

SUPPLY DIVISION

SUPPORTING CHILD RIGHTS

SUPPLIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

UNICEF's mission is to advocate for children's rights and help meet their basic needs. UNICEF has identified the following five priorities that together contribute significantly to the fulfilment of children's rights.

- Girls' education
- Early childhood
- Immunization 'plus'
- Fighting HIV/AIDS
- Child protection.

Supplies are fundamental to these priorities. For example, to give a child a healthy start to life, her mother needs certain micronutrients during pregnancy. UNICEF buys iron/folic acid supplements for women who are susceptible to anaemia.

A girl cannot go to school without simple equipment such as an exercise book and pencil. Basic services such as latrines offer an added incentive for girls to stay in school.

During an emergency, supplies such as high-protein biscuits and blankets make the difference between life and death.

Supplies are procured based on the needs identified by UNICEF country offices, in collaboration with governments.

Supply Division is the part of UNICEF responsible for overseeing the organization's global procurement and logistics operation. This operation brings together the extensive network of country and regional offices, supply centres in New York, Ankara and Pretoria, and Divisional Headquarters in Copenhagen.

Their combined activities ensure that high quality, affordable supplies reach children and their families quickly. The procurement of children's supplies is a complex operation that requires highly specialized expertise.

PRICE - QUALITY - COMPLIANCE - SPEED

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.

However, UNICEF 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.

UNICEF uses recognized international standards such as ISO and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.



Through supply planning, global freight-forwarding arrangements, and logistics expertise, Supply Division works towards getting supplies where they are needed at the right time, whether for an ongoing programme, or in response to an emergency.

Finally, UNICEF procurement maintains the highest ethical standards. Processes are fair, open and transparent. Further information, including lists of the contracts awarded every month, can be found on the UNICEF website, www.unicef.org/supply, under 'For suppliers'.

PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED

In an emergency, Supply Division is committed to packing and sending needed supplies within 48 hours. Behind this commitment are comprehensive support mechanisms. Preparation is vital.

The UNICEF warehouse in Copenhagen maintains a large inventory of items, ready to ship to a natural disaster or conflict situation.

UNICEF kits, such as school-in-a-box and the emergency health kit, developed by technical experts and extensively field-tested, are particularly well-suited to emergencies.

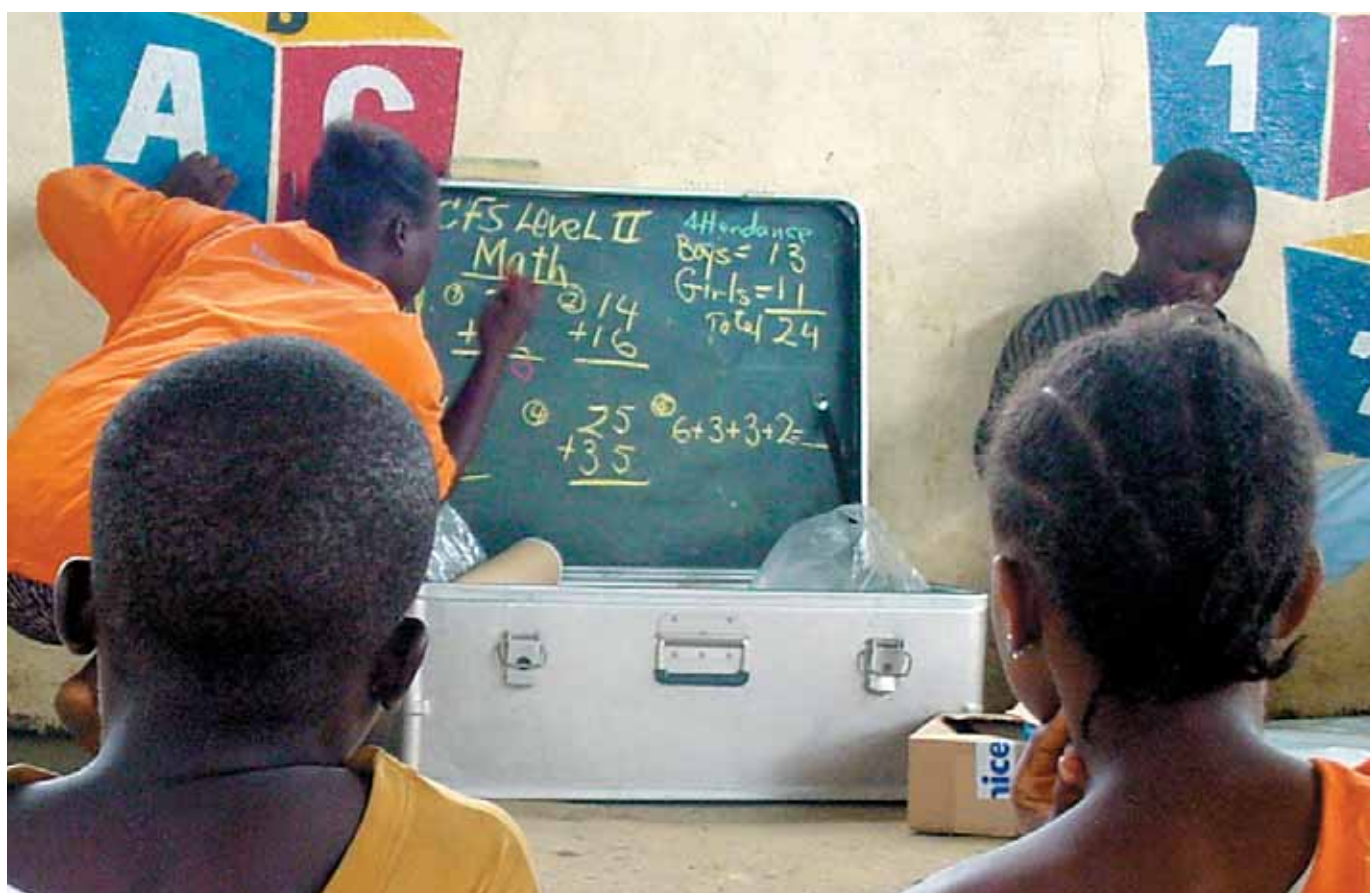
Strategic UNICEF warehouses around the world enable bulky emergency items such as blankets, cooking sets, tarpaulins and water containers to reach children and their families fast, with minimal transport costs.

Supply Division is active in a joint initiative by United Nations' agencies to develop coherent and coordinated emergency responses. Space in the Copenhagen warehouse is loaned to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, for storing their emergency items.

Emergency supplies are increasingly planned as part of long-term programmes that also include rehabilitation and development.

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, here items are received, quality controlled, 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.



NURTURING DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Supply Division cooperates with other UN agencies and leading development organizations, such as WHO and Médecins Sans Frontières, pooling knowledge and resources to find better supply solutions for children.

One example, of many, is Supply Division collaboration on 'Sources and Prices of Selected Medicines and Diagnostics for People living with HIV/AIDS'. This annual report, produced with partners, assists procurement agencies and governments to access appropriate suppliers for commonly used HIV/AIDS medicines.

For the annual procurement of over two billion doses of vaccines, UNICEF collaborates closely with WHO to guarantee the quality of vaccines. Much of this procurement is done as part of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization.

UNICEF is also committed to sharing its global knowledge, purchasing capacity and logistics experience with external partners in activities that complement, or are part of a UNICEF country programme. This is achieved through Procurement Services.

Under Procurement Services, UNICEF provides supply services on behalf of governments and other non-profit partners. It is an effective way of harnessing more support for children, adding scale and impact to UNICEF's priorities and promoting in-country capacity building.

Further information on Procurement Services can be found on the UNICEF website at www.unicef.org/supply, under 'Procurement Services'.

NEW, INNOVATIVE SUPPLY SOLUTIONS

Supply Division strives continuously to improve its performance. Work is ongoing to find better products and develop new kits. Increasingly, UNICEF is negotiating with private enterprises to share their ground-breaking technology with others, expanding production and improving access to new and established products.

The supervisory role of the Division is also expanding. Decentralizing supply improves responsiveness and accountability to the child, when supported by the standards and established expertise of Supply Division.

Acknowledging the importance of including supply and logistics in the planning of development programmes strengthens UNICEF's assistance to children.

DETAILED, ACCESSIBLE, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

The UNICEF Supply Catalogue contains the specifications for 1,700 items. It is designed to assist in supply planning, delivery and monitoring, and is available both online and in print/CD versions.

Additional information, including contact details, help for suppliers, background to Procurement Services, the Supply Catalogue, annual reports, and much more can be found on the Internet at www.unicef.org/supply.

