

South-South Cooperation for Children in Practice

*Ten powerful examples of South-South
cooperation for children in action*



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UNICEF works with and for the world's most vulnerable children. This work depends on our partnerships. UNICEF is working with government partners in China to help reach some of the most vulnerable children in developing countries, in line with proven best practices and norms in international development. South-South cooperation – the sharing of knowledge on solutions, technical know-how, and resources between developing countries – is a powerful tool for supporting children's health, education, and protection so that they can reach their full potential. Here are ten examples of UNICEF's collaborative projects.

For every child, nutrition

For every child, health

For every child, a fair chance

For every child, a childhood

For every child, knowledge



UNICEF Ghana Representative Anne-Claire Dufay visited mothers at the Gambaga Health Center where children suffering from severe acute malnutrition were treated with ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF). © UNICEF/UN420013/MILLS

For every child, nutrition

1

Mitigation of the Nutritional Consequences of COVID-19 and Desert Locusts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan: 2020-2021

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), more than 4 million children and women were at risk of acute malnutrition in 2020. The situation is exacerbated by longstanding food insecurity and militia violence. The country is also facing multiple deadly epidemics including measles, Ebola and cholera.

In South Sudan, 1.3 million children under 5 years of age were estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2020.

The locust infestation that ravaged East Africa in early 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic is putting an even greater burden on vulnerable populations in both countries. Women and children are at most risk, and they urgently need life-saving nutrition support.

In the DRC, UNICEF is working with government partners to improve access to nutrition services and care in the most vulnerable provinces. This work, carried out in partnership with the China International Development Agency (CIDCA) is designed and implemented according to international norms and standards. It focuses on building the resilience of populations in preventing malnutrition through a community-based approach, including:

- Providing ready-to-use therapeutic food and therapeutic milk.
- Training health workers and community workers on severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and promoting infant and young child feeding (IYCF).

In South Sudan, the project focuses on:

- Increasing equitable access for girls and boys under 5 years of age to quality nutrition services for the early detection of SAM.
- Procuring ready-to-use therapeutic food to treat children with SAM.

2 **Fighting COVID-19 by Providing Health and Nutrition Services to Women and Children in Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Senegal: 2020-2021**

Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Senegal vary in terms of social and economic development, but they share many conditions and difficulties, including high under-five mortality rates, poor nutrition results, and insufficient access to maternal, newborn and child health services.

In Cameroon, 25 per cent of under-five deaths occur during the neonatal period. In Ghana, the national average rate for neonatal and under-five mortality is estimated at 27 and 56 per 1,000 livebirths respectively, while maternal mortality remains high at 308 deaths per 100,000 livebirths. In Liberia an estimated 11,000 children under 5 die every year from preventable and treatable conditions. In Senegal, the maternal mortality ratio remains high, with 236 per 100,000 livebirths in 2018, and a high neonatal mortality rate of 23 per 1,000 livebirths.

The COVID-19 pandemic is threatening to overwhelm these countries' already vulnerable public health systems, putting mothers and children at an increased risk of acute malnutrition and dying from preventable causes.

- In Cameroon, the project provides health supplies in targeted districts, as well as materials for training health workers on basic infection prevention measures, immunization, newborn care and advice on methods for preventing COVID-19.
 - In Ghana, the project procures and distributes nutritional supplies and equipment to health facilities. It also procures and distributes maternal and newborn care equipment and establishes maternal and newborn care units. In addition, it supplies equipment to support infant and young child feeding.
 - In Liberia, the project provides supplies for routine quality care for newborns, and treatment of SAM in targeted health facilities.
 - In Senegal, the project procures and distributes ready-to-use therapeutic food and essential medicine to health authorities in targeted regions.
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A new Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) was established at Kailahun District Hospital in Sierra Leone to provide expert care for sick newborn babies (children up to 28 days old), most of whom require life-saving specialised equipment. © UNICEF Sierra Leone/2020

For every child, health

3 Projects to Improve Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Eight African Countries: 2020-2021

UNICEF is working with government partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Zimbabwe, with support from the China International Development Agency (CIDCA) and the International Health Exchange and Cooperation Center (IHECC), National Health Commission of China.

Over the past three decades the world has seen remarkable progress in child survival, cutting the number of children worldwide who die before their fifth birthday by more than half. But there has been slower progress for newborns. Babies dying in the first month accounted for 47 per cent of all deaths among children under 5 in 2018, up from 40 per cent in 1990. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the highest under-five mortality rate in the world.

This project by UNICEF and government partners improves maternal, newborn and child health in eight African countries by increasing access to quality health facilities and essential medicines for newborns and mothers. The projects are also building the capacity of health workers and communities in line with proven best practices in sustainable development.



A child carries a box of winter clothes in Al-Waer, a neighbourhood in Homs, Syria, 21 December 2017. © UNICEF/UNI274848/Penttila

For every child, a fair chance

4

Projects to Provide Humanitarian Assistance for Populations Impacted by Cyclone Idai in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe: 2020-2021

Cyclone Idai, which hit in March 2019, was the worst natural disaster in Southern Africa in nearly two decades. The cyclone affected 270,000 people and left 129,600 children in need of life-saving support.

UNICEF has been running three projects to help affected people in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe recover, in partnership with CIDCA and through China's South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund modality. The objectives:

- Malawi: Reduce mortality and morbidity associated with emergency health diseases, improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and meet education, child protection and nutrition needs.
- Mozambique: Increase access to life-saving malaria prevention supplies and medication and procure essential equipment and supplies for affected health facilities.
- Zimbabwe: Restore access to water for drinking and hygiene purposes, provide temporary sanitation facilities and hygiene kits, restore health care services, and provide child protection services including psychosocial support, birth certificates and an improved protective environment.

5 Life-Saving Emergency Assistance to Girls, Boys and Women Affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition in Somalia: 2017-2018

The humanitarian crisis in Somalia in 2017, which was triggered by the failure of consecutive rainy seasons, led to massive displacement, disease outbreaks and malnutrition. Half of the country's population – 6.2 million people – were left in need of humanitarian assistance, some 4 million of them children.

In collaboration with China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and through China's South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund modality, UNICEF provided life-saving therapeutic nutrition treatment for children and increased health services' capacity to treat SAM. This included reaching women with integrated health and nutrition services.

6 Assisting Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon

In Lebanon, Syrian refugee children and their education have been negatively impacted by conflict and war.

In 2017, in collaboration with China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) under the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund modality, UNICEF ran projects with government partners to provide winter kits and education supplies to Syrian refugee children in Lebanon.



Cambodian children safely returned to school during the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to the water, sanitation and hygiene supplies provided with support from China. © UNICEF Cambodia/2020/Daravatey Seng

For every child, a childhood

7 COVID-19 Response and Recovery for Early Childhood Development in Cambodia: 2020-2021

As COVID-19 hit Cambodia, young children, particularly those under 5 years of age and from remote and rural communities, lack understanding of personal hygiene and struggle to continue their studies under social distancing measures.

Parents are under stress due to school closures and financial pressure. Community preschools, which are key to providing early childhood development services to vulnerable children, lack the supplies to safely reopen. Support is needed for young children in Cambodia so that they can stay engaged in education.

This project is run in partnership with the Government of Cambodia and with China's MOFCOM. The project is:

- Providing hygiene and sanitation supplies to community preschools so that they can reopen safely.
 - Providing teaching and learning materials to community preschools to encourage children to come and study.
 - Providing essential hygiene supplies to children without parental care or those at risk of family separation, and to front-line workers providing individual case management to vulnerable children.
 - Providing promotional materials to preschool teachers and parents on the importance of a healthy and safe diet.
 - Conducting nutritional screening and referral of malnourished cases to appropriate services.
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Early Childhood Development in the Face of COVID-19 in Myanmar: 2020-2021

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit Myanmar, children in the country, especially those under 8 years of age, are being impacted by the closure of early childhood development institutions and schools. As Myanmar's public health system is stretched thin, medical workers are finding it difficult to care for their young children at home. Their households and communities need support to ensure the continuity of care and development for children.

This project is helping these children by providing support to health care workers, and providing support to early childhood development providers, so that they can mitigate the immediate and longer-term impacts felt by households and communities. The project is:

- Producing animations on COVID-19 to promote health, psychosocial care and activities for those with young children at home.
 - Developing, translating, printing and distributing story books to increase COVID-19 awareness and psychosocial support in ethnic languages, and targeting young children and caregivers.
 - Providing take-home early childhood development materials for health care workers with young children.
 - Developing a psychosocial support training module for preschool teachers.
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For every child, knowledge

9

The China-Sierra Leone-UNICEF COVID-19 Pandemic Prevention and Control Knowledge Sharing and Experience Exchange Conference: August 2020

UNICEF Sierra Leone, UNICEF China, the China NGO Network for International Exchanges and representatives from civil society organizations from China and Sierra Leone took part in this event. The webinar explored opportunities for cooperation for emergency and development programmes based on internationally tried and tested methods, in the best interests of children.



Drones are increasingly being used to support emergency responses with situational awareness, including assessing the scale and impact of a disaster or monitoring an ongoing emergency. © UNICEF/UN0280789

10 Kazakhstan-China Exchange on Emergency Management and Disaster Reduction in the Best Interests of Children

UNICEF Kazakhstan, UNICEF China, the National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC), Kazakhstan's Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), and Kazakhstan's Emergency Committee took part in this event.

Both China and Kazakhstan – like many countries around the world – are not spared from natural disasters that affect economic and social development, children's health, education and development. Kazakhstan and China are both exploring how drones can be used in emergency situations. Participants shared knowledge on managing emergencies and reducing the risk of disasters and discussed the use of drones in emergencies.

These are just 10 examples of UNICEF's work in this field. But we do so much more. To find out more visit unicef.cn.

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