

UNICEF: An Introduction (PowerPoint Notes)

Slide 1: Title Slide

Slide 2:

- Every day, 19,000 children under age five die — and they don't have to. They die from causes most people in the U.S. rarely worry about. Malnutrition. Unsafe drinking water. Lack of a 15-cent vaccine. UNICEF is doing whatever it takes to reach a day when the number of children dying from preventable causes is ZERO.
- UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization in the world. Working in more than 190 countries and territories, UNICEF provides children with health care, clean water, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more.
- UNICEF is the leader in efforts to reduce child mortality worldwide. There has been substantial progress: the annual number of under-five deaths dropped from 12 million in 1990 to 6.9 million in 2011. But still, 19,000 children under age five die each day from preventable causes. Our mission is to do whatever it takes to make that number ZERO by giving children the essentials for a safe and healthy childhood.

Slide 3: UNICEF's Mission

UNICEF was founded in 1946 to help children in countries devastated by World War II. UNICEF's mission is:

- **To advocate for the protection of children's rights:** Children are accorded special rights by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, unanimously adopted by the United Nations in 1989.
- **To help meet their basic needs** – nutrition, water and sanitation, health care, and education.
- **To expand their opportunities to reach their full potential** – education, protection against child labor, etc.
 - Children should be free from discrimination – they are people with rights, not possessions of adults.
 - Government policies should be based on the best interests of the child
 - Children's views and perspectives are important and need to be heard.

Slide 4: Believe in ZERO

Watch the U.S. Fund for UNICEF's "Believe in ZERO" video at <http://youtu.be/pfliYITSZrA> and ...

Slide 5: Discuss the Following:

- What is the driving point in this video? *Answer: UNICEF believes in the day when ZERO children die of preventable causes. UNICEF is relentless, efficient and experienced in its fight for the survival and development of all children.*
- What tools did you see in the video that UNICEF uses to achieve ZERO? *Answers include vaccines, food (note that the food in packets is a type of low-cost ready-to-use therapeutic food), water pumps, medication, school supplies, transportation, counseling and technical expertise.*
- How can believers help to contribute to ZERO? *Answers will vary.*

Slide 6: Timeline

1. **1946:** UNICEF is created in December 1946 by the United Nations to provide food, clothing and health care to the European children who faced famine and disease after WWII.
2. **1961:** Following more than a decade of focus on child health issues, UNICEF expands its interests to address the needs of the whole child. Thus begins an enduring concern with education, starting with teacher training and classroom equipment in newly independent countries.
3. **1965:** UNICEF is awarded the 1965 Nobel Peace Prize "for the promotion of brotherhood among nations."
4. **1982:** UNICEF's Executive Director Jim Grant leads a major campaign to combat the deaths of millions of children each year from easily preventable causes. This "child survival revolution" brings lifesaving, cost-effective techniques to children in developing countries. The strategy is based on growth monitoring, immunization, oral rehydration therapy and breastfeeding. By the end of the 1980s, this revolution for children is estimated to have saved at least 10 million young lives.
5. **1989:** The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first legally binding international instrument to include the full range of human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political and social. It spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere have — the right
 - to survival
 - to develop to the fullest
 - to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and
 - to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

Every right spelled out in the Convention connects to the human dignity and harmonious development of every child. It became the most widely and rapidly accepted human rights treaty in history.

6. **2010:** In a policy shift, UNICEF gives increased priority to equality, fighting unjust disparities that deny the rights of the world's poorest and most deprived children. This is called the equity approach. It seeks to address the root causes of inequity so that all children, particularly those who suffer the worst deprivations in society, have access to all services necessary for their survival, growth and development.

Slide 7: The Topics/Issues UNICEF Addresses

- Education
- Child Protection
- Water and Sanitation
- Health
- Nutrition
- HIV and AIDS
- Social Inclusion
- Emergencies

Slide 8: Education

- **ASK:** What would happen if you could not go to school?
- In the United States, we often take the right to an education for granted.
- Around 57 million primary-school age children around the world are not in school, and over half of them are girls. The total number out of school is several million more than the entire U.S. under-12 population in 2012.
- UNICEF's goals
 - All children must have access to a quality education
 - Teachers must be trained in innovative, child-friendly methods
 - Learning must be relevant and connected to the community
- UNICEF builds and furnishes schools, trains teachers and supplies millions of children with school bags, books, pencils and other essential educational supplies.

Slide 9: Child Protection

- **ASK:** Laws in this country establish a minimum age for youth employment. What other laws treat minors differently from adults? [Examples include regulations within the juvenile justice system and age requirements for driving, consuming alcohol, and getting married.] What purpose do these laws serve?
- Millions of children from all walks of life are subjected to violence, exploitation, and abuse. Millions more are at risk.

- Examples include sexual abuse and exploitation, armed violence, trafficking, child labor, gender-based violence (including genital cutting), bullying and cyber-bullying, gang violence, child marriage and other harmful practices.
- Children are often the first victims of war, poverty and neglect. Most vulnerable are children:
 - With disabilities
 - Who are orphaned
 - From indigenous, ethnic minority or other marginalized groups
 - Who are living on the streets (where they also may work); in institutions and detention; and in communities severely affected by poverty
- UNICEF works to shield children from the effects of armed conflict, harmful traditions and miscarriages of justice.
 - For example, UNICEF advocates for legislation that safeguards children from abuse and exploitation and pushes for laws that protect girls and women.
 - During emergencies UNICEF creates “child-friendly spaces” where children who have been separated from their families can experience a degree of normalcy while waiting to be reunited with their parents.

Slide 10: Water and Sanitation

- **ASK:** How much water do you think you use per day? [The average American uses 100 gallons per day! Flushing a toilet alone can use 5 gallons!]
- 768 million people lack access to drinking water from improved sources. Poor drinking water, lack of sanitation and poor hygiene result in diarrheal diseases that cause about 1,800 child deaths per day worldwide.
- Inadequate access to safe water and sanitation services, coupled with poor hygiene practices, kills and sickens thousands of children every day, and leads to impoverishment and diminished opportunities for thousands more.
- UNICEF works in more than 90 countries around the world to improve water supplies and sanitation facilities in schools and communities and to promote safe hygiene practices.
- **ASK:** What would you do if you had to choose between going thirsty and drinking dirty water?

Slide 11: Health

- **ASK:** Who remembers getting a shot when you were little? [**If younger:** ask if they know what a vaccine is.] What if those shots had not been available to you and other children in your community?
- Vaccinations are one of the simplest and most cost-effective lifesaving programs for children. They are one part of the health care provided after birth that enables a child to survive and have a good start to life.

- UNICEF is targeting the biggest opportunities for impact (like the first year of life) and investing in high-impact solutions (like insecticide-treated mosquito nets to prevent malaria and oral rehydration tablets to treat diarrhea). It is also increasing efforts in the most affected regions and for the most underserved populations.

Slide 12: Nutrition

- **ASK:** What does it mean to be malnourished?
- **Answer:** Malnutrition is the state of being poorly nourished – it is not merely a result of too little food, but also of other nutritional requirements like protein, micronutrients like vitamin A, and clean water. Therefore, malnourished children are not just hungry – they may be denied the ability to develop properly, grow strong or fight viral and bacterial infections
- Undernourishment—not getting enough food to have the energy needed for the body to perform at a minimum level—leads to stunting, an irreversible condition of slowed growth occurring between a mother’s pregnancy and the child’s second birthday. One in four children around the world is stunted, including 40 percent of children under five in sub-Saharan Africa. They are at a critical disadvantage in school and later in life.
- UNICEF works to provide children with supplements and high energy foods to ensure that they are well nourished, healthy, and able to realize their potential in life.

Slide 13: HIV/AIDS

- **[ASK]** What diseases do you think have had the most damaging impact on communities in the past generation?
- In much of sub-Saharan Africa in the early 21st century, a disease that has an extremely grave impact is AIDS, caused by the virus called HIV. HIV attacks people’s immune systems and leaves great numbers of children orphaned or growing up in communities that are overwhelmed by the disease’s impact.
- Although the AIDS crisis declined during the 2000s, 3.3 million children under the age of 15 were HIV-positive in 2011, with 900 children becoming newly infected each day because of mother-to-child transmission of the HIV virus.
- A medical intervention called antiretroviral therapy, or ARV therapy, can prevent HIV from being transmitted from mother to child during and after childbirth. It is used widely in developed countries like the United States, but it has made slower headway into the developing world. If ARV therapy becomes common practice everywhere, it holds the best hope of achieving an AIDS-free generation.
- UNICEF provides ARV therapy and other pediatric HIV/AIDS treatment, including drugs, health care and counseling.

- UNICEF funds and helps run community-based centers that provide children orphaned by AIDS with food, health services, education and protection.

Slide 14: Social Inclusion

- **[ASK]** Have you ever been excluded from participating in something? How did it make you feel?
- Globally, millions of children are prevented from receiving vital support from UNICEF and its partners because of who they are or where they live.
- When societal attitudes keep girls from attending school, or deny an education to children with disabilities, we rob them of their right to make the most of their potential. We also rob ourselves of their talents and contributions.
- UNICEF counters this with a movement toward social inclusion.
- UNICEF works to build support in the leadership of local communities for the inclusion of all children in the programs that allow them to survive and thrive. Over time, these attitudes become ingrained in the entire community, which will continue to send girls to school, welcome immunizations, and more long after development assistance is provided.

Slide 15: Emergencies

- As mentioned earlier, UNICEF was born in 1946 out of an emergency – World War II.
- **[ASK]** What items do you think are helpful to victims of emergencies?
- On average, UNICEF responds to over 200 emergencies and humanitarian situations each year.
- UNICEF is on the ground before, during and after an emergency — usually delivering critical supplies within 48 hours.
- UNICEF provides relief supplies such as tents, blankets, clean water, nutritious food and school kits.
- In 2012, UNICEF responded to 286 emergencies of varying scale in 79 countries, ranging from political unrest in Syria to the food crisis in the Sahel belt of Africa.

Slide 16: MDGs

- The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education – are a fifteen-year blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions in the year 2000. It is an unprecedented effort to meet the needs of the world’s poorest by the target date of 2015.
- UNICEF and the MDGs

- UNICEF has been realizing the intrinsic rights of children to a basic quality of life since long before the Millennium Development Goals were established.
- From working with local policymakers toward health care and education reform to delivering vaccines, each UNICEF action is a step toward a Millennium Development Goal.
- The post-2015 agenda
 - Despite remarkable achievements, progress has been uneven; millions of children are being left behind, and daunting disparities still exist.
 - UNICEF believes that the unfinished and continuing business of investing in the rights and well-being of children—as well as emerging and neglected issues—must be boldly addressed in a vision of a world fit for children and future generations after 2015.

Slide 17: UNICEF's Reach

- UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories around the world.
- Since its inception, UNICEF has strived to reach as many children as possible with effective, low-cost solutions to counter the biggest threats to their survival.
- No corner of the globe is too remote for UNICEF staff to get children in need the basics for survival. By plane, boat, train, truck, motorcycle, foot, donkey, camel—UNICEF uses any means necessary to provide help for children and families.

Slide 18: What Do You See (photo analysis)

Possible exploratory questions include but are not limited to:

1. This is where the boy works and lives. Describe his environment.
2. What is he doing? What else do you infer that he does?
3. What is missing from this environment that most children have?
4. The boy is an orphan. Why and how might he have arrived here?
5. As an organization that advances children's rights, how might UNICEF be involved in this situation?

Backstory: Ibrahim Cisse, 13, works and lives at a port in Conakry, the capital of Guinea. At the port, he and other children load boats, sell goods at the market or wash dishes at food stalls. They are paid only in food. Most are orphans trafficked from Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. Ibrahim, an orphan from Freetown, says he was sent to Conakry by “an older friend.” He sleeps on the ground of a small shack with other children. “I want to go back to Freetown,” he said. “I don't speak any of the languages here.”

In December 2009, when the photo was taken, Guinea faced deteriorating public health services, widespread poverty, persistent food insecurity and recent political unrest. This affected children in the form of a resurgence of several preventable childhood diseases like measles and polio, and a nutrition crisis, with more than one-third of all children experiencing stunted growth. In response to the health crisis, UNICEF supported a series of emergency immunization campaigns, providing essential drugs to health clinics and supporting the nationwide distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Efforts by UNICEF, the World Food Programme and other partners have reduced deaths related to malnutrition, but rates of food insecurity and malnutrition remain high. UNICEF is also providing psychosocial support to victims of violence related to the recent political unrest.

Photo: © UNICEF/NYHQ2009-2203/MICHAEL KAMBER

Slide 19: What Do You Think?

“I wish that they would look at a disabled child like at a healthy one. So that they [children with disabilities] would have the same rights as them; so that they would be cared for.”

—a 14-year-old boy living in an institution

- What kinds of emotions are reflected here?
- What do you think the rights of children with disabilities might be?

Slide 20: Pop Quiz

- 1.) UNICEF believes in ZERO _____.
- 2.) UNICEF was created in 1946 as a result of the famine and disease after _____.
- 3.) _____ is the state of being poorly nourished.
- 4.) The blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries to meet the needs of the world’s poorest are the _____.
- 5.) Whose support is vital to UNICEF’s work?

Answer Key

- 1.) Answers will include preventable child deaths, unvaccinated children, starving children, children deprived of clean water, children affected by HIV/AIDS, children denied an education, children caught in war, exploited children

- 2.) World War II
- 3.) Malnutrition
- 4.) Millennium Development Goals
- 5.) Answers will vary, but the most important is YOU (the students)!

Slide 21: Think About It

How can you be a good global citizen, supporting children's rights globally from where you live?

Slide 22: Take Action

U.S. Fund for UNICEF current campaigns can be found at <http://www.unicefusa.org/campaigns>.