



UNICEF

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

Humanitarian Care

- A Humanitarian care organisation is one that aims to bring short term relief to victims of natural and man-made disasters . The aim is to alleviate suffering and maintain dignity and wellbeing.

Who are UNICEF?

- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
 - A non-profit organisation
 - Established in 1946 – over 70 years
 - Established to meet emergency needs for children post war in Europe and China
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- - UNICEF 2018

What do they do?

- Work in over 190 countries globally
- Aim to defend childrens rights
- Work with partners worldwide to promote policies and improve access to services for families and children

UNICEF 2018

Mission Statement

- *"UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations general assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential..."*
- *UNICEF 2018*

Childrens Rights

- Underpin all the work that UNICEF do to promote positive change in social policy across the globe using children's rights to ensure that their basic needs are met.
- World leaders decided in 1989 that children need their own set of rights due to needing special care - currently they are adopted by 193 countries
- Set standards in various sectors such as health, education, social services, legal etc etc...

Areas their work covers.....

- Child Protection and Inclusion
- Child Poverty
- Education
- Research and analysis
- Health and medicine
- Gender
- Child Survival

Reducing inequalities

I have researched the inclusion element of the work UNICEF do to tackle child poverty and reduce inequalities

These initiatives are vast and include

- Communication for development
- Social Inclusion
- Gender equality
- Child Poverty
- Children with disabilities
- Children uprooted
- Child protection

Initiatives used to target child poverty and promote social protection

- Monetary and non-monetary approaches to target child poverty
- UNICEF Luxembourg Study Database
- Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis
- Global studies on child poverty disparities – multi country studies that looks at child deprivation and policies that address these deprivations

Positive Case Study

Case study in Kuala Lumpur on families living in low cost accomodation

Study found that

- 99.7% of the children live in relative poverty, with 7% of those in absolute poverty
- 15% of under 5s are underweight – twice the national average
- 1 in 3 had no books, 4 in 10 had no toys
- families werent accessing nutirious food, didn't go to school, live in unsafe areas and no opportunities to play and grow

As a result, UNICEF has provided the government with evidence to support targetted policies and has contributed to Agenda 2030 and 2050 National Transformation

- UNICEF (2018)



Positive results

Children Without

A study of urban child poverty and
deprivation in low-cost flats
in Kuala Lumpur

Equity Focussed Programmes

An equity-focused country programme is a programme that identifies children who are deprived, analyzes the patterns and drivers of inequality, and understands the national context and existing policies and programmes that address inequities. It works with partners to help identify, advocate for, and support the implementation of strategies to address the causes of inequity and to reach deprived children with basic services, care, and protection. The equity-focused country programme defines clear targets for improving the lives of deprived children and routinely monitors the impact and result of equity focused programmes and policy strategies. - **UNICEF 2010**

Equity Focussed Programmes

- **Piloted in multiple countries. For example Vietnam addressing poor sanitation, Pacific Islands with promoting Birth Registrations**
- - In Indonesia, UNICEF found through this programme that low income households/ living in poverty had high levels of malnutrition. UNICEF's findings have supported the programme which has meant between 2011 and 2014, infants who are breastfed increased by 30%
- Children consuming an acceptable diet went from 7% to 17%.
- **This has provided a way forward to support the Indonesian government with continued expansion of this programme to the rest of the country.**

Equity Programme in China

- UNICEF supported the Equity Programming in China and facilitated the use of Child Welfare to access more vulnerable children who through poverty are more likely to experience higher levels of physical and mental illness.
- Will also be more likely to experience neglect, abuse and exploitation
- Child Welfare Demonstration project has as a result of this programme linked with many families and improved access to services and improved overall wellbeing with children and carers
- Services include play centres, counselling and registration processes

China Equity Programme continued.....

- Supported a national programme for Child Welfare as well as other large scale policy reforms.
- Governments are now committed to expanding the Barefoot Social Work Programme from **120** villages in **12** countries to **1000** villages in **100** countries.
- **This was directly as a result of being informed by UNICEF led research**

UNICEF have
been open to
criticism

- The Guardian claims that UNICEF

*"failed millions of disadvantaged children
and even increased inequality in some
countries"*

However,

- Best Company reported between 1995 and 2005, UNICEF were criticised for focussing on initiatives such as educating women and girls when in those same countries children were heavily affected by disease and poverty which some felt was more of a priority.
- Claims they are not transparent with their financial information – only showing one report at a time on their website
- - Best Company 2018

UNICEF have also received criticism for...

- Encouraging abortion and contraception as a solution for countries suffering with poverty and over population
- This resulted in the Vatican withdrawing its funding after a steralising agent was found in UNICEF's tetanus vaccine

DFID report on UNICEF highlights.....

- Potential duplication of work and responsibilities relating to childrens rights due to a lack of communication with partners
- Not upskilling staff in line with developing projects – with an over reliance on 2 staff members in local country level offices
- Failing to criticise governments due to being over friendly, which has an impact on programme efficiency
- Lack of evidence based reporting in some areas with little reflection – UNICEF has recognised this and hopes their results based management system will help

Conclusion

- Positive case studies that meet the aims of what UNICEF set out to achieve – they aim to support policy reform and promote childrens rights at a global level – the research supports this.
- Open to some criticism in terms of how the programmes are run and have also been criticised for ethical issues

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