

GWI United Nation Representative Advocacy Report 2021

GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of United Nations low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.
4. Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
5. All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.

Please bear in mind these five overarching, long-term goals during any United Nations intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these five goals further.

NB: *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, our United Nations Representatives are should always promote all GWI key messages and represent GWI professionally.*

UNICEF - Executive Board Session - June 1-4, 2021

UNICEF will be celebrating its 75th year coming up. During this current session, many of the reports focused on the results achieved by UNICEF and its partners despite the pandemic. There is a concurrence of opinion that the world's children are facing a global crisis – in education, health, nutrition, sanitation, and protection. UNICEF projects that:

- * 80 million children under the age of 1 year may miss out on vaccines in 68 countries
- * 23.8 million children are likely to drop out of school - with girls at higher risk
- * 142 million additional children are expected to fall into poverty in 2020 alone

However, with disruption comes exceptional opportunity. As a result of COVID-19, UNICEF had to adapt and deliver. It prioritized the scale-up of community-based and digital solutions, including:

- * real-time monitoring of the pandemic and the needs it created
- * case management of child protection cases, online education, and cash-transfer programs
- * staff-on-the-ground helping communities contain the virus while protecting health workers and children alike
- * going virtual and providing simultaneous interpretation in all United Nations official languages, a first for UNICEF's Executive Board Session.

Despite the pandemic UNICEF created new partnerships, including the COVAX Facility, to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. In terms of humanitarian action, 1 in 33 people worldwide were in need of humanitarian assistance by the end of 2020 compared to 1 in 45 the year before. UNICEF responded to 455 humanitarian situations in 152 countries, including treatment for severe acute malnutrition, measles vaccination, emergency water supply interventions, and mental health and psycho-social support services.

The Next Four Years: The New Strategic Plan 2022-2025

This plan was developed in collaboration with Member States, a joint briefing of UNDP, UNOPS, UNICEF, and UN-Women, and consultation with 200,000 children across the world, a first-of-its-kind process. The four-year plan will work on inclusive recovery from the impact of COVID-19, attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and the realization of a society in which every child is included and has agency, opportunity, and their rights fulfilled. Anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UNICEF pledges to secure the rights of all children and prioritize those most at risk of being left behind. UNICEF will do this by leveraging financing for children, supporting rights-based policies and legislation, market shaping and access to essential supplies and services, brokering global partnerships for children, transforming the landscape of data on children, supporting families and parenting, and influencing social behaviors and norms.

The SDGs 1-6, 10, and 16 will receive special focus. In addition, the following 5 Goal Areas will be the focus in the next four years to ensure every child and adolescent:

- (1) **survives and thrives with access to adequate diets, services, practices and supplies** by strengthening primary health care systems, early childhood development, immunization, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health;
- (2) **learns and acquires skills for the future** with increased emphasis on early learning, holistic skills acquisition, digital infrastructure and learning, and safe and supportive school environments;
- (3) **is protected from violence, abuse, neglect, and harmful practices** with greater focus on prevention, leaving no child behind, and response and prevention of recurrence;
- (4) **has access to safe and equitable WASH services and supplies and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment** with a strengthening of WASH service delivery and increased attention to ameliorating the negative impact of climate change; and
- (5) **has access to inclusive social protection and lives free of poverty.**

UNICEF is shifting its focus from what the organization can do alone to mobilizing other actors in order to maximize the collective impact. In addition to strengthening its work within the UN system, it will also increase collaboration with international financial institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary System, and regional development organizations such as the Asian Development Bank. Likewise, UNICEF believes an expanded engagement with the private sector is needed.

To read the entire document look for E/ICEF/2021/12 on UNICEF's website.

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