


FACTSHEET

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to uphold and promote children's rights, as outlined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Its vision is that every child should have the opportunity to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, free from discrimination, bias or favouritism.

UNICEF is one of the UN's largest development and humanitarian organisations, working across more than 190 countries and territories. In its capacity as a global advocate for children, UNICEF also mobilises political will and resources for the promotion of children's rights.

Strategic Objectives

UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 aims to advance children's rights and the child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged children. Across development and humanitarian contexts, UNICEF works with governments and other partners to contribute to five Impact Results:

1. Child survival, health, nutrition and development
2. Learning and skills for children and young people
3. Reduction of multidimensional child poverty
4. Protection of children from violence
5. Protection of children from disasters, climate and environmental risks

UNICEF works towards these results through integrated programmes across health and nutrition, education, child protection, social protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and climate and disaster resilience.

Key Results and Challenges

In 2025, UNICEF operated in an increasingly complex global landscape marked by political volatility and conflicts, climate shocks and economic pressures. The organisation responded to 414 emergencies across 101 countries, with around 60% of programme expenses devoted to humanitarian action. While total revenue declined by only 2% in 2025, lower core and emergency funding and limited financial flexibility constrained UNICEF's ability to meet growing development and humanitarian needs. Only 31% of humanitarian funding requirements were met.

Despite these challenges, UNICEF achieved major results in 2025: over 1.6 billion polio vaccine doses were delivered; 255 million children were reached with services to prevent, detect and treat wasting; 27.8 million out-of-school children gained access to education; and about 4.5 million children affected by violence received essential support. In addition, over 17 million people gained access to basic sanitation, over 34 million to safe water, and over 15 million to basic hygiene services.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Type of organisation

Fund financed through voluntary contributions

Head of organisation

Catherine Russell (USA), Executive Director

Headquarters

New York (USA)

Country offices

155; 16 of which are being consolidated into 5 Multi-Country Offices (plus 5 Regional Offices and 32 National Committees)

Total Personnel

approx. 15,000

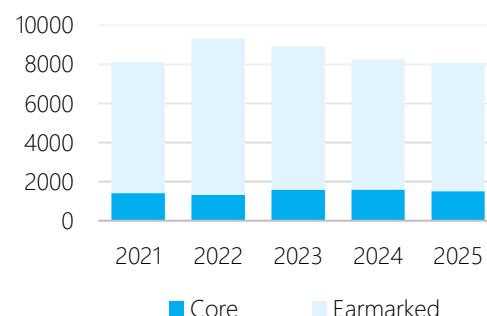
Established in

1946

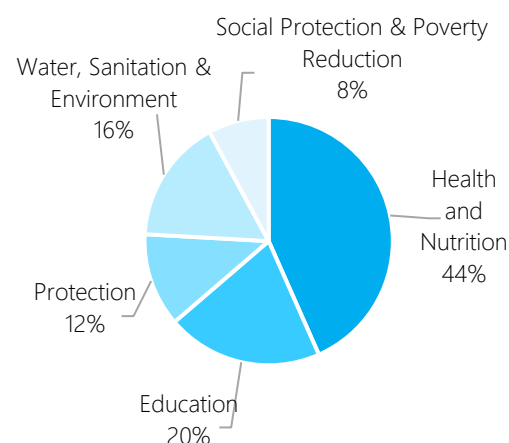
Steering

Executive board with 36 rotating membership

UNICEF Revenues 2021-2025, in million USD



UNICEF Expenditure 2025 per thematic area (%) Total: USD 7,668 million





A vaccination assistant in remote Agig locality located in Red Sea state, Sudan, vaccinates a seven-month-old against polio during the house-to-house polio vaccination campaign.
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Switzerland and UNICEF

Switzerland's strategic priorities

UNICEF is Switzerland's most important partner in the promotion of children's rights. Its activities and priorities align with Switzerland's Strategy for International Cooperation. Switzerland particularly values UNICEF's ability to link humanitarian response with development cooperation, and to respond to evolving challenges in protracted and post-conflict situations.

Swiss priorities for the Strategic Plan Period 2026-2029 include:

- Enhancement of UNICEF's capacity for the protection of children, education in emergencies, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).
- Strengthening of the nexus between humanitarian action and development cooperation.
- Reinforcement of UNICEF's financial sustainability, including private-sector engagement, and its accountability and evaluation mechanisms.
- UNICEF's active contribution to ongoing UN reforms and the Humanitarian Reset.

Cooperation with EMOPS

Switzerland is a key partner of UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS), which coordinates global support to humanitarian action. In 2025, Switzerland contributed CHF 3 million to EMOPS with particular attention to its functions based in Geneva. Beyond its financial commitment, Switzerland also plays a vital role in strengthening UNICEF's emergency response capacity by rapidly deploying external experts through the Standby Partner (SBP) mechanism. In 2025 alone, Switzerland supported 14 deployments in over 10 countries. Between 2018 and 2025, Switzerland facilitated 85 SBP deployments, primarily in the areas of WASH and child protection.

UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein

The 32 National Committees (independent local non-governmental organisations) are an integral part of UNICEF's global organization and a unique feature of UNICEF. Collectively, they raise around one third of UNICEF's annual income. In 2024, UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein raised approximately USD 54 million for UNICEF.

SWITZERLAND and UNICEF

Contributions (2025)

Total: CHF 61.3 million

Core: CHF 13 million (6th among gov. donors)

Earmarked: CHF 48.3 million

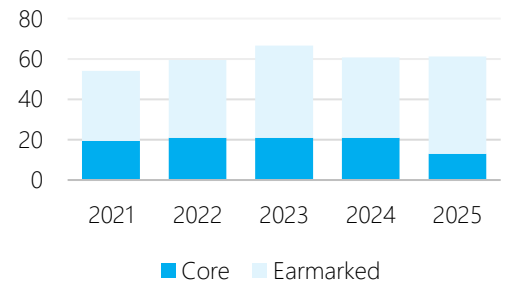
Number of Swiss staff (JPO, UNV excl.)

27

Involved Swiss government entities

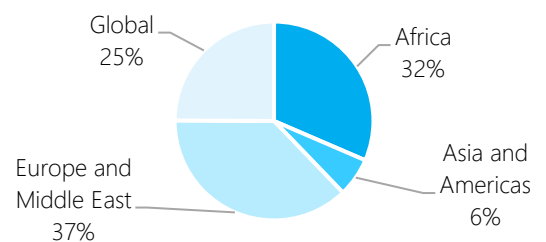
SDC (UN&MDB)

Swiss Contributions 2021-2025, in million CHF



Swiss Earmarked Contributions 2025 per region (%)

Total: CHF 48.3 million



Burundi: Transforming eating habits for better nutrition

With support from the Swiss Government, families in Burundi are embracing healthier diets, promoting child nutrition. Mothers now prepare balanced meals using local foods, guided by training from health volunteers. This shift has made children more active, playful, and energetic. Through an awareness campaign in 2023 that reached 216,447 persons, the rate of chronic malnutrition in the country decreased from 56% to 52% within a year. The initiative fosters lasting change by enhancing local food access and equipping households with practical skills to sustain better nutrition in vulnerable communities.

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