

UNICEF

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNICEF, acronym of United Nations Children's Fund, formerly (1946–53) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, special program of the United Nations (UN) devoted to aiding national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children.

UNICEF was created in 1946 to provide relief to children in countries devastated by World War II. After 1950 the fund directed its efforts toward general programs for the improvement of children's welfare, particularly in less-developed countries and in various emergency situations. The organization's broader mission was reflected in the name it adopted in 1953, the United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1965. Its headquarters are in New York City.

UNICEF has concentrated much of its effort in areas in which relatively small expenditures can have a significant impact on the lives of the most disadvantaged children, such as the prevention and treatment of disease. In keeping with this strategy, UNICEF supports immunization programs for childhood diseases and programs to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS; it also provides funding for health services, educational facilities, and other welfare services. Since 1996 UNICEF programs have been guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which affirms the right of all children to "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health." Both government and private contributions finance UNICEF's activities.

Members

The Executive Board is made up of 36 Member States, elected to three-year terms by the Economic and Social Council, with the following regional allocation: Africa (8 seats), Asia (7), Eastern Europe (4), Latin America and Caribbean (5) and Western Europe and Others (12).

Africa	Asia	Eastern Europe	Latin American and Caribbean	Western Union and others
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Angola– Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Belarus– Czechia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Bangladesh– China	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Antigua and Barbuda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Australia– Canada

– Burundi	– Lithuania	– Mongolia	– Brazil	– Denmark
– Cameroon	– Russian	– Pakistan	– Colombia	– France
– Djibouti	Federation	– Republic of	– Guatemala	– Italy
– Ghana		Korea	– Mexico	– Luxembourg
– Morocco		– Saudi Arabia		– Netherlands
– Sudan		– Turkmenistan		– Portugal
				– Sweden
				– Switzerland
				– United
				Kingdom of
				Great Britain
				– and
				Northern
				Ireland
				– United
				States of
				America

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