

## Chapter 22. The United Nations (Major Agencies-Their Functions)

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### Very Short Questions

**Question 1:** Under which principal organ do the specialized agencies work?

**Answer:** The specialized agencies are monitored by the Economic and Social Council.

**Question 2:** State one way in which the UNICEF raises funds.

**Answer:** Sale of UNICEF cards is an important source of income and is popular worldwide.

**Question 3:** When was the International Year of Child celebrated by UNICEF and to what purpose?

**Answer:** The UNICEF celebrated 1979 as the 'International Year of Child' to focus the attention of people on the rights and welfare of the children.

**Question 4:** How have UNICEF's efforts for the upliftment of child given recognition?

**Answer:** The UNICEF was awarded by the Nobel Prize in 1965 and the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace in 1989.

**Question 5:** When is the World Health Day celebrated?

**Answer:** World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7th April.

**Question 6:** WHO is a specialized agency devoted to a specific cause. What is this cause?

**Answer:** The cause to which the World Health Organisation is devoted is 'Health for All'.

**Question 7:** When was UNESCO formed?

**Answer:** The Constitution of UNESCO was signed on 16th November 1945 in London by 47 States but it came into force a year later on 4th November 1946.

**Question 8:** When was the Literacy Year celebrated by UNESCO?

**Answer:** 1990 was declared to be the Literacy Year celebrated by UNESCO.

### Short Questions – I

**Question 1:** What purpose do the major agencies of the United Nations serve?

**Answer:** The purposes of the UNO were achievement of 'International co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedom.'

**Question 2:** How does economic and social co-operation lead to the elimination of war?

**Answer:** International economic and social co-operation is based on the theory that war has economic causes. Their elimination creates stability and well being which is a precondition for peace. Thus if there will be social and economic co-operation war could be eliminated.

**Question 3:** How did the UNICEF come into existence and to what purpose?

**Answer:** The UNICEF was created through a Resolution of the UN General Assembly in 1946, to meet the emergency needs of children in Europe and China immediately after Second World War. In 1950 the General Assembly changed its mandate to programme of long-range benefit to children of the developing countries.

**Question 4:** What do you know about UNICEF'S composition?

**Answer:** UNICEF is a subsidiary organisation of the UNO and function under the UN Economic and Social Council. It has an Executive Board with 41 members. The Executive Director of the Board is appointed by the Secretary General in consultation with the board.

**Question 5:** How is the UNICEF financed?

**Answer:** The UNICEF is financed by voluntary contributions from Governments, organisations and individuals. Fund raising campaigns are carried on by organisation and individuals which includes selling of UNICEF cards.

**Question 6:** Which agency of the UN looks after the interests of the children in the World? What was the original purpose of setting up this agency?

**Answer:** UNICEF is the only UN agency dedicated exclusively to children. It speaks on behalf of the children and upholds the convention on the rights of the child and works for its implementation.

**Question 7:** What services does the UNICEF provide for improvement of the lot of children?

**Answer:** The UNICEF provides services in primary health care, nutrition, basic education and sanitation for children. It works for family and child welfare and promotes vocational training, carry on community based programmes involving people's participation.

**Question 8:** What emergency help does the UNICEF provide?

**Answer:** UNICEF provides emergency help to the children who are victims of floods, earthquakes, drought or stricken by endemic diseases, victims of war disasters. It also has special programmes for poverty stricken and suffering from mental and physical disabilities.

**Question 9:** What kind of programmes are taken up by WHO?

**Answer:** The programmes carried out by WHO involve providing food supplies, proper nutrition, adequate safe water and basic sanitation, prevention and control of endemic diseases and injuries and provision of essential drugs.

**Question 10:** What do you know about the composition of UNESCO?

**Answer:** UNESCO consists of three organs: The General Conference, the Executive Board and the Secretariat. The General Conference is composed of representatives of all member nations. The Executive Board consists of 51 members.

**Question 11:** What are the primary aims of UNESCO?

**Answer:** Primary aims of UNESCO are: promoting peace, goodwill and security by collaboration among nations through educational, cultural interaction with development of science and communication amongst nations of the world.

**Question 12:** What is the main aim of WHO.

**Answer:** The WHO is the specialized agency of United Nations for international co-operation in improving the physical and mental health of all. Its main aim is to create proper health conditions through international co-operation.

**Question 13:** What do you understand by UNESCO?

**Answer:** United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation is a specialized agency of UNO, dedicated to contribute peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education science, culture and communication. The UNESCO is committed to improve educational, scientific and cultural interaction, making it wide spread with betterment of communication among people and nations.

## Short Questions – II

**Question 1:** What ideals have been stated in the UN Charter for building peace?

**Answer:** The UN Charter states that the UNO undertakes to promote:

- (i) Higher standard of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development.
- (ii) Solution of international economic, social health and related problems, and international cultural and educational co-operation;
- (iii) Universal, respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedom for all without distinction of race, sex, language and religion.

**Question 2:** Name the major agencies of the U.N.O.

**Or**

Give the expanded form of W.H.O.

**Or**

Give the expanded form of UNICEF.

**Or**

Give the expanded form of UNESCO

**Answer:** The major agencies of the U.N.O. are as under:

- (i) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (ii) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- (iii) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- (iv) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- (v) International Labour Organisation (ILO).

**Question 3:** What steps have been taken for the improvement of health of children?

**Answer:** To prevent diseases and malnutrition the UNICEF has launched a four point programme:

- (i) Immunization. (ii) Oral rehydration.
- (iii) Advocating breast feeding. (iv) Monitoring growth.

It provides balanced and protective food like milk, meat and fish etc. It provides vaccines, educate parents, teaches prevention of dehydration and benefits of breast feeding.

**Question 4:** What efforts has the UNICEF made for education and improvement of sanitation?

**Answer:** The UNICEF provides funds for programmes advocating education for development, training and orientation of national personnel including health, sanitation workers, teachers, nutritionist and child welfare specialists. It supports AIDS education and families of AIDS victims. Helps the community to cope with this problem. For education provides paper, textbooks and equipment, pumps and pipes for bringing clean water to villages.

**Question 5:** What steps has the UNICEF taken to protect women's interest?

**Answer:** Women's development is also one of the aims of UNICEF. It provides facilities for pregnant mothers. A number of maternity homes have been opened. It takes care of the interest of women and has extended support to various conventions for the suppression of traffic in women and children, crime prevention and child labour. It protects rights of children.

**Question 6:** How has UNICEF contributed in prevention of disease in the world?

**Answer:** The UNICEF have saved millions of children suffering from preventable diseases by universal immunization programmes and prevents diarrhoeal death by rehydration therapy. Special programmes for disabled children are carried out. Consumption of iodized salt as proposed by UNICEF protects around 12 million infants from mental retardation each year.

**Question 7:** When was WHO formed and for what purpose?

**Answer:** The World Health Organisation is guided by the belief that the enjoyment of highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. It was formed on 7th April, 1948, for achieving highest standards of health.

**Question 8:** How is the WHO formed?

**Answer:** The governing body of WHO is the World Health Assembly represented by all member states of UNO which elects the Executive Board of WHO consisting of 31 members. They are specialists in the field of health and their technical competence is the main criteria for selection. The membership of World Health Assembly is open to all members of UNO which meets annually to review the work of WHO. The Executive Board of 31 members is its executive arm.

**Question 9:** Discuss the role of WHO in combating diseases.

**Answer:** WHO or World Health Organization performs three vital roles in combating diseases as follows:

- (i) To fight against diseases throughout the world and to prevent their spread at the source.
- (ii) It has launched a programme along with UNICEF to immunize children against six major diseases like Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Tuberculosis, Polio and Whooping Cough.
- (iii) To set international standards for food, water, biological and pharmaceutical production such as Drugs, Medicines and Vaccines.

**Question 10:** What function do the three organs of UNESCO perform?

**Answer:** The General Conference of UNESCO meets every two years to decide the policy, programme and budget of the organisation. The Executive meets at least three times a year for supervising the programme adopted by the General Conference. The Secretariat stationed in Paris carries on the good work all through.

**Question 11:** Why was UNESCO called 'the conscience of mankind' by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru?

**Answer:** The UNESCO was referred to as 'the conscience of mankind' by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru as it proposed to bring about peace through appealing to human heart basing its foundation on intellectual and moral solidarity of human kind. The instruments used to bring about lasting peace in the world through spread of educational, scientific and cultural communication and interaction.

## Long Questions

**Question 1:** What does the WHO do to achieve its objective of ensuring 'Health for All'?

**Answer:** 'Health for All by 2000' was a target set by WHO's members in the year 1977. The programme included:

- (i) Education about prevailing health problems and their prevention.
- (ii) Promotion of food supplies, proper nutrition, adequate safe water and basic sanitation.

- (iii) Family planning, care of child and mother.
- (iv) Universal immunization against infectious diseases.
- (v) Prevention and control of endemic diseases.
- (vi) Provision for essential drugs and prevention and control of common diseases.

**Question 2:** What are the main functions of WHO.

**Answer:** The main functions of WHO are:

- (i) To promote in co-operation with other specialized agencies, the improvement of nutrition like drinking water and sanitation, housing, economic and working conditions, environmental hygiene, and maternal and child health, including family planning.
- (ii) To help countries to reinforce their health systems by building up infrastructure, particularly health, manpower including services, health institutions and the provision of essential drugs and other supplies and equipments.
- (iii) To prevent the spread of disease and epidemics internationally and to help the nations to stamp out diseases at the source, to prevent them from spreading to other countries.
- (iv) To promote improved standards of teaching and training in health, medical and related fields.

**Question 3:** Mention some of the important achievements of WHO.

**Answer:** With the view to provide health to all and attainment of highest possible level of health WHO has been successful in:

- (i) Eradication of Small Pox altogether.
- (ii) Cholera and Plague epidemics are getting rarer.
- (iii) Guinea worms have been eliminated. Leprosy is better managed.
- (iv) Diarrhoeal deaths have been reduced.
- (v) Vaccination of infants for Polio has been popularized.
- (vi) The infant mortality rate has dropped.
- (vii) Special programmes for prevention of AIDS have been launched.

**Question 4:** What are the major functions of UNICEF?

**Answer:** (i) It provides services in primary health, nutrition, family and child welfare, basic education, vocational training for the benefit of children, sanitation and women's development programmes are undertaken in developing countries.

(ii) These programmes include providing balanced food and protective food like milk, meat, fish etc.

(iii) Training and orientation of national personnel including health and sanitation workers, teachers, nutritionists and child welfare specialists.

(iv) Technical supplies, equipments and other aids ranging from paper for text books and equipments and medicines for health to pipes and pumps for bringing clean water to villages are delivered.

(v) Basic social services are provided for children in developing countries like campaigns against endemic diseases and preventable diseases and malnutrition have been carried on. Emergency help is provided to victims of floods, earthquakes drought or other diseases.

(vi) Interests of women and facilities for pregnant women are provided. Conventions for suppression of traffic in women and children, crime prevention etc. are supported.

**Question 5:** What are the major achievements of the UNICEF?

**Answer: Major achievements of UNICEF:** The four point programme against preventable diseases:

- (i) Immunization, (ii) Oral dehydration,
- (iii) Advocating breast feeding,
- (iv) Monitoring growth. This has reduced diseases considerably.

UNICEF celebrated 1979 as the International Year of the Child for focusing people's attention on the rights of children. It has supported AIDS education and helps families of its victims. Health centers and maternity homes have been established.

Poverty stricken, disabled, demented and victims of other emergencies are provided special protection.

With UNICEF's efforts a world summit for children was held at UN headquarters attended by representatives of 150 countries. Thus along with other UN agencies UNICEF has achieved considerable success in achieving its goals, but there is still a lot more to be done.

**Question 6:** Mention the functions of UNESCO in the field of education.

**Answer: Functions in the field of Education:**

- (i) To raise educational standards throughout the world—specially for women and girls, who in turn will educate their children.
- (ii) To make primary education compulsory for the removal of illiteracy.
- (iii) Spread of knowledge by training teachers, educational planners, administrators, to encourage local building programmes and equipment of schools. To provide grants and fellowships to teachers and scholars, organise library systems and promote international understanding through education.
- (iv) To guide and expand education to enable the developing countries to take their own development in hand more effectively.

**Question 7:** Explain the functions of UNESCO in the field of science.

**Answer: Functions in the field of Science:**

- (i) Establishing scientific and technological foundations for better use of country's resources and encourages international co-operation in the field of science.
- (ii) To correct imbalances in scientific and technological man power, which is largely concentrated in the countries.
- (iii) It encourage basic research in the field of mathematics, physics, geology, hydrology, environment and biotechnology. Regional training centers are provided. It promotes awareness and interaction between science and technology.
- (iv) It also promotes social sciences as an instrument for realization of human rights, justice and peace.

Thus by promoting education and spread of science UNESCO makes a move in the direction of instilling peace in the hearts of people, into their private and public ambition and daily life.

## Picture Based Questions

**Question 1:** Study the picture shown and answer the questions that follow:



- (i) Identify the organization associated with the given emblem.
- (ii) When it was established and what were its objectives?

**Answer:** (i) The organization associated with the given emblem is World Health Organization (WHO).

(ii) It was established on 7th April, 1948 and its objective is the attainment of the highest possible level of health by all people.