

Lesson one

EXAMPLES OF UN ACHIEVEMENTS

The UN has enabled people in many countries to participate in free and fair elections, including in Cambodia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Kosovo and East Timor.

Since 1945 the UN has assisted in negotiating more than 170 peace settlements that have ended regional conflicts.

More than 50 million refugees fleeing persecution, violence and war have received aid from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The UN has created a comprehensive system of international laws to protect human rights.

During the first UN decade on water (1981-1990), more than a billion people gained access to safe drinking water for the first time in their lives.

The World Food Programme, the world's largest humanitarian agency, provides food for on average 90 million hungry people in 80 countries every year.

UN education programmes for women have helped to raise the female literacy rate in developing countries from 36 per cent in 1970 to 79 per cent in 2007.

Polio has been virtually eliminated from all but four countries - Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan - as a result of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the largest international public health effort to date.

UNESCO has helped 148 countries to preserve their ancient, cultural and natural sites by designating over 890 World Heritage Sites.