

IMPACT

THE UNICEF AUSTRALIA SUPPORTER MAGAZINE

unicef 
AUSTRALIA
for every child

ISSUE
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remote places on Earth

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their voice





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ON THE COVER: A happy child washes his hands at a local hand pump during the COVID-19 pandemic in a remote village of Rajasthan, India. © UNICEF/UN0389244/Panjwani

TOP: UNICEF teams on the ground in India delivering and installing the first life-saving Oxygen Generation Plants in parts of India. © UNICEF/UN0470103/Rami

In 2020 you supported
the **COVID-19** global
response by helping
us deliver:



200 million
medical masks



3.3 million
diagnostic tests



16,795
oxygen concentrators

If you'd like to contribute to
our ongoing fight against
COVID-19 or find out more,
please scan this QR code.



EMERGENCY UPDATE

Responding to the India COVID-19 Crisis

Earlier this year, India experienced one of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks of the pandemic so far. At the peak of the crisis, more than 400,000 cases were being reported per day, the highest of any country since the pandemic began.

But in times of crisis, you step up. You helped us to deliver essential services and life-saving oxygen supplies to families in India and the wider South Asia region. Our team on the ground are delivering these supplies, alongside COVID-19 vaccine doses, syringes, masks, and testing kits where they are needed the most.

The UNICEF Australia supporter community has played a critical role in India, installing the first nine of 26 Oxygen Generation Plants in Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Tripura. With these plants, you are saving lives now, but will also help to serve patients long in the future, including newborns and children suffering from pneumonia, or mothers experiencing complications during labour.

Thank you for responding so generously and urgently in this time of crisis, we couldn't have done it without you.

ABOVE: May 2021, Alert Citizen Forum's volunteers talk to residents in Mumbai, during a door-to-door awareness event promoting the CoWin registration in India. The COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWin) digital platform is used to coordinate COVID-19 vaccines distribution in India. © UNICEF/UN0459629/Koyande





WELCOME LETTER

Tony Stuart, CEO

The first half of 2021 has been incredibly busy at UNICEF Australia. We have been working with local partners who are delivering education programs in the Northern Territory, sending critical oxygen supplies to India during the COVID-19 crisis, and UNICEF teams have trekked up mountains to reach the most remote communities with COVID-19 vaccines.

The pandemic continues to affect all of us. I am writing this from a Sydney lockdown and my family, including my two children, have had to learn how to effectively study and work from home.

I know for many of you, juggling home-schooling, the disappointment of cancelled trips and being separated from loved ones is incredibly difficult and our thoughts go out to you.

But during COVID-19, our work to protect every child does not stop.

Earlier this year your generous support helped us provide critical relief for the children of Tigray, Ethiopia. Escalating conflict and displacement means that parents are struggling to keep their children safe. So far this year you have helped us to raise over \$210k which can help us to deliver nutritional high energy biscuits to over 180,000 children affected by the Tigray crisis, whether in Ethiopia or neighbouring Sudan.

Here in Australia, your generous support has reached the most remote Indigenous communities with continued education, thanks to our local partners on the ground. Wherever they live, every child deserves a great education.

And globally, the largest and most complex vaccine mission continues,

with UNICEF set to deliver 2 billion vaccines this year.

Conflict, natural disasters and paused vaccination campaigns are threatening families from India to Yemen, it has never been more important to have your support. We are grateful to have such an incredible community of UNICEF supporters across the country who are powering our mission to reach the most vulnerable. We cannot thank you enough.

I hope you enjoy reading about the impact you have made so far this year. UNICEF is entirely funded by voluntary donations, so all of this is possible because of you. We look forward to working together to continue to protect every child, and I encourage you all to roll up your sleeve and book in to get vaccinated when it's your turn. It's our greatest chance of overcoming this virus.

Tony Stuart
Chief Executive



A mother holds her 1 year old son Zewila who was provided with a supply of life-saving peanut butter nutritional paste for malnourished children. © UNICEF/UN0475530/

NEWS UPDATE

Ethiopia

Ongoing fighting and civil war are colliding with drought and the pandemic in the northern region of Tigray, pushing hundreds of thousands into catastrophic hunger.

In June, 33,000 children in inaccessible parts of the Tigray region were severely malnourished, with health clinics seeing a four-fold increase in

weekly admissions of children to treat severe acute malnutrition. 140,000 children across the country are facing famine-like conditions, but with essential services like health centres under siege, families are at risk.

UNICEF is calling for hostilities to cease in the interests of every child's right to protection. Thanks to your support, our teams are on the ground delivering essential nutrition treatment, emergency healthcare and water supplies.



NEWS UPDATE

Lebanon

August 2021 marks one year since the devastating Beirut blasts that impacted the lives of thousands of families. This tragedy, the impacts of COVID-19 and ongoing political instability mean Lebanese families are struggling.

Children are the hidden victims of this escalating crisis. Poverty has doubled to 55%, with parents struggling to provide for their little ones.

Our teams are on the ground working to rebuild hospitals, schools, and restore water services. UNICEF has expanded psychological and malnutrition support programs, youth cash-for-work programs, and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to actively support more than 70,000 at-risk children and their families.

The road to preventing childhood malnutrition



How UNICEF is using a sustainable solution to prevent childhood malnutrition in Cambodia.

It is a complex road that humanitarians, medical professionals and global communities must travel to solve childhood malnutrition.

In this issue, we're taking a closer look at the situation facing children in Cambodia, a country UNICEF Australia has directly supported for seven years.

Thanks to your commitment and donations, we have made incredible progress and are working to protect every child. But it's not an easy task.

Preventing malnutrition in young children requires a holistic approach that includes improving its diagnosis, access to healthcare and nutritious food. It's not just a job for health

workers, but pre-school teachers, community members, and parents.

Our teams on the ground have found that by upskilling families in early nutrition practices, children see a drastic and sustainable change to their nutritional intake.



**"I JUST WANT
MY DAUGHTER
TO GROW UP
STRONG."**

SOLINA'S MUM

Meet Mr. Hen and Mr. Lonh, healthcare workers in the remote community of Ratanakiri Province, in the northeast of Cambodia. On a recent trip to their village, our teams spoke to them about the impact they are seeing.

"I remember that a lot of children used to die, especially the littlest ones under five. But last year, there was not a single death here, and that is a tremendous change," says Mr. Hen, who has actively served his community for 20 years.

Mr. Lonh says that it's sometimes as simple as educating parents that their children cannot eat the same diet as them, "People don't really understand how nutrition works, especially for children. They don't know all the different micronutrients and vitamins a young child needs. Often, they will just try and give a young child the exact same food as an adult, not knowing that they might need more vegetables, for example."

On the day we met him, Mr. Lonh treated only one patient for malnutrition, Solina, a two-year-old girl. The young mother of Solina was emotional at the clinic. "I knew she was a bit small and I was worried about why she wasn't growing more... when they said she had severe acute malnutrition I was a bit shocked. But I am glad they told me. That means I know what to do now."

Mr. Lonh comforted Solina's mother, took her through vital nutritional and health information, and provided her

with Nutrix, a therapeutic food to treat malnourished children, developed by UNICEF. The supplement provides vital nutrients to support Solina's full recovery. Health workers will now continue to monitor Solina in follow-up appointments.

Stories like these drive our passion to end child malnutrition for good. With your support, every year we help more parents to nourish their children and see them thrive.

Thanks to our Australian supporters, UNICEF delivered nutrition programs across 97 different communes in Cambodia in 2020, provided treatment to over 5,700 severely malnourished children, and reached over 22,700 parents and caregivers through our parenting education program.

Empowering communities through education is essential to not only protect children in the short term, but to create sustainable change. This year, we are expanding a training program for key community members, like Mr. Hen and Mr. Lonh, to continue their essential work in these rural communities, as well as investing in visual aids and discussion guides for parents and caregivers.

COVID-19 has not made things easy, with restrictions on group gatherings and education sessions, but we won't stop working to protect every child. It is thanks to your generosity that this work can continue, and we look towards a future where every child is nourished, healthy and happy.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

1. Mr. Hen. © UNICEF Cambodia/2021/Antoine Raab
2. Solina plays with her mother shortly after she was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition. © UNICEF Cambodia/2021/Antoine Raab
3. Mr. Lonh. © UNICEF Cambodia/2021/Antoine Raab

32%

of children under five in Cambodia are stunted, meaning they are short for their age as a result of long-term undernutrition.

9.6%

are wasted or acutely malnourished, meaning they are underweight for their height, usually a result of a severe shortage of food or a high incidence of infectious diseases, especially diarrhoea.



Children learn and play at the Indi Kindi early childhood education initiative. © Wayne Quillam

Giving children the best start to life

Introducing our new partnership helping to deliver Early Childhood Development programs in remote Aboriginal communities

All parents want their children to access good education and build a bright future. But in many remote communities in the Northern Territory, limited access to early childhood education is leaving kids behind.

Only 79 per cent of Indigenous children living in very remote areas attend early childhood education compared to 96 per cent of those living in inner regional areas, according to the *2020 Closing the Gap Report*. Without education during these crucial years, children are more likely to experience poor health and education outcomes.

Deandra, a Garrawa woman, is an Indi Kindi educator in the remote community of Borroloola. She is celebrating five years of helping children prepare for their first years of school. She first brought her son – aged one at the time – to an Indi Kindi early childhood education session in 2013. He enjoyed looking at the books and learning to count.

Led by local Aboriginal women and supported by UNICEF Australia, the Indi Kindi initiative aims to give children the best start to life by integrating education, health and wellbeing.

“I WANT THE KIDS TO HAVE A GOOD FUTURE AND GET A GOOD JOB.”

DEANDRA, INDI KINDI EDUCATOR

“When we drive around the community, the kids get excited, they come running and say ‘Indi Kindi is coming!’,” says Deandra.

“Every morning I see their smiling faces and it makes me happy. The young mums see us as an inspiration as we are teaching their kids.”

Currently the initiative operates in Borroloola four to five days a week, as well as one day a week via an outreach service to Robinson River, about two and a half hours’ drive away.

By working together, this ongoing partnership aims to create long-term and sustainable impact in remote Aboriginal communities, helping children to reach their potential for years to come.

Alice Hall, UNICEF Australia’s Early Childhood Development Specialist, says the most effective programs are those that are built and delivered by the community.

“It is essential to spend time in the community, build relationships, listen and engage local people to be champions of the program now and into the future,” she says.

“When I visited Borroloola, I saw evidence that these ways of working are present in Indi Kindi’s work.”

Through inclusive and culturally appropriate early childhood education, children have the chance to develop a life-long love for learning.



80%

of Indigenous children in Borroloola reached with early childhood education



3,000

healthy, hot meals prepared for children, families and staff each year



97-100%

of families say their children have shown improvement in developmental milestones

Meet our Young Ambassador, Emily

Growing up in regional Victoria, Emily has always believed young voices could change the world. At just eight years old, she organised a fundraiser to protect orangutans from losing their natural habitat.

Today, her passion for advocacy continues as a UNICEF Australia Young Ambassador. Each year the program provides youth aged 15-24 with a platform to speak up for children's rights. At UNICEF Australia, we caught up with Emily to reflect on her recent trip to Parliament House, where she took the big issues to the nation's leaders alongside her fellow Young Ambassadors.

In June, you visited Parliament House to talk with politicians about the Young Ambassador's latest report *Children's Voices in a Changing World*. What are the top issues for young people?

Young people clearly identified mental health as a major concern. While COVID-19 has had a significant impact, young people believe that it has only exacerbated pre-existing issues.

Young people also identify climate change as one of their top concerns for the future. They recognised that if governments can react as quickly as they have to a scientists' advice surrounding a global pandemic, there is no reason why we shouldn't respond to another existential threat like global warming.

You spoke to countless children and young people in 2020 about issues that matter to them. Is there one story that has stayed with you?

While speaking to a class in New South Wales, one student spoke of the difficulties she was experiencing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She had family in Zimbabwe but had struggled to have consistent contact with them during lockdown. At the same time, she was completing Year 11 and helping her younger brother through online schooling. I believe her story stayed in my mind as she embodied the unseen struggles of young people during a global pandemic.

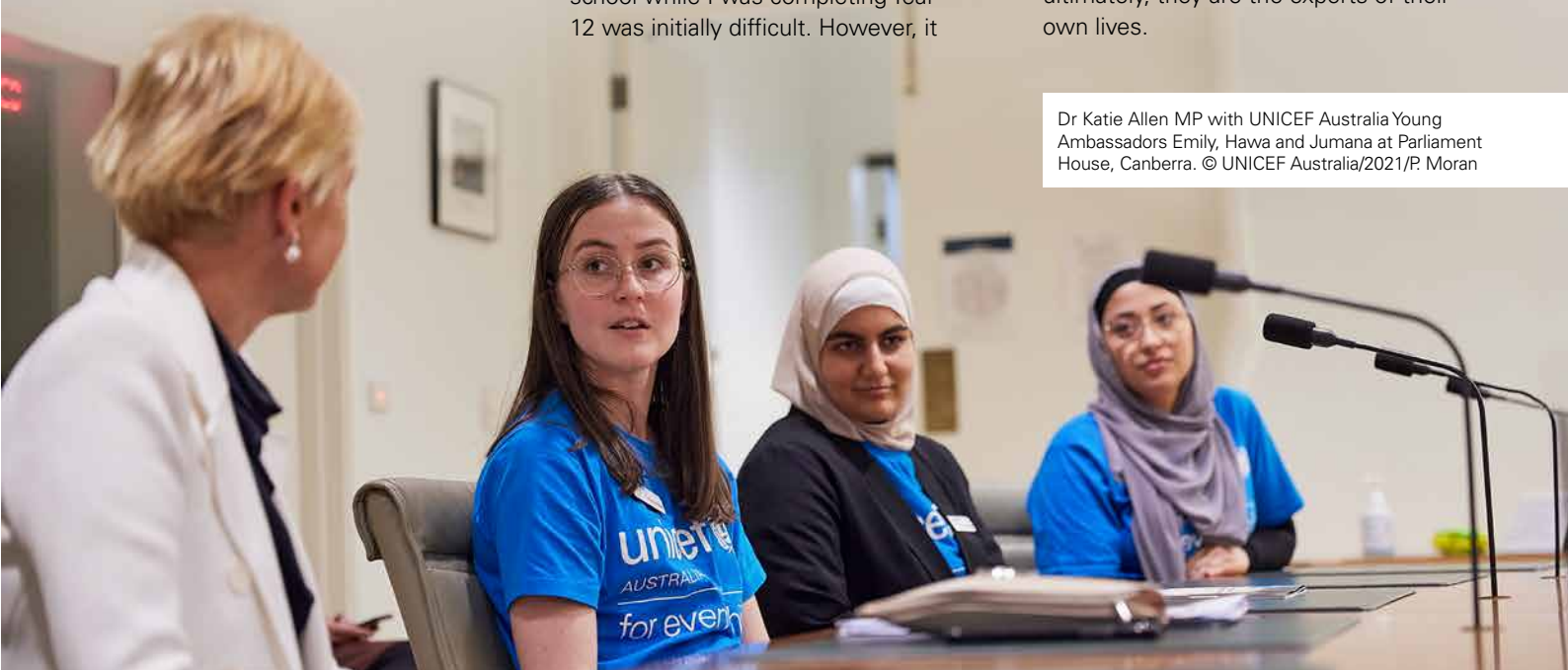
What was 2020 like for you?

Like everyone, 2020 required an extreme amount of adaptation and flexibility. The transition to online school while I was completing Year 12 was initially difficult. However, it

made it somewhat easier to juggle my commitments. I am one of the few that has thrived learning and working from home. My teachers were very accommodating and allowed me the flexibility to complete my schoolwork around my Young Ambassador commitments.

What is one change you'd like to see for children and young people in Australia?

I would like to see young people from around Australia have their voices heard and not dismissed because of their age. Young people can lead movements and just because they are effectively using their voices does not mean they are complaining or whining but simply wishing to be heard. Young people have a voice and must be allowed to use it as ultimately, they are the experts of their own lives.



Dr Katie Allen MP with UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors Emily, Hawa and Jumana at Parliament House, Canberra. © UNICEF Australia/2021/P. Moran

Reaching the **most remote** **places on earth**



NEPAL

Crossing mountains and rivers to
deliver COVID-19 vaccines in Nepal



Thanks to your support, our teams in Nepal have responded to the recent outbreak by delivering:



1,250

oxygen concentrators



75,000

masks



2 million

surgical gloves

After many days of travel, Indra, a UNICEF Health Officer, is in Jumla – one of the most remote districts of Karnali Province, in northwest Nepal – to help ensure COVID-19 vaccinations get delivered smoothly. The difficult geography in this part of Nepal means vaccines must be transported by porters on foot.

In March, Nepal was among the first countries in Asia to receive COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility – the global initiative to ensure equal access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide.

Since then, 348,000 doses have been delivered across the country to help protect health workers and the most vulnerable against potential outbreaks.

“There was so much uncertainty at the time about the disease, with all kinds of rumours going around, creating panic and anxiety,” says another health worker in Jumla, Nanda.

When the Government of Nepal launched the vaccination campaign earlier this year, health workers were given priority. Nanda’s relief and pride knew no bounds.

“Being put in the first priority group made me feel like our efforts and sacrifices as health workers were being recognised,” he says. “I felt very validated.”

Nanda was eager to see vaccines reach the most vulnerable in his community. Together with his team, he mobilised community health volunteers to go door to door and even called senior citizens on the phone to urge them to come and get the vaccine.

One of these senior citizens was 81-year-old Chaitee.

“I’m very excited to go get the shot,” she says. “Why wouldn’t I be happy to get the vaccine?”

INSET: An elderly local of the Kankasundari area in Jumla District in Nepal’s remote far west receives the COVID-19 vaccine at the hands of nurse Jandevi at the Malikabota Health Post. © UNICEF/UN0431179/ L. Prasad Ngakhushi

RIGHT: In March 2021, porters carry COVID-19 vaccines, crossing mountains and rivers to reach health facilities in Nepal’s remote far-west region. © UNICEF/UN0427644/

“I CAME HERE BY ROAD FROM KATHMANDU, NEPAL. IT TOOK FIVE DAYS TO ARRIVE AT THIS PLACE.”

INDRA KALA TAMANG, UNICEF HEALTH OFFICER

During the two-day vaccination campaign, more than 120 elderly people from the community arrived to get vaccinated.

“It was great to see that our efforts to communicate with them and convince them had not gone in vain,” Nanda says.

But we have a long way to go. In May, a new strain of the virus spread to every district in Nepal, with a 25 per cent surge in cases among children and adolescents. As of July 2021, there have been more than 640,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Our teams can reach remote places like Jumla with COVID-19 vaccines thanks to years of strengthening the cold chain to keep vaccines safe. Every year we vaccinate half the world’s children against preventable disease and now we have been called upon to vaccinate the world against COVID-19.

In 2020 alone, UNICEF installed 290 pieces of cold chain equipment, like fridges and cold boxes, throughout Nepal. This equipment is now being used to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to more Nepalese communities.

This year, we aim to deliver 2 billion COVID-19 vaccines, protecting frontline health workers, teachers and the most vulnerable. By mid-June 2021 COVAX had delivered more than 88 million vaccine doses to 131 countries and territories.



DONOR PROFILE

Jim Sisson

A POLIO SURVIVOR MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN EVERYWHERE WITH A GIFT IN HIS WILL



Children in Lahore, Pakistan welcome the polio vaccination team. ©UNICEF/ UN0399457/Bukhari

Proud Victorian, Jim Sisson, has been an active humanitarian for many years. Having worked for multiple NGOs in countries like Timor-Leste and Afghanistan, Jim witnessed UNICEF's field work in action, leaving a lasting impression.

"I have been a regular donor to UNICEF for some time now and I'm pleased to say that I have also made provision in my will for UNICEF," says Jim.

"What initially prompted me to support UNICEF occurred a while ago after I watched a documentary called *Cold Chain Mission* with UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Ewan McGregor on UNICEF's work vaccinating the world's hardest-to-reach children.

That film described a UNICEF program to reach kids in South Asia with the polio vaccine. As I had contracted the disease back in 1952 and made a

full recovery, I thought it appropriate to make a contribution to UNICEF efforts to protect every child from this disease."

Since our work began 75 years ago, UNICEF has protected millions of children around the world from life-threatening diseases like polio. Like Jim, a meaningful gift in your will can help create a future where every child has access to not only life-changing vaccines, but also other essentials like food, water and education.

→ As little as 1% of your estate could have a lasting impact on a child's life. You can find out more about how to leave a legacy in your will to UNICEF Australia by getting in touch with our Gifts in Wills team, Hannah and Abi, via email at bequests@unicef.org.au or phone on **1300 884 233**.

Priority Program Results

As UNICEF Australia, we have a special commitment to children here at home and our closest neighbours in the Asia Pacific region. Your donations make these Priority Programs possible.

COVID-19 Programs in Asia Pacific

 **6,200**

children, adolescents, parents and caregivers in 69 households reached with **remote access to mental health and psychosocial support** in Laos, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

 **28,789**

children reached across Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh with **malnutrition treatments**. 33 healthcare workers and 17 rural health volunteers in Papua New Guinea were **trained to provide support to mothers in infant and young child feeding** and **COVID-19 health practices**, reaching 12,212 people.

 **10,267**

children supported, including 4,903 girls, in **early childhood education programs** in Laos and Timor-Leste by providing printed **remote learning materials**.

Australian Programs

 **27**

communities reached through local partnerships, helping children recover from the 2019/2020 bushfires. The Bushfire Recovery Program reached over 12,200 children with **back-to-school support**, as well as providing 4,900 children and adults with **mental health and psychosocial programs**.

 **80%**

of children under 5 have been reached by the Borroloola based program. In partnership with the Moriarty Foundation, we are **supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in remote communities** in the Northern Territory with access to early childhood education programs.

 **3,000+**

young Australians, aged 13-17 years old, **were consulted and listened to, to understand the effects of the COVID-19** pandemic on their lives. Our Young Ambassadors presented these findings at Parliament House in June 2021.

Youth Voices

Reimagining a better world

Over a year into the pandemic, our young people and children have emerged more resilient than ever, despite enduring lockdowns and interruptions to their education.

This year we have had the opportunity to interview many young Australians and have found that young people want a more active role in addressing some of the biggest concerns for their generation, including climate change and mental health.

Imogen, a 16-year-old Australian expresses her view, "A better world is one where everyone speaks up about the issues that matter - Indigenous lives matter, gender equality and environmental issues. We can change the world."

"MY VISION OF A BETTER WORLD IS WHERE WE ARE FREE OF DISEASES LIKE COVID-19 AND WE TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES, EACH OTHER AND OUR PLANET EARTH."

VIRAJ, 8

ZAVIER, 6 →

"The blue is the recycle bin. Green is the rubbish bin and red is the garden bin. I am showing the grown-ups how to put stuff in the proper bins. The pink person likes to listen and save the environment. The blue girl likes recycling. The purple girl is jealous, and she thinks putting stuff in the wrong bin is ok."



↑ **TIANA, 11**

"My vision of a better world is a racism-free world full of love and happiness. Also, a clean world that tries to stop pollution from contaminating our lovely world. We must take care of this world with compassion and care and do the right thing. One man and one lady are holding the Earth, representing gender equality and a racism-free world."



ANNIKA, 12

"This artwork describes how hard the doctors, nurses, and other health professionals have worked during the coronavirus and what life will look like after our world is back to the beautiful planet we know and love."




**WE'LL
ALWAYS
FIND A
WAY TO
PROTECT
CHILDREN.**


General Nurse Dominic, from Melsisi Mini Hospital, trekking across the mountainous Pentecost Island, Vanuatu, to deliver the vaccine order to the remote Tsingbwege Dispensary.
© UNICEF/UN0259818/Chute



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UNICEF Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country of the land and communities in which we and our partners work throughout Australia, and their connection to their lands, waters, and communities. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures, and to Elders both past, present and emerging.