

SUPPLY DIVISION



SUPPORTING CHILD RIGHTS

Supplies such as medicines, vaccines, educational items, nutritional products, and clean water are essential for saving children's lives, helping them grow and protecting their rights.

Access to essential supplies is an intrinsic part of child rights. Quality supplies delivered on time contribute to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and UNICEF focus areas. Procurement of supplies for children is a dynamic field greatly influenced by demands emerging from child mortality and morbidity, natural and man-made emergencies, new technology and new partnerships. What remains constant is UNICEF's commitment to ensuring that high quality, good value supplies reach children and their families efficiently, effectively and fast. UNICEF procurement maintains the highest ethical standards to guarantee that processes are fair, open and transparent.

UNICEF's supply activities support the organization's priorities of: young child survival and development; basic education and gender equality; HIV/AIDS and children; child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse; and policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights. UNICEF is the world's leading agency in procuring essential supplies for children.

YOUNG CHILD SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

Ensuring that children get the best start in life is the foundation for their role as active members of society. Yet, children die each year from diseases that could be prevented or effectively treated. Existing high-impact child survival interventions can prevent a substantial proportion of current deaths.

The procurement of supplies remains central to these efforts, and ranges from vaccines, essential medicines, micronutrients and food supplements, to insecticide-treated bed nets and safe water supplies.

UNICEF supplies vaccines to 40 per cent of the world's children representing around three billion doses of a range of vaccines against polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and HiB annually. Micronutrients, such as vitamin A, iron/folic acid, and iodine are vital to maternal and child health, and their administration is often combined with large-scale immunization programmes.

UNICEF also buys safe injection materials, safety boxes and cold-chain equipment for immunization programmes it supports. Together with its partners, UNICEF is committed to the use of auto-disable (AD) syringes, or single dose, pre-filled AD injection devices. Its Supply Division works with manufacturers to ensure there is a reliable supply of quality, affordable vaccines, and with governments to assess their vaccine requirements.

The supply of mosquito nets and insecticides to sub-Saharan countries is an essential strategy in fighting malaria. UNICEF is the world's largest procurer of mosquito nets. Emphasis is put on the increasing use of long-lasting insecticidal nets, where the insecticide remains effective for several years. UNICEF also procures millions of antimalaria treatments, focusing on the new artemisinin combination therapies (ACTs). One of the challenges is to absorb the extra cost as ACTs are much more expensive than previous generation drug options. UNICEF and its partners continue to encourage countries to change their medicine policy in favour of the new, more effective treatments.





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Supplies are also an important component of water and sanitation programmes. From water purification tablets to drilling equipment, from buckets to latrines, UNICEF procures a wide range of commodities in this area. Since access to drinking and sanitation is particularly vital during emergencies, the organization has developed the basic family water kit. Designed to cover the needs of 10 families, it contains buckets, soap, water containers, and water purification tablets.

UNICEF is also helping to save millions of lives annually by procuring Oral Rehydration Salts – one of the simplest, most effective and cheapest ways to keep children alive during severe episodes of diarrhoea, which is the second leading cause of child deaths.

BASIC EDUCATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

Education is a fundamental right for all children and a priority for UNICEF. UNICEF advocates quality basic education for all, with an emphasis on gender equality and eliminating disparities of all kinds.

The organization procures increasingly large quantities of basic educational items. In recent years, UNICEF provided educational supplies to over nine million children on an annual basis. Millions of exercise books, pencils, erasers, pens and rulers transit through its warehouses every year.

One particularly important educational product is the school-in-a-box, a kit produced by the UNICEF warehouse in Copenhagen and containing supplies and materials for up to 80 students, and a teacher. In addition to the basic school supplies, such as exercise books, pencils, erasers and scissors, the kit also includes a wooden teaching clock, plastic cubes for counting and a set of three laminated posters (alphabet, multiplication and number tables). The kit is supplied in a locked aluminium box, the lid of which can double as a black-board when coated with the special paint included in the kit.

HIV/AIDS AND CHILDREN

Over two million children are infected with HIV and millions more are affected by AIDS due to parental illness or death. In 2005, the “Unite For Children Unite Against AIDS” Campaign, spearheaded by UNICEF, was launched to support joint actions for children, adolescents and young people affected by the pandemic.

Supplies are essential to the protection of children from HIV/AIDS and the treatment of affected and infected children. It is estimated that less than 10 per cent of pregnant women are offered services to prevent transmission of HIV to their infants, and only 6 per cent of young HIV-positive children in need of paediatric AIDS treatment are receiving it. UNICEF is strongly committed to making test kits and antiretroviral (ARV) treatment more widely accessible to children and pregnant women. Supply Division currently procures ARVs to over 40 countries.

UNICEF has created a stockpile of HIV/AIDS-related products to help countries experiencing shortages. Any time or day of the week, these treatments can be airfreighted anywhere in the world to prevent a stock-out of medicines. Forecasting the needs for ARVs is a complex task, and shortages remain a common occurrence.

The procurement of ARVs and HIV/AIDS test kits constitutes a volatile and complex field of expertise. One of the roles of UNICEF in this area is to provide technical support to and build the capacities of governments and other partners.

Since 1999, UNICEF has been part of a United Nations system-wide strategy to improve information-sharing on HIV-related medicines and suppliers. Regular surveys on HIV medicines, test kits and suppliers of AIDS-related products are produced, in collaboration with UNAIDS, WHO and Médecins Sans Frontières, for use by procurement agencies and countries. The most recent publication is available on the Internet at www.unicef.org/supply, under ‘Fighting HIV/AIDS.’

CHILD PROTECTION

Children’s rights are particularly at risk in times of emergency, be it natural disasters or conflict situations. Supplies support children and their families in emergencies in two distinct ways. Firstly, they answer basic human rights for shelter, nourishment, water and sanitation and health. Additionally, educational and recreational supplies provide psychological assistance by offering children a sense of normality when their surroundings are uncertain. Increasingly, UNICEF plans for and delivers emergency supplies as part of longer-term assistance in rehabilitation and development.

Several kits have been developed for children and their families in situations of emergency. For instance, UNICEF procures the emergency health kit that contains medical supplies to cover the needs of 10,000 people for three months. Other medical kits include the obstetric and midwifery kits and the first aid kit. The midwifery kit contains medicines and medical supplies to allow a midwife to perform 50 normal deliveries.



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The school-in-a-box and the recreation kit have become part of the UNICEF standard response in emergencies. Sport is recognized as an effective trauma therapy for children displaced by war and natural disasters. The recreation kit is suitable for up to 90 children at a time, who can participate in team sports and games under the guidance of an adult.

During emergencies, UNICEF works closely with many partners, including the World Food Programme, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Joint Logistics Centre on shipping, logistics and distribution.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN'S SUPPLIES

Virtually all procurement undertaken by UNICEF depends on partnerships. UNICEF works with WHO, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNFPA on the procurement of medicines (including treatment for HIV/AIDS) and supply management. The organization partners with GAVI and the World Bank for the procuring of vaccines and injection safety equipment, and with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria on support to countries for procuring related essential commodities.

UNICEF actively supports the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and is making important strides to bring UN reform into the mainstream of its operations. Closer partnerships are seen as opportunities to procure supplies for children and their families faster, better and at an affordable cost.



UNICEF is an active partner in the United Nations procurement network, specializing in essential commodities for children and their communities. All UN agencies are reviewing their strengths in the area of procurement, both in terms of expertise and volume of transactions.

The objective is to minimize the duplication of activities within the UN and to improve efficiency and effectiveness through cooperation and utilization of the United Nations Global Marketplace common interface, and implementation of mechanisms for sharing Long Term Arrangements.

By consolidating their procurement, UN agencies are able to use the additional leverage of very large procurement, allowing them to better negotiate prices collectively.

About half of UNICEF's procurement is done in collaboration with partners, mostly through its Procurement Services. UNICEF purchases and delivers supplies and equipment, as well as supply chain-related services, on behalf of governmental and nongovernmental partners. Managed from UNICEF's Supply Division in Copenhagen, Procurement Services combines global reach with local knowledge in collaboration with the organization's country offices covering 155 countries and territories around the world.



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DETAILED, ACCESSIBLE, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

The UNICEF website contains detailed information on its procurement. Annual Reports, background on Procurement Services, and help for suppliers can be found at www.unicef.org/supply.

The UNICEF Supply Catalogue is also available online and contains specifications for 1,700 items. It is designed to assist in supply planning, delivery and monitoring.

PROCURING SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN

Located in Copenhagen, **Supply Division** is the part of UNICEF responsible for overseeing the organization's global procurement and logistics operation. Supplies are procured based on the needs identified by UNICEF country offices and their partners. The fulfilment of their needs brings together an extensive network of country and regional offices, and headquarters and divisional locations in New York and Copenhagen as well as emergency hubs.

Supply Division maintains the highest ethical standards for procurement, shares procurement know-how with development partners and innovates to find ever-better supply solutions for children.

PRICE - QUALITY - COMPLIANCE - SPEED

The procurement of children's supplies is a complex operation that requires highly specialized expertise. At every stage of the procurement process, strict principles are followed. Supply Division is committed to seeking out the most cost-effective supplies from around the world, but does not compromise on quality as children's lives are

often at stake. All suppliers, wherever they are, must satisfy the same rigorous quality control standards. Speed of delivery is also a core commitment and criteria.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS ALWAYS IN STOCK

The UNICEF warehouse in Copenhagen contains an inventory of essential supplies for children. Covering 25,000 square metres, and equipped with the latest technology, it is here that items are received, quality checked, stored, packed, and shipped. The warehouse specializes in assembling pre-packed kits that are designed to meet a variety of needs, especially in the critical areas of medical care and children's education.

Supply Division is committed to packing and sending emergency supplies to children within 48 hours. Staff can be mobilized any day of the year and the Copenhagen warehouse can work around the clock. The organization also runs emergency hubs in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and Colon (Panama). Combined warehouse operations contain sufficient emergency supplies to meet the needs of 320,000 people.