

# LESSON 1 - 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.