



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF at a glance

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established in the first United Nations General Assembly meeting on 11 December 1946 to help the children affected by World War II and to provide them with food, medicines and clothes. Today, UNICEF is the largest international organization that deals with children's issues and works in more than 190 countries in the field of health and nutrition, education, protection and access to equal opportunities for all children. UNICEF collaborates with a range of governmental authorities, civil society organizations, religious leaders, academia, and private-sector groups. Crucially, UNICEF's work is supported by voluntary contributions from governments and private donors, trusts and foundations from every corner of the globe.



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UNICEF's support to the Islamic Republic of Iran

UNICEF has been supporting the Government in its work for Iran's children since the early 1950s. UNICEF initially assisted in the vaccination of children against tuberculosis and equipped the country's first pasteurized milk factory. UNICEF later focused on supporting children's health programmes in Iran, such as promoting breastfeeding, vaccination and fighting against diarrhea. These collaborations between UNICEF and the Government were later expanded into other areas including strengthening the country's healthcare system, maternal health programmes, nutrition, fighting against micronutrient deficiency such as iodine, and acute respiratory infections. Programmes to support the education and protection of children were then added to the joint cooperation.

Current Country Programme of Cooperation

The current country programme between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNICEF, from 2017 to 2021, is focused on the following areas:

Children's Health and Nutrition

Focuses on enhancing the capacity of the national health system to improve access to and quality of health and nutritional services for children and their mothers. Special attention is given to the first 1,000 days of life.

Preventing HIV and Drug use

Contributes to the efforts of the Government in fighting against HIV and AIDS and promoting development and roll-out of drug prevention models targeting young people and adolescents.

Children's Education

Contributes to national efforts for increasing equitable access to all-inclusive quality education at all levels for the most disadvantaged children including refugee children, girls and children with special needs.

Children in Judicial Proceedings

Focuses on enhancing the capacity of the justice system to protect children in judicial proceedings (child victims, witness and offenders) in line with national and global international instruments.

Protecting Children against Maltreatment

Focuses on enhancing the capacity of health and social welfare systems in the prevention, early detection and response to maltreatment of children.

Supporting Children's Welfare

Contributes to national efforts in promoting integrated social protection systems informed by a comprehensive understanding of all dimensions of child poverty and disparities.

Support us

UNICEF is funded entirely by voluntary contributions. You can help make a difference in children's lives by joining UNICEF in ensuring that children in the Islamic Republic of Iran thrive and develop to their full potential. Together, we are working toward the day when every child has a safe and healthy childhood in our country.

For any queries on partnering with UNICEF Iran, please contact the resource mobilization unit at

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