

EVERY CHILD

Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF Newsletter 2024 | Issue 53



GUARDIANS OF A GREEN FUTURE



● UNICEF HK Launched
**7,000 DAYS OF
LIFE CAMPAIGN**

● Discover, for Every Child 2024 –
**PLAY FOR A
LIVABLE PLANET**

● **BUILD A CHILD
FRIENDLY CITY**
through Children's Lens



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Chairman Message

EMPOWERING EVERY CHILD TO THRIVE AND SHINE

Childhood and adolescence serve as the overture to our lives' symphony, laying the groundwork for a fruitful future. As stewards of society, it falls upon adults to protect such important stages of our next generation. In recognition of this, amidst the pressing challenges of climate crisis and mental health issues confronting today's children and adolescents, UNICEF HK launched the '7,000 Days of Life' campaign, aiming to care for the well-being of every child in Hong Kong and around the world.

Climate crisis poses a serious threat to the survival and growth of the younger generation. Currently, 40 million children's education are disrupted every year because of disasters exacerbated by climate change, and this number continues to rise. Our recent 'Discover, for every child - Play for a living planet' event allowed children and parents to experience the impact of climate crisis on vulnerable children worldwide, encouraging them to take actions in their daily lives which can help mitigate global climate crisis.

As someone who cares about children's rights, have you ever observed whether Hong Kong's development takes into account our future generation's needs from a child's perspective? With already more than 3,000 cities around the world participating in UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative, UNICEF HK held this city's first roundtable to explore the potential and direction of developing Hong Kong as a Child Friendly City, to build a better and more inclusive community for all.

We're here throughout the growth journey, making sure that every child has an equitable chance to thrive. With your continued support, let's safeguard every child's 7,000 days of life, paving the way for them to shine.

Judy Chen, JP
Chairman, Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF

Judy Chen



ABOUT HONG KONG COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF

Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF HK) was founded in 1986 and established as an independent local non-government organization to raise funds through public donations, partnerships with companies, special events, etc. to support UNICEF's work. UNICEF HK also promotes and advocates for children's rights via organizing education and youth programmes in Hong Kong. UNICEF HK generates its revenues from individual and corporate supporters.

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Safeguarding every child's growth journey during

7,000 DAYS OF LIFE

UNICEF HK is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of every child in Hong Kong and in every part of the world throughout their entire growth journey from 0-18 years old, i.e. the first 7,000 days of life.



It is irrefutable that climate crisis and poor mental health cause suffering for children and young people, no matter where they live. Children are disproportionately affected by the impacts of disasters, environmental degradation and climate crisis compared to adults. For example, children breathe faster than adults and with their organs still developing, they are more likely to suffer from air pollution. They are also less able to regulate their body temperature and are more prone to dehydration causing them to be more vulnerable to extreme heats.

At COP28,

UNICEF was on the ground supporting more than 100 child and youth climate activists and made a bold move in calling on leaders to elevate, embed and include children in climate actions and resilience.



Meanwhile, poor mental health is a top cause of death, disease, and disability, especially among older adolescents. UNICEF's global report finds that 1 in 7 young people lives with diagnosed mental health disorder, and we lose about 1 adolescent life every 11 minutes to suicide. Through an array of initiatives such as the UNICEF Charity Run and arts experience programme, we aim to raise awareness of the importance of UN Sustainable Development Goals 3: Good Health and Well-being, and to enhance mental resilience in the local community.

Please stay tuned and join our upcoming '7,000 Days of Life' missions, bringing hope and resilience for our future generation in the face of these challenging times.



CLIMATE CHANGE

is no longer just a 'problem' but a 'crisis', and is creating a child right's crisis.



ALMOST 60%

of local secondary school students show symptoms of anxiety.

Award-winning students shared their inspiring experiences at SDGs eLearn Award Scheme 2023 Prize Presentation Ceremony.



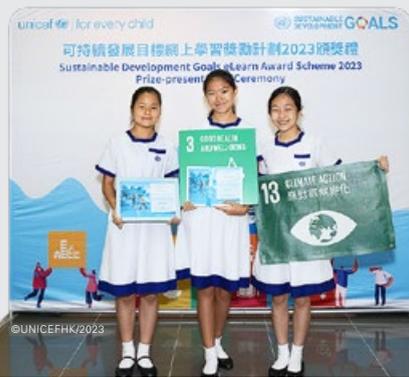
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UNLOCKING POTENTIALS

LEARN AND PRACTICE ONLINE + OFFLINE

SDGs eLearn Award Scheme 2023

More than 7,500 students from 93 schools joined this programme and completed Sustainable Development Goals actions, such as saving electricity at home, plastic-free shopping and going vegetarian for a day. They wholeheartedly contributed to sustainability of our world through practical actions.



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The exhibition deepened the public's understanding of SDG 13: Climate Action and advocated the practice of low-carbon life and environmental protection. Most of the visitors were children and youngsters, some of whom were accompanied by parents and teachers.

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RESULTS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

SDG Actioner Challenge for Ethnic Minority Youth

In addition to promoting Sustainable Development Goal 13 - Climate Action, the programme empowered local ethnic minority youth to exert influence by bringing positive changes to society and developing 21st century skills. Some project participants also attended the SDG Actioner Challenge Achievements Exhibition held at The Domain in Yau Tong where they had the opportunity to interact and advocate to the public.



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UNICEF Club CRADLE OF GLOBAL CITIZENS

UNICEF Club committee members initiated various campus activities to educate their peers about the living conditions of children around the world and the work of UNICEF. For example, the UNICEF Club of Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School organized a game booth. Students designed and created a SDG board game and bookmarks, which allowed fellow schoolmates to learn about SDGs while having fun.



“It was challenging yet interesting! It gave us the chance to get along with different types of people and learn to design promotional posters and games. These experiences are very valuable.”

Chairman of UNICEF Club of Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School - **Chan Ho Him**

UNICEF HK EdVocate School Speakers EDUCATE + ADVOCATE

UNICEF HK recently launched the 'EdVocate School Speakers' programme. 13 students were selected from a pool of enthusiastic university students, and completed comprehensive training as well as participated in practice talks. They were achieving the meaningful goal of passing the torch to the next generation by visiting primary and secondary schools around Hong Kong.



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“When I was in middle school, I joined UNICEF Young Envoys Programme and mostly promoted children's rights in my own school. Today, as a EdVocate School Speaker, I encourage primary and secondary school students to pay attention to children's rights, SDGs and various global agenda from an early age. When they grow up, they too can contribute to our community, country and even the world.”

EdVocate School Speaker - **Yuen Sze Ching, Venus**

The climate crisis is not just changing the planet –

IT IS CHANGING CHILDREN.

Climate crisis threatens the lives, health and well-being of children. It is creating a water crisis, a health crisis, an education crisis, a protection crisis and a participation crisis.



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Children have to bear the brunt of climate crisis' effects, and those who live in low-income communities are at an even higher risk of harm. In particular, there has been a significant increase in climate-exacerbated extreme weather events in the East Asia and the Pacific region over the past five decades, including:



Eleven-fold increase in floods



Five-fold increase in landslides



Four-fold increase in storms



2.4-fold increase in droughts



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UNICEF's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

Objective 1: PROTECT the lives, health and well-being of children and the resilience of their communities by adapting essential social services to a changing climate, more frequent disasters and a degrading environment.

Objective 2: EMPOWER every child through their life course with the developmental opportunities, education and skills to be a champion for the environment.

Objective 3: REDUCE the emissions and environmental footprint within UNICEF, support its global network of partners to do the same, and advocate for the fulfilment of ambitious international sustainability and climate change agreements.

Climate-resilient Education in India

India's Maharashtra State, the country's economic 'capital' with the city of Mumbai, has witnessed a seven-fold increase in drought and six-fold increase in floods and cyclones over the past decade. Maha Youth for Climate Action (MYCA) partnership between UNICEF, the State Department of Environment and Climate Change and other partners have more than 500 youth advocates working on climate action to influence state-level climate change-related policies and programmes. The MYCA initiative has trained **2.8 million youth, 465,000 children, over 10,000 teachers and 1,000 professors**. Furthermore, climate curriculum has been implemented in 65,000 primary schools.



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還童心導遊 DISCOVER FOR EVERY CHILD 童心宅地球 PLAY FOR A LIVABLE PLANET

為兒童，共建宜居地球！
Together, let's build a livable planet for every child!

Climate Action Pioneers MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

On 27 January 2024, close to 1,000 children and parents joyfully accomplished the first mission of UNICEF HK's '7000 Days of Life' campaign - 'Discover, for every child 2024 – Play for a livable planet' at Hong Kong Noah's Ark!

Two children at the opening ceremony expressed their commitment to participate in climate actions, including conserving electricity and making efficient use of water resources.



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Climate crisis is affecting the lives and future of every child. Over 1 billion children – nearly half the world's 2.2 billion children – are at extreme risk of severe and destructive climate hazards. Nearly 20,000 children loses their homes every day due to climate-related disasters. To protect children and their families from the immediate and expected impact of climate crisis, resilience building is the key.

'Discover, for every child 2024 – Play for a livable planet' experiential event, generously sponsored by China Resources Charitable Foundation, offered a playful learning experience for local families to explore the impact of climate crisis on children worldwide through various interactive missions. It also encouraged Hong Kong children to actively participate in global climate actions.



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“We are delighted to be the principal sponsor of this event, which encourages parents and children to explore, learn, and experience together, raising awareness of environmental conservation and sustainable development.”

Mr Lan Yi - Vice General Manager, China Resources Group and Director of China Resources Charitable Fund Limited



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UNICEF HK held Hong Kong's first round table meeting on Child Friendly Cities, bringing together government officials, policy-makers, representatives from the education and social welfare sectors, as well as children and youth.

UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) BUILD A CHILD FRIENDLY CITY THROUGH CHILDREN'S LENS

A child-friendly city is a city, town, municipality etc. committed to fulfilling the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is where children's voices, needs and priorities are an integral part of public policies and decisions.

Since 1996, UNICEF has been advocating for Child Friendly Cities across the world. To explore developing Hong Kong as a child-friendly city as well, UNICEF HK hosted a round table meeting on "Build a Child Friendly City through Children's Lens".

The event brought together government officials, policy-makers, health professionals, and representatives from the education and social welfare sectors, gathering insights into bettering Hong Kong for the next generation. Youth and children were also invited to express their views from their unique perspectives — UNICEF Young Envoys shared their takeaway and reflections from visiting Korea and Shenzhen's child-friendly cities, while participants of UNICEF Club and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) eLearn Award Scheme presented their ideas and advocacy efforts in Hong Kong. Their enlightening sharing sparked enthusiastic responses from the audience, demonstrating the influential role of young voices in shaping a more child-friendly future.



Mr. Chris Sun, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, expressed the government's deep commitment to the welfare of children.



Did you know...

UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative engaged **over 3,000 cities** from **more than 40 countries**, benefitting **over 30 million children**.

3,000+ CITIES



UNICEF Young Envoys shared their takeaway and reflections from visiting Korea and Shenzhen's child-friendly facilities.



There is an interdisciplinary development exhibition in Shenzhen Women & Children's Centre with contents including climate change and extreme weather phenomena. Through the immersive experience, I gained a deeper understanding on these complex concepts.

Elaine - Young Envoy



Since its inauguration in 2006, UNICEF Charity Run has engaged close to **160,000 participants** and raised nearly **HKS 140 million**.

HK\$ 7.65 MILLION RAISED FOR GLOBAL CHILD RIGHTS-RELATED WORK

UNICEF Charity Run 2023

The iconic running charity event was dedicated to realizing United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good Health and Well-being. It aims to ensure healthy lives for all and to avoid preventable deaths.

The classic 15-km Run, a hallmark of the inaugural UNICEF Charity Run, made a grand return to mark the event's stepping into its 15th year. Alongside this celebrated race, participants also engaged in a diverse array of other runs, including the 10km Run, 5km Run, and 3km Fun Run.

The UNICEF Charity Run 2023 received resounding support from UNICEF HK ambassadors Ms. Guo Jingjing and Mr. Wong Kam Po, as well as many celebrity runners, all taking part to raise awareness of the good health and well-being of children.



UNICEF HK Ambassadors Ms. Guo Jingjing and Mr. Wong Kam Po and their respective family at the starting line before the 3km Fun Run.



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HEARTFELT 'THANK YOU' to our donors

UNICEF HK Thankathon has returned! Through warm phone conversations, we conveyed our deep appreciation to donors while also hearing their touching stories. Their encouraging feedback fueled our determination to tirelessly work for the well-being of children.



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For every mother and child, love

Celebrate the incredible strength and boundless love of mothers around the world this Mother's Day with UNICEF HK! Join us in honouring these unsung heroes by making a difference in the lives of vulnerable mothers and children. Your generous support will provide lifesaving essentials like nutritious food, clean water, healthcare and education, ensuring every mother and child thrives.



Happy Mother's Day

ARTOX GROUP

supported UNICEF's global programmes

ARTOX GROUP, in collaboration with renowned artist Mr Doodle and Pearl Lam Galleries, have generously donated HK\$780,000 to UNICEF HK in support of UNICEF's programmes globally. This contribution will enhance the rights and well-being of children in need.



The Bank of East Asia

presents "The Gift of Giving" to celebrate Chinese New Year

For the second consecutive year, The Bank of East Asia transitioned from the industry's common practice of presenting corporate customers gifts of gold-plated decors to paper-art certificates of appreciation, uniquely designed by a local paper artist and crafted by differently-abled people at a sheltered workshop. Saved decors cost are donated to UNICEF HK in support of children's well-being and social responsibility.



UNICEF Red Packet Charity Sale 2024

Our heartfelt gratitude to CCB International (Holdings) Limited for their generous sponsorship of UNICEF HK red packet charity sale. All proceeds will be dedicated to supporting UNICEF's programmes worldwide. The red packets' meaningful designs were inspired by United Nations' SDG 3 - Good health and well-being and SDG 13 - Climate action.



UNICEF Inspired Gifts Programme MTR Points Donation

UNICEF HK collaborated with MTR Mobile to launch an MTR Points Donation Programme last October. MTR Mobile registered users can transform the earned MTR Points into UNICEF Rescue Gift Packs to provide

vulnerable children with crucial supplies for living and education, ensuring their rights to survival and development.



UNICEF HK Christmas collaboration with ifc mall

Last Christmas, guests had the opportunity to donate to UNICEF at ifc mall to receive a personalized Physical Explorer Pass as a special keepsake and earn exclusive privileges at ifc mall. Their donations provided malnourished children with essential resources such as blankets and food, helping them withstand the harsh winter.



Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank all our sponsors and partners for their support.

UNICEF's Programmes Worldwide

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Rusy and Purviz Shroff Charitable Foundation

Zhilan Foundation

ifc mall

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Discover, for every child 2024 – Play for a livable planet

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UNICEF Red Packet Charity Sale 2024

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Doo Group

SDG Actioner Challenge for Ethnic Minority Youth

AEON Credit Service (Asia) Company Limited

Young Envoys Programme 2023-24

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