

UNICEF IS THE MAIN VACCINE SUPPLIER TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BUYING VACCINES FOR 75 PER CENT OF CHILDREN.

GETTING RESULTS: 2000

- West Africa successfully completed the largest public health campaign in its history in 2000, when the National Immunization Days campaign vaccinated 76 million children against polio in 17 out of 24 countries in the region. Support came from UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and other partners.
- In Uganda, more children than ever are now protected from diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT), thanks to the strengthening of routine immunization between 1995 and 2000, which reversed the backslide in DPT coverage.
- In October 2000, 36 countries in Asia and the Western Pacific region, including China, were declared polio-free by international experts, the result of the global polio eradication drive, which receives strong support from UNICEF.
- In strife-torn Afghanistan, 5.4 million children were vaccinated against polio, thanks to an immunization campaign that took place after UNICEF helped negotiate 'Days of Tranquillity' with warring parties.
- Despite economic devastation in Iraq, measles cases dropped in central and southern areas, from 10,000 in 1999 to only 678 in 2000, the result of UNICEF-supported campaigns.
- Globally, since 1998 the lives of almost a million children may have been saved thanks to the distribution of vitamin A capsules, an increasingly common add-on to immunization. This success is largely due to a global vitamin A campaign launched in 1997 by governments, UNICEF and WHO.

IMMUNIZATION is one of the greatest success stories of the 20th century, but as long as children continue to sicken and die from lack of access to vaccines, its enormous potential will not be fulfilled. Tragically, millions of children still die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases. And nearly 1 million adults die each year from liver cancer in part because they were not vaccinated against hepatitis B during childhood.

Immunization is a critical ingredient of every child's survival and right to good health care. It is also key to development and poverty reduction. For poor coun-

tries, there is no better health bargain. UNICEF helps governments immunize children against the 'basic six' diseases – measles, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, tuberculosis and polio – and against other diseases, such as hepatitis B, for which newer vaccines have been developed.

Sustaining immunization efforts year after year requires committed leadership that builds strong routine health care. Immunization works best when linked with other programmes promoting health and nutrition, including vitamin A supplementation. Where health systems are not yet fully in place or during crises, UNICEF helps governments conduct special

A baby in Bangladesh is vaccinated against polio.

immunization campaigns such as the National Immunization Days against polio, which in 2000 reached 550 million children under five years old.

One of our primary goals is to help governments build and sustain their own immunization programmes. Through the UNICEF Vaccine Independence Initiative, we encourage policy makers to make immunization a budget priority and we help poor countries obtain vaccines at affordable prices. UNICEF is the main vaccine supplier to developing countries, buying vaccines for 75 per cent of children. Because of our strong position, we are able to keep vaccine prices affordable for countries in need through special arrangements with major pharmaceutical companies. Thanks to the Initiative, for example, in 2000 Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan were able to cover the costs of their children's vaccine needs for the first time.

Over the decades, UNICEF has helped governments achieve historic gains:

- In the 1970s, fewer than 10 per cent of the world's children under one year of age were immunized against the leading vaccine-preventable diseases, but today this figure is 75 per cent.
- Millions of young lives are saved by vaccines each year; polio is nearing eradication; and 60,000 fewer women are dying after childbirth thanks to the tetanus vaccine – given to 12 million at-risk women in 2000 alone.

But none of this progress could have been achieved without a broad array of partners: governments, WHO, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, families, health workers, communities and hundreds of thousands of volunteers.

The immediate challenge is to immunize the 30 million infants who are still not routinely vaccinated and to ensure the development and timely distribution of vaccines that can help save the lives of millions.

GAVI: A VACCINE ALLIANCE GOES THE DISTANCE

In 2000, UNICEF ratcheted up its efforts to immunize all children by joining a new global partnership that aims to bring needed vaccines to every child on earth. UNICEF's partners in this Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), launched in 2000, include governments, WHO, the World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program, the Rockefeller Foundation and leaders in the pharmaceutical industry.

GAVI is taking steps to expand vaccine production, speed new vaccine development and secure immunization as a cornerstone of countries' health programmes. The partnership gives poor nations grants to improve their vaccine programmes. Funding continues if governments show good results.

Grants are given through the Vaccine Fund, created by GAVI with a generous grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Already, the Fund has contributions of more than \$1 billion, with major commitments from the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

UNICEF is playing a key role in this partnership as a member of the GAVI Board (which UNICEF will chair from 2001), as host of the GAVI Secretariat in Geneva, as manager of the procurement and distribution of vaccines and supplies granted by the Vaccine Fund and as coordinator of the partnership's global communication efforts. UNICEF is uniquely positioned to provide on-the-ground support through its extensive vaccine supply network and 126 country offices.

Children line up to be immunized in Mozambique.



ACHIEVING THE IMPOSSIBLE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

UNICEF/00-0719/Chalasan

IMAGINE A WAR that has killed 2.5 million people and displaced another 2 million; a population so poor that few children eat three meals a day; and a massive territory the size of Western Europe, where a majority of communities live isolated in jungles and other difficult terrain. These near-impossible conditions exist in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where more than 10 million children under five years old were vaccinated against polio in 2000. In addition, access to many of these children was achieved through negotiations with warring parties.

The National Immunization Days (NIDs) against polio took place over three days in July and again in August and September in the DRC, which is one of the world's largest reservoirs of the wild polio virus and one of 20 remaining polio-affected countries.

On the scheduled days, some 250,000 health workers and volunteers fanned out across the country, on foot or bicycle, in canoes and cars and even in light aircraft. Many travelled for hours along difficult paths.

The NIDs, carried out by the country's health authorities, UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International and other partners, reached an impressive 90 per cent of children, who received vitamin A supplements at the same time. Other campaigns will follow in 2001 as part of the effort to reach every child in the DRC.





“IF CHILDREN ARE NOT IN SCHOOL, IT’S A VIOLATION OF THEIR RIGHTS.”

—AURA VIOLETA DE GÓMEZ,
A SCHOOL DIRECTOR IN GUATEMALA

IN A WORLD where more than half a billion children grow up in poverty, where millions of children work at exploitative jobs, are uprooted in war or suffer domestic violence, and where HIV/AIDS devastates young lives at an alarming rate, fulfilling every child’s right to education takes on ever greater urgency as a preventive and as a way to boost children’s ability to cope with these and other problems. Schooling equips children with the skills and confidence needed to meet life’s challenges and to lead productive lives. In times of crisis and emotional trauma, schools may be the only place where children can find safe, supportive spaces to learn and to grow as human beings.

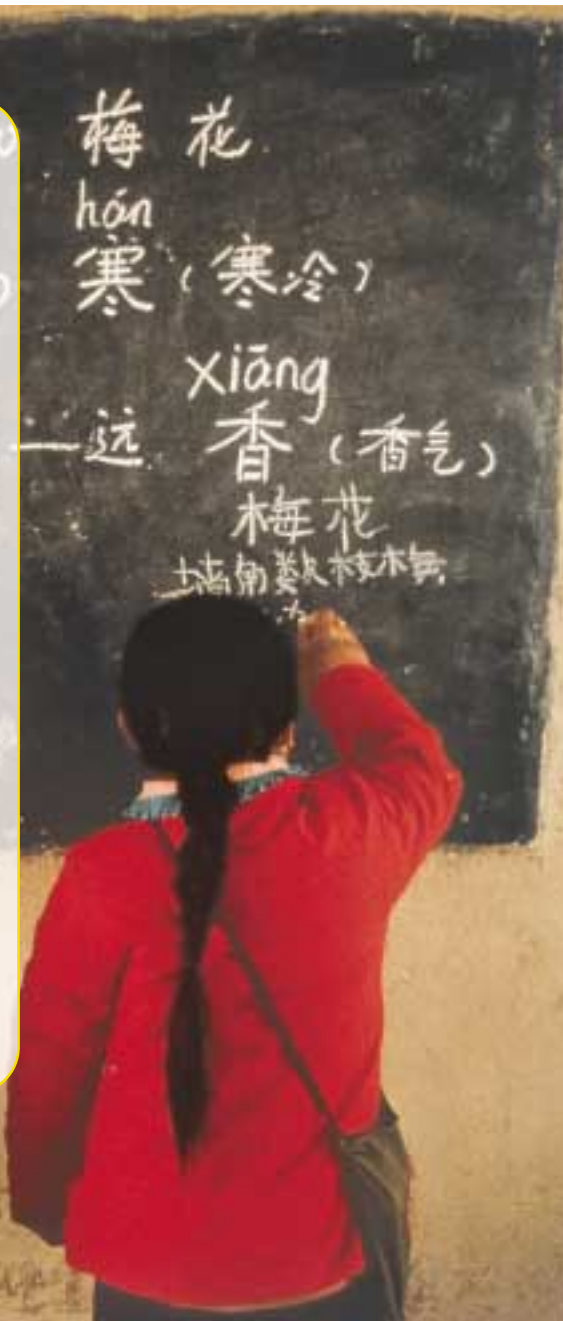
For girls, gaining access to education is an even greater priority, as girls make up some 60 per cent of the more than 100 million school-age children not attend-

ing school. Educating girls is also widely recognized as one of the best ways to promote development. UNICEF has a strong record in promoting girls’ right to education, including work with major donors such as Canada and Norway, in more than 60 countries. Because of this, the organization was asked to lead the 10-year Girls’ Education Initiative of the United Nations, launched by Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the 2000 World Education Forum in Dakar. Championing quality basic education for all children, this joint effort of UN agencies, governments, donors, NGOs, community-based organizations and many other partners will help countries tackle gender discrimination and other factors that prevent

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GETTING RESULTS: 2000

- In AIDS-ravaged Zambia, UNICEF helped set up 250 community schools for thousands of AIDS-orphaned and other vulnerable children. These schools cater to the children’s special needs and train teachers in stress management. Around 650,000 children are orphaned by AIDS in Zambia.
- By mid-2000, 95 per cent of primary school-age children were enrolled in school in East Timor, more than ever before, despite the fact that widespread violence nearly destroyed the education system in 1999. Joining efforts with the World Food Programme, NGOs and other partners, UNICEF played a lead role, re-roofing schools, paying teachers and providing learning and teaching materials. UNICEF-supplied Schools-in-a-Box brought learning basics to 50,000 students.
- Girls are becoming educators in Pakistan, where UNICEF has helped provide home-schooling skills to 4,500 girls aged 12 to 18. By end-2000, the trainees had helped set up 950 home schools for children, mostly girls, in need of basic education or extra help. Home schooling is one of many skills taught in the UNICEF-supported Girl Child Project, in which 13,000 girls have taken part since 1994, when the NGO-run project began.
- In the city of Fès (Morocco), six Child Protection Centres were set up in 2000 by government ministries, UNICEF and NGOs. The centres provide schooling, recreation activities and health care to many of the city’s more than 20,000 children under 15 who work illegally at carpet weaving and other jobs. Already, 240 children have begun their basic education, some having left work to study. The programme, which is expanding to other cities, is an important step in bringing education – the best preventive to child labour – to the estimated 500,000 under-age workers in Morocco.
- In Bangladesh, more than 200,000 urban working children have been enrolled in learning centres supported by UNICEF.





In Viet Nam, schoolchildren learn about the dangers of sexual exploitation from this poster, distributed to 17 schools and communities in high-risk areas. Warning children to “stay away from suspicious people,” the poster was produced in 2000 as part of a project with ethnic minorities supported by UNICEF, local committees, women’s unions, education officials and Committees on the Care and Protection of Children.

girls from enrolling and staying in school.

UNICEF is a dependable partner in the global effort to ensure education for all, an effort that has helped governments enrol a greater percentage of children in school today than at any time in history. At the same time, we help schools go beyond the academic basics to teach children ‘life skills’, such as making informed decisions and avoiding risks, crucial measures in this era of AIDS. And we work with educators, parents, children and other community members to ensure that the school curriculum is relevant, covering vital issues such as how to prevent AIDS, avoid violence and abuse and promote respect for the rights of girls and women.

And before children even begin school, we support programmes in early childhood care that help families improve their children’s health, emo-

tional resilience and readiness to learn. For example, in 2000, UNICEF helped 32,500 caregivers in Nepal improve their parenting skills.

UNICEF-supported programmes help schools and staff continue this good care and concern for the ‘whole child’. To promote good health, hygiene and nutrition in schools, for example, UNICEF joined governments, the World Bank, UN agencies

and other partners in 2000 in launching FRESH (Focusing Resources on Effective School Health programme). With UNICEF assistance, six countries set up FRESH pilot projects in school sanitation, taking measures such as promoting good hygiene practices and building separate sanitation facilities for girls and boys – an important step in making schools more welcoming to girls.

IN GUATEMALA, CHILD RIGHTS ARE EVERYONE’S BUSINESS



A BLOODY CIVIL WAR of over 30 years (1962–1996) nearly devastated this small country, leaving deep emotional scars. Today, to help move the country forward, schools have joined with communities in promoting tolerance and respect for human rights, using the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a springboard for change.

San Andrés Itzapa is a town of 20,000 people located in a rural area badly affected by war. In 2000, the town was one of 51 municipalities that formed community boards to protect children’s rights, giving special attention to cases of abuse and violence.

The all-volunteer board is made up of educators, health workers, judges, social workers and other community leaders, backed by scores of additional volunteers and an enthusiastic mayor. Among its many activities in 2000, this grass-roots alliance helped schoolchildren learn about their rights and sponsored a teachers’ forum on child rights in 225 area schools. Board members gave workshops on gender and discrimination issues for children in the fifth and sixth grades. They also talked with parents about the value of education, urging them to enrol their children in school.

“We tell parents that if children are not in school, it’s a violation of their rights,” says Aura Violeta de Gómez, who sits on the nine-member community board and heads one of the town’s largest schools. “We’ve already had a big influence here: Fifteen children with disabilities are in school, and so many more parents see education as important that we now need more schools and teachers.”

Board members receive training from the Guatemalan Ombudsperson’s Office for Human Rights and support from the federal Government, UNICEF and NGOs. In 2001, children will be invited to join the board.



GETTING RESULTS: 2000

- In Namibia, a country where HIV/AIDS is devastating young lives, nearly 75,000 youths aged 15 to 22 had by end-2000 developed skills that will help them avoid infection with HIV. These youths participated in 10 two-hour workshops to learn from their peers how to make informed decisions and develop other life skills. Overseeing the project, called My Future Is My Choice, is a national steering committee on youth health and development, comprising a cross-section of government ministries, UNAIDS, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and UNICEF.
- Bal Chetana, Nepal's first NGO created and managed by children, is helping draft Nepal's second progress report on implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2000, with support and training from UNICEF and local NGOs, Bal Chetana set up camps in four districts so that members aged 8 to 18 could learn about the reporting process and contribute their ideas. As a result of their excellent work, the children were invited to join the official committee drafting Nepal's report on implementing the Convention.
- In Rajasthan (India), UNICEF joined with the state government and NGOs to launch 200 monthly children's parliaments, or *panchayats*, at the village and district levels, where children discuss issues and propose action and follow-up measures in collaboration with local leaders.
- Kyrgyzstan's remote, conflict-prone Ferghana Valley had no local radio or TV programmes until 2000, when UNICEF worked with young people to set up 'Radio Salaam', a fun, educational programme promoting inter-ethnic understanding. Now, adolescents tuning in to 105 FM can hear news, talk shows and their favourite music broadcast in one of three local languages. Communicating with radio headquarters via bicycle messengers, a network of 50 volunteer schoolchildren provides programme content and feedback. Plans are under way to train young people in broadcast journalism. 'Radio Salaam' was created through a partnership of UNICEF and two national organizations, Foundation for International Tolerance and INTERNEWS.

FULL OF VITALITY, creativity and drive, children and adolescents can make a major contribution to their societies. Ensuring children's right to participation, a tenet of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, is vital to promoting leadership and good citizenship. At UNICEF, we know that working with children is as important as working for them, and we value them as essential partners in all our work, especially as we build the Global Movement for Children.

UNICEF is finding new and varied ways to listen to children and help them turn ideas into action. In 2000, for example, we supported children's NGOs, radio programmes, television shows, newspapers and magazines. With UNICEF support during the year, children and youth also helped plan and evaluate programmes, create activities and safe spaces for young people in emergencies and report on children's issues. Thousands of chil-

ADOLESCENCE

A VULNERABLE TIME

On election day 2000 in Mexico, children joined adults in exercising their right to be heard. At special polling sites, some 4 million citizens aged 9 to 17 filled out forms letting policy makers know about children's most pressing concerns. The children's consultation, the country's second, was organized by the Federal Electoral Institute and supported by UNICEF, the private sector and around 500 NGOs. Here, children in the town of El Verde cast their 'ballots'.

Most of the 300,000 child soldiers in the world are adolescents.

Of the 250 million children under 15 who work, the majority are adolescents.

Every minute around the world, six youths aged 15 to 24 are infected with HIV.

Every year, at least 60,000 adolescent girls die from health problems related to pregnancy and childbirth.

An estimated 30 million children are now victimized by traffickers for sexual exploitation.

About one third of teenagers 15 to 18 years old – 9 million in all – were not in school as recently as 1998 in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. (– from *Young People in Changing Societies*, a major study published in 2000 by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy)

dren logged on to Voices of Youth (see 'Media', page 15), UNICEF's interactive website, to learn about their rights and exchange views on issues that concern them.

UNICEF helps governments, families and communities provide children and adolescents with good schools, safe places to spend their time, access to information about their health and well-being, and opportunities to develop life skills that help them avoid risks and lead productive lives. These skills, which include resolving conflicts, thinking critically, making informed decisions and communicating effectively, are particularly crucial to avoiding HIV/AIDS and other risks. Many programmes provide opportunities for children and youth to pass along factual information and skills to their peers.

When children and adolescents miss out on society's full support and opportunities to participate meaningfully in community life, they can become vulnerable in ways that are all too evident in almost every part of the world. Many become alienated, and some join gangs and turn to violence. All such children are at great risk of being sexually exploited, preyed upon by drug dealers, used as soldiers in armed conflict, forced to work and miss school and edged to the margins of society. Large numbers end up on the streets, their potential wasted and society's future threatened. Those sexually exploited face increased risk of HIV infection, and girls often become mothers before they are able to care for and raise children.



IN BRAZIL, YOUTH-RUN MAGAZINES COMBINE WIT AND GRIT

ANDRE, 21, spent most of his teen years as a gang member in his poor urban neighbourhood. "My creative outlet," he says, "was to spray-paint buses with bad graffiti."

Two years ago he quit gang life, re-entered school and joined a UNICEF-supported news agency. He has since become one of the most celebrated young illustrators in Manaus, a major city in Brazil's Amazon region. His witty cartoons and bold artwork enliven the pages of a youth-run quarterly newspaper, *Uga Uga*, distributed to 37,000 adolescents and youth in 162 schools.

Uga Uga, named for a popular cartoon figure, is planned and produced by teenagers and youth, with guidance from journalists and teachers. It covers crucial issues such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse and youth unemployment.

The magazine began in 1997 with start-up funds from UNICEF. It is sponsored by the *Uga Uga* Communication Agency, an NGO that has joined the UNICEF-supported network of Brazilian news agencies promoting children's rights. Additional support for the *Uga Uga* agency has come from the fund-raising telethon *Child Hope* (Criança Esperança), national NGOs, Brazil's Banco Itaú and the mayor's office, which pays for the magazine's production and supplies.

In 2000, *Uga Uga* began training adolescents to produce 'zines' – small, fun, photocopied newspapers that feature music reviews, cartoons, puzzles and articles on important issues. UNICEF provides supplies.

Camilla, 14, helps produce a zine called *Albatross* at her school, located in a poor neighbourhood of Manaus. She says the experience helped her realize that she wants to become a journalist one day. "Sometimes adolescents don't know how capable they are until they get a chance," she explains.

Journalists Camilla and Natalia with their publication, *Albatross*.



UNICEF/95-0083/Shadiid

A DVANCES IN MEDIA technology are making it more possible than ever to fulfil every child's right to information. Television and radio especially are reaching out to children and families with information that can save and transform lives. At the click of a button, children can learn about their rights, exchange ideas, get health tips or gain a new perspective on issues such as gender discrimination and domestic violence. With the input of UNICEF and its many partners, broadcast and other media are reinforcing many of the health messages and behaviours that UNICEF continues to promote, as it has for decades, through traditional means such as family visits, community theatre, posters and booklets.

Each year, we learn more about how best to take advantage of the exciting new possibilities in communication. And, increasingly, we are being joined by children themselves, who showcase their creative talents as producers, directors, journalists and critics.

“GIVE CHILDREN A VOICE . . . LET US BE A PART OF THE CREATION OF OUR WORLD.”

—MARIA, 15, FROM UNICEF'S VOICES OF YOUTH WEBSITE

Children's input, for example, has been key to the enormous success of videos, comic books and other media in UNICEF's two major animation series: *Meena*, featuring a lively girl role model who helps South Asian children learn about their rights, and *Sara*, whose main character guides children from sub-Saharan Africa through such difficult issues as HIV/AIDS and sexual exploitation.



A Cartoon for Children's Rights, produced by Walt Disney Studios.

GETTING RESULTS: 2000

- By the end of the year 2000, an estimated 1 billion people in 160 countries had seen one of many public service announcements on child rights produced by Cartoons for Children's Rights, a UNICEF animation initiative begun in 1994. The announcements, distributed for free, were developed by 70 animation studios in 32 countries and represent millions of dollars' worth of donated time and talent.
- In the Philippines, child rights are becoming a mainstream issue in the media, thanks to the joint efforts of UNICEF and the Philippine Children's Television Foundation. In 2000, the two organizations produced a Media Tool Kit containing information and resources on child rights and distributed it to hundreds of key writers, broadcasters and media specialists as well as to journalism/communication schools in the country.
- Each month, approximately 500,000 Ugandan adolescents learn about AIDS through a frank, lively newspaper put together by teens and youth. Begun in 1993 with UNICEF help, *Straight Talk* has since spawned a newspaper for younger adolescents, a popular radio show and similar efforts in six additional African countries. In Uganda, this AIDS outreach is overseen by the Straight Talk Foundation, an NGO set up in 1997 with UNICEF assistance.
- The 2001 edition of UNICEF's annual flagship publication, *The State of the World's Children*, on early childhood care, was produced in both print and web versions for the first time and received greater press coverage than ever when it was launched in dozens of countries in December 2000. The launch and associated forum brought together more than 200 experts on early childhood care for a discussion of ways to improve care for the very young and to build partnerships for children.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY OF BROADCASTING

Nowhere is young people's involvement more evident than on the second Sunday of December each year, when the International Children's Day of Broadcasting transforms the airwaves into high-quality programming for and by children. During the year, more than 2,000 media organizations joined the UNICEF-backed initiative, including Universal Studios, Sesame Workshop,



We have a right to safe roads and places to play.

SOUL BUDDYZ CAPTIVATES SOUTH AFRICA'S CHILDREN

In 2000, more than 2 million children in South Africa – 50 per cent of all those who watch television – eagerly tuned in to each new episode of a 26-part series, *Soul Buddyz*, South Africa's most popular children's television programme ever. What made this even more unusual is that *Soul Buddyz*, launched during the year with UNICEF support, is an 'edutainment' programme largely scripted and designed by children themselves. In each episode, geared to 8- to 12-year-olds, a group of 'buddies' tackles child rights issues such as HIV/AIDS, sexual abuse and discrimination. The series is based on the popular 'edutainment' series for adults, *Soul City*. It is linked with a radio show and educational print materials, including a life-skills booklet for children, which UNICEF helped distribute to all seventh graders during the year. *Soul Buddyz* is a project of Soul City: Institute for Health and Development Communication. Additional support came from UNICEF, the European Union, BP corporation, the South African Broadcast Corporation and the cell phone company MTN.

Prix Jeunesse International, Brazil's TV Cultura, the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation and small and large broadcasters throughout the world.

Among the events in 2000: In the Ukraine, Odessa-Plus TV aired 46 special children's programmes over two weeks. In El Salvador, 200 children volunteered as broadcasters at more than 100 radio stations. And in Botswana, 11 child journalists interviewed the President at his home for a TV special.

VOICES OF YOUTH

Children from around the world logged on to UNICEF's interactive website, Voices of Youth (VOY) <www.unicef.org/voy>, to learn about their rights, share ideas and even chat with UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy about issues of the day. In 2000, children helped produce a new quiz about polio eradication. And young people from nearly 80 countries helped prepare for the UN Special Session on Children in September 2001 by taking part in 12 VOY focus groups with other children and youths, policy makers and experts. The many partners in this information exchange, for which children provided programme content, included WHO, UNAIDS and dozens of NGOs.



MAXIMO!

A TOUCAN

THAT TEACHES

IN ECUADOR, health and education campaigns are helped along by a colourful toucan named Maximo, who squawks advice to children and their parents. The brainchild of UNICEF, Walt Disney Studios and Cinearte, this much-loved animated character appears in videos, TV spots, radio shows, posters and leaflets. He was first introduced to Ecuador in 1994 to help promote a measles campaign and has since entertained children while cajoling them to become immunized, enrol in school or eat nutritious foods.

In 2000, Maximo was once again called upon to enliven a health campaign, appearing in a TV spot to promote breastfeeding that reached an estimated 5 million viewers. Using messages developed by the Ministry of Health, the Breastfeeding League and UNICEF, the spot was created by Cinearte, paid for by UNICEF and distributed with the help of the National TV Chain Association.



Vitamin A is key to helping children avoid infections, illness and death, yet more than 100 million children in the world are deficient in this vitamin. To help publicize the problem and its solutions, UNICEF in 2000 produced three 30-second public

service announcements, which were ordered by 75 leading international cable and satellite broadcasters, including CNN, and aired several times a day for many months.