

Several changes have also been made to improve internal control functions. The independence of the internal audit office is ensured by the fact that the office submits annual reports directly to the Executive Board and that the office's

In terms of achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG), UNICEF is one of Norway's most important partners. This applies in particular to MDG 2 and 3 (education and gender equality) and MDGs 4 and 5 (reducing child mortality and improving maternal health). In the period up until 2015, Norway and UNICEF will continue their strategic partnership to realise these goals. This calls for a stronger rights-based approach, closer interaction between the different sectors, greater focus on approaches that result in sustainable development and focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Another important area of cooperation on policy is the fight against sexualised violence in war, conflict and emergency situations. UNICEF is a crucial partner, not only in terms of global policy advocacy, but also on account of the organisation's presence in the field providing assistance and protection.

In Norway's view, UNICEF's current medium-term strategic plan (2006-2013) does not provide an adequate foundation for result-oriented management and results reporting. Norway is therefore seeking to ensure that the necessary changes are made in the next medium-term strategic plan (2014-2017).

Norway expects UNICEF to continue to play a prominent, ground-breaking role in moving children's rights higher up the global agenda.

3. Norway's policy towards UNICEF

The organisation has a clear right-based approach and a strong presence in the field. UNICEF delivers results that are relevant for Norwegian political priorities. This applies in particular to efforts to protect children's rights, achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals, provide humanitarian response in conflict and crisis situations, protect civilians (including efforts to combat sexualised violence in conflicts and the demobilisation and reintegration of child soldiers), and humanitarian disarmament. UNICEF also plays a key role in ongoing processes aimed at strengthening and increasing the effectiveness of the UN's development and humanitarian activities. Norway has clear expectations that UNICEF will play a clearer role in instigating greater coordination of the efforts of the UN family at country level.

Norway has been engaged in a unique partnership with UNICEF for many years to secure the right of all children to schooling. In particular, Norway and UNICEF have pursued long-term, strategic efforts to ensure that girls have access to school. An important part of this work consists of convincing the global community of how right and, in fact, profitable, it is to focus on girls and education. Despite the rapid increase in the number of children enrolled in schools, major challenges remain to be resolved, such as marginalised children, the most vulnerable children and children in war and conflict situations. Furthermore, ensuring girls' access to education still presents especially substantial challenges, and global statistics conceal major disparities within various countries. The focus on quality must also be intensified. In addition to close strategic collaboration on the above-mentioned issues, Norway also emphasises the importance of UNICEF improving its results reporting.

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1. Facts and figures

Type of organisation: Fund financed through voluntary contributions

Established in: 1946

Headquarters: New York

Number of country offices: 161

Head of organisation: Executive Director Anthony Lake (USA)

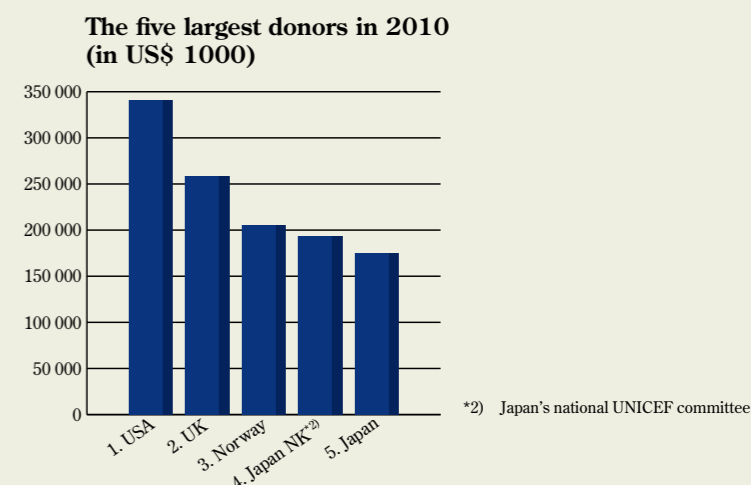
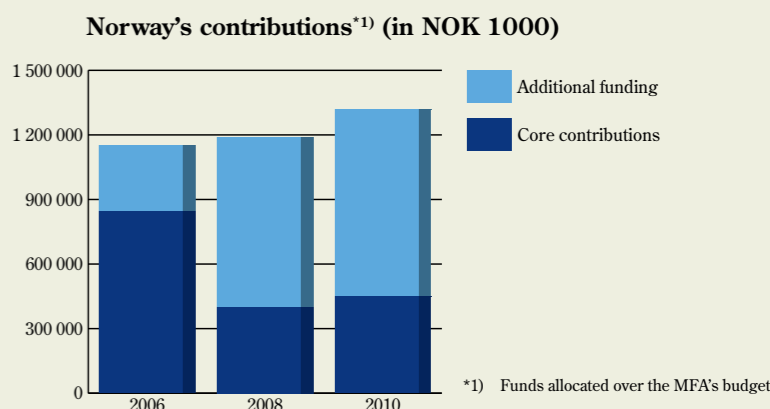
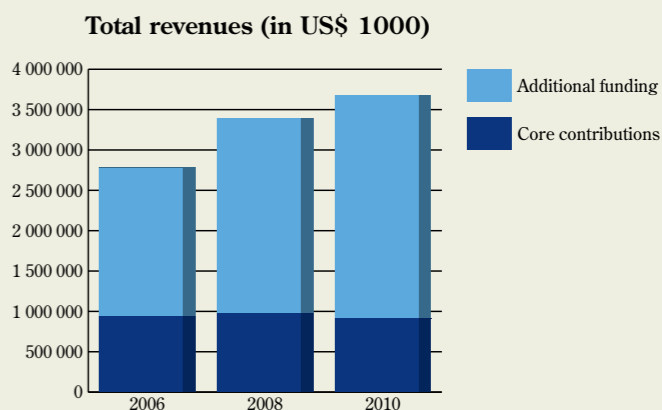
Dates of Executive Board meetings
2011: 8–11 February, 20–23 June and
 12–15 September

Norway's representation on Board:
Norway held a seat on the Executive Board from 2008 to 2010, and is an active observer from 2011 due to substantial Norwegian funding

Number of Norwegian staff: 21

Responsible ministry: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

Website: www.unicef.org



Mandate and areas of activity

UNICEF is a key global actor in efforts to promote the rights of children. UNICEF’s mandate is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Through its role as global advocate for children, UNICEF mobilises political will and resources for promoting children’s right to health, clean water, education and protection. In addition to its normative mandate, UNICEF is one of the UN’s largest development and humanitarian actors.

In accordance with UNICEF’s Medium-term Strategic Plan (MTSP) for 2006-2013, the organisation focuses its efforts on five priority areas:

- Young child survival and development; health, nutrition, clean water and adequate sanitation
- Basic education with emphasis on equal rights to education and quality education for all
- Protection of and assistance for children infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS
- Protection of children from violence, exploitation and abuse
- Promotion of children’s rights through policy advocacy and strengthening partnerships for children’s rights

UNICEF plays a special role in protecting children in war, conflicts and emergencies. UNICEF provides basic relief at national and local levels in the fields of health, nutrition, water, sanitation, education and protection. UNICEF also leads the coordination of emergency relief in such key sectors as water and sanitation, nutrition, education and protection of children.

Results achieved in 2010

Within UNICEF’s focus area of ensuring young child survival and development, the organisation’s efforts reflect the increased global focus on mothers, newborn infants and child health (UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 4 and 5). Among other things, UNICEF contributed to national immunisation campaigns in 62 countries, and maintained its strong commitment to eradicating polio by helping to ensure that over one billion children were vaccinated. Polio is now found only in a few areas of Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Nigeria. UNICEF supported the efforts of national authorities to develop guidelines for combating child diseases, as a result of which 23 countries in sub-Saharan Africa had put in place such guidelines in 2010, compared with seven countries in 2007. Statistics from 86 countries show that breastfeeding has increased in 2/3 of the countries, a result that can largely be ascribed to the efforts to encourage the use of breastfeeding. Around one million undernourished children were treated with therapeutic food with the help of products and technical support from UNICEF, and 293 million children received vitamin A capsules to strengthen their immune systems. A total of 30 countries received 41 million doses of anti-malaria medicine. Global efforts to achieve the MDG relating to clean drinking water appear likely to succeed, while less progress has been made towards achieving the MDG on sanitation. In 2010, UNICEF helped to provide 3.8 million households

with better drinking water sources and 2.4 million households with improved sanitation. In the focus area of HIV, AIDS and children, UNICEF and UNAIDS launched a global campaign in 2010 aimed at eliminating the vertical transmission of HIV from mother to child by 2015.

In the focus area of education and gender equality, UNICEF continued its targeted efforts to ensure the right to schooling for all children and to improve the quality of education. More children are receiving a basic education than ever before, but the global statistics conceal substantial disparities between countries and within countries. Some 67 million children of primary school age still have no access to schooling (47 per cent boys and 53 per cent girls). A total of 71 million children of secondary school age (46 per cent boys and 54 per cent girls) lack access to schooling. More than 40 per cent of all children without access to schooling live in either a war or conflict situation or in a fragile state. Despite the progress that has been made, major challenges still remain to be met in terms of improving girls’ access to schooling. This applies especially in sub-Saharan Africa, in South and West Asia and in war and conflict situations. UNICEF channels the bulk of its resources to these countries and, in 2010 in collaboration with UNESCO, also promoted the adoption of a common approach among relevant actors in the education sector. UNICEF is a leading advocate of the importance of incorporating a gender equality focus into efforts to increase school enrolment of girls. Through its active role in the UN’s Girls’ Education Initiative, UNICEF has helped to ensure that almost as many girls as boys (97 girls per 100 boys) now attend school. UNICEF is instrumental in influencing the development of national and local guidelines, education budgets and plans to strengthen the education sector. In 2010, with support from UNICEF, 80 countries adopted UNICEF’s quality standards for primary education based on the organisation’s child-friendly school model, compared with 43 countries in 2005.

In the focus area of protection of children from violence, exploitation and abuse, UNICEF assists in building up and strengthening local and national authorities’ expertise on children’s rights. In 2010, UNICEF helped 131 countries to strengthen their legal and social welfare systems. Together with UNFPA, UNICEF expanded the scope of its efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation to include a further 13 countries. Another important example from 2010 was UNICEF’s collaboration with Indian authorities to put in place a national strategy to combat child marriage. In addition to long-term protection measures, UNICEF can point to good results in its humanitarian response efforts. In 2010, UNICEF provided reintegration support for 28,000 children and helped to achieve the liberation of 11,400 boys and girls associated with armed forces and groups. UNICEF is a key actor in the implementation of the UN’s monitoring and reporting mechanism on violence against children in armed conflicts, and has played a pivotal role in establishing monitoring mechanisms in 13 countries.

Through UNICEF’s focus area of policy advocacy and partnership for children’s rights, UNICEF works to ensure

good global databases for children and women. This type of information is of great value in mapping the situation on the ground and in advocacy efforts targeting national and local authorities. In 2010, UNICEF supported the efforts of 81 countries to conduct major thematic studies and analyses of the rights of women and children.

In 2010, UNICEF promoted a stronger, more clearly defined focus on the most vulnerable groups in society. UNICEF’s

Juvenile justice reform in South Sudan

In 2010, UNICEF provided training on child welfare legislation for 230,000 central government officials and citizens (both adults and children). Furthermore, 200 police officers, judges and social workers received practical training and guidance in juvenile justice, as a result of which 270 children and young people were given better support, follow-up and protection.

Five child protection units were created in the Sudan People’s Liberation Army, and 5,680 soldiers received training in child protection with a view to preventing the recruitment of children to armed forces.

In 2010, UNICEF also intensified its efforts to combat female genital mutilation and helped to strengthen South-South cooperation between Sudan and Egypt in this field.

2. Assessments: results, effectiveness and monitoring

UNICEF has a relatively good system for results reporting. UNICEF’s strategic plan operationalises its mandate by means of a results framework comprising defined goals and indicators. The systematic reporting of UNICEF’s own contributions presents the greatest challenge. Under the strategic plan, UNICEF submits annual reports. The organisation has put in place systems and procedures for feedback reporting on national achievement of results by country offices and results achieved globally. To some extent, UNICEF reports on challenges and to some extent on the failure to achieve results. There is still room for improvement. UNICEF can enhance the quality of its reporting by making greater use of baseline data, giving clearer details of the effect of the organisation’s efforts and reporting more systematically on the results delivered by the organisation as a whole. UNICEF’s Executive Board has asked the organisation to draw up a road map that will ensure improvements in the Medium-term Strategic Plan and associated results framework that will apply from 2014. In 2009, the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF adopted identical decisions to the effect that the three organisations are to introduce harmonised, yet organisation-specific budgets based on the results framework in the organisations’ strategic plans. The budget reform is intended to make the budget a more effective instrument for achieving priority goals, and will strengthen the governing bodies’ governance by giving them better insight into the planned and actual use of funding. This cross-organisational harmonisation will make it easier to compare the organisations.

An important part of UNICEF’s mandate is to promote

“equity approach” will be relevant for global efforts to achieve the MDGs. Based on research carried out in the health sector, UNICEF argues that it is both morally right and cost-effective to focus on the most vulnerable, marginalised groups. UNICEF is also engaged in dialogue with other relevant UN entites concerning this approach. It will be important to monitor the effect of this approach in practical terms in the field in the months and years ahead.

stronger national ownership and ensure sustainable development. This entails focus on strengthening the development of national and local policies, plans and budgets, building up expertise in relevant official institutions and civil society organisations, and developing capacity at individual level. Based on earlier reviews of UNICEF’s contributions to capacity development, UNICEF has prepared a strategy for further improving its approach in this field. Nevertheless, UNICEF needs to take further action to ensure that capacity-building becomes an integral part of the organisation’s activities. UNICEF must also strengthen its approach to and follow-up of national partners.

UNICEF pursues a human rights-based approach, and promoting gender equality is integral to the organisation’s work. An internal evaluation of UNICEF’s gender equality efforts was carried out in 2008, which presented recommendations for correcting weaknesses. Under pressure from the Executive Board, UNICEF has taken a number of steps to follow up on these recommendations. UNICEF is also increasingly focusing on the effect of climate change on children, and is currently drawing up special guidelines in this field.

UNICEF reports to the Executive Board once a year on the progress made in improving the evaluation function and on the main findings and recommendations presented in evaluations in the past year. The independence of the evaluation function is ensured by the fact that reports are submitted directly to the Executive Board and that a significant part of the budget is approved by the Board. In the past few years, UNICEF has taken significant steps to improve the evaluation