



# OUR WORK ON HEALTH, NUTRITION, WATER AND SANITATION

We aim to ensure that every child has the right to survive, thrive and reach their full potential.

## Survive and thrive

Access to healthcare, adequate nutrition, safe drinking water and basic sanitation has improved for children in China over the last thirty years.

Despite enormous progress on maternal and child mortality reduction, the number of children under five, especially those in the first few months of life, dying from preventable diseases is still high at 190,000 deaths every year in China, ranking 6th in the world.

Challenges remain for early childhood development of millions of children in remote rural and ethnic minority areas where there is poor coverage of quality healthcare, services and adequate water and toilet facilities. Children in these areas are more likely to have poor nutrition and be affected by issues such as stunting and anaemia. China has a low and declining rate of breastfeeding with four out of every five children missing out on the full benefits of exclusive breastfeeding.

Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to injuries and mental health problems and the majority will experience difficulties in accessing appropriate health care services.

## Our programme

UNICEF works in partnership with national and local government to strengthen health systems and to bring practical solutions which ensure the survival and health of children, women and adolescents.

We focus on reducing the disparities faced by disadvantaged children by demonstrating cost-effective, innovative and integrated health, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene projects in 140 counties across 26 provinces.

The results of our projects combined with globally recognized research helps to generate evidence which drives investment in policies, guidelines and models proven to deliver results for children.

We strengthen the capacity of policymakers and service providers, and help communities and families access information to help them make healthy choices and to demand access to quality services.

## Strengthen national systems

To achieve results at scale for children, we work with government agencies including the National Health Commission, civil society, private sector and academia to:

- Prevent maternal, newborn and childhood illness, disability and deaths and advocate for inclusive adolescent health and development
- Promote optimal comprehensive early childhood development
- Promote nutrition of women, newborns, children and adolescents
- Prevent child injuries and ensure immunizations for pregnant women, children and adolescents
- Promote safe sanitation and good hygiene practices in schools and communities.
- Promote integrated and innovative maternal and child health information systems.

## Newborn survival

Through our established partnership with the National Health Commission, our focus is on expanding access to and improved quality implementation of maternal and newborn health services with particular attention to high-quality childbirth care for newborn babies in the first day and week of life. Our goal is to accelerate progress toward a world in which no child dies from a preventable cause and no preventable stillbirths occur.

## Healthy families digital application

In partnership with the National Health Commission and Johnson & Johnson, UNICEF launched the Healthy Family mobile application in 2017 in 14 provinces. The application provides women, children and adolescents with accessible health information and signposting to essential services. It facilitates communication with children's caregivers, healthcare providers and programme managers and covers birth registration, growth monitoring, nutrition, immunisation and referral advice.

## Adolescent health and development

UNICEF has been working together with the Government to improve accessibility, quality and equity of health services for adolescents, especially in poor areas.

## Breastfeeding

Our approach includes training health workers to provide breastfeeding knowledge and counselling, training peer counselors, and providing breastfeeding knowledge in prenatal checks and postnatal care. The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, a partnership with UNICEF, WHO and the National Health Commission, has certified medical institutions which champion breastfeeding by providing information and support for mothers. Our 10m2 of Love campaign is raising awareness of breastfeeding and helping to create a more supportive environment for breastfeeding mothers.

## Water, sanitation and hygiene

We work to ensure women and children experience a clean and safe environment – at home, at school and in health facilities. Our programme helps create an environment where communities can expect gender-friendly toilets, and practice good hygiene. Through our commitment to the toilet revolution, we are supporting the Government to stimulate demand and supply of safe and sustainable sanitation solutions.

**Working with UNICEF on South-South Cooperation health ministers from China and Africa vowed “to work with other partners to further reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality, and improve women’s and children’s health”. In 2017, with UNICEF as a partner China committed \$8million from China’s South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund to assist eight African countries to accelerate progress towards the achievement of SDGs.**

