

unicef 
for every child



**A GIFT IN YOUR WILL
TO CHANGE THE WORLD**

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR EVERY CHILD



INSIDE YOUR GUIDE

Introduction	3
A gift in your Will	4
Making your Will	6
About UNICEF	8
Steven's story	9
Life-changing support	10
Our free Wills offer	12
Meet our supporters	14
Our promises to you	17
FAQ	18
Get in touch	20

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INTRODUCTION

A message from Jon Sparkes, Chief Executive, UNICEF UK

At UNICEF, we are united by one belief – that every child should have the chance to change the world. This belief unites us, drives us, and brings us together to make a powerful impact for children today and in the future.

Every one of UNICEF's incredible supporters embodies that belief, striving for a safe and sustainable world where children can live, learn and grow.

A gift in your Will can make sure future generations gain the skills and opportunities to thrive and shape our world.

Thank you for considering this very special way to support children through our work. I hope this guide will show you how UNICEF can ensure your values and generosity never stop making a better world for every child.



Radhika, 19, and Bubbli, 11,
at home in Uttar Pradesh, India.

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A GIFT IN YOUR WILL TO UNICEF

Why leave a gift in your Will?

Help generations of children to thrive

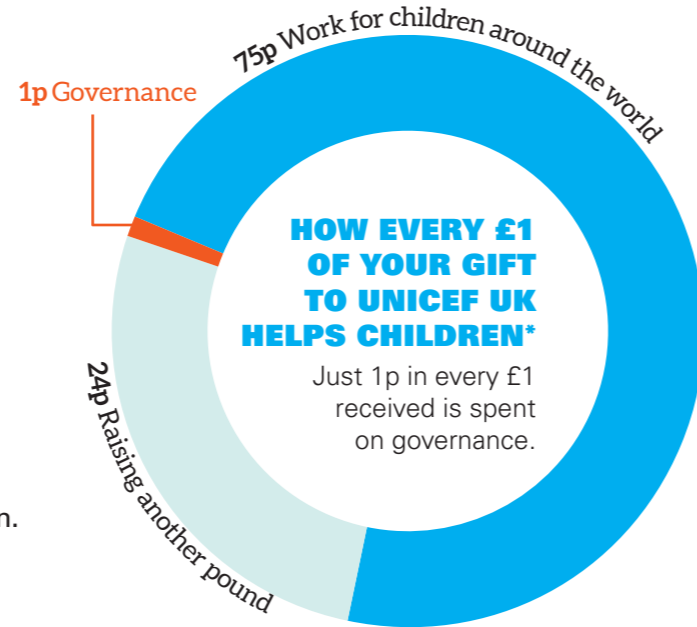
UNICEF is a powerful community of people united by the belief that every child should have the chance to change the world. We depend on donations from people who share this belief.

A gift in your Will is one of the most transformative decisions you can make for children. Our legacy community is making sure children will be able to access health care, education, protection, clean water and more.

We value every gift we receive, no matter its size. We have the expertise, partnerships and infrastructure to use your gift to bring the greatest impact for children.

Together, we can continue working to build a better future for every child.

UNICEF UK is funded entirely by voluntary donations. We receive no funding from the UN budget.



* five-year rolling average, smoothing effects of emergencies and significant events

How to leave a gift in your Will

After taking care of family and friends, including a gift in your Will to UNICEF is an incredible way to support the world's children. There are two main ways to leave a gift to UNICEF in your Will.

Residuary gifts: A residuary gift is a share of someone's estate. This type of gift guarantees a fair distribution among all the people you want to benefit.

Pecuniary gifts: A pecuniary gift is a fixed sum of money. If you would like to protect the value of your gift from diminishing over the years, you could think about index linking the sum that you give to UNICEF.

We always encourage you to give a gift without restricting its usage, to allow us to reach children who need the most support – wherever they are - whenever we receive your gift.

However, if your gift is £10,000 or more, we can allocate it to a country or issue that is close to your heart.

Lupita, 13, shows how cycling can generate renewable energy, at school in Mexico.



MAKING OR UPDATING YOUR WILL

When making or updating your Will, we recommend you get professional advice from a solicitor. These tips will help with your preparation before seeing a Will-making professional.

1 Think about your assets

Spend time listing the assets you own, their worth and whether you share ownership. You should also think about any debts, and estimate their value, as these will reduce your estate. Consider how and where information about your estate is kept so you can plan how to give secure access to this.

2 Appoint roles in your Will

Your Executors are the people named in your Will who will look after your estate after your death. They can be family members and/or friends, professionals or even organisations (like a bank). Your Executors should be people you trust to look after everything and carry out your wishes in your Will. If choosing loved ones to be Executors, it is a good idea to discuss this with them, to make sure they are happy to be appointed.



Nurhayati holds her daughter Fitria, after she received the polio vaccine in Aceh Province, Indonesia.

© UNICEF/Ujit Fransasti

3 A gift in your Will to UNICEF

After considering loved ones, you might also want to think about how your values can live on through supporting causes you care about. If you want to support children through UNICEF, you will need our address and charity number:

1 Westfield Avenue, London E20 1HZ.
Registered charity 1072612 (England & Wales) and SC043677 (Scotland).

4 Make sure your Will is valid

When you come to sign your Will, you will need to make sure there are two independent witnesses who can also sign the document and watch you sign. Make sure the witnesses are not beneficiaries of your estate as this will mean their inheritance will become invalid.

For our free Will-writing service with Co-op Legal Services, Farewill or the National Free Wills Network, [see page 12](#)



Inga, 6, at a UNICEF Blue Dot Centre in Romania, that supports refugee families from Ukraine.

© UNICEF/Catu



Ari, 6, who has hearing loss, plays at school in Jamaica. Ari loves learning with his digital textbook.

© UNICEF/Johnson

ABOUT UNICEF

The breadth of our work

UNICEF has been helping to make a better world for children for over 75 years. We respond to emergencies and build long-term resilience.

We save children's lives with vaccines, clean water, and therapeutic food. We protect children from violence, exploitation, and abuse. We empower children through quality, inclusive education. And we seek to create a safe and sustainable world where children can live, learn and grow.

We work in more than 190 countries, advising governments, influencing businesses, and lobbying leaders to create lasting change for children. Children are at the heart of everything we do, and we work in partnership with communities.

We are determined to build a better world for every child.

STEVEN SPARKS CHANGE

Every morning at 3 am, 14-year-old Steven from Lilongwe, central Malawi, had to hike miles to fetch untreated water. It left him tired and ill.

"I want to be a pilot, but it wasn't possible when I was missing classes."

UNICEF supports Children's Corners where children can play and develop life skills. At his local Children's Corner, Steven talked about the lack of safe water. Jenifer, the facilitator, contacted the Council.

UNICEF Malawi worked with the Council to install a solar-powered water system. Now, Steven's community is better protected against drought and diseases like cholera.

Worldwide, **2 billion people** don't have affordable or reliable access to safe drinking water. We must keep working to improve water services for every community.

"Every child deserves to be heard. Our voices can help tackle a longstanding problem"
Steven (right)



© UNICEF/Chikondi

LIFE-CHANGING SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

Climate change

Climate change affects children most, yet they are least responsible. One billion children live in countries that are at extremely high risk from our changing climate.

UNICEF has child-inclusive programmes in more than 70 countries to ensure the basic services that children rely on – such as water, health care and education – are resilient to climate shocks.



Humanitarian emergencies

During an emergency, UNICEF delivers life-saving help for children and communities in water, sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition, education and child protection.

We deliver sustainable solutions that support our long-term programmes and the ability of local services to protect communities.

In 2022 we provided 25.9 million people in crisis with clean water.

Child malnutrition

Around three million children die every year from causes related to malnutrition. UNICEF works to improve children's access to nourishing, safe, affordable and sustainable diets. We help ensure malnourished children are treated urgently.

UNICEF runs nutrition programmes in 130 countries and 7 regions to reach children, adolescents and women – at key stages in life, when good nutrition matters most.



Education

Education has the power to transform lives, helping to end generational cycles of poverty and disease. Yet nearly two-thirds of 10-year-olds cannot read and understand a simple text.

In 2022 UNICEF supported 28 million crisis-affected children to access education.

WE STILL HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO

OUR FREE WILLS OFFER

We've partnered with award-winning Will-writing specialists Co-op Legal Services and Farewill to offer the opportunity to **write or update your Will for free, with the support of** a Wills specialist, online or by telephone.

If you prefer to write your Will for free in person, our partnership with the National Free Wills Network offers access to a network of over 800 firms of solicitors across the UK.

The free Will offer is available to anyone over 18 years of age living permanently in England or Wales through Co-op Legal Services, or in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, through Farewill or the National Free Wills Network.

See the terms and conditions at [unicef.org/freewill](https://www.unicef.org/freewill)

Contact us with questions or request a Network Pack: giftsinwills@unicef.org.uk or on **020 7375 6131**.



3 WAYS TO GET STARTED

The process is simple. Just do **one** of the following steps to get started:

- 1** Start your Will or request a Network Pack online at [unicef.org/fwguide](https://www.unicef.org/fwguide)
- 2** Arrange a call back from a dedicated Wills specialist via [unicef.org/fwguide](https://www.unicef.org/fwguide)
- 3** Speak to a Wills specialist at either of our dedicated UNICEF helplines:
Co-op Legal Services on 0330 606 1012
Farewill on 020 8138 0633

Think about inheritance tax

If the value of your estate is higher than £325,000, inheritance tax (IHT) may be payable on the portion above that threshold. Charitable gifts made during your lifetime or in your Will are exempt from IHT. You can discuss this with the Wills specialist or your solicitor.

More information is at [moneyhelper.org.uk](https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk)



Sarah running the London Marathon – the first in a series of five that, in total, raised over £7,500.

SARAH'S WILL-WRITING EXPERIENCE

Sarah ran five marathons in one year for UNICEF UK, culminating in the Saharan Ultra Challenge. She challenges perceptions around disability, competing despite a chronic neurological condition and a metal rod in her leg. Sarah has also tackled the task of writing her Will.

“Making a Will was a big step for me, and quite a daunting process. After some research, and noting it was authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, I decided to use the free UNICEF Gifts in Wills service. I was extremely glad I did, as it was so simple to ensure that I made a lasting impact for every child, everywhere.

I would highly recommend the free UNICEF Gifts in Wills offer. I found it extremely quick and easy. It turned quite a sombre, daunting process into something very positive and empowering.”

MEET OUR SUPPORTERS

MARY

Mary grew up in the west of Ireland and came to London as young girl.

“With all the terrible traumas that there have been in the world, UNICEF is always there. One aspect of UNICEF’s work that I find really important is that the infrastructures are there and so the response can be really quick. I really admire that.

“I have chosen to leave a gift in my will to UNICEF because children’s needs are often the ones that get lost in traumatic situations in the world. They’re often disregarded or they’re the ones that suffer the most.

“You feel confident that your wishes will be met if you make a gift in your will.

I trust implicitly that UNICEF will use the funds for the need at that time.”



SIMON

Simon is a medical doctor working in global health. He has been to 143 countries with aid organisations. Simon worked with UNICEF in the 1980s during the civil war and famine in Sudan.

“UNICEF tries to get a 360-degree point of view as to what is appropriate and what actually works in whatever crisis there may be. UNICEF is culturally aware, culturally sensitive, and looks to heal problems rather than just put a band-aid on them, and to sustain and improve situations.

“I was really impressed with UNICEF with the way that money gets to the appropriate people. So I was comfortable that money in my Will would be going to the right places.”



7-year-old Halimatun's marked finger shows she has received the polio vaccine at school in Aceh Province, Indonesia.

1 IN 2

**UNICEF PROVIDES
VACCINES FOR
ALMOST HALF
THE WORLD'S
CHILDREN UNDER 5**



© UNICEF/Zaid

OUR 7 PROMISES TO YOU

Leaving a gift in your Will is a special and personal decision. That's why we make these promises to you:

- We believe that your family and friends come first, and promise to treat you and your family with courtesy, compassion and respect.
- We will always be happy to answer any questions, explain UNICEF's work in more detail, and tell you where you can find further information about how your gift will make a difference to children's lives.
- We will use your gift wisely and cost-effectively so that it has the greatest impact for children. We exist to represent and support children.
- You can change your mind about leaving a gift in your Will at any time, and we will respect your decision.
- Any personal information that you choose to give us will be handled securely and confidentially. We will always respect your privacy – you choose the frequency and ways we can contact you.
- Once you leave a gift in your Will, you will join a powerful community of people working tirelessly for every child. We will update you on our work through monthly emails and events with other supporters.
- We will continue to give children the opportunities to shape their own futures for generations to come.



Longondraza Claudia with daughter Dania, 3, by crops irrigated with a drip system, Madagascar.

© UNICEF/Matas

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens if I don't have a Will?

If you pass away without making a Will, you will be classed as dying 'intestate' and this could result in your estate not going where you would have wished. If you have no family members to inherit, the entire estate could pass to the Crown.

How can I find a solicitor near me to make a Will?

We recommend you consult a solicitor when writing your Will. Just visit the Law Society website at lawsociety.org.uk for a list of legal professionals in your area.

What happens if I change my mind?

You are free to change your mind about leaving a gift in your Will to UNICEF at any time, and we completely understand that this is a personal decision. If you have told us you are intending to leave us a gift, it would be helpful to let us know if that changes.



Any more questions?

If you would like to find out more, Wills and Trusts solicitor Aarti Gupta has answered a few more questions on our website: unicef.org.uk/legacy-guide



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"If this programme ceased to exist, who'd know about all of the exciting ideas we have to offer here? Imagine if there was no platform to showcase our ability to change communities. I'd be devastated."

Safaa, 17, a refugee from Syria, who designed a table for students with disabilities, at an innovation hub in Za'atari Camp, Jordan.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have questions about leaving a gift in your Will, please get in touch with our friendly team on **020 7375 6131** or at **giftsinwills@unicef.org.uk**

You can also find more information about gifts in Wills on our website at

UNICEF.UK/UNICEFLEGACY

Thank you for considering this special way of giving.



Front cover: Khushi (left), 17 and Urvashi, 17, at the hand-washing station at school in Himachal Pradesh, India. UNICEF is working with the Government of India to improve water and sanitation services in households and schools. © UNICEF/Panjwani

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