

UNICEF BACKGROUND

- ✦ UNICEF was established on December 11, 1946 by the United Nations to meet the emergency needs of children in post-war Europe and China. Its full name was the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. In 1950, its mandate was broadened to address the long-term needs of women and children in developing countries everywhere. UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations system in 1953, when its name was shortened to the United Nations Children's Fund. However, UNICEF retained its original acronym.
- ✦ UNICEF works in more than 150 countries and territories, helping to save, protect and improve the lives of children around the world through immunization, education, health care, nutrition, clean water and sanitation.
- ✦ UNICEF's life-saving programs are funded entirely by voluntary contributions.
- ✦ UNICEF works to ensure that:
 - Every young child has a chance at survival and receives the essentials for the best start in life. Proper care at the youngest age forms the strongest foundation for a person's future.
 - Every child is fully immunized and protected from disease and disability.
 - Every boy and girl completes a primary education. Children who are educated grow up to become better thinkers, better citizens and better parents to their own children.
 - All young people are given reliable information on HIV/AIDS prevention and that orphans and others affected by the disease receive the support and care they need.
 - Every child is protected from harm, abuse and violence, both in times of peace and in times of conflict and emergencies.
- ✦ UNICEF is unique among world organizations and among organizations that work with children because it has both the global authority to influence decision-makers and a variety of partners at grassroots level to turn the most innovative ideas into reality.
- ✦ To learn more about UNICEF's programs in more than 150 countries and territories where it works, please visit www.unicefusa.org.