-up of lifelong antiretroviral therapy (ART) for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV in Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi and Uganda. Through the expansion of peer support and community-based models, the OHTA initiative supported women living with HIV to start antiretroviral therapy (ART) immediately, remain in care and adhere to their medication. OHTA helped reach nearly 220,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV on treatment in four countries. [Read more on this project](http://www.childrenandaids.org/optimizing%20HIV%20treatment%20access).

UNICEF provides technical assistance to governments to strengthen paediatric HIV services and to scale up HIV infant testing through innovative point-of-care technology. UNICEF, the [Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)](http://www.clintonhealthaccess.org/) and the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, with funding and support from [UNITAID](http://www.unitaid.eu/), are working to accelerate access to point-of-care (POC) HIV technologies in national diagnostic programmes in 10 countries: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.  POC HIV technologies provide faster HIV testing results than conventional laboratories. They enable infants infected with HIV to start treatment earlier and help reduce mortality in the early months of their lives. [Find out more information on about this project](http://www.childrenandaids.org/point-of-care).

Nutrition

Malnutrition results in the loss of millions of young lives every year: but together, we can prevent this.Through its programmes in more than 90 countries across the world, UNICEF is working to make good nutrition a reality for the children, families and communities that need it most.

UNICEF takes action to:

* [Improve breastfeeding and complementary feeding](https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_breastfeeding.html)
* [Tackle micronutrient deficiencies](https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_iodine.html)
* [Treat and prevent severe acute malnutrition](https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_sam.html)
* [Link nutrition support with the treatment of HIV/AIDS](https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_HIV.html)
* [Respond rapidly and effectively to nutrition emergencies](https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_emergencies.html)
* [Improve adolescent and maternal nutrition](https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_iodine.html)
* [Prevent overweight and obesity](https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_breastfeeding.html)
* Incorporate nutrition into the work of its partners in other fields, such as health, water and sanitation

Health

Despite the scale of the challenge, solutions are in sight. Achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](https://data.unicef.org/children-sustainable-development-goals/) requires a global shift from treating diseases to strengthening health systems so that all children, adolescents and women of reproductive age have access to affordable, quality health care.

UNICEF works around the world – including in some of the hardest-to-reach places – to help children survive and thrive. Through public and private partnerships at the global, national and community levels, we focus on:

#### [****Maternal, newborn and child survival****](https://www.unicef.org/health/maternal-newborn-and-child-survival)

UNICEF works to end preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths by scaling up essential maternal and newborn care services, sustaining immunization programmes, and supporting preventive, promotive and curative services for pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and other child health conditions.

#### [****Child and adolescent health and well-being****](https://www.unicef.org/health/child-and-adolescent-health-and-well-being)

UNICEF is committed to helping children and adolescents build a solid foundation for adulthood. We support national health plans on adolescent health and well-being, improve age-specific health services for children and adolescents, and help countries combat non-communicable diseases, prevent injuries and better support children with developmental delays and disabilities.

#### [S****trengthening health systems****](https://www.unicef.org/health/strengthening-health-systems)

UNICEF supports primary health care, especially at the community level, to help achieve universal health coverage. We work to strengthen health systems to deliver integrated services for children, adolescents and women of reproductive age – focusing on health; nutrition; early childhood development; HIV and AIDS; and water, sanitation and hygiene. Our work also promotes overall health and well-being by focusing on education, child protection and social inclusion.

#### [****Health in emergencies and humanitarian settings****](https://www.unicef.org/health/emergencies)

UNICEF tackles health challenges in places affected by conflicts, natural disasters, migration, urbanization, and political and economic instability, by supporting direct responses to emergencies and helping to develop resilient health systems that can withstand crises.

Immunization

UNICEF and partners support immunization programmes in over 100 countries to help realize children’s right to survival and good health. Activities include engaging communities to create vaccine demand, procuring and distributing vaccines and keeping vaccines safe through cold chain logistics. UNICEF also works with partners to strengthen immunization programmes to identify and prioritize children who have missed on their vaccination.

**Why are these efforts needed?**

* Immunization saves children’s lives, but nearly 20 million children don’t receive even the most basic vaccines, leaving them vulnerable to dangerous diseases.
* Immunization is the most cost-effective child health intervention.Every dollar spent on childhood immunizations yields US$44 in economic benefits. These include savings on medical costs and productivity loss.
* Today, 1.5 million children die each year because they weren’t vaccinated.
* 30 per cent of deaths among children under five are from vaccine-preventable causes.

Increased investments on immunization in low- and middle-income countries could avert up to 36-million deaths and 24-million cases of impoverishment due to medical costs.

Wash : Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

UNICEF’s water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) team works in over 100 countries worldwide to improve water and sanitation services, as well as basic hygiene practices. Last year, UNICEF’s efforts provided nearly 14 million people with clean water and over 11 million with basic toilets.

## Education

All children have the right to go to school and learn, regardless of who they are, where they live or how much money their family has.

Quality learning requires a safe, friendly environment, qualified and motivated teachers, and instruction in languages students can understand. It also requires that learning outcomes be monitored and feed back into instruction.

In 144 countries around the world, UNICEF works to provide learning opportunities that prepare children and adolescents with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive.

Key areas of our work in education include:

* **Access**: Gender-equitable access to quality education from early childhood to adolescence, including for children with disabilities, marginalized children and those living in humanitarian and emergency settings.
* **Learning and skills**: Quality learning outcomes and skills development that come from strong education systems and innovative solutions.
* **Emergencies and fragile contexts:** Improved learning and protection for children in emergencies and on the move.

The lesson of the learning crisis is clear: Business as usual is not improving learning outcomes. A new, more radical approach that focuses on enhancing learning is long overdue and forms the basis of UNICEF’s global education strategy.

To build a world in which every child learns, UNICEF will increasingly promote equity and inclusion. This includes making targeted efforts for children who are excluded on the basis of gender, disability, poverty, ethnicity and language, as well as those who are displaced or affected by emergencies.

## UNICEF in Emergencies

UNICEF in Emergencies & Humanitarian Action

The Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) is the focal point for emergency preparedness and response, humanitarian policies, staff security and support to UNICEF's regional and country offices, as well as strategic coordination with external humanitarian partners both within and outside the United Nations system. EMOPS leads efforts to ensure that UNICEF’s role in humanitarian crises is clearly defined, that the organisation is properly equipped to fulfill that role, and that all levels of the organization are prepared to ensure the rights of all children including those affected by humanitarian crises.  The division also coordinates headquarters support to country and regional offices dealing with emergencies. HQ divisions, along with EMOPS, provide the core infrastructure to support field preparedness and response to save lives, protect rights, reduce vulnerabilities to disasters and conflicts, support global and country coordination mechanisms, promote humanitarian partnerships and ensure the safety of personnel and assets.

In addition, EMOPS manages UNICEF’s Operations Centre (OPSCEN) which is a 24-hour, 7 days-a-week information gathering and dissemination hub. OPSCEN monitors humanitarian crises, political events and security-related incidents around the world with a view to ensuring the safety of staff and providing both field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies.

The division is located in both New York and Geneva, which allows for systematic and strategic engagement with humanitarian partners and sister United Nations agencies.

Humanitarian Action for Children

## Innovation for Children

Innovation at UNICEF

**Focus Area 1:**[**Project Connect**](https://www.unicef.org/innovation/school-mapping)

Key asks: Did you know we are using machine learning to globally map internet connectivity of schools to ensure that all children have equal access to information, opportunity and choice? Learn more [here](https://www.projectconnect.world/).

We are looking for partners who can:

* Collaborate around your engineering and data science expertise to further strengthen our platform and optimize our algorithms; [Check out how Red Hat did this](https://www.redhat.com/es/proof-of-concept-series)
* Contribute to Project Connect’s data set for internet and electricity coverage
* Work with us on pioneering research showing the impact of connectivity;
* Financially support our team to map every school in the world and to pool global resources for bringing connectivity everywhere;
* Deliver connectivity to disconnected schools

**Focus Area 2:**[**Investing in Urban Innovations**](https://www.unicef.org/innovation/urbanization)

Key asks: UNICEF, Arm and Dalberg have conducted groundbreaking market research that identifies 6 areas that the technology sector can invest in to support children and families in urban areas. Read more about this research [here](http://www.urbantechbets.org/).

We are looking for partners to:

* Invest in tech solutions that address one or more of the 6 tech bets - deepeningthe market research findings. Arm, the Gates Foundation, the African Academy of Sciences and SIDA are already partnering to [invest in Smart Water](https://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenge/innovation-wash-urban-settings-round-22) solutions!
* Provide expertise in social impact investments and technologies relevant to the tech bets.
* Co-design new business models for social tech enterprises addressing urban challenges. Check out our work in [Côte d’Ivoire](http://www.bit.ly/plastic-bricks)and [Mongolia](https://blogs.unicef.org/east-asia-pacific/21st-century-ger-innovation-experts-set-reinvent-traditional-mongolian-homes/) on how we can address climate change and pollution.

**Focus Area 3:**[**Engaging Youth through U-Report**](https://www.unicef.org/innovation/U-Report)

Key asks: UNICEF has been directly talking to over 6 million young people around the world on issues they care about. From helping young people [prepare for hurricanes](https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/hurricane-irma-u-report-works-protect-children/) to providing [peer counseling on HIV](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=eOfltqlba5M), U-Report ([www.ureport.in](http://www.ureport.in/)) is becoming an essential tool for UNICEF to provide meaningful solutions to young people’s challenges.

We are looking for partners to:

* Financially support U-Report to provide better humanitarian services in Nigeria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Pakistan, and CAR
* Offer free ad credits and commercial license to prominent social media and messaging platforms.
* Provide engineering expertise to design and build chatbots and data insights.

**Focus Area 4:**[**Investing in the Venture Fund**](https://www.unicef.org/innovation/venturefund)

Key asks: Since 2015, the [Venture Fund](http://www.unicefinnovationfund.org/) has invested in early stage startups using frontier technology to address challenges affecting children and mothers. It recently announced its latest set of investments ([check it out!](https://unicefinnovationfund.org/#/news)).

We are looking for partners to:

* Invest in the Venture Fund; the pool of investments we receive help us to support more promising startups in additional technology areas.
* Become a technical and business mentor to startups; this ensures startups are set for success with world class insights and guidance.
* Provide graduation investments to the most promising startups; since the Venture Fund only invests up to $100k over a year, partners have an opportunity to directly invest further afterwards!

**Focus Area 5 :**[**Drones for Good**](https://www.unicef.org/innovation/drones)

Key asks: Drones can save lives by quickly assessing emergencies and delivering lifesaving vaccines to the most remote communities.

UNICEF is looking for:

* Support for the  integration of drones into humanitarian action
* Develop + testing of new use cases
* Support for african drone academy in Malawi
* Create a network of vetted partners
* Help us develop child-friendly regulatory frameworks

**Focus Area 6 :**[**UPSHIFT**](https://www.unicef.org/innovation/UPSHIFT)

Key asks: UPSHIFT is a social innovation and entrepreneurship programme which supports workforce development, addresses youth employment, and builds civic engagement.

UNICEF is looking for:

* Technical, design + e-learning expertise
* Scale funding of $10m+ to sustain UPSHIFT in 20+ countries
* $9m over 3 years to  sponsor Youth Challenge scale up, reaching 30+ countries
* Access to local private sector assets + resources to enhance upshift programming
* Support development of a global digital training and resources platform  for UPSHIFT facilitators

Product Innovation

The UNICEF Supply Division based in Copenhagen, Denmark does not perform internal product development projects but focuses on external product innovation to drive development of fit-for-purpose and value-for-money supplies, which have a positive impact on UNICEF’s programmes and emergency response. UNICEF therefore relies on and supports close interaction with developers in relevant industries.

Product Innovation Projects (PIPs) are initiated when a product to address an unmet product need within programmes or emergencies is required, or where the product does not exist in a procurable form on the market either because they are not developed or because the product has not been field trialed for our application.

## Supplies

UNICEF procures and supplies over 5,000 products to address the needs of children.

In 2017, UNICEF procured $3.46 billion worth of supplies and services from all over the world, ensuring high [quality](https://www.unicef.org/supply/index_41948.html) and good value through fair and open [open procurement](https://www.unicef.org/supply/index_procurement_policies.html).

As well as supporting UNICEF’s ongoing programmatic activities, the Supply function provides  rapid supply response to [emergencies](https://www.unicef.org/supply/index_protection.html).

UNICEF also procures and supplies essential commodities on behalf of governments and other partners in their efforts. These [procurement services](https://www.unicef.org/supply/index_procurement_services.html)can also include in-country logistics, capacity building, and project management.

Ensuring the global availability of essential supplies through influencing markets for lifesaving commodities such as vaccines, essential medicines and health products, and implementing a range of supply chain models to ensure these supplies are delivered to children, are two overarching focuses.

## Gender

Gender Equality

We increase quality maternal care, and the professionalization of the mostly female front-line community health workers. We recognize and empower the role of women in the design and delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene ecosystems.

In schools and communities across the globe, we promote strategies to prevent violence and discrimination against girls, boys and women. We work with adolescent girls and boys to thrive in their learning and pathways to meaningful employment.

#### We are empowering adolescent girls to become catalysts for meaningful and lasting change, and tackling the most pressing interconnected issues they face.

UNICEF supports the most marginalized girls – including those in conflict and crises or those with disabilities - to complete secondary education. Our targeted initiatives, such as those to [end school-related gender-based violence](http://www.ungei.org/news/247_srgbv.html) and those that provide adolescent girls with the ability to safely manage their monthly menstrual cycle help make it happen.

We empower adolescent girls at risk of child marriage, or who are already married, by providing them with information and fundamental life skills while helping them build support networks and remain in school.

Parents and community members are often primary decision-makers on child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and girls’ access to social networks so we educate and mobilize them to invest in girls.

We help countries advance adolescent girls’ health and wellbeing, especially in nutrition, HIV/AIDS and pregnancy care.

We support platforms to train and recognize applied gender skills among staff and partners globally to deliver on our shared programming visions for gender equality.

We collect, quantify and share data that are critical to better understand ongoing and emerging challenges and solutions. Every year, we further [International Day of the Girl](mailto:https://www.unicef.org/gender/gender_dayofthegirl.html) with action and activities on issues that matter most.

And finally, we look for innovative solutions – such as digital technology and exciting new partnerships – to achieve our vision for gender equality at scale. We tap into the power and promise of youth to guide and shape what works for their generation.

## Research and analysis

Data, Research and Analysis

The Data and Analytics team has 4 units:

**Data Collection**

UNICEF supports countries’ collection of data related to children and women through [Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)](http://mics.unicef.org/), an international household survey programme. Since its inception in the mid-1990s, five rounds of MICS have been completed and a sixth is now under way.  Over 320 surveys have been implemented in more than 116 low- and middle-income countries. Each round of surveys builds upon the last and offers new indicators to monitor trends and current priorities.

The MICS programme is designed to collect statistically sound, internationally comparable data on more than 100 indicators used by countries to assess the situation of children and women in the areas of education, health, gender equality, rights and protection. Firmly embedded in the statistical plans of many governments, it also provides data required to monitor progress towards national and international goals and commitments aimed at promoting the welfare of children.

With the largest coverage of SDG indicators among all survey programmes, the MICS programme built a reputation as a leader in new methodologies of data collection and new technologies.  It has pioneered the development and implementation of new measurement tools in several areas, and is currently developing a module to address the information gap on populations after an emergency.

As part of the MICS global programme, UNICEF provides technical support and training through a series of regional workshops covering questionnaire content, sampling and survey implementation, data processing, data quality and analysis, report writing, data archiving and dissemination and further analysis.

**Data Analysis and Innovation**

Compiling data  
UNICEF maintains a series of global databases for tracking the situation of children and women globally. The databases include only statistically sound and nationally representative data from household surveys and other sources. They are updated annually through a process that draws on a wealth of data maintained by UNICEF’s network of 140 country offices.

Developing new methodologies  
UNICEF plays a leadership role in several inter-agency monitoring groups on specific topics. Together with its inter-agency partners, UNICEF helps devise new methodologies, indicators and monitoring tools, build statistical capacity at the country level, develop joint estimates, and harmonise monitoring work across partners. UNICEF has also led the development of new indicators and methodologies for gathering relevant data on a number of priority issues, including [education](https://data.unicef.org/topic/education/overview/), [child labour](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-labour/), [child disability](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-disability/overview/), [child mortality](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/under-five-mortality/), [maternal mortality](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/under-five-mortality/), [water and sanitation](https://data.unicef.org/topic/water-and-sanitation/drinking-water/), [low birthweight](https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/low-birthweight/), [antenatal care](https://data.unicef.org/topic/maternal-health/antenatal-care/), [pneumonia](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-health/pneumonia/), [malaria](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-health/malaria/), [iodine deficiency disorder](https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/iodine-deficiency/), [female genital mutilation/cutting](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation-and-cutting/) and [adolescents](https://data.unicef.org/topic/adolescents/overview/)*.*

Analysing data for evidence-based programming  
UNICEF’s work in data analysis highlights trends and emphasises patterns found within the data. It also suggests how these data can be used strategically to inform programmatic efforts. Where possible, data are disaggregated by gender, age, residence, household income, education, and other key social and demographic variables to help uncover possible risk factors and inequities. UNICEF also promotes the advancement of research through the development of joint projects and collaboration with academic institutions and other agencies working at the national and international level.

Building capacity and supporting countries on promoting the demand for and use of data  
UNICEF’s MICS programme provides in-country technical assistance and leadership to local researchers and organizations, thereby contributing to the improvement of national monitoring systems for children and women. UNICEF also conducts regional workshops on specialised topics in conjunction with government counterparts to enhance their capacity to understand, interpret, analyse, disseminate and use statistics.

**Data Architecture and Communication**

The Data Architecture and Communication team builds data platforms and works towards increasing the reach and use of data through data driven communication products.

Data visualizations  
To facilitate the use of data to glean insights, drive evidence-based change and ultimately create value for children,  UNICEF has been producing a suite of interactive digital maps and graphs featuring the latest data on children across programmatic areas.

Country profiles  
Statistical profiles of individual countries present data on key child-related indicators and facilitate data access at the country level for government institutions, their development partners and the general public.

Data Architecture  
UNICEF aims to provide a modern data warehouse and data production architecture covering work in robust data (outcome and impact data). This includes streamlining the work of compiling and analysing data but also making data more accessible through interoperability and by providing modern and flexible data visualization.

**Data for Action**

When the right data are in the right hands at the right time, decisions can be better informed, more equitable, and more likely to protect children’s rights. The Data for Action team is working to generate a profound cultural shift towards this vision. Real, lasting organizational change happens by movement, not mandate and the Data for Action team leads by teaching, inspiring and empowering UNICEF staff around the world to use data to better reach and improve the lives of children. It is institutionalizing the [Data for Children Strategic Framework](https://data.unicef.org/resources/data-children-strategic-framework/), responding to frequently found challenges in putting data to use, raising the skills floor on data work in the organization, and developing a science of delivery for administrative and humanitarian data efforts. For some recent examples of UNICEF offices putting data into action, you can read more [here](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/From-Insight-to-Action-November-2017.pdf).

Learning and Knowledge Exchange

Knowledge exchange is about taking a systematic approach to sharing tacit knowledge -- the knowledge that people acquire through their work experiences, successes and challenges around the world -- in order to directly support programmes, operations and advocacy by UNICEF and our partners.

The main purpose of knowledge exchange is to connect practitioners (in any field or discipline)  with each other so they can discuss their work, learn from one another -- and achieve improvements in results. Sharing knowledge, especially experiential knowledge, is a key ingredient in innovation. Knowledge exchange is essential to achieve continual learning from experience and apply that learning to improve our work.

To achieve these objectives, knowledge exchange makes use of specific tools and approaches. These include tools for fostering in-person (face-to-face) exchange, such as those described and documented in the UNICEF Knowledge Exchange Toolbox. They also include platforms and software tools that enable online networking and knowledge sharing across geographic and organizational barriers, supporting communities of practice to grow, co-create solutions, share successes and key resources.

A key function of knowledge exchange is to promote the uptake and use of the most effective knowledge exchange tools through provision of guidance and standards, partnerships to support effective networks, and provision of training and advice.

The benefits of knowledge exchange include savings of both time and money, and improvements in effectiveness -- including capacity to develop new and better approaches to overcome challenges.

UNICEF Office of Research : Innocenti

Today UNICEF Innocenti maintains a small team of about 40 researchers, evaluators, knowledge management specialists, communicators, operations and support staff at its centre in Florence. UNICEF Innocenti develops its research agenda in consultation with other parts of UNICEF and with external stakeholders.

The agenda is selected to support intensified research efforts coordinated across the wider organization where there is demand for a concerted effort to build evidence, usually in a rapidly expanding intervention area. Priorities are also driven by critical issues facing children which have been either overlooked or which do not fit neatly into discreet sectors.

Current research projects:

* Child poverty, equity and well-being: multi-dimensional deprivation analysis, and the flagship Innocenti Report Card on child well-being in rich countries
* Social protection: the impact of cash transfer programmes in sub-Saharan Africa
* Child protection: work on the drivers of violence against children, and family and parenting support
* Children and the internet: investigating child rights in the digital age
* Adolescent well-being: analysis of the structural and social determinants of adolescent well-being across sectors and throughout the life-course
* Education: school settings, learning pathways and life skills

Emerging areas of focus include: migration, gender, and the intersection of humanitarian and development work. We also host a global network of longitudinal studies (GLORI).

Evaluation

We undertake a diverse set of evaluations to ensure UNICEF learns from past and ongoing experiences to improve future outcomes. We also help bolster the capacity of national evaluation systems by working with Governments and other partners to strengthen skills and evaluate child-focused policies and programmes.

Full policy [here](https://www.unicef.org/media/54816/file)