Mandate

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was created in 1946 by the United Nations to provide emergency aid to European children after World War II. UNICEF is mandated by the UN General Assembly to protect the rights of all children and monitor their implementation by governments.

In its work United Nations Children's Fund is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the world's most widely accepted human rights accord.

UNICEF works towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), for equal rights for every child and their participation in community development.

UNICEF in Armenia

United Nations Children's Fund has been working in Armenia since 1994. The nature of UNICEF's work in Armenia has changed over time. Today the organization has fully embarked on the development agenda, assisting the Government in implementation of structural and system reforms.

Specific areas of UNICEF's work in Armenia

The strategy and specific focus areas of United Nations Children's Fund in any country depends on the situation of children of that country and the overall environment and institutional mechanisms in place to protect the rights of all children. In Armenia UNICEF is assisting the Government to address the gaps in the fulfillment of rights of all children, with a focus on the vulnerable and excluded. Our areas of work include young child and adolescent health and development, basic education, and child protection, with an emphasis on institutional support, social policy analysis, and communication for development that brings about a change in values, attitudes and perceptions, and creates an environment conducive for the realization of children’s rights.

United Nations Children's Fund works to ensure accessibility of health services for all children, including adolescents, without exclusion. Through providing support to development of national policies and implementation of strategic programmes, we help the Government to reduce child mortality in the country.

We support programmes that ensure children's right to education and participation in matters affecting them. UNICEF actively participates in the process of reforming the education system of the country and promotes the establishment of inclusive and child-friendly schools so that no child is left out of education.
United Nations Children’s Fund aims to establish a protective environment for all children through developing by 2015, a comprehensive legal and policy framework that protects children in areas such as children in orphanages and special schools, juvenile justice, child labour, violence against children, child abuse and exploitation, gender-based violence, cases of unregistered children, and disabilities.

United Nations Children’s Fund also aims at setting up a “continuum of services” - a system where various service providers act in a coordinated way to address problems faced by a child and to deliver the full range of social protection services to him or her.

We support the Government of Armenia in obtaining reliable and disaggregated data on the situation of children and their families. By commissioning surveys and evaluations as well as introducing new ways of data generation and presentation, United Nations Children’s Fund helps the Government to make decisions and develop policies and strategies that are based on evidence.

In social policies and budgeting, we assess how social protection and expenditures in social sectors help in overcoming child poverty.

United Nations Children’s Fund advocates for an equity approach in achieving the MDGs, which means focusing on the most marginalized and vulnerable children.

For the Country Programme of 2010-2015, our goal is to contribute to the achievement of the following results for the country by 2015:

- By the end of 2015, national and regional authorities will use reliable data, social policy and budget analysis to allocate resources to address vulnerable children;
- By the end of 2015, Government will provide resources for the implementation of child-focused local action plans nationwide;
- By the end of 2015, the Government will provide a fully functional continuum of services in at least 2 marzes;
- By the end of 2015, Government will address disparities and gaps in access to quality and inclusive education for children aged 3-18;
- By the end of 2015, the health system will address disparities and gaps in access to quality mother, child and adolescent health and nutrition services.