



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946. Its mission is to protect children's rights, meet children's basic needs, and provide children with opportunities to reach their full potential. As a member of the United Nations family, UNICEF works with governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, other UN agencies, professional groups, and communities.

UNICEF has been working in Thailand for over 50 years, adapting its programmes to meet the changing needs of Thailand's children, and responding to the challenges of a rapidly transforming society. UNICEF's current work in Thailand is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Thailand ratified in 1992, and by the goals set out at the 1990 World Summit for Children.

In 1999, UNICEF Thailand and the Royal Thai Government launched a five-year programme of cooperation. The programme uses UNICEF's specific expertise to address priority issues such as strengthening families and communities, assisting children in need of special protection,

promoting education for life, advancing local planning, analyzing social policy, and promoting children's rights.

UNICEF Thailand works with all levels of government and with all segments of the Thai society through a combination of advocacy, analysis, social mobilization, and technical and financial support for projects. UNICEF Thailand is the key partner of Pan Pacific Hotel Bangkok in the implementation of the Youth Career Development Programme.



Unicef building in Thailand was built during the Fourth and the Fifth reigns (1851- 1910). Its outstanding feature is the shape of roof which combines hip and gable types together. The building was originally the residence of a Queen consort of King Rama IV.

About Unicef

UNICEF is the driving force that helps build a world where the rights of every child are realized. We have the global authority to influence decision-makers, and the variety of partners at grassroots level to turn the most innovative ideas into reality. That makes us unique among world organizations, and unique among those working with the young.

We believe that nurturing and caring for children are the cornerstones of human progress. UNICEF was created with this purpose in mind – to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child's path. We believe that we can, together, advance the cause of humanity.

We advocate for measures to give children the best start in life, because proper care at the youngest age forms the strongest foundation for a person's future.

We promote girls' education – ensuring that they complete primary education as a minimum – because it benefits all children, both girls and boys. Girls who are educated grow up to become better thinkers, better citizens, and better parents to their own children.

We act so that all children are immunized against common childhood diseases, and are well nourished, because it is wrong for a child to suffer or die from a preventable illness.

We work to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people because it is right to keep them from harm and enable them to protect others. We help children and families affected by HIV/AIDS to live their lives with dignity.

We involve everyone in creating protective environments for children. We are present to relieve suffering during emergencies, and wherever children are threatened, because no child should be exposed to violence, abuse or exploitation.

UNICEF upholds the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We work to assure equality for those who are discriminated against, girls and women in particular. We work for the Millennium Development Goals and for the progress promised in the United Nations Charter. We strive for peace and security. We work to hold everyone accountable to the promises made for children.

We are part of the Global Movement for Children – a broad coalition dedicated to improving the life of every child. Through this movement, and events such as the United Nations Special Session on Children, we encourage young people to speak out and participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

We work in 191 countries through country programmes and National Committees. We are UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.

Unicef in Thailand

Despite decades of rapid development, many groups in Thailand have been left behind, particularly ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees and the very poor. Their children are often severely disadvantaged and denied their rights to survival, protection, development and participation.

Issues facing children in Thailand

- More than 1 million children are thought to be in need of special protection, including orphaned children, children affected by HIV/AIDS, street children, children with disabilities, children in conflict with the law, child labourers and children without birth registration.
- The trafficking of children continues, both within Thailand and internationally.
- An estimated 1 million children of primary school age either do not go to primary school or enrol years late.
- Nearly 1 million children lack birth registration documents.
- Despite increased HIV awareness, infection rates are rising among the young and among populations in parts of the South. An estimated 290,000 children have been orphaned by the HIV epidemic and around 2,000 children are thought to be born with HIV each year.
- Other concerns include the continuing threat of avian influenza, one of the lowest levels of exclusive breastfeeding in the world and very poor iodized salt coverage.

Activities and results for children

Major achievements over the past 15 years have included a 50 per cent per cent fall in infant mortality, a rise in immunization coverage to above 90 per cent, massive reductions in the use of child labour and improved legislation to protect the rights of children. UNICEF's current activities cover:

- Strengthening families, communities and institutions to protect the most vulnerable children from violence, abuse and exploitation. Projects include advocacy with the government to improve legislation; training for local service providers on how to look after vulnerable children; and healthcare and other support for refugees, stateless children, minorities, migrants and victims of violence.
- Getting children into school and improving the quality of education. Major activities include advocacy with the government to improve quality and access, making schools 'child-friendly' and promoting early childhood care.
- Preventing new infections and caring for children affected by HIV/AIDS. UNICEF works on preventing HIV transmission among young people and from mother to child, expanding care and support services and reducing stigma and discrimination.
- Raising awareness of rights and giving children a voice. UNICEF trains journalists on ethical reporting, provides children with media skills, ensures children participate in decision making and runs advocacy and social mobilization campaigns.
- Tsunami response: In line with the UN's aim to 'build back better', UNICEF operates long-term projects covering education, HIV/AIDS, child and maternal health and access to basic services for orphaned children and the children of migrants and minorities.
- Studying the situation of children and advocating for change. Projects include a survey of needs in 60,000 households, analysis of government budgets and policy and monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other targets for children.
- Strengthening government, community and family capacity to help children through training for local government officials, advocacy for spending on children's issues at the local level and empowerment of families and communities.