



## Major Agencies of the United Nations

The United Nations (UN) has several specialized agencies dedicated to improving the social and economic conditions of countries worldwide. These agencies focus on various areas such as children's welfare, public health, education, science, culture, and communication.

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### United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The UN General Assembly established the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to provide relief for children affected by the Second World War. Initially focused on post-war Europe, UNICEF later expanded its mission to support children in developing countries worldwide. It is now known as the United Nations Children's Fund.

- **Headquarters:** New York City, USA
- **Offices:** Over 200 offices in developing countries
- **Funding Sources:** Voluntary contributions from governments, private donations, greeting card sales, and various fundraising activities

### Objectives

UNICEF aims to promote the welfare of children, especially in developing nations, by providing low-cost, community-based services in areas such as health, nutrition, and vaccination.

### Key Functions

- Protects children struggling for survival and ensures their well-being
- Provides services related to primary health care, nutrition, basic education, and sanitation in developing countries
- Offer funds for training health workers, sanitation personnel, teachers, and nutritionists
- Supplies technical resources and educational materials, such as paper and textbooks
- Assists children during emergencies caused by natural disasters, civil wars, and epidemics
- Works to prevent diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, and skin infections
- Advocates for children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child

### UNICEF's Programmes in India

UNICEF has played a significant role in improving child welfare in India. Major initiatives include:

- **National Mission for Drinking Water and National Literacy Mission:** Launched with UNICEF's assistance
- **Community Development Programmes:** Focus on rural development



- **Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT):** Helps reduce infant and child mortality from diarrheal diseases
  - **Promotion of Iodized Salt:** Prevents iodine deficiency disorders
  - **Rural Water Supply Programme:** Accelerated efforts to improve access to clean water
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## World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the UN's specialized agency for health. It was founded to help people achieve the highest possible level of health. WHO defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. **World Health Day** is celebrated annually on **April 7**.

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

### Key Functions

- Assists countries in improving their health systems
  - Supplies essential drugs and vaccines for diseases such as measles, diphtheria, tetanus, tuberculosis, polio, and whooping cough
  - Promotes research to prevent and cure diseases
  - Works to provide safe drinking water
  - Focuses on combating and preventing the spread of diseases
  - Pays special attention to reducing diarrheal diseases among infants and children
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## United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was established on **November 4, 1946**, to promote peace and security through international cooperation in education, science, and culture.

- **Headquarters:** Paris, France

### Functions in Education

- Works to eradicate illiteracy by promoting distance education and open school systems
- Emphasizes the education of women and girls
- Funds the education of children with disabilities
- Provides grants and fellowships to teachers and scholars
- Organizes national and international book fairs and festivals
- Promotes education as a tool for international understanding

### Functions in Science and Scientific Activities



- Organizes seminars and conferences for scientists
- Promotes research in geology, mathematics, physics, and oceanography
- Encourages the study of social sciences to combat discrimination
- Supports efforts to balance scientific and technological manpower worldwide

### **Functions in Communication**

- Assists developing countries in improving communication systems
- Enhances the quality of press, film, and video production
- Uphold press and media freedom

### **Preservation of Cultural Heritage**

- Provides financial and technical support for preserving monuments and significant works of art
- Encourages artistic expression in literature and fine arts
- Promotes cultural development through the arts
- Sends cultural missions to foster international peace and understanding

### **India's Association with UNESCO**

India has been a member of UNESCO since its inception in 1946. The government established a National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO in 1949. This commission consists of five sub-committees:

1. Education
2. Social Sciences
3. Natural Sciences
4. Culture
5. Communication

The National Commission promotes UNESCO's programmes and facilitates India's participation in international conferences, seminars, and workshops. UNESCO also provides funds and expertise to help preserve India's historical monuments, such as the Taj Mahal.

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### **Conclusion**

The specialized agencies of the United Nations work tirelessly to improve lives worldwide. From protecting children's rights and improving global health to promoting education and preserving cultural heritage, these agencies play a crucial role in fostering international cooperation and development.