

What the United Nations does & What you can do to help

What the United Nations does

PEACE-KEEPING: When conflicts threaten international security, it provides a forum for negotiation; it can also send peace-keepers to stabilize a crisis. By having deployed a total of 60 peacekeeping forces and observer missions as of 2005, it has been able to restore peace and reduce civilian casualties of war.

HELPING IN EMERGENCIES: It organizes humanitarian relief and food supplies for millions of refugees and victims of famine and natural disasters.

FIGHTING POVERTY: It helps the poor to help themselves, through development projects.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT: It brings governments together to work on climate change, air and water pollution, depletion of natural resources and many other environmental concerns.

STANDING UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: It sets international standards for rights of minorities, women and

children, monitors abuses and generates international pressure on governments to improve their human rights records.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND EDUCATION: It helps poorer countries to provide more and better schools and health services, and works to prevent the spread of global diseases like AIDS.



BUILDING DEMOCRACY: It helps countries conduct free and fair elections. It has provided electoral assistance to 91 countries and monitored election results, often at decisive moments in a country's history, as in Afghanistan, Iraq and Burundi.

SETTING STANDARDS: It helps countries coordinate and set rules that promote safe air travel, protect copyrights and patents, determine satellite positions

and radio frequencies, and regulate how mail is sent internationally.

PREVENTING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION: Through the International Atomic Energy Agency, it has helped minimize the threat of a nuclear war by inspecting nuclear reactors in more than 140 countries in order to ensure that nuclear material is not used for military purposes.

PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS: One of its long-term goals is to improve the living conditions of women and to empower women to have greater control over their lives. It organized the first-ever World Conference on Women (Mexico City, 1975), which together with other conferences set the agenda for the advancement of women's rights.

COMBATING TERRORISM: It has put in place the legal framework to combat international terrorism. Global conventions negotiated under UN auspices include treaties against hostage-taking, airplane hijacking, terrorist bombings and terrorism financing.

What you can do to help

1. Learn more about the United Nations

Though it is a universal organization and recognized by all nations, many people still do not fully understand how the United Nations operates or what its activities are. You can learn about the United Nations by:

- ✓ Taking a guided tour of UN Headquarters (or UN offices in Geneva or Vienna);
- ✓ Visiting the UN home page on the Internet (www.un.org);
- ✓ Writing to the United Nations for information and education materials (see below);
- ✓ Reading books and articles about the UN;
- ✓ Participating in United Nations Day (24 October) and other UN observances.

For general information and teaching materials



Public Inquiries Unit --- E-mail: inquiries@un.org
Cyberschoolbus --- E-mail: cyberschoolbus@un.org

2. Get involved - Volunteer your time

The United Nations is an intergovernmental body and relies primarily on its Member States. It also welcomes grassroots initiatives to promote its work and ideals. Hundreds of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) help rally support for the UN and influence legislation at the national level. Among these are organizations such as Amnesty International, Doctors without Borders, Lions Clubs and Rotary International. Find an organization working on issues you care about and **GET INVOLVED**.

As a volunteer, you might help contact lawmakers, raise funds, organize meetings and find partners for joint projects. You might even organize or participate in UN-related events in schools and in other settings. United Nations Associations, set up in many countries to build support for the work of the United Nations, coordinate some of these efforts. Similarly, National Committees for UNICEF are set up as non-governmental organizations, to help mobilize greater support for UNICEF and its work on behalf of the world's children.

Contact UNA-USA:

801 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
Tel: 212-907-1300
E-mail: unahq@unusa.org

National Committee for UNICEF:

333 East 38th Street
New York, NY 10016
Tel. 212-686-5522
E-mail: information@unicefusa.org

What can I do?

To all the children, my answer is this: Look around you. Get to know people whose lives are different from yours. Find what you have in common with them. When you see something wrong, no matter how big the problem is, think: "Who else would like to change this? How can we work together?" Because of computer technology, you can now find like-minded people around the world.

It was said of Eleanor Roosevelt many years ago: "She would rather light a candle than curse the darkness." One day, I hope, the same will be said about you.

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Donate money

Almost 80% of United Nations resources are directed at promoting peace, building democracy, achieving higher standards of living and fostering economic and social progress. Below are some of the organizations that will benefit from your help:



The United Nations

The United Nations accepts financial contributions that are consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the organization.

Contributions can be sent to:

United Nations Treasury
Room S-2770A, United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) helps to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering and disasters in emergencies; advocate for the rights of people in need; promote preparedness and prevention; and facilitate sustainable solutions.

Contributions can be sent to:

Office for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs
United Nations
Room S-3600E
New York, NY 10017

UN Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

Contributions can be sent to:

UNDP
304 East 45th Street
Room FF-478
New York, NY 10017

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UNFPA promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. It supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

Contributions can be sent to:

UNFPA
Resource Mobilization Branch
23rd Floor
220 East 42nd Street,
New York, NY 10017

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR provides shelter, food and medical assistance to millions of refugees worldwide. From Kosovo to Mozambique, UNHCR's operations are almost entirely funded by voluntary contributions.

Contributions can be sent to:

UNHCR
Room CP 2500
CH-1211 Geneva 2 Depot,
Switzerland

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF works for the protection, survival and development of children. Two thirds of its funding is provided by government contributions, and one third by public support.

Contributions can be sent to:

UNICEF
Programme Funding Officer,
UNICEF House
3 UN Plaza, 12th fl.
New York, NY 10017

Joint United Nations Programme in HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

The main advocate for global action on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS leads, strengthens and supports an expanded response to the epidemic.

Contributions can be sent to:

UNAIDS Donor Relations
20, avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO's Co-Action Programme assists small grass-roots projects in the developing world, using funds raised from individuals and groups in the industrialized nations. The initiatives are on a human scale and change the lives of local people.

Contributions can be sent to:

UNESCO New York Office
2 United Nations Plaza
DC2-900
New York, NY 10017

Donate money (cont.)

The World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP provides relief food to the neediest and supports development activities through food for work programmes. It also helps meet emergency food needs created by natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes

Contributions can be sent to:

Friends of WFP
2 United Nations Plaza
Room DC2-2500
New York, NY 10017

The World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO welcomes contributions from individuals and organizations. You may specify that your contributions be sent "wherever needed most" or for specific programmes, such as AIDS, parasitic diseases, diarrhea, nutrition, water supply, etc.

Contributions can be sent to:

WHO Regional Office
for the Americas
525 23rd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-2897



Special points of interest:

To find out more about what the UN does and how it works for people everywhere, visit: www.un.org/works

What money can buy

Even the smallest amount of money can make a big difference.

3 cents can supply a dose of vitamin A to boost a child's immune system and prevent blindness.

5 cents can provide enough iodized salt to prevent stunted physical and mental growth in a child for one year.

30 cents provides lifesaving antibiotics for a child suffering from pneumonia.



\$1 can immunize a child against polio for life, protecting him or her against the disease and preventing its spread to nearby communities.

\$2 can buy a nutritional kit for a severely malnourished child. The kit includes basic food supplements that will tide the child over appropriate food aid can be supplied.

\$3.75 can provide educational materials for a child for one year, including a portion of the cost of teacher supplies. Materials include books, pencil, a school bag, slate board, chalk, posters, rulers, safety scissors and notebooks.

\$10 provides enough high-protein biscuits to feed three hungry children for one month.

\$20 can buy purification tablets to clean 104 gallons of water that would otherwise cause disease.



\$250 can provide a tent for a family whose one has been destroyed during emergency, such as an earthquake or a civil war.



This fact sheet has been issued by the Public Inquiries Unit,
Department of Public Information, United Nations.
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Internet: <http://www.un.org/geninfo/faq>