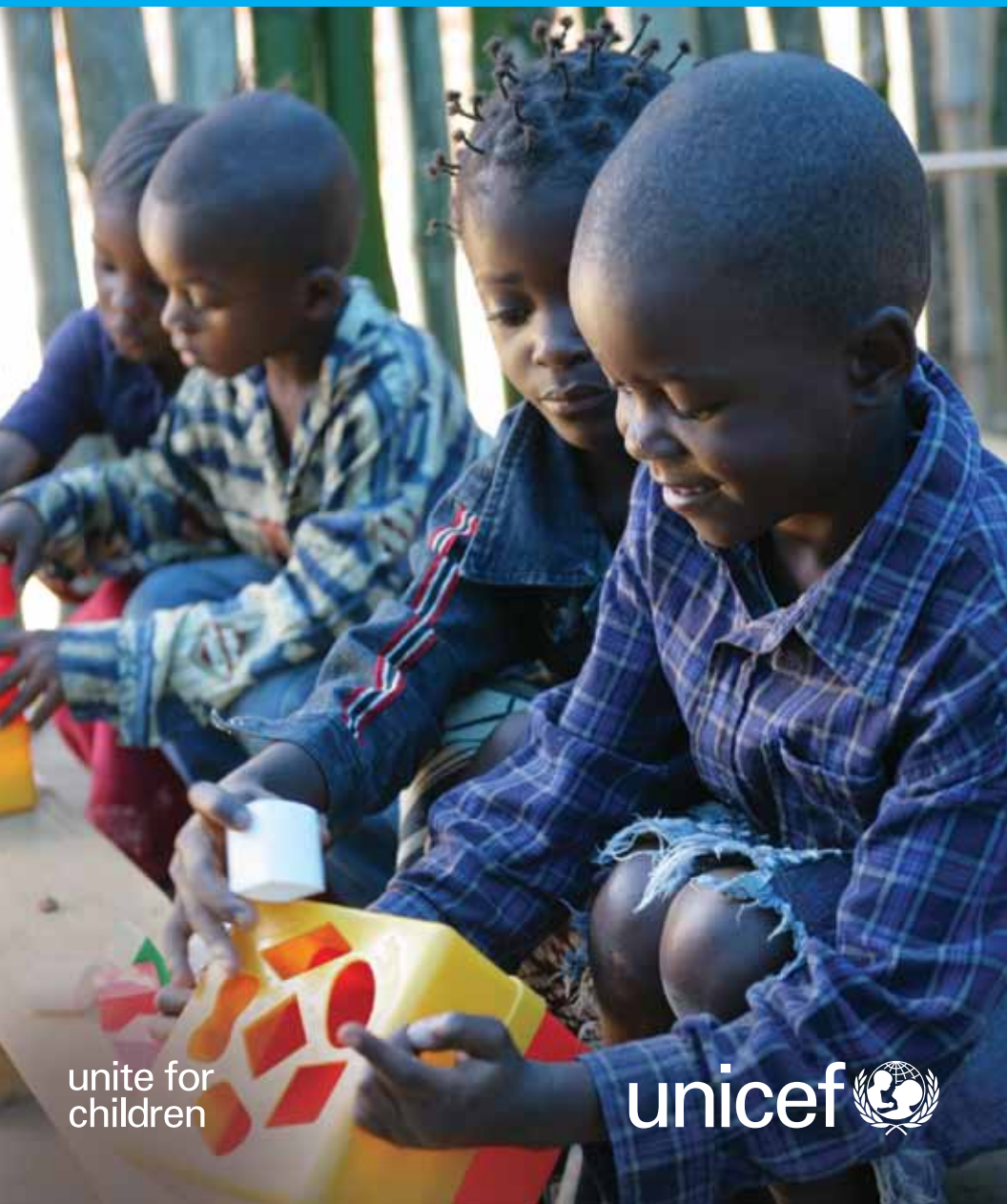


# Early Childhood Development Kit

A Treasure Box of Activities



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## Today's global crises have displaced an estimated 42 million people of whom over 40% are children.

1. Two thirds of the world's child population– 1.5 billion children – live in the 42 countries affected by crisis in the years between 2002 and 2006.
2. Worldwide, experts predict at least 200 million children under 5 will fail to reach their full potential in cognitive and socio-emotional development because of malnutrition, iodine and iron deficiencies and inadequate stimulation during the first five years of their lives.
3. Emergencies pose a set of challenges for young children living in difficult situations.

They are at increased risk of:

- separation from primary caregivers,
- sexual and gender-based violence,
- physical harm,
- long-term negative emotional and psychological effects.

When a child's needs for basic care and nurturing are neglected during the first years of life, many of the capacities needed for later healthy development are severely compromised.

Young children are extremely vulnerable to the stresses brought on by war and natural disasters. Research has shown that early childhood is the most critical period for brain development and that early experiences create a foundation for lifelong learning and productivity. Children who experience extreme stress in their earliest years are at greater risk for developing cognitive, behavioral and emotional difficulties, which also reduces and delays their overall developmental process.



## Why an ECD Kit?

The early childhood development kit was created to strengthen the response for young children caught in conflict or emergencies. In complement to basic services related to young children’s hygiene and sanitation, health and nutrition, protection and education, the kit offers young children access to play, stimulation and early learning opportunities and permits them to retrieve a sense of normalcy. Through this process, young children are in a protective and developmental environment for physical and mental health, optimal growth, lifelong learning, social and emotional competencies and productivity.

## What does the ECD Kit contain?

The kit contains materials to help caregivers create a safe learning environment for up to 50 young children and each item was carefully selected to help develop children’s skills for thinking, speaking, feeling and interacting with others.

- Puzzles and games
- Counting circle and boxes to stack and sort
- Board books and puppets for storytelling
- Art supplies
- Soap for promoting hygiene



Inside the box, caregivers will also find an easy-to-use Activity Guide filled with suggestions on how to use each item based on children’s age and interest.

Additional web based supportive materials will include A Trainer’s Guide and a Coordinator’s Guide. Together these provide programmers detailed guidance on all aspects of planning, implementing, and evaluating the ECD kit.

