

# UNICEF / UK Bahá'í Community Partnership

"To give and to be generous are attributes of Mine; well is it with him that adorneth himself with My virtues." – Bahá'u'lláh, *Hidden Words*

The UK Bahá'í Community has been approached, along with other faith organisations in the UK, to be a fundraising partner with UNICEF. UNICEF - the United Nations Children's Fund - is the largest global organisation working specifically for children.

Such a partnership would be an appropriate one because of the charitable goals we share. The worldwide Bahá'í Community has enjoyed consultative status with UNICEF since 1976. It also works closely with the World Health Organisation and other non-governmental UN bodies. It will be a privilege to be associated with UNICEF's campaign in the UK and an excellent opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to the service of our fellow human beings.



UNICEF/HQ91-0446/Jorgen Schytte

## What is UNICEF?

UNICEF works with local communities and governments in 158 countries to help children reach their full potential by ensuring that they have the essentials for a healthy start in life. Such essentials include clean water, basic education, immunization, health care and protection from abuse. UNICEF carries out this work through long-term sustainable development and also in times of conflict and disaster.

## UNICEF's Education Programme

More than 130 million children in the developing world, the majority of them girls, do not have access to education. These children are being robbed of the opportunity to improve their own lives. Denying them their right to a quality education effectively denies all other human rights and hinders their chances to develop to their full potential. Providing access to educational opportunities for all is perhaps the most effective means to reduce the misunderstanding, intolerance and lack of respect that are at the core of most disputes between communities, groups and countries.

"Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom." Bahá'u'lláh

The UNICEF / UK Bahá'í Community Partnership campaign will start in earnest over the Intercalary Days 2005 and initially last for 2 years. You and your community can support the campaign through individual donations and fundraising events (an ideas sheet is available on request).



UNICEF/Pakistan

Cheques should be made payable to UNICEF and sent to:  
UNICEF Bahá'í Partnership Appeal  
22 East Saint Helen Street  
Abingdon, Oxon  
OX14 5EB  
For more information contact Susie Howard on  
01235 524857 or email [secretariat@baseduk.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@baseduk.org.uk)

**Thank you!**

## UNICEF Projects

### Girls Education in Pakistan

With only just over half of the children in Pakistan enrolled in school, education is an area of serious concern. Many challenges face girls in particular. It is not considered appropriate for young girls to study with a male teacher, which means that in mixed sex schools, the enrolment rates for girls are lower and drop-out rate higher. There are fewer schools for girls, fewer female teachers, and for those who do enrol, schools rarely provide a good learning environment.



UNICEF/92/059/Pakistan/John Isaac

UNICEF is working to create safe school environments, eliminate corporal punishment and provide access to clean water and private latrines, especially for girls as this is a key factor preventing their attendance. Teachers are being trained and supported and efforts are being made to reach children in remote parts of the country.

- **£3 will pay for a set of textbooks for a child**
- **£40 will pay a teacher's salary for one year**

### Early Childhood Development in Ethiopia



More than one in six children born in Ethiopia die before they reach their fifth birthday, and more than half of children under five years old are chronically malnourished. Poor nutrition within the first two years of a child's life can slow their physical and mental development forever. Most brain development happens before a child reaches three years old. In only 36 months, children develop their abilities to think and speak, learn and reason and lay foundation for their values and social behaviour as adults. Choices made and actions taken during this critical period affect not only how a child develops but also how a country progresses.

UNICEF is working to ensure that every child has access to nutritious food and vital micronutrients to give them the best start in life. For this to happen, communities, especially mothers, need to be educated about the best ways to feed their children.

Photo credit: US Fund for UNICEF/Mia Drake Brandt/1999

- **£54 will pay for nutrition kits for 60 children for 30 days**
- **£96 will immunise 8 children against the 6 killer diseases**

"Charity is pleasing and praiseworthy in the sight of God and is regarded as a prince among goodly deeds." *Bahá'u'lláh*

*Remember – if you are a taxpayer, signing a simple Gift Aid form greatly increases the value of your charitable gifts. Please enclose a Gift Aid Form with your donation. Thank you!*