

Ann Veneman

Executive Director of UNICEF

Ann Veneman, assumed the position of Executive Director of UNICEF in May 2005. She is the fifth Executive Director in UNICEF's 60 year history. She has an impressive academic background with degrees in Political Science, Public Policy and a juris doctorate degree from the University of California. She practiced law as a staff attorney and Deputy Public Defender, prior to practicing with the firm of Patton Boggs in Washington, DC, from 1993 to 1995.

While in the US Department of Agriculture she held several positions but she focused on child nutrition, public health and international trade and development. She was the USDA's Deputy Secretary, the department's second highest position, from 1991 to 1993 and prior to that, for 2 years, also served as Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture for International Affairs and Commodity programs.

Before joining UNICEF, Ms Veneman travelled extensively in developing countries meeting heads of State and visiting field projects. She worked closely with a number of UN programs including the World Food program, the World Bank as well as numerous charitable groups and community organizations. At UNICEF Ms Veneman directs an agency with about 10,000 staff, with annual resources of about \$3billion and with that, the capacity to change the lives of the world's most vulnerable children.