

**STATEMENT OF CYNTHIA MCCAFFREY  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAM AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS  
UNITED STATES FUND FOR UNICEF**

**SUBMITTED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS,  
AND RELATED PROGRAMS**

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

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*Whatever it takes to save a child.*

Cynthia McCaffrey  
Senior Vice President  
U.S. Fund for UNICEF

Madam Chairwoman, Ranking Member Lowey, and members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). I respectfully ask the Subcommittee to provide within the Department of State International Organizations and Programs account at least \$134 million as the U.S. Government's voluntary contribution to UNICEF for Fiscal Year 2012.

On behalf of nearly one million American supporters of the United States Fund for UNICEF, let me first thank the Subcommittee for the bipartisan leadership this Subcommittee has taken to champion programs that help children around the world. This bipartisan approach resulted in Congressional recommendations of \$134 million for UNICEF in fiscal year 2011.

Since its creation in 1947, UNICEF has saved more children's lives than any humanitarian organization in the world. UNICEF staff work on the ground in more than 150 developing and transitional countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. UNICEF supports prenatal care, child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and protecting children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS.

As you know, UNICEF receives one-third of its total funding from non-government sources. This includes contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations.

Thanks to strong support from the U.S. Congress for UNICEF and for child survival, the number of kids dying before age five from preventable causes has dropped by more than half since 1960, from an estimated 20 million deaths to 8.1 million in 2010. Almost one-third of the 50 least developed countries have reduced child mortality rates by 40 per cent or more since

1990 – proof that progress for children is possible even in poor countries, if political will, sound strategies, and adequate funding are in place.

UNICEF’s efforts around the world support American compassion and American interests by helping children and families. That is why UNICEF enjoys incredible backing from Americans for its mission of child survival and development, from children participating in “Trick or Treat for UNICEF,” to major corporations donating money and products. That private support is critical to UNICEF’s success in saving children’s lives from measles and cholera, providing access to clean water, helping children return to school, and thwarting child traffickers trying to exploit vulnerable children.

In addition, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF is proud of its partnerships with U.S. corporations to save children’s lives. Among many examples, Procter & Gamble and BD are making significant investments to fight maternal and neonatal tetanus; Johnson & Johnson continues its commitment to newborn care in South Asia; and UPS made a multi-year commitment to provide shipping services and improve UNICEF’s supply chain and logistics systems.

The U.S. Government’s longstanding and generous support for UNICEF allows it to leverage private sector funding and partner with U.S.-funded bilateral programs to make a real difference in saving children’s lives:

- For more than 50 years, UNICEF has been a world leader in immunizations. In 2009, UNICEF supplied vaccines reaching 55 per cent of the world's children, worth \$806 million. UNICEF is responsible for buying all vaccines and related items for global campaigns to eradicate polio, eliminate neonatal and maternal tetanus, and control measles; and also procures vaccines for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI). Immunizations prevent more than 2.1 million preventable child deaths per year.

- UNICEF is one of the largest buyers of mosquito nets in the world, delivering over 43 million long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to 49 countries in 2009.
- About 150 million children under five – one in four – are malnourished, and malnutrition contributes to up to a third of all child deaths. We know that nutritional supplements such as high protein biscuits, micronutrients, and ready-to-use therapeutic foods like Plumpy’nut<sup>®</sup> are “miracle” foods that can quickly bring a child back from the verge of starvation. Last year UNICEF provided 7,850 tons of therapeutic foods to save children’s lives, and 38 million sachets of micronutrient powder to provide children with basic nutrients.
- The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a partnership led by UNICEF, Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and others, helped reduce polio cases by more than 99 percent over the past two decades, from more than 350,000 cases in 1988 to an estimated 1,350 in 2010. Immunization campaigns must continue in order to finally eradicate this terrible disease; for example, UNICEF and its partners organized a massive campaign last year to immunize 72 million children in 15 African countries against polio.
- UNICEF’s established presence in developing countries makes it a critical partner for the U.S. Government in responding to major disasters. For example, after last January’s catastrophic earthquake in Haiti, UNICEF and its partners conducted emergency campaigns to immunize almost 2 million children against preventable diseases such as measles, diphtheria and polio; and at the height of the emergency response, UNICEF and partners trucked 8.3 million liters of safe water every day to approximately 680,000 people. Clearly Haiti still has a long way to go to recover from that disaster, and UNICEF is there for the long haul.

- A global effort led by UNICEF and Kiwanis International increased household use of iodized salt from 20 percent to 70 percent, protecting 84 million newborns from brain damage caused by iodine deficiency, and helping thirty-four countries achieve universal salt iodization.

As you can see, UNICEF recognizes that helping children is a team effort. In that spirit, I am pleased to share with you the news that Kiwanis International recently selected UNICEF as its partner for the next Kiwanis global campaign for children: *The EliMiNaTe Project* to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. This campaign will mobilize 600,000 Kiwanis family members and raise \$110 million to enable UNICEF to immunize 129 million women who are at the greatest risk.

UNICEF's ability to partner with Kiwanis and with the U.S. Government depends on a strong U.S. contribution to UNICEF, as well as maintaining U.S. support for its bilateral child health programs. In this regard, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF supports the Administration's requests for Iodine Deficiency Disorders and Polio Eradication. Because of the importance of U.S. child survival and health programs, our organization also supports the request for funds for the Child Survival and Maternal Health subaccount included in the President's FY 2012 budget request.

As an organization completely funded by voluntary contributions, UNICEF must ensure that its operations are efficient and focused on results. UNICEF's results-oriented budget mechanism includes key performance targets and indicators to measure results for specific programs. In 2009, 93 percent of UNICEF's income went directly for programs to help children.

Annual government contributions to UNICEF's regular resources budget constitute the single most important funding source for UNICEF worldwide. The U.S. Government's voluntary contribution to UNICEF's regular resources provides the foundation for UNICEF's

work to save children's lives and improve their futures. Resources provided by this Subcommittee are critical to UNICEF's ability to help the United States in international humanitarian crises, conflict areas, and emerging threats to the well-being of children.

Madam Chairwoman, this Subcommittee has long been a champion for the well-being of the world's children, ensuring that children are a priority of U.S. foreign assistance funding. American advocates of UNICEF's work for the world's children salute the bipartisan support this Subcommittee has provided for child survival and for UNICEF. We believe that UNICEF is an indispensable partner of the United States on initiatives to save lives and protect vulnerable children around the world.

We cannot rest on our past successes. Unfortunately, 8.1 million children under five still die every year, mostly from preventable causes. We believe that number should be zero. A strong commitment from the United States will strengthen UNICEF's capacity to meet the needs of vulnerable children, in partnership with Americans who care about children everywhere. We respectfully ask the Subcommittee to provide \$134 million for UNICEF's regular resources for Fiscal Year 2012.