

unicef 

AUSTRALIA

for every child

ANNUAL REPORT | 20 20





CONTENTS

UNICEF Australia Annual Report 2020

02	Chair and CEO reports	31	Australian Government funding
04	About UNICEF	32	Community engagement
06	Our COVID-19 response	34	Our partners
12	Our work in Australia	36	Global Parents
18	Our global impact	38	Our ambassadors
20	International Priority Programs	40	Our board
28	Response to emergencies	41	Governance
		43	Financials

COVER: UNICEF Australia has partnered with the Moriarty Foundation to support community-led education and development for children from birth to five years. This program is helping to give children in remote areas of the Northern Territory the best start in life and improve their school readiness. In addition, this work supports the promotion of good healthcare and hygiene practices for children with improved accessibility to health services. © Moriarty Foundation

Chair's report



At the beginning of 2020 we could never have imagined we would face a larger challenge for Australian communities than the fires that ravaged our nation, destroying homes, schools and businesses in their path. We knew the emotional, financial and health difficulties following would be great, but we did not anticipate that the fires would be superseded by a pandemic.

Our consultations with young people confirmed that the series of obstacles they were facing were overwhelming. Interestingly, many were more concerned for the welfare of family and friends than themselves. And as the year moved on, they reported their optimism increased and their attention moved to larger economic and environmental issues.

This was mirrored in the wider community. As large portions of our nation were able to adopt a new "normal", attention turned to abroad and the impact of the pandemic on our near neighbours.

“During times of emergency, UNICEF recognises that returning a sense of stability to the lives of children and young people is critical to their recovery.”

During this time of upheaval, disadvantaged children and young people in other countries needed the support of UNICEF Australia more than ever.

The pandemic highlighted the desperate need in some nearby nations for basic infrastructure for running water, sanitation and hygiene, and the lack of emergency medical equipment.

We were reminded that in countries such as Timor-Leste, up to 70 per cent of rural health posts do not have access to running water. In Papua New Guinea, there is just one doctor for every 14,000 people.

In response to COVID-19, water, sanitation and hygiene programs in schools supported by UNICEF Australia in Fiji, Lao PDR and Myanmar were strengthened to ensure schools provided a safe environment. These programs reached more than 55,840 children.

We also worked closely with the Australian Government to deliver 15,000 items of personal protective equipment to frontline workers and strengthen the health system in Timor-Leste.

Other emergencies, extreme weather and political crises do not stop during a pandemic. In 2020, we launched crisis appeals for Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon. With the support of corporate sponsors and generous donors, UNICEF Australia was able to contribute \$1.4 million to support life-saving responses.

During times of emergency, UNICEF recognises that returning a sense of stability to the lives of children and young people is critical to their recovery.

While we move closer to recovery in Australia, I would like to thank all of our supporters for their solidarity. In 2021, we will see a greater focus on the management of the pandemic in other nations to ensure the rights of all children to safety, wellbeing and education are upheld.

Our ability to impact children's lives requires a collaborative effort from donors and partners, including the corporate sector and government. We thank each of you for making this possible.

Ann Sherry AO
Chair
UNICEF Australia

CEO's report

Australians are renowned for showing their greatest strength and camaraderie during times of adversity. In a time like no other, our resilience was truly tested in 2020. Firstly by devastating bushfires and then the COVID-19 pandemic.

In looking back on the past year, it has been one of my proudest for this nation and for UNICEF Australia in the way we have managed these crises. Children and young people, especially those in rural and remote communities, were among the hardest hit by the events of 2020. Disadvantage was amplified by the loss of lives and livelihoods by bushfires and the isolation inflicted by COVID-19. These are challenges UNICEF Australia is built to overcome. This was evident in the sharp increase in the need for our services, with our ability to rapidly respond and to ensure young people's voices were heard.

In 2020, we were recognised as a public benevolent institution, which allowed us to fundraise for initiatives within Australia for the first time. This will fortify our domestic programs for years to come and enable us to provide support to the most disadvantaged Australian children, from the early years through to young adulthood. Our partnerships with the Moriarty Foundation and Royal Far West are critical to our strategy to provide equal opportunities for children in remote, regional and Indigenous communities.

It is with the support of our community partners and corporate sponsors that we are able to deliver on our commitment to reach more children. We were not untouched by the financial impact of COVID-19 on Australian corporates, with many of our long-term partners in the tourism sector impacted. However, we welcomed new significant donors who have stepped up and responded to the bushfire and pandemic crises.

In a challenging year, we commend the Australian Government for its leadership in minimising the impact of COVID-19 and supporting the sector to keep operating. Initiatives including JobKeeper enabled us to maintain our workforce, ensuring we could continue to elevate children's voices, advocate for their best interests, and provide critical health, safety and

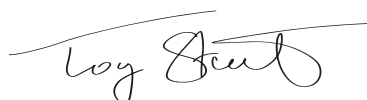
education support to children throughout the Pacific and beyond. In the Pacific region, we worked closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on our near neighbours through the delivery of personal protective equipment and medical supplies.

We never take for granted the generosity of the Australian public, especially during times of financial strain. Our fundraising team reported that very few individual donors ceased their giving in 2020, opting instead to reduce it where needed, while others in more fortunate positions increased their donations to compensate for this. I sincerely thank all our donors for their ongoing support.

One of the drivers of our achievements in 2020 was the successful implementation of a Salesforce Customer Relationship Management system. This essential investment has enabled us to better engage with supporters and donors. I am proud to say that a challenging year for all concluded with UNICEF being appointed as lead partner of the much anticipated global COVID-19 vaccine roll-out as part of COVAX. This is the largest and fastest ever procurement and supply of vaccines.

In response to the pandemic, we gave ourselves three goals: to protect the public, protect our people, and protect our business. I am pleased that we achieved all three goals, especially protecting our people who had to adapt to working remotely. We also formed very effective partnerships with media and government agencies in promoting the importance of hand washing, social distancing and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment.

Notwithstanding the challenges of COVID-19, we finished the year with a stronger business than when we started. This demonstrates the resilience of the incredible, passionate team which I have the privilege to be a part of.



Tony Stuart
Chief Executive
UNICEF Australia



“It is with the support of our community partners and corporate sponsors that we are able to deliver on our commitment to reach more children.”

About UNICEF

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, is the world's largest children's charity working to protect vulnerable children, globally and here in Australia. Run entirely on voluntary donations, we work to improve the lives of every vulnerable child, no matter who they are or where they live.



Every day, our teams are on the ground in 190 countries working with local partners to deliver life-saving help and create lasting change. From vaccinating children in war zones to providing early childhood education access in Indigenous communities, donations from generous Australians and our partners help us to protect every child.

UNICEF believes that children in every part of the world deserve to not only survive, but thrive. Our purpose is to:

- Support the world's most vulnerable and marginalised children, no matter where they live - from inside war and conflict zones to vast refugee camps and the most remote communities on Earth. We will always find a way to protect children.
- Provide access to education, healthcare, vaccinations, shelter, nutrition, safe water, and protection from harm. These universal rights are enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has been ratified by Australia and almost every country in the world.
- Deliver life-saving assistance via our global network where children are facing poverty, violence, discrimination, natural disasters and other emergencies.
- Support millions of children all over the world through our development programs focusing on child protection, early childhood development, water, sanitation and hygiene, and child survival.
- Work with governments and community partners to ensure children attend school, new mothers get the services they need to give their newborn babies the best start in life, and that vaccinations against life-threatening but preventable diseases are provided.
- In Australia, we continuously advocate for children by encouraging politicians to consider the rights of children when making decisions that directly affect them.
- We consult with children, respect their views and seek to amplify their voice. We are committed to taking positive action by providing a better, safer, healthier future for all children.





“In a year dominated by numerous crises, UNICEF Australia supported children affected by Australian bushfires, the COVID-19 pandemic, and various conflicts around the world while continuing long-term development programs in the East Asia and Pacific region.”

Our vision

UNICEF Australia's vision is to ensure that every child has the chance to survive, thrive and reach their full potential to ultimately build a better world for everyone. To do this, we focus on protecting children's rights and ensuring that children have equal access to quality health, nutrition, protection, clean water, sanitation, hygiene, education and inclusion programs, as well as emergency assistance.

Our mission

Our mission is to be the children's champion and to inspire Australians to connect with UNICEF by protecting and promoting children's rights and mobilising resources to deliver this vital support. Together with UNICEF globally, UNICEF Australia is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. By investing in children and young people, with governments and our partners, we are striving to achieve a more equitable, just and sustainable world for all.



TOP: Children use the village hand pump in Rajasthan, northern India. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is one of UNICEF's programs to support children across the world. © UNICEF/UN0389244/Panjwani

LEFT: UNICEF volunteers in Dhaka, Bangladesh, teach children how to wash their hands during Global Hand Washing Day on 15 October 2020. © UNICEF/UN0354617/Kiron

Our COVID-19 response

UNICEF Australia has contributed \$3.9 million to a range of domestic and international programs focused on addressing the impacts of COVID-19. We have been working with our partners to reach children and their families with vital health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, gender-based violence and social protection services.



A student at Krang Snay Primary School in Kampot Province, Cambodia, shows her clean hands at the school re-opening in September. © UNICEF/UNI395277/Raab

The COVID-19 pandemic is deepening poverty across every dimension of a child's life. It is straining already overburdened social and health service delivery, resulting in a humanitarian, socio-economic and human/child rights crisis, and it is exacerbating the inequalities and vulnerability of children and their families.

UNICEF Australia is providing immediate relief and advocating for children to help them recover, rebound, reimagine and create a stronger future. Our COVID-19 Children's Response Appeal is supporting the health, safety, wellbeing and education of children during the pandemic and beyond.

Throughout our COVID-19 response in 2020, UNICEF worked under the leadership of national governments and

in close coordination with the World Health Organisation, humanitarian and UN country and global teams, and civil society partners. These collaborations have worked to protect children and their families from exposure to COVID-19, to minimise the impacts of public health measures, to address the immediate socio-economic consequences, and to increase access and provision of basic social services. UNICEF also led efforts to ensure that no country was left without access to future COVID-19 vaccines.

UNICEF Australia specifically funded seven UNICEF Country Offices in our response to the pandemic: Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Laos, the Pacific Islands, Cambodia, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

- UNICEF Australia has contributed \$3.9 million to a range of domestic and international programs focused on addressing the impacts of COVID-19.
- UNICEF has been appointed as lead partner of the much anticipated global COVID-19 vaccine roll-out as part of COVAX. This is the largest and fastest ever procurement and supply of vaccines.
- Our *V for Vaccinated* campaign celebrates people getting their vaccines and is a partnership between UNICEF Australia and the Australian Government Department of Health.
- Domestically, UNICEF Australia has delivered community education programs, advocated the needs of young Australians, and has partnered with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth to establish the Australian Children's Knowledge Acceleration Hub to ensure that the impacts of COVID-19 on children in Australia are fully understood and communicated to decision-makers at all levels.
- UNICEF Australia specifically funded seven regions in our response to the pandemic: Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Laos, the Pacific Islands, Cambodia, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

At frontline of vaccination efforts

Australia's Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly announced a partnership between UNICEF Australia and the Department of Health at a *Vaccinating the World* breakfast which was hosted by the UNICEF Australia Parliamentary Association and attended by MPs from across the political spectrum.

Professor Kelly said vaccines were a critical part of protecting the country from COVID-19, but the next challenge was building vaccine confidence. The partnership will include ambassadors and high-profile Australians, and a social media *V for Vaccinated* campaign to celebrate people getting their vaccines.

Jane Halton, public health expert and former head of the Department of Health, also attended the breakfast to brief participants on the critical role of COVAX in vaccine equity.

Meanwhile, the Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, said UNICEF will be at the frontline of efforts to vaccinate the Indo-Pacific - whether doses are delivered through the COVAX Facility, or more directly via Australia's \$623 million commitment to vaccine access for the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

He added that UNICEF is a natural partner for the Australian Government in the vaccine rollout, given the agency's leadership on procurement and logistics for COVAX and GAVI. UNICEF Australia welcomed the Australian Government's \$80 million contribution to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC), a global initiative that will guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for developing countries and the world's poorest children and families.



TOP: UNICEF Australia Director of International Programs Felicity Butler-Wever and UNICEF Australia International Program Coordinator for Health (child survival and nutrition) Beth Stirling inspect personal protective equipment supplies at a warehouse in Sydney prior to shipment to Timor-Leste in June 2020. © UNICEF Australia/Porritt

RIGHT: As second-wave lockdown restrictions were tightened in Victoria, many young people were unable to attend school. Dealing with the reality of disrupted learning has been a key issue for teenagers across the country. ©UNICEF Australia/Simons

Addressing pandemic impacts in Australian communities

For families and communities who were already suffering hardship, the COVID-19 crisis compounded their existing stress and disadvantage, further eroding child, family and community resilience.

In 2020, UNICEF Australia worked with our partners to address the critical gaps that were identified - particularly around wellbeing and continuity of education for children - and supported targeted programs that reached the most vulnerable children. In 2020, UNICEF Australia's programs included:

Community education: This work includes the delivery of practical, trusted and evidence-based information to help parents, carers, teachers and children cope and stay healthy during the pandemic via an online learning hub. In addition, UNICEF Australia also brought together experts and paediatric specialists in partnership with the Australian National University to provide advice and support for parents via a webinar series. This program reached more than 2,600 parents and teachers in 2020.



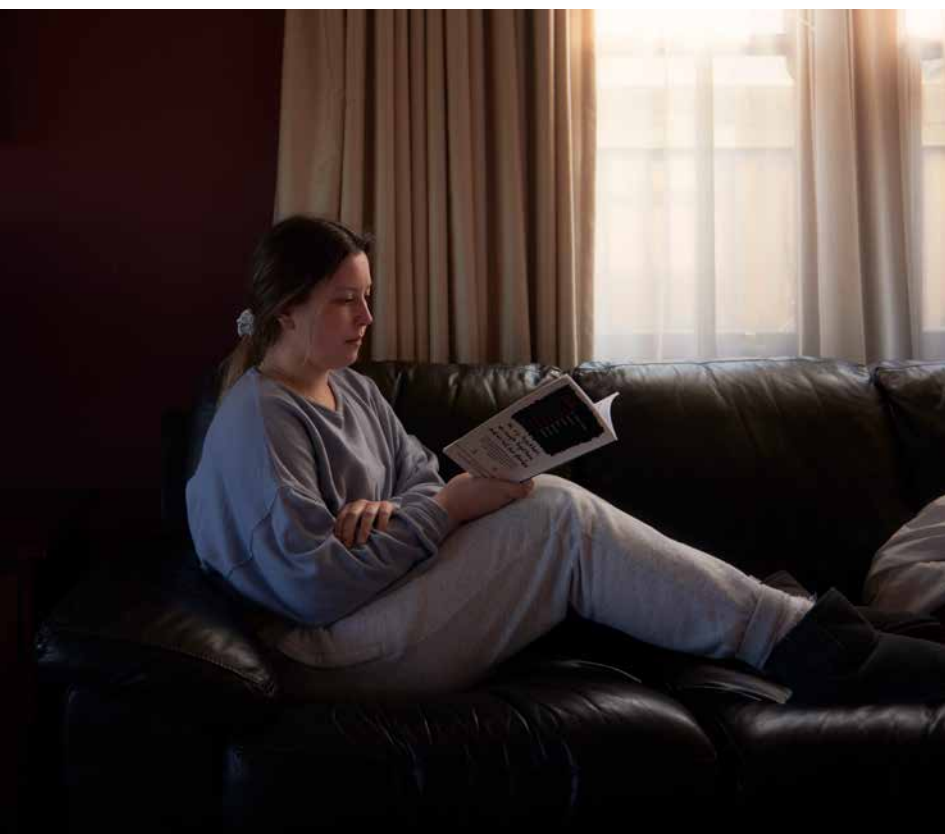


“UNICEF is a natural partner for the Australian Government in the vaccine rollout, given the agency’s leadership on procurement and logistics for COVAX and GAVI.”

Creation of knowledge, data evidence to inform decision making:

In 2020, UNICEF partnered with ARACY (Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth) to establish the Australian Children’s Knowledge Acceleration Hub. Together we publish monthly digests so that the impacts of COVID-19 on children in Australia are fully understood by policymakers at all levels. We have also convened policy round tables with experts to explore solutions on key issues such as mental health. A total of 141 sector experts helped deliver policy recommendations for the Australian Government to mitigate the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on children’s wellbeing.

Advocacy: We worked with decision makers throughout 2020 to help sharpen the focus on the needs of young Australians in the COVID recovery process. Key issues our advocacy focused on included social protection, youth employment and education.



→ **See also**

Living in Limbo in Australia – a three-phase study into the views and experiences of young people living through the pandemic: Page 17

Supporting our neighbours

UNICEF Australia specifically funded COVID-19 response programs in Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Laos, the Pacific Islands, Cambodia, Bangladesh and the Philippines. Following are just some of the highlights from the work that has been done by UNICEF to respond to the pandemic and protect children from its impacts.

Contributions to Timor-Leste

Our contributions to Timor-Leste addressed secondary impacts of the pandemic in education, early childhood development, and child protection. The funding also supported critical supply and logistics, with a focus on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies for frontline workers and communities. UNICEF supported the procurement and distribution of hygiene supplies for COVID-19 prevention and learning materials to 104 community-based preschools with 3,251 children in the municipalities of Ermera and Viqueque. When the schools reopened at the end of August, the hygiene materials were used to ensure a safe and clean learning environment. UNICEF procured ICT equipment for four schools in Liquica and Ainaro. Teachers have also been trained on using technology and introducing tablets in the classroom.

Contributions to Papua New Guinea

In addition to closely collaborating with the PNG National Department of Health, WHO, and other partners to provide critical PPE supplies, UNICEF Australia has adapted our long-term support to PNG in an effort to minimise the secondary impacts of the pandemic. This includes supporting vulnerable children and pregnant women with nutritional supplements to combat malnutrition; supporting alternative care arrangements for children at personal risk during COVID-19, in partnership with government and partners; supplying hygiene

kits and information to families, care institutions and correctional institutions; ensuring access to mental health support/counselling for victims of violence; and providing basic psychological first aid and mental health/psychosocial support training to parents and caregivers through communications platforms, community education and youth engagement.

In November 2020, a training course for hospital staff was organised by the National Department of Health, Port Moresby General Hospital, and the Society of Anaesthetists of Papua New Guinea - with support from partners Newcrest Mining Limited in collaboration with UNICEF. A total of 21 healthcare workers comprising doctors and nurses attended the training in Port Moresby. Participants gained basic knowledge of mechanical ventilation and how to operate ventilators on patients with COVID-19.

CASE STUDY

Programs support remote learning

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, with the support of UNICEF, established a distance education program in Timor-Leste within two weeks. The program - Eskola ba Uma, or School Goes Home - gave children the opportunity to continue learning and helped them stay connected to their teachers. It also encouraged caregivers and parents to become engaged in their child's learning.

Meanwhile, a UNICEF partnership with Microsoft enabled the online learning platform Learning Passport, which gave children remote access to the national school curriculum via textbooks, storybooks, songs, videos and supplementary learning materials. UNICEF also partnered with Telemor to give 600,000 mobile phone users in rural areas access to learning materials for free.

Madia shows the Eskola ba Uma platform that she is using to continue learning during school closures in Timor-Leste. © UNICEF/UNI356624/Soares





UNICEF is working together with the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services to supply collapsible water containers and hygiene kits to reach children and families in the most remote communities.
©UNICEF/UN0399069/Sharma

Contributions to the Pacific Islands

About 5,000 copies of the *Virus Stopping Champion* comic book and 2,700 copies of the *Children's Guide to COVID-19* were printed and distributed to children in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru and Tonga. These publications help children understand COVID-19 and provide tips on staying healthy and preventing the spread. UNICEF Australia's work over the past three years to strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and practices in schools in the Pacific is helping to protect children during and in the aftermath of the coronavirus outbreak. In Fiji, soap was distributed to 312 schools in the western divisions, benefitting more than 80,000 students. Soap was also distributed at six healthcare facilities in Lau and Kadavu.

UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Health and Medical Services of Solomon Islands to establish a communication system for monitoring and rapid assessment for health workers. Technical assistance was provided to working groups of the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau in drafting their pandemic plans, while cylinders of

medical oxygen gas and medical air, and other medical supplies were provided to eight health facilities in Tuvalu to enhance their capacity to treat patients with severe COVID-19 symptoms. A socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 in Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands was completed and draft reports have been circulated to governments and stakeholders.

Contributions to Laos

UNICEF Australia supported the Government of Laos in addressing education and child protection. We also ensured that children in Laos had access to continuous learning during temporary school closures and that those without parental care were able to live in a safe environment through alternative care supports. A total of 1,245 children were provided with various child protection services, including family reintegration, while 79 vulnerable households received family emergency support. UNICEF Australia funds were pooled with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to help produce new pre-primary learning materials. Meanwhile, a total of 350 social workers from 12 provinces benefitted from UNICEF Australia-supported critical protective supplies.

CASE STUDY

Emergency assistance for families in need

UNICEF Lao PDR, with support from UNICEF Australia and the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is working with Peaun Mit and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to identify vulnerable children and families and provide tailored supports, including case management, family reintegration, referrals and job readiness training.

Akela (*not her real name) and her family were able to live in the transitional home offered by Peaun Mit, and she was able to go to school with her four siblings. Akela's mother secured a job at a cleaning company and the family were able to rent a room in the village near the school. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, the company laid off all staff including Akela's mother, and the school was closed. Peaun Mit's social workers provided emergency assistance to Akela's family and supported her with school materials and access to remote learning programs. Her mother was provided with vocational training to make a small income through sewing masks at home while searching for full-time work.

**name changed to protect identity*

Our work in Australia

UNICEF Australia's domestic program and advocacy work ensures every child has an equal opportunity to thrive and survive, no matter the circumstances or challenges they face.



Maita has helped supervise home learning for her brother Josh during the pandemic lockdown. ©The Sydney Morning Herald/DOMINIC LORRIMER

UNICEF Australia has accelerated our domestic program and advocacy work in 2020 to drive results for children – particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalised.

Our three priority areas are:

Investing in the Early Years:

Addressing disadvantage in the early years so that all children in Australia receive the best start in life.

Adolescent Potential and Wellbeing:

Empowering young Australians to influence the issues that are important to them.

Children in Crisis: Targeting the right support for children and families affected by emergencies.

“UNICEF Australia has accelerated our domestic program and advocacy work in 2020 to drive results for children – particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalised.”

How is UNICEF Australia achieving results for children?

Anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF Australia achieves results for children across the country through the following strategies:

- **Elevating the voices of young people** and facilitating child and youth participation.
- **Creating knowledge, data and evidence** on the situation of children and young people in Australia and using this knowledge to inform and guide national decision-making - with the objective of improving children's wellbeing.
- **Partnering with local community organisations to target inequality and accelerate impact.** Together with our partners, we address critical gaps and needs of the most vulnerable children in Australia. We are investing in programs that are targeted and deliver impact, particularly around wellbeing and education for children in remote, regional and Indigenous communities.
- **Advocacy with governments** to address inequality and chronic child rights deprivations in Australia.
- **Creating an enabling environment for children's rights** through our work with the Child Rights Taskforce and UNICEF Australia's Parliamentary Association, co-chaired by Dr Katie Allen MP and Mr Peter Khalil MP.



UNICEF Australia has accelerated our domestic program and advocacy work as the year's crises have compounded existing stress and disadvantage. © Moriarty Foundation

Children in Crisis

Bushfire Response Program

In February 2020, UNICEF Australia launched our first ever domestic emergency response in support of communities impacted by the bushfires. Together with our partners, UNICEF Australia implemented bushfire response programs totalling \$1.5 million, providing psychosocial support to children and their families, and offering practical support for children going back to school.

In the 12 months since the devastating bushfires, UNICEF Australia and our partners have delivered essential support in more than 27 bushfire-affected communities, as informed by a comprehensive needs assessment. The three key elements of our support included:

Back to School Program: Ensuring continuity in education is vital in restoring hope and normality in the lives of children. In early 2020, UNICEF Australia, in partnership with States Schools Relief, The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, and local communities supported the provision of the necessary resources

for children in bushfire-affected communities which enabled them to return to school. More than 12,200 children have been assisted.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Program: In partnership with Royal Far West, the Australian National University and MacKillop Family Services, this program has been delivered within a multi-disciplinary community development model. It targeted children, parents/ caregivers, general practitioners, health and social services workers, educators and community leaders across 27 communities, assisting more than 4,900 children and adults.

Advocacy with government partners: In 2020, UNICEF Australia and our partners called for an urgent review across federal, state and territory governments of relevant policies and frameworks that guide disaster planning, response, and recovery efforts to ensure the specific needs of children are identified and addressed. Secondly, we advocated for additional mental health and resilience programs in rural and remote communities aimed at children aged up to 12 years to assist recovery and build resilience.

Together with our partners, UNICEF Australia implemented bushfire response programs totalling \$1.5 million.

More than 12,200 children have been assisted by our Back to School Program.

Essential support has been delivered to more than 27 bushfire-affected communities.

Our Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Program has assisted more than 4,900 children and adults.

UNICEF Australia and our partners called for an urgent review across federal, state and territory governments of relevant policies and frameworks that guide disaster planning, response, and recovery efforts to ensure the specific needs of children are identified and addressed.



Wellbeing activities are delivered to a preschool group in a bushfire-affected community in Australia.
©UNICEF/RFW

CASE STUDY

Therapeutic group work

UNICEF Australia supported the recovery of children affected by the 2019-2020 bushfire disaster through therapeutic group work at schools.

A book reading and colouring session was facilitated with children at a bushfire-affected community preschool in late 2020. This was delivered by UNICEF Australia's partners, Royal Far West, and their team of social workers and occupational therapists.

This program is aimed at supporting children with the changes and loss they may experience after a natural disaster such as a bushfire. The team read *Birdie and the Fire* to the children and encouraged their engagement.

Investing in the Early Years

The first five years of every child's life lays the foundation for them to be able to achieve their developmental potential.

UNICEF Australia addresses disadvantage in the early years (up to the age of five) so that all Australian children can get the best start in life.

We target our support towards vulnerable children, such as those living in rural and remote communities.

In 2020, our Early Years Program support included:

- **Targeted support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children** under the age of five living in remote communities, in partnership with the Moriarty Foundation. This early year's childhood development program - Indi Kindi - recognises the essential interlinked building blocks
- **Advocacy with government partners** to ensure greater equity of access to quality and affordable early childhood education and care for Australian preschool-aged children, as well as engaging with governments toward the realisation of national Closing the Gap targets.

CASE STUDY

Educator inspires change in remote community

Children in remote communities across Australia, particularly those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, face disadvantages such as limited access to childhood education.

One such remote community is Borroloola, in the Northern Territory. To address this disadvantage, the Indi Kindi initiative is integrating education, health and wellbeing to give children the best start in life. Led by local Aboriginal women and supported by UNICEF Australia, the program assists local people working as educators. One of these educators is Garrawa woman Deandra.

Deandra is inspiring the next generation of Aboriginal children and recently celebrated five years as an Indi Kindi educator. She is also studying her Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care through the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.

Deandra is passionate about creating change in her community through early childhood education.

"I love coming to work every day, working with my colleagues to make a better community, a better environment for the kids to learn," she said.

"I've got a good job, I feel proud of myself because I didn't have any power when I wasn't working. Now we come together and plan for our little ones and the community."



Garrawa woman Deandra is a change-maker in Borroloola, in the Northern Territory. © Moriarty Foundation



The COVID-19 crisis revealed and exacerbated a range of existing inequalities for children in Australia, particularly in areas such as digital access and education. © UNICEF Australia/Ziazlaris

Adolescent Potential and Wellbeing

In 2020, UNICEF Australia listened to young people's concerns and lived experiences, as well as providing a platform for engagement with policymakers to inform the development of recovery programs in Australia.

During the year, UNICEF Australia's Adolescent Potential and Wellbeing program support included:

Young Ambassador Program:

Provides young people aged 15-24 with a platform to build their leadership skills and contribute to shaping the

decisions that affect their lives. In 2020, we recruited 10 incredible young Australians to raise the voices of children and young people living in their communities.

Youth consultation and participation program:

We consulted and listened to more than 3,000 young people (aged 13 to 17 years across Australia) to understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their lives in 2020. The findings of these national surveys were captured in the *Living in Limbo* and *Swimming with Sandbags* reports. This research forms part of a three-phase study into the views and experiences of young people in Australia living through the pandemic. UNICEF Australia will release our third report in 2021.

“We consulted and listened to more than 3,000 young people (aged 13 to 17 years across Australia) to understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their lives in 2020.”

Journey of conversations

BY JUMANA, UNICEF AUSTRALIA
YOUNG AMBASSADOR 2020-2021



My experience as a UNICEF Australia Young Ambassador has been a journey filled with tough conversations and enriched by bright and comprehensive ideas. The most rewarding aspect of my role was walking into a classroom and witnessing the eagerness and excitement of students having their ideas and experiences listened to by UNICEF Australia representatives and then passed onto policymakers.

The role has also been disheartening at times - hearing the dread and anxiety in young people's voices when discussing issues of climate change, racism, and a growing mental health epidemic. In one year, young Australians have witnessed the devastating impacts of climate change when bushfires broke out across the country, they have courageously battled a pandemic, they have adapted to online learning, and have missed out on sentimental events of their childhood to ensure the health of others within their communities.

COVID-19 brought to the surface many of the issues our society was running away from. Living in Perth, I recognise that I was in a far more favoured position than others around Australia as I did not spend

“COVID-19 brought to the surface many of the issues our society was running away from.”

as much time in lockdown. However, the pandemic showcased the deep financial inequalities that exist within our country; exhibiting how some were privileged enough to hoard whilst others were left empty-handed. To overcome the anxiety and stress that young people are experiencing, leaders who have promised to act in the best interest of Australians must increase funding for youth facilities and adjust school curriculums to teach effective self-care techniques.

It is only when genuine care is shown towards the mental state of the younger generations that we will be able to recover and come back healthier as a society.

Living in Limbo: Pandemic's impact on young Australians

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and national response, UNICEF Australia has been listening to the views and experiences of young Australians to understand how coronavirus is impacting them.

Our research is also elevating their voices with governments to ensure policy responses throughout this crisis meet the needs of children and young people. The findings are being captured in the *Living in Limbo* and *Swimming with Sandbags* reports.

We held a three-phase study throughout 2020 to understand how the pandemic had impacted Australia's

younger generations. As part of this work, UNICEF Australia staff, along with our UNICEF Young Ambassadors, conducted online consultations with young people across regional and urban Australia.

The pandemic has impacted the day-to-day life of young Australians, changing their employment experience, their ways of connecting with friends and family, and their perception of the future. They are worried about the impacts of the pandemic on their education, friendships and the health and safety of friends and family. The pandemic is putting a strain on young people's ability to cope, as well as their overall mental health and wellbeing.

Common changes young people reported experiencing included having to stop seeing their friends, having their

education disrupted or stopped, and having to stop their usual extracurricular activities. A number of young people raised a concern that not all students were impacted equally by the move to remote learning.

“Young people told us that when sitting and concentrating on a screen for a long period of time, it becomes intensely draining - many have lost the ability to immediately ask their teachers questions or to clarify understanding with their friends,” said 17-year-old UNICEF Australia Young Ambassador Daphne Fong.

The majority of young Australians aged 13-17 have also had to take on more responsibility at home during the pandemic. This includes being more responsible for looking after siblings, including supervising home learning.

Our global impact

UNICEF's work for children spans more than 190 countries and territories and each year the organisation responds to hundreds of emergencies.

Flexible funding is critical to UNICEF, allowing it to respond quickly and effectively to support the fundamental rights of children and young people everywhere.

In 2020, UNICEF Australia and 27,359 Global Parents made \$12.5 million in donations to support UNICEF's work around the world.

UNICEF Australia contributed \$1.4 million towards UNICEF's response to disasters and humanitarian emergencies, and we directly supported 23 Priority Programs that are giving children a fair chance – through Child Survival, Early Childhood Development, Child Protection, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

Funding of more than \$3.5 million was delivered to COVID-19 programs in East Asia Pacific and around the world, with specific support for UNICEF's response in the Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Timor-Leste, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines and Bangladesh.

Countries where UNICEF Australia provided earmarked support to Priority Programs, response to emergencies, and COVID-19 response programs are highlighted on this map.



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1 Pacific Island Nations (multi-country)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 response • Cyclone Harold emergency response, (Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga) • New Immunisation Introduction | <p>5 Samoa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measles outbreak emergency response | <p>9 Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Survival |
| <p>2 Fiji</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH | <p>6 Papua New Guinea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 response* • Child Survival • Child Protection • Early Childhood Development | <p>10 Laos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 response • Child Protection* • Early Childhood Development* • Social Protection* • WASH |
| <p>3 Vanuatu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Survival | <p>7 Timor-Leste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 response • Child Protection* • Early Childhood Development • Child Survival | <p>11 Sri Lanka</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport for Development |
| <p>4 Solomon Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Development* • COVID-19 WASH response* | <p>8 Cambodia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 response • Early Childhood Development* • Child Protection | <p>12 Myanmar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection* • WASH |



Giving children a fair chance

UNICEF Australia's contribution to children includes funds to international and domestic programs.

In 2020, with the generous support of our donors and supporters, UNICEF Australia's worldwide contribution to children grew to \$21.9 million.

UNICEF Australia continues to hold full accreditation under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and receives annual funding to support a range of programs in the East Asia and Pacific Region.

With the support of the Australian community and DFAT, UNICEF Australia contributed \$7 million to International Priority Programs across the East Asia and Pacific region in 2020.

In 2020, our Priority Programs focused on reaching the most vulnerable - in all their diversity - and supported a total of 822,201 children.

UNICEF Australia's remittance of unrestricted regular resource funding to UNICEF grew to \$7.1 million in 2020. In response to the Beirut explosion and ongoing humanitarian crises in Yemen and Syria, UNICEF Australia also directed more than \$1.2 million in emergency funding to the Middle East region.

Together with our partners, UNICEF Australia implemented domestic programs totalling \$1.5 million to support bushfire-affected communities, providing psychosocial support to children and their families, and offering practical support for children going back to school.

13 Philippines

- COVID-19 response

14 Burundi

- Adolescent education

15 Zimbabwe

- Child Survival*

16 Bangladesh

- COVID-19 response
- Rohingya refugee emergency response
- Early Childhood Development

17 Yemen

- Emergency response

18 Lebanon

- Beirut explosion emergency response

19 Vietnam/Cambodia

- Southeast Asia flood emergency response

20 Syria

- Emergency response

*Indicates projects receiving Australian Government funding

International Priority Programs

Since 2014, UNICEF Australia has made it a key part of our strategy to allocate a portion of our funds to directly supporting strategic and innovative programs in our region.


Priority Programs (directly supported programs) allow UNICEF Australia to have stronger partnerships with Country Offices, align our program funding to areas of geographic and thematic interest and directly contribute to increasing effectiveness and accountability through our own programmatic expertise. They also allow for better linkages with the Australian community and the Australian Government.

In 2020, UNICEF Australia managed 23 Priority Programs in the four thematic areas of Child Survival, Early Childhood Development, Child Protection, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). These programs were delivered in collaboration with 11 UNICEF offices in Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos,

Myanmar, the Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Zimbabwe.

Our Priority Programs focused on reaching the most vulnerable - in all their diversity - and supported a total of 822,201 children.

UNICEF Australia is committed to working to realise the rights of every child – girls, boys and those of other gender identities – recognising that historically women, girls, transgender, gender diverse and non-binary people have faced disproportionate disadvantage and discrimination in many areas of their lives. With the support of the Australian community and DFAT, UNICEF Australia contributed \$7 million to International Priority Programs across the East Asia and Pacific region.



Children play at Hun Sen Phum
Thmey Primary School in
Ratanakiri province, Cambodia. ©
UNICEF Cambodia/Raab

Child Protection

Violence against children is often hidden, unseen and grossly under-reported. It is estimated that one in three girls and one in five boys are sexually abused by the time they are 18, and three out of four children experience violent discipline at home or school. UNICEF Australia's Child Protection Program supports projects in five priority countries (Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar and Timor-Leste) focusing on strengthening child protection systems.

UNICEF aims to create a holistic protective environment for children where the government is the ultimate guarantor.

This involves working in close partnership with government, civil society, communities, families and children to ensure:

- Strong laws and policies which define clear objectives, functions, and standards for the protection of children.
- Effective multi-sectoral services which cover all relevant areas including health, social welfare, education, justice, and police.
- Adequate awareness and capacity of all partners and service providers to prevent and respond to child abuse.
- Strong institutional and community mechanisms where government services and community mechanisms work in synergy.
- Conducive norms and attitudes permeate society and are protective, rights-based and gender responsive.
- Strong and reliable data which informs evidence-based approaches, policies and programs.



CASE STUDY

Monks trained to raise awareness

In 2020, more than 2,400 survivors of child abuse in Cambodia accessed the UNICEF Australia-supported child protection response service.

At a national level, child protection models were integrated into the training curriculum of Buddhist institutions. Including the adoption of a Child Safeguarding Policy, the model includes child protection training for monks and awareness-raising for communities by the trained monks. This was successfully tested in 147 pagodas and is now planned to be extended nation-wide.

Venerable Chheang Choukly, a 17-year-old monk, received training in child protection to foster protective norms and attitudes in communities.

"I truly enjoy raising awareness among families and communities and found it significantly important for them to understand the impacts of violence on children ... It takes each and every single one of us to break the cycle of violence," Chheang said.

Meanwhile, the National Guidelines on Diversion of Children in Conflict with the Law and the Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice were developed to support the Juvenile Justice Law. Once launched, all children in Cambodia who come into contact with the law as victims or perpetrators will be treated in a child-friendly manner and in line with international and human rights standards. In anticipation of the launch, in 2020 nearly 600 children were immediately released from prison and diverted to alternative measures of detention, with many being able to continue schooling.

Monks work on a group exercise on neglect and emotional abuse in Cambodia.
© UNICEF/UNI277201/



Program highlights

141,010

people directly benefitted from 6 Priority Programs

31,099

children supported with access to child protection services

3,080

social welfare workers received training to improve services



A baby sleeps in a bilum on its mother's back in a health centre in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. © UNICEF/UN0422396/Holt

Child Survival

Protecting and promoting the health of children is essential to improving the lives of children, families and communities worldwide.

UNICEF Australia's Child Survival program takes a Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) approach. This is to improve child survival outcomes through sustainable improvement in the quality of health and nutrition services, health information for children and families, and access to these services.

UNICEF focuses on all areas of the health system, from community village health workers and outreach services to health centres and hospitals, as well as working with district governments. UNICEF works to strengthen health systems through improving procurement and supply chains, improving the quality and affordability of healthcare training health workers, strengthening health care management, improving health data, implementing research to improve health outcomes, and supporting governments on national management of health to reach the most vulnerable.

UNICEF Australia supported child survival projects in Indonesia, the Pacific (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu), Papua New Guinea (PNG), Timor-Leste and Zimbabwe. These projects are identified as facing specific challenges in addressing each region's maternal, neonatal and child health priorities.

CASE STUDY

Newborn care focus of training

Timing and access to quality maternal and newborn services and health care, including the presence of a skilled birth attendant and access to emergency obstetric and newborn care, are significant factors to child survival. In Zimbabwe, this is a significant challenge given that 70 per cent of the population live in rural areas with limited access to health facilities.

Clinical mentorships have been successfully introduced to develop the capacity of emergency teams of junior health providers and improve emergency obstetric and newborn care in 20 districts. UNICEF has also supported the development of the new National Community Health Strategy 2020-2025, while advocacy has resulted in increased salaries and training for village health workers.

After two years of clinical mentorship, the average rate of Caesarean sections performed in target district hospitals increased from 2 per cent in 2016 to 5.5 per cent in 2019, showing increased capacity of junior emergency health teams. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 lockdowns, the average rate of Caesarean sections has since declined.

District junior doctor Dr Goronga had completed his theoretical training, but had limited experience dealing with birth complications. However, when 34-year-old Rudo and her baby needed an emergency Caesarean section, he approached the theatre with confidence because he had the assistance of his clinical mentor, skilled obstetrics and gynaecology specialist.

"The mentorship has been very beneficial ... we are realising a decrease in maternal mortality and improvement in managing the complications that we are having at a district level," Dr Goronga said.



Program highlights

788,689

people benefitted from
6 Priority Programs

547

children immunised

198,441

children treated for
acute malnutrition
and stunting

Early Childhood Development

UNICEF Australia's Early Childhood Development (ECD) Program combines the components of nurturing care to provide high quality, integrated and inclusive services to young children and their families. Since 2017, UNICEF Australia has supported ECD projects which improve coordination of services for improved effectiveness and efficiency, strengthen the capacity of frontline workers to deliver high quality health, nutrition, education and protection services, and support parents to provide nurturing care.

Early childhood is a unique time in a child's life, when their cognitive and physical development occurs at a pace which is never again repeated. UNICEF estimates that 249 million children around the world are at risk of missing developmental milestones.

UNICEF Australia supports ECD projects in six countries across the Asia Pacific, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. Through these projects more than 17,000 children gained access to early childhood development opportunities in 2020, and UNICEF's work contributed to the development of new and innovative models which lay the foundation for sustainable and scalable change. This included helping to establish strong national or provincial government ECD coordination mechanisms.

Disability inclusive early childhood education was strengthened through five of the ECD projects, with UNICEF Australia supporting the training of more than 2,000 early childhood teachers in inclusive education. In Papua New Guinea and Cambodia, this inclusive education training has been institutionalised in teacher training colleges, ensuring that all new early childhood teachers will graduate with a strong knowledge of how to create inclusive classroom environments.

CASE STUDY

Education milestone for Papua New Guinea

Prior to 2020, preschool education did not exist in the education system of Papua New Guinea (PNG). ECD was mainly available in urban areas, delivered by private providers, churches and NGOs, but numbers were incredibly low – reaching only 8 per cent of four to five-year-olds across the country.

UNICEF has responded to this challenge in two ways – by establishing 73 new ECD centres in remote communities, benefiting more than 7,000 children, including 245 children with disabilities; and by working closely with the PNG Government to advocate for the importance of early learning and early childhood development. This culminated in the announcement in early 2020 by PNG's Minister for Education that two years of preschool would be incorporated into the country's education system for the first time.

With our partners, UNICEF also worked to directly impact communities in three provinces – Milne Bay, Morobe and Western Highlands. UNICEF and partners supported these communities to establish and run ECD centres by providing training, seed funding, learning materials, and ongoing support and mentoring to community teachers and newly established boards of management. Community members built classrooms and playgrounds, helped make additional learning resources out of locally available materials, and supported volunteer community teachers.



Program highlights

234,517

teachers, parents and children benefitted from 6 Priority Programs

17,739

children accessed early learning

1,263

teachers and community members educated

Youngsters at the Taemigidu ECD Learning Centre in Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea.
© UNICEF/UN0361526/Cook Junior





Program highlights

55,845

children directly
benefitted through
3 Priority Programs

59,965

students in 219
schools provided
with clean water

33,804

students in 194 schools
provided with improved
sanitation and hygiene

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Clean water, basic toilets and good hygiene practices are essential for children's survival and development. The presence of COVID-19 has further heightened the importance of good hygiene, and access to safe water and sanitation services. It is now vital that all schools have functioning and appropriate hand washing facilities in order for students to safely return to school amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF Australia has successfully supported innovative WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) projects that are simple, scalable and sustainable. WASH projects focus on improving WASH in Schools (WinS) using the Three Star Approach, while promoting participation and consultation, ensuring local ownership and sustainability in the outcomes of the project. From "no star" to "three stars", schools are accredited based on their level of infrastructure and access, and the promotion and integration of positive practices in hygiene behaviour, such as hand washing. WinS is a holistic approach that integrates aspects of health, nutrition, education and child protection.

For example, the introduction of the Three Star Approach to WinS in Chin and Kachin states in Myanmar was so effective that the pilot exceeded its aims by more than 166 per cent. Materials developed by the project are now being utilised across other states in Myanmar.

Similarly, UNICEF Australia's support of WinS in Fiji saw the development of the country's first WinS policy, a commitment for ongoing WinS funding by the local government.

UNICEF Australia's WASH program consists of four projects spread across Myanmar, Fiji, Zimbabwe and Laos.



CASE STUDY

Exceeding targets in Myanmar project

The Thant Shin Star (Reach for the Stars) project has assisted a total of 58,004 people (191 men, 764 women, 28,340 boys, and 28,709 girls) in Myanmar to date. This has been achieved through significant leveraging of resources from communities and the Ministry of Education.

Schools, through their parent teacher associations, contributed on average 23 per cent of all costs, demonstrating the value they placed on the project. A further 5 per cent was provided by the Myanmar Government.

Nearly 1,000 people have received training in the Three Star Approach to WASH in Schools. WASH clubs have been established in 315 schools.

Students have benefitted from improved hygiene through the provision of hygiene kits and group hand washing stations established in key locations, such as near toilets and food canteens. Education on menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is helping to reduce stigma around menstruation and the provision of MHM facilities and dedicated MHM rooms has made a powerful difference to girls.

ABOVE: Children use a hand washing station at a school in Fiji which is taking part on the Three Star Approach. © UNICEF/Australia/Moore

Reaching the most vulnerable

The challenges of inequity are present in every country and region. Tremendous gains have been made through decades of concerted effort, but certain groups of children have been left behind on account of persistent stigma and discrimination, and lack of access to the same opportunities as others.

This makes it critical that development programs keep a focus on the most vulnerable, seeking to level the playing field for children from the poorest households, girls, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children, those living in remote areas, and children from ethnic or religious groups facing discrimination.

Over the past three years, UNICEF Australia has proactively sought to do this by increasing the number of our Priority Programs with a specific focus on contributing to **gender equality** and improving **disability inclusion**.

Gender equality

2020 marked 25 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most comprehensive policy agenda for gender equality. However, progress has been uneven across regions and groups. COVID-19 has also negatively impacted progress in gender equality, threatening to reverse the gains that have been made.

Direct investment is essential, so that girls, boys and those of other gender identities have the ability to reach their full potential.

In 2020, all programs directly supported with Australian donor funds had a specific focus on women and girls, with 13 per cent having a principal focus in achieving gender equality. This contribution to gender equality spanned all four of the thematic areas covered by our Priority Programs.



Schoolgirls look at booklets about menstrual health in Kutkai, Myanmar. © UNICEF/UN0337701/Oo

CASE STUDY

Education shouldn't stop for periods

Two WASH in Schools projects supported by UNICEF Australia were implemented in Fiji and Myanmar in 2020. While the primary focus of these projects was to improve school infrastructure, improving access to menstrual hygiene management (MHM) was a major component. Difficulty managing periods at school is a major reason for adolescent girls missing school repeatedly, performing below their potential, and dropping out of school altogether.

In the Myanmar WASH project, teachers say that MHM education and sex-segregated facilities are the most highly valued aspects of the project for adolescent girls and play a significant role in reducing the number of girls missing school due to menstruation. The inclusion of boys as well as girls in MHM education also aims to destigmatise and normalise periods.

“In 2020, all programs directly supported with Australian donor funds had a specific focus on women and girls.”

For Mang Deih Thang and other schoolgirls from middle classes in Myanmar, the private rooms for changing sanitary materials are a real asset. “There is no need for us to go home, miss class or feel embarrassed whenever we have our periods,” she said.

In Fiji, UNICEF is taking MHM programming a step further. It is fighting the double stigma around menstruation and disabilities, and teaching girls and children with disabilities what to do when their period arrives.

Disability inclusion

Children living with a disability are one of the most marginalised and excluded groups in society. They are often likely to be among the poorest members of the population, less likely to attend school, access medical services, or have their voices heard. Like all children, those with disabilities have the right to protection, healthcare, education, participation and play. But for many children with disabilities around the world, particularly in developing countries, fulfilment of these rights is far from reach.

Children with disabilities are also at a higher risk of physical abuse and receive inadequate nutrition. Children and parents with disabilities often face multiple barriers to accessing services and fully participating in their communities.

In 2020, 26 per cent of programs directly supported with Australian donor funds had a tangible focus on contributing to disability inclusion. In total, 798 children with disabilities were reached through UNICEF Australia's Priority Programs.

CASE STUDY

Access to services reduces isolation

In a first for Laos, UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare are piloting a new model of support in two provinces to improve access to timely, appropriate and high-quality services for children with disabilities and their families.

Two village coordinators in each of the 18 target villages have been trained on children's rights, and the provision of screening and services for children with disabilities, as well as the referral pathways which are available. These village coordinators conduct monthly home visits to children with disabilities and their families, supporting parents to undertake home-based rehabilitation activities with their children.

In 2020, this model reached 106 children with disabilities and 130 parents. Six children have received assistive devices, four children have been supported to attend school, and five have been referred for specialised medical services.

Eight-year-old Kum was not able to sit and could barely crawl due to his disability. He was isolated from other children and the broader community and his mother, Ms Nang, was struggling to work and care for her other children as her days were dedicated entirely to assisting Kum. Through the project, Ms Nang learned how to perform basic home-based rehabilitation exercises while also having access to clinical support and guidance. Kum now attends school, allowing his mother to work and contribute to the family's income.



UNICEF has been able to support Kum and his mother and he is now able to go to school in Laos and engage with other children. © UNICEF/Laos/Sanoubane



Students at Mitsamphan Primary School, Laos, were provided with learning materials from UNICEF. © UNICEF/UN0311106

Improving accountability and effectiveness

In 2020, UNICEF Australia supported reviews or evaluations of three Priority Programs and 14 technical assistance initiatives to improve program quality and effectiveness.

End of program reviews and evaluations

Improving Early Learning and Child Development in Laos (2016-2019):

Evaluation of the community-based school readiness (CBSR) program was undertaken by Cambridge Education in 2019 and the report was released in 2020. The evaluation found that the program successfully met many of its objectives and recognised the following strengths:

- It is highly relevant with high demand and support from the community and government.
- It is improving equity of minority groups, particularly in terms of tackling language barriers, with all facilitators able to speak both local language and Lao.
- It is reaching equal numbers of boys, girls, and more than half (65 per cent) of CBSR facilitators are women.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Cambodia (2016-2019):

An evaluation of socio-emotional learning (SEL) approach to ECD was undertaken in 2020 by the University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Education. The evaluation concluded that children engaged in the SEL interventions made greater developmental progress over time compared to children not involved. In particular, interventions were effective at improving outcomes for children attending community preschools.

Evaluators found that children from state preschools performed better than those from community preschools. The evaluation recommended that future programming must prioritise the needs of children from economically-disadvantaged backgrounds and rural areas, and that overall improvements in the quality of community preschools was needed.

Improving disability inclusion in COVID-19 programming

UNICEF Australia has a long-term partnership with Christian development organisation CBM Australia to work together to improve inclusion and participation of children with disabilities. In 2020, the partnership provided technical support with the development of three guidance documents on disability inclusion in the COVID-19 response and the establishment of a regional disability inclusion helpdesk. The helpdesk enabled UNICEF staff across the Asia Pacific region to

request advice and assistance to improve disability inclusion in any COVID-related program. This approach has received positive feedback and continues into 2021.


Continued strengthening of safeguarding protocols

UNICEF Australia has zero-tolerance for violence, abuse and exploitation of children and vulnerable adults in our Australian operations and in the international programs we support. UNICEF and UNICEF Australia have Child Safeguarding (CS) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies and procedures in place.

In 2020, UNICEF Australia's Child Safeguarding and PSEA lead, Adrian De Giovanni, contributed to specific pieces of work to strengthen safeguarding practice. This included supporting to draft CS and PSEA Implementation Guidelines for four UNICEF country offices in the Asia-Pacific region, which will be finalised and piloted in 2021. Meanwhile, a consultation group informed UNICEF's online child safeguarding training, which is mandatory for all staff globally. In addition to this, UNICEF Australia's CS and PSEA procedures were reviewed and strengthened. Input was also provided into the development of a toolkit and guidance materials to support other UNICEF national committees to strengthen their safeguarding systems.

Response to emergencies

UNICEF Australia's supporters contributed almost \$90,000 towards our global emergency fund in 2020. This fund supports UNICEF to respond quickly and flexibly to any emergency which occurs around the world, based on need and meeting critical funding gaps.

A photograph of two young girls in a refugee camp in Yemen. The girl in the foreground, Muna, is 10 years old and is filling a yellow plastic jug with water from a blue hose. She has dark curly hair in pigtails and is wearing a light-colored shirt. The girl behind her is wearing a pink sleeveless top. In the background, there are several large white water tanks on metal stands and some tents, suggesting a temporary settlement. The ground is dry and dusty.

10-year-old Muna collects clean drinking water for her family in a camp for internally displaced people in Yemen. © UNICEF/UNI324049

UNICEF responds to approximately 300 emergencies every year including sudden onset emergencies such as floods, earthquakes or cyclones, and protracted emergencies such as the decade-long conflict in Syria.

In 2020, our emergency work was challenged like never before with the global outbreak of COVID-19.

When a devastating pandemic coincides with conflict, climate change, disaster and displacement, the consequences for children can be catastrophic.

UNICEF Australia, together with our donors, help support UNICEF's emergency response around the world.

Yemen: Ongoing conflict

Yemen remains the worst humanitarian crisis globally. Armed conflict, widespread economic collapse and a breakdown in national systems and services has left 80 per cent of the total population - including 12.4 million children - in need of humanitarian assistance.

The protracted situation risks bringing Yemen to the brink of famine. The COVID-19 pandemic has further strained the fragile health system. Other key issues include child protection, access to clean water, health and sanitation, malnutrition, and access to ongoing learning and education.

UNICEF has:

- Supported 4,146 outpatient therapeutic feeding programs nationwide, together with 147 mobile teams which provided services in remote areas. Nearly 3.6 million children under the age of five were screened for malnutrition.
- A total of 3.4 million women and children aged under five were reached with maternal, neonatal and child health services and UNICEF supported 17 hospitals with operational assistance for these services, as well as with equipment and supplies.

“In response to the Beirut explosion and ongoing humanitarian crises in Yemen and Syria, UNICEF Australia directed more than \$1.2 million in emergency funding to the Middle East region.”



Children gather under the house they have fled to after being displaced from their home due to the conflict in Yemen.
© UNICEF/UNI338488/

Lebanon: Beirut explosion

In August 2020, the devastating Beirut port explosion claimed the lives of more than 200 people, while homes, schools and hospitals were destroyed. UNICEF has:

- Provided 293,270 children with equitable access to formal education, while another 27,000 received non-formal remote learning.
- Helped to vaccinate 365,000 children against measles and polio, thanks to the 1.7 million doses of vaccines that were saved from the Central Supply Warehouse in Karantina after the explosion.
- Distributed cash grants to 70,000 vulnerable children affected by the economic crisis across the country. One-off emergency cash transfers have been distributed to 80,000 vulnerable children and individuals affected by the explosions.
- Provided clean water and access to water to 20,765 people in 4,080 households in areas damaged by the explosion.
- Provided psychosocial support to more than 33,000 people coping with the psychological impact of the explosion.



A UNICEF Lebanon representative works with children affected by the explosion. UNICEF has supported children, parents and primary caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support services through child-friendly spaces established in affected areas. © UNICEF/UN0360079/Choufany



Philip was only one when his family left Ambae Island due to the volcano eruption. Now, three years old, he and his family will have to rebuild again after Cyclone Harold hit Vanuatu. © UNICEF/UNI319551/Pacific

The Pacific: Cyclone Harold

On 6 April 2020, Tropical Cyclone Harold caused widespread devastation in the Pacific. The category 5 cyclone hit the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga. It made landfall in Vanuatu, where it destroyed houses, schools, health facilities, water sources, and crops.

More than a third of Vanuatu's population were affected, including more than 20,000 children. In Sanma Province alone, about 90 per cent of the population lost their homes and 60 per cent of schools were damaged as 200kmh winds lashed the area.

In the immediate aftermath, UNICEF distributed emergency supplies such as WASH kits, integrated emergency health kits, recreational kits, school tents and School-in-a-Box kits in Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

UNICEF also supported in key areas including water, health and sanitation, education and child protection.

Australian Government funding

Australian NGO Cooperation Program

UNICEF Australia receives support from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

The ANCP is a unique Australian Government aid program that provides annual grants to support the work of accredited Australian NGOs.

Just 41 Australian NGOs have full accreditation with the Government, requiring demonstrated ability to deliver results against objectives, provide good value for money, and maintain strong financial and risk management processes.

In 2020, UNICEF Australia utilised \$1.95 million in ANCP funding, which was combined with donations from the Australian public and the private sector to scale up our Priority Programs and maximise the impact for children in the region.

An additional \$300,000 in Government funding was secured for specific grants for the Solomon Islands and Laos.

Direct partnership with UNICEF

In addition to funds received by UNICEF Australia, the Australian Government contributed more than AU\$58 million in direct funding to UNICEF in 2020.

This included AU\$21 million in core funding to be used where the need is greatest, as well as nearly AU\$10.9 million in targeted funding to support development programs in the Asia-Pacific region.

AU\$26.7 million went to supporting UNICEF's COVID-19 response and assisting children impacted by emergencies including the Beirut explosion, flooding in Vietnam, Tropical Cyclone Harold, Yemen, and Iraq; and supporting refugees in Jordan and Bangladesh.



“In addition to funds received by UNICEF Australia, the Australian Government contributed more than AU\$58 million in direct funding to UNICEF in 2020.”

TOP: UNICEF representative Emma Brigham hands over a consignment to Sri Lanka Minister of Health Pavithra Wanniarachchi, while looking on is United Nations Resident Coordinator Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, and Australian Head of Mission in Sri Lanka David Holly. The consignment consisted of oxygen cylinders, oxygen regulators, masks for adults and children, and fire extinguishers which were procured with the support of Australian Government funding. © UNICEF/ UN0464288/Sri Lanka

ABOVE: A father holds his 16-month-old daughter at Poutasi District Hospital on the island of Upolu, Samoa, where she is waiting to receive a measles vaccination as part of a UNICEF-supported national vaccination campaign in response to the measles outbreak in the Pacific region. UNI234102/Samoa/Allan Stephen

Community engagement



“Doing the Water Walk made me realise the lengths some children have to go to just for water - something we take for granted. It was a fantastic way to keep active together, even while apart.”

ALEX FRASER,
WATER WALK PARTICIPANT



TOP LEFT: UNICEF Water Walk participant Alex Fraser. ©UNICEF

TOP RIGHT: Two mentees are joined by UNICEF team members and provincial and district health staff in Zimbabwe. ©UNICEF

OPPOSITE: Funds raised through UNICEF's partnership with the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup supported a Sports For Development Program in Sri Lanka. © UNICEF Sri Lanka/2020/ Jayawardena

Innovative fundraising

With many events across the country cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF supporters rose to the challenge and continued fundraising in their communities through new and innovative ways. This included everything from virtual concerts, to selling face masks and even walking from Alice Springs to Darwin. Our supporters led the charge on out-of-the-box thinking to ensure UNICEF can continue our life-saving work.

Doctors Day a boost for health in Zimbabwe

Twice the Doctor Foundation has partnered with UNICEF Australia for the seventh year running, through Doctors Day in May.

Medical practitioners generously donated a portion of one day's income, raising \$30,000 to support UNICEF's Clinical Mentorship Program in Zimbabwe. There is an enormous disparity in doctors' wages between Australia and the Third World - a doctor in Africa gets about \$12,000 a year and a nurse about \$2,000 a year.

From June 2019-2020, 100 health workers received mentorship support through the program.

www.twicethedoctor.org.au

Fundraisers walk for virtual campaign

Currently, 2.1 billion people worldwide lack access to safe, readily available water at home and as a result, many children are forced to go without or must travel far distances just to fetch water for their families. This leaves children with little time to attend school. Every day, 800 children die from preventable diseases caused by poor sanitation and unsafe water.

2020 saw the launch of UNICEF Australia's first ever virtual fundraising campaign, the Water Walk. This campaign was created to increase worldwide access to safe, readily available water.

The challenge was simple - walk 7km a day for 7 days and raise vital funds to support UNICEF's WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) programs. A total of \$116,000 was raised by 867 incredible supporters through this campaign. This support helps UNICEF move closer to our 2030 goal that no one will have to walk more than a 30-minute return trip to collect water.

A special thank you to UNICEF Australia National Ambassador Dr Susan Carland for supporting the campaign.

Top fundraiser: Ant Milne, \$3,520

Empowering women and girls through cricket

A partnership between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF is empowering women and girls through cricket. Established in 2015, the partnership was extended to the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup took place across Australia from 21 February to 8 March 2020, culminating in the final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 8 March - International Women's Day.

The collaboration with ICC is helping to grow awareness of UNICEF's work in cricket-playing nations, and funds that were raised during the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup are supporting projects that demonstrate how the sport can transform lives.

"Cricket has tremendous power to make a difference in the lives of children, especially girls, by building leadership skills, empowering them to achieve their goals and building bridges within communities," said UNICEF Australia Chair Ann Sherry AO.



World Children's Day

World Children's Day on 20 November is a special day on UNICEF's calendar. It marks the anniversary of the UN General Assembly adopting the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 and is an opportunity to listen to the views of children.

A global theme emerged throughout 2020 – one of reimagining a better world after the pandemic.

The UNICEF drawing challenge, *Reimagine a Better World*, reflected this theme. Children and young people were asked to submit their ideas of what "a better world" meant to them. Every artwork submitted was featured in our World Children's Day website gallery, and we had fantastic support from UNICEF Australia National Ambassadors The Wiggles, Tara Moss, Tammin Sursok and Ken Done.

More than 250 artworks were submitted from across Australia.

The Wiggles and Ken Done chose a few of their favourites to showcase in videos on their public platforms, and The Ken Done Gallery showcased three artworks in a special public display. These were:



Laisa

Aged 13, NSW

Laisa drew an Earth pictured as divided in two. The left half represents a polluted Earth, where factories and cars sit underneath a grey smoky sky. The right half represents a clean Earth with trees growing under a blue, clear sky. For Laisa, a better world is a clean one.



Tiana

Aged 11, NSW

Tiana drew a diverse group of people, with a man and woman at the front holding the Earth. It is a racism-free world full of love and happiness. It's also a clean world with no pollution. The man and the woman holding the Earth represent gender equality. For Tiana, a better world is equal.



Zavier

Aged 6, VIC

Zavier drew a group of people learning how to recycle. The blue bin is the recycle bin, green is the rubbish bin and red is the garden bin. Xavier has drawn himself showing grown-ups how to put items in the proper bins. The pink and blue characters like to listen and want to save the environment. The purple character thinks putting things in the wrong bin is okay and feels jealous that she is not recycling.

Our partners

UNICEF Australia sincerely thanks the many corporate partners who supported us in 2020. Along with their staff, customers and other stakeholders, these companies share our vision of a fair chance for every child.

UNICEF Australia extends our deepest gratitude to the companies and organisations that demonstrated their commitment to children in Australia and overseas by supporting our 2020 emergency responses.

Thank you to Carnival Australia, the Micky and Madeleine Arison

Family Foundation, Commonwealth Bank, China Everbright Bank, Kiwanis Australia, MMG, and all the organisations that generously donated to the UNICEF Australia Bushfire Response Program.

Thank you to eBay Australia, Newcrest Mining, the IMC Pacific

Foundation, the Australia Chinese Charity Foundation, Bridging Hope Charity Foundation, Vermilion Art, Virtu Financial, and all the organisations that generously donated to the UNICEF Australia COVID-19 Children's Response Appeal.



As part of UNICEF's global *Change for Good* program, which enables passengers to donate foreign and local currency, Qantas has raised a phenomenal \$37 million to support UNICEF's work over the past 29 years.



Kasta Technologies supported UNICEF's polio eradication work in the Asia-Pacific region with the launch of a four-year partnership, funding oral vaccines for approximately 1.8 million children.



In the first full year of its partnership with UNICEF Australia, P&O Cruises Australia committed to protecting the health and wellbeing of mothers and newborns in the Pacific through its support of a program which saved 315 mothers and 1,450 newborns in remote areas across Papua New Guinea.



The *Coins for Kids* program continued to operate across all Commonwealth Bank branches, encouraging customers to donate foreign currency to help the world's most vulnerable children. The Commonwealth Bank also generously supported UNICEF Australia's Bushfire Response Program.



A partner of several years, MMG provided ongoing support to UNICEF Australia in 2020, including a generous contribution to the Bushfire Response Program.



Through the PayPal Giving Fund, UNICEF Australia was chosen to be a priority partner for PayPal's *Give at Checkout* initiative, which enabled more than \$200,000 to be raised for UNICEF's COVID-19 response. PayPal also provided extensive pro-bono legal guidance throughout the year.



Through its workplace engagement program, IKEA staff continued to provide valuable support for UNICEF's education programs in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh.



As part of its global focus on improving access to water and sanitation, Domestos donated a percentage of sales from select bottles to UNICEF.



Throughout 2020, eBay engaged its customers to support UNICEF's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic globally. More than 18,000 donations were made by eBay Australia customers through the donation add-on function at checkout.

LOUIS VUITTON

A global UNICEF partner, the sale of specially designed Silver Lockit pendants and bracelets helped bring life-saving humanitarian support to children in conflict-affected areas.



A new UNICEF Australia partner, Newcrest Mining generously supported the COVID-19 Children's Response Appeal, helping UNICEF to procure personal protective equipment in Papua New Guinea, supply ventilator equipment, and train frontline health workers who provide care for critically ill COVID-19 patients in ICU settings.



To commemorate 100 years of Rotary service in Australia and New Zealand, Rotary's Australasian Centenary Project, *Rotary Give Every Child A Future*, will vaccinate some of the most disadvantaged children and adolescent girls across the Pacific over three years, in collaboration with UNICEF.



In 2020, H&M raised funds across its Australian stores to aid UNICEF's vaccination program in Papua New Guinea and made further contributions through its in-store garment collection program, with a donation to UNICEF for each collection.



For each student enrolled in one of its courses, Online Education donated \$5 to UNICEF's education programs in Syria, helping to provide a safe and formal education for children affected by war in the country.



Pandora partners with UNICEF across the globe to support girls and young women with the resources to achieve their dreams. Pandora's *Charms for Change* initiative supports UNICEF's work around the world to empower young voices and promote gender equality.

Champions for Children

Our Champions for Children are small and medium-sized businesses committed to making a positive change in the lives of children.

They include: Australian College of Applied Psychology, Awakind, BAR Studio, Bio Dental Care, Business Geographics, Camalee Investments, Charles River Australia, DCS Internet, Elk, Favco, Firecorp Australia, Grace and Maggie, Haven Specialty Coffee, Interior Images, Itchyfoot, M. Clinica, Meet Fresh Melbourne, Molonglo Group, Narellan Veterinary Hospital, NOJA Power Switchgear, Obi Holdings, Picseepal, QND Chemist, Quiz Time in Critical Care, SOL Edu, Thomas Adams Solicitors, Vax4Vax, Web Profits, Wellbeing Pharmacy, Wesley Institute of Training, and Westernex Supply. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who supports us through workplace giving, making regular donations to UNICEF through their payroll.

Global Parents

We would like to sincerely thank each of our Global Parents for their powerful commitment in 2020 to UNICEF Australia's work for children around the world.



ABOVE: UNICEF distributes WASH supplies to internally displaced people in the Tigray region in Ethiopia. © UNICEF/UN0413691/Leul Kinfu

UNICEF Australia is honoured to receive the ongoing support of a generous community of almost 30,000 Global Parents.

Thanks to their flexible and reliable monthly contributions, we can reach the world's most vulnerable children with the type of support they need, when they need it.

The passionate support of our Global Parents allows UNICEF to rapidly respond to sudden onset disasters and support under-funded and under-reported programs where the need is often greatest. It also means that we can effectively plan our programmatic work to ensure the greatest impact for children, knowing that funding is ready to be invested in long-term solutions. This is never more urgent than during global crises like COVID-19.

Paddington's Postcards

In 2020, UNICEF Australia was thrilled to introduce *Paddington's Postcards* as a way for parents, caregivers, grandparents, and teachers to teach the little adventurers in their lives about different countries and children around the world.

Perfect for those aged 4-10, Paddington sends a pack to children every month which includes exciting, personalised postcards, fact cards, activities and more to help youngsters explore new countries and learn how other children live. All donations to *Paddington's Postcards* go directly towards UNICEF's global work for every child.

“UNICEF Australia is thankful for the ongoing commitment of our Global Parents and the strong response to our 2020 appeals, especially those in support of our bushfire and COVID-19 work, which ultimately led to a 9 per cent increase in monetary donations and gifts against 2019.”



Leigh likes making a positive change

LEIGH, UNICEF AUSTRALIA SUPPORTER COUNCIL MEMBER

Leigh, from Western Australia, is one of our fantastic donors and is also a proud member of the UNICEF Australia Supporter Council.

“I love to support UNICEF and the work that they do,” Leigh said. “Along with many Australians, I know that I am very lucky and privileged to have been born in this

safe and wealthy country. Children in so many other parts of the world are born into circumstances so vastly different. I can't make a change by myself but I know my donations add to others and together we can make positive changes.

“I support UNICEF as I believe assisting children to grow up in surroundings where their brains and bodies have the most nourishing environment possible is so important to improving their community and, in turn, our world.”

Our people

Our people are at the heart of everything we do at UNICEF Australia. Together, we strive to advance a culture of excellence and attract and retain a strong and capable team that accelerates our impact for children across Australia, the region, and the world.

The foremost priority for our people in 2020 was our response to the pandemic in identifying measures and mitigation strategies to protect the UNICEF Australia team. We were able to:

- Provide a quick response with the right technology and subsequent training on tools to enable remote work, implementing working-from-home test days, ensuring our readiness for lockdown and subsequent forced remote working.
- Offer ergonomic support to remote working staff through the provision of equipment where needed.
- Focus on employee wellbeing and connectivity by implementing programs such as weekly online meditation, yoga and trivia.
- Remain safe through the creation and ongoing revision of COVID-19 procedures and subsequent *Return to Office Guidance*. UNICEF Australia consistently communicated guidelines and procedures on self-screening, hygiene, travel, encouragement of working from home, and restrictions on visiting the office. Office attendance was recorded through the introduction of desk booking software, which enabled us to immediately respond to any identified risks.

The implementation of the above was effectively managed, with no COVID-19 cases among the team and their immediate family. Importantly, to remain connected to our team while working at home, we implemented a check-in survey to understand how our team was coping through this period. It helped to assess if interventions were having a positive impact and if there were areas that needed further work.



This survey demonstrated significant improvements when compared to our 2018 survey. Team members reported that they “felt physically safe” in the location they were currently working and felt leaders were “showing a sincere interest in my wellbeing”.

Creating new ways of working

The safety, health and wellbeing of our team and their family has a direct impact on our ability to deliver for the children we advocate for.

It was paramount for UNICEF Australia to create a practical and flexible framework that defines a new way for our teams to work in this changing world. It provides guidance, technology and transparent expectations on our accountabilities to UNICEF Australia and each other.

Our *New Ways of Working* framework enabled teams to work effectively, remain connected and respond quickly to our customers. We will continue to accelerate and adapt this framework.

Staff profile in 2020

- Full Time – 52
 - Part Time – 13
 - Casual – 4
 - Regretted turnover – 9.3 per cent (down 0.7 per cent from 2019)
- Finally, we are always very appreciative of the support from our fabulous volunteers. In 2020, we had eight people volunteer their services before the pandemic forced us to suspend activities for their safety.

Our ambassadors

Our dedicated team of high profile ambassadors play an important role in reaching out to the public and raising awareness of UNICEF's vital work in Australia.



We extend a special thanks to our UNICEF Australia National Ambassadors The Wiggles, Adam Liaw, Carrie Bickmore, Tim Cahill, Ken Done, Callan McAuliffe, Tara Moss, Erica Packer, Dr Susan Carland, Brooke Boney, Mitch Tambo, Tammin Sursok, Michael Cheika, Rachael Haynes and Dr Zameer Gill for their incredible support of our mission. In a year like no other, our ambassadors recorded voiceovers on their iPhones, raised thousands of dollars and supported multiple campaigns across their social media channels.

Some of our favourite highlights from 2020 included:

- Watching Emma Wiggle walk the ICC Women's T20 World Cup trophy out onto the pitch for the opening game in February 2020. As part of our partnership with the event, Emma was joined by a young UNICEF supporter and raised awareness of our *For Every Girl* gender equality in sports campaign.
- Giving a young UNICEF supporter the opportunity to meet Katy Perry, one of UNICEF's Global Goodwill Ambassadors. Katy performed at the final of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup and took the time to chat with seven-year-old Alice about her hopes and dreams for the future.
- The first ever joint ambassador video which saw each of our ambassadors record a powerful line about the impact of COVID-19 on children. With 166,000 engagements across ambassadors' social media channels, this generated a huge boost to our fundraising efforts to protect children from the devastating impacts of the pandemic.
- Dr Susan Carland recording her top tips for studying from home during the COVID-19 lockdown in Australia. Dr Carland's advice as an academic and lecturer supported children across Australia.
- Michael Cheika, former Wallabies rugby coach and proud Lebanese-Australian, supporting our Beirut Emergency Appeal. His television interviews enabled critical funds to be raised and drove awareness of the crisis facing children and families.

- Social media takeovers across all our ambassadors' channels for International Day of the Girl. With a solid message of equality, we were able to share the stories of strong girls around the world who are standing up for a fairer future.
- Ken Done displaying his three favourite drawings from children at his gallery as part of our *World Children's Day: Reimagine A Better World* campaign.

The Wiggles' *Handwashing Song* became even more popular in a year when little ones and parents had to take hand washing to the next level.



Across other campaigns including Mother's Day, Father's Day, World Children's Day, Christmas and the Bushfire Appeal, we were fortunate to have the passionate support of our ambassadors. A heartfelt thank you for their commitment and support.

OPPOSITE: A young UNICEF supporter joins UNICEF Australia National Ambassador Emma Wiggle at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup. ©UNICEF/Australia/Hill.

ABOVE: A screenshot of former Wallabies rugby coach Michael Cheika discussing the Beirut Emergency Appeal during a television interview.

TOP: Seven-year-old Alice meets UNICEF Global Goodwill Ambassador Katy Perry at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup. ©UNICEF/Australia/Hill

Our board



Ms Ann Sherry AO

Chair of Eneo Group

- Elected Chair November 2017
- Attendance at Board meetings: 6/6



Ms Elizabeth Ann Macgregor OBE

Director of Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

- Elected August 2017
- Attendance at Board meetings: 5/6



Mr Matt Comyn

Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia

- Elected April 2016
- Attendance at Board meetings: 3/6



Ms Olivia Wirth

Chief Executive Officer of Qantas Loyalty

- Elected August 2015
- Attendance at Board meetings: 4/6



Ms Jacqui De Lacy

Managing Director of Abt Australia

- Elected May 2018
- Attendance at Board meetings: 5/6



Mr Nigel Andrade

Partner and Managing Director of A.T. Kearney's Australia & New Zealand

- Elected November 2019
- Attendance at Board meetings: 6/6



Ms Suzanne Dvorak

Managing Director of Bupa Villages and Aged Care Australia

- Elected March 2017
- Attendance at Board meetings: 5/6



Ms Tharani Jegatheeswaran

Partner of Deloitte Australia

- Elected March 2019
- Attendance at Board meetings: 6/6



Mr Toby Hall

Group Chief Executive Officer of St Vincent's Health Australia

- Elected August 2017
- Attendance at Board meetings: 6/6



Ms Sandra Rouse

Chief Finance Officer of TEG

- Elected June 2019
- Attendance at Board meetings: 5/6

Governance

The Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited is committed to achieving best practice in its management of program funding and corporate governance for not-for-profit organisations.

ACNC

UNICEF Australia is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and regulated under the ACNC Act 2012.

As a large charity, we comply with the ACNC governance standards. In fact, the corporate governance standards we apply are aligned with best practice for ASX-listed companies. In addition, as a charity that sends funds overseas (UNICEF), we also adhere to the ACNC External Conduct standards.

Applying the ACNC External Conduct Standards gives assurance that our activities are consistent with its purposes, controlling resources, reviewing overseas activities and ensuring good record keeping, minimising risk of fraud and corruption, and the protection of vulnerable individuals. This adherence is assured through ongoing internal review, with a formal self-assessment against the standards planned for 2021.

ACFID

The company is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and has applied the principles of the ACFID Code of Conduct for Non-Government Development Organisations, which sets minimum standards of governance, management and accountability for member agencies.

Adherence to the code is monitored by an independent Code of Conduct Committee.

The company is also committed to the Australian Council for International Development's (ACFID) Fundraising Charter which requires that we are

ethical and accountable in how we use fundraising information and communicate to our stakeholders.

Accreditation

UNICEF Australia has accreditation with the Australian Government. Accreditation is a robust assessment of an organisation's practice in governance, program and partner management, community engagement, and financial accountability.

Gaining accreditation recognises UNICEF Australia meets the criteria of and has the capacity and accountability to manage Australian Government funding.

Accreditation makes us eligible for government funding, including the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Establishment and operations

Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited is a public company limited by guarantee and established under the corporations Act 2001.

The company has Deductible Gift Recipient and Income Tax Exempt charity status with the Australian Taxation Office and is registered in each state under applicable charitable collections legislation.

International affiliation

The company is one of 33 UNICEF National Committees around the world. Each National Committee operates under a formal Cooperation Agreement and an individually agreed Joint Strategic Plan with UNICEF.

Governance

Although not a listed company, in developing and continuously improving its corporate governance policies and practices, the company has applied, where relevant, the best practice corporate governance principles laid

down by the ASX for limited companies.

The board regularly reviews the corporate governance framework to ensure continued best practice. The board has two subcommittees:

The Audit and Risk Committee:

Assists the board to effectively discharge its responsibility to oversee UNICEF Australia's financial performance and reporting.

The committee ensures effective risk identification and management processes are in place and UNICEF Australia's compliance with its statutory and other reporting obligations. It also provides a direct link between the board and UNICEF Australia's external auditor. This committee is chaired by Toby Hall and met four times in 2020.

The Governance, Ethics and

Remuneration Committee: Assists the board in discharging its duties with respect to organisational culture, review of board composition and corporate governance. The committee assists on board and CEO recruitment, performance evaluation and succession planning, as well as making recommendations on remuneration and key ethical matters. This committee is chaired by Matt Comyn and met once in 2020.

The company's directors are committed to adding value to the organisation by bringing their broad range of skills and experience to the board. Brief details on each of the directors are included on Page 40 of this report.

The company operates under a Constitution. The Constitution was updated in 2020 and formally adopted by the members at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 June 2020. The Constitution provides for a voluntary and independent Board of Directors to be responsible for the company's overall management and specifies, inter alia, the board's powers and responsibilities

and how directors are elected and re-elected by the members. An AGM is no longer required, but members will still receive annual accounts and can participate in the election of directors at a general meeting. A Membership Policy was also approved that outlines member appointment, rights and obligations and subscriptions.

The board regularly reviews the company's financial performance and ensures that the risk management and corporate compliance protocols it has approved are being followed. The Audit and Risk Committee and the board receive detailed budget and financial performance reports at each of their meetings.

The board conducts a board and director performance self-assessment on a regular basis. The company's audited financial statements are forwarded to its members each year for consideration and are reported to ASIC, ACFID, ACNC and State Government departments responsible for state charitable collections legislation.

An abridged version, which complies with ACFID code of conduct requirements, is included in this published Annual Report. Copies of the full audited financial statements are available upon request.

Risk management

UNICEF Australia considers risk management an integral part of its organisational culture and an essential component of its strategic planning and decision-making.

Its risk management policy identifies risks facing the organisation, assigns responsibility to managing these risks and how these should be monitored and reported on an ongoing basis. Effective risk management may only occur through involvement of all members of the organisation.

Whilst management maintain the responsibility for responding to risks, all staff are required to assist in identifying risks in the first instance. Consideration of risk is key whenever there is a significant change in circumstances, such as the introduction of new processes, or implementation of new programs.

An organic risk register is maintained which is updated on a regular basis by all departments within the organisation. Risks are categorised under the following headings and ranked based upon likelihood and severity:

- Strategic: Evaluation of risks relating to the organisation's mission and strategic objectives.
- Regulatory: Evaluation of risks relating to compliance obligations, considering laws and regulations, ethics and business conduct standards, contractual obligations and best practices to which the organisation has committed.
- Operational: Evaluation of the risks associated with failed internal processes, systems or external events.

- Fraud: Evaluation of the potential for fraud and its impact on the organisation's ethics, compliance standards and integrity.
- Information technology: Evaluation of risks relating to technology system failures and data security.
- Financial statement: Evaluation of risks relating to material misstatement of the financial statements.
- Reputational: Evaluation of risks relating to the organisation's wider reputation.

Higher-ranked risks are summarised and shared with the Audit and Risk Committee and board meetings twice a year.

Further information

For further information about the company's corporate governance framework, please see our website at www.unicef.org.au

Feedback and complaints

Anyone wishing to provide feedback or make a complaint can do so via email at unicef@unicef.org.au or via (02) 9261 2811. Complaints relating to a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct by an ACFID code member can also be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee. For information on how to make a complaint see www.acfid.asn.au

Financials

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
REVENUE		
Donations and Gifts		
Monetary	25,794,894	23,591,252
Non-Monetary	873,294	615,649
	26,668,188	24,206,901
Bequests and Legacies	1,204,854	2,900,337
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2,264,081	3,000,853
Other Australian	15,455	63,636
Overseas UNICEF	3,152,315	4,397,264
	5,431,851	7,461,753
Commercial Activities Income	20,746	-
Investment Income	60,770	151,165
Other Income	1,823,126	3,500
TOTAL REVENUE	35,209,534	34,723,656
EXPENDITURE		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International Programs		
Funds to international programs		
UNICEF Australia directly supported programs (Int'l Priority Programs)	6,984,798	7,807,399
UNICEF global programs	9,962,318	8,043,929
	16,947,116	15,851,328
Program support costs	909,774	979,300
Community Education	2,120,160	2,361,718
Fundraising Costs		
Public	9,531,213	10,616,783
Government, multilateral and private sector	967,025	993,068
	10,498,238	11,609,851
Accountability and Administration	2,248,238	2,305,810
Non-Monetary Expenditure	873,294	615,649
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	33,596,820	33,723,657
Domestic Programs	1,885,142	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	35,481,962	33,723,657
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(272,428)	1,000,000
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(272,428)	1,000,000

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	10,003,010	9,161,714
Trade and other receivables	509,418	491,064
Prepayments	1,525,977	149,114
Total current assets	12,038,405	9,801,892
Non-current assets		
Plant and equipment	2,662,149	337,839
Intangibles	1,176,927	441,137
Total non-current assets	3,839,076	778,976
TOTAL ASSETS	15,877,481	10,580,868
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	7,788,761	4,571,798
Lease payable	240,178	199,773
Provisions	509,536	441,372
Total current liabilities	8,538,475	5,212,943
Non-current liabilities		
Lease payable	2,244,530	-
Provisions	109,323	110,344
Total non-current liabilities	2,353,853	110,344
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,892,328	5,323,287
NET ASSETS	4,985,153	5,257,581
EQUITY		
Reserves	4,985,153	5,257,581
TOTAL EQUITY	4,985,153	5,257,581

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Reserves \$
Balance at 1 January 2019	4,257,581
Excess of revenue over expenditure	1,000,000
Other comprehensive income	-
Balance at 31 December 2019	5,257,581
Excess of revenue over expenditure	(272,428)
Other comprehensive income	-
Balance at 31 December 2020	4,985,153

Notes:

1. The Summarised Financial Report has been prepared in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID website at www.acfid.asn.au. The Summarised Financial Report comprising the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 December 2020 are an extract of the Annual Financial Report of Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited ("UNICEF Australia") for the year ended 31 December 2020. The Summarised Financial Report was extracted for the purpose of presenting the summarised financial position and performance of UNICEF Australia to its members in the 2020 Annual Report. UNICEF Australia is a company limited by guarantee. The liability of each member of the company is limited to \$1.00. UNICEF Australia is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. The Annual Financial Report of UNICEF Australia complies with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board. The Summarised Financial Report has been prepared under the historical cost basis and are presented in Australian dollars, which is the company's functional and presentation currency.
2. For a copy of the full financial report for the year ending 31 December 2020 please contact us directly on telephone (02) 9261 2811; or email unicef@unicef.org.au.



Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited

Opinion

We report on the **Summary Financial Statements** of the Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited (the Company) as at and for the year 31 December 2020. The Summary Financial Statements are derived from the audited financial report of the Company (the Audited Financial Report).

In our opinion, the accompanying Summary Financial Statements of the Company are consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report, in accordance with the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the Summary Financial Statements.

The **Summary Financial Statements** comprise:

- Summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020;
- Summary statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and Summary statement of changes in equity for the year then ended; and
- Related notes.

The Summary Financial Statements are contained in the Annual Report on pages 43 to 45.

Scope of the Summary Financial Statements

The Summary Financial Statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements applied in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report. Reading the Summary Financial Statements and this Auditor's Report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Audited Financial Report and our auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Report and our auditor's report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the Audited Financial Report in our auditor's report dated 26 May 2021.

Emphasis of matter – basis of preparation and restriction on use and distribution

We draw attention to Note 1 to the Summary Financial Statements, which describes the basis of preparation.

The Summary Financial Statements have been prepared to assist the Directors of Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited for the purpose of complying with the presentation and disclosure requirements set out in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct and should not be used by or distributed to parties other than the Directors of Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited or ACFID for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

KPMG, an Australian partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organisation of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved. The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organisation.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



Other Information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited's Annual Report which is provided in addition to the Summary Financial Statements and this Auditor's Report. The Directors are responsible for the Other Information.

Our opinion on the Summary Financial Statements does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the Summary Financial Statements, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the Summary Financial Statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information, and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

Responsibility of the Directors for the Summary Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the Summary Financial Statements in accordance with the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the Summary Financial Statements, including their derivation from the Audited Financial Report of the Company as at and for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Auditor's responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the Summary Financial Statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

I, Daniel Robinson, am currently a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and my membership number is 266086.

KPMG

Tower Three,
International Towers Sydney,
300 Barangaroo Avenue,
Sydney, Australia

Daniel Robinson

Partner
Sydney
26 May 2021

Financial summary

In 2020, with the generous support of our donors and supporters, UNICEF Australia's contribution to children grew to \$21.9 million. In a year dominated by numerous crises, UNICEF Australia supported children affected by Australian bushfires, the COVID-19 pandemic, and various conflicts around the world while continuing long-term development programs in the East Asia and Pacific region.

The growth in contribution to children was achieved through an increase in our total revenue to \$35.2 million, and through effective control of fundraising, accountability and administration expenditure.

Across 2020, UNICEF Australia continued our digital transformation and made strategic investments in intangible assets which generated significant operational efficiencies, reduced fixed costs and improved service levels to our supporters. We commenced a new nine-year office lease in Pyrmont, NSW, with a corresponding lease asset and liability recognised on our Statement of Financial Position. The new office better supports our updated ways of working and will result in long-term savings on premises costs. At 31 December 2020, UNICEF Australia maintained \$5 million in net assets.

Where the money comes from

While UNICEF Australia's total 2020 revenue was 1 per cent higher than 2019, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on several long-standing fundraising activities and partnerships.

In this context, UNICEF Australia is thankful for the ongoing commitment of our Global Parents and the strong response to our 2020 appeals, especially those in support of our bushfire and COVID-19 work, which ultimately led to a 9 per cent increase in monetary donations and gifts against 2019. Conversely, legacy and bequest receipts fell by \$1.7 million compared to 2019 and investment income dropped substantially following interest rate reductions across the year.

UNICEF Australia continues to hold full accreditation under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and receives annual funding to support a range of early childhood development, child protection, child survival, and water and sanitation programs in the East Asia and Pacific region. In 2020, overall DFAT revenues fell to \$2.3 million, albeit a further \$2.6 million is recognised as deferred revenue at 31 December 2020 and is available for use 2021.

UNICEF Australia receives grant funding from UNICEF to support fundraising activities that generate a strong long-term return on investment. In 2020, this income was predominantly used to fund the acquisition of new Global Parents and our ongoing legacy and bequests fundraising program - both of which will generate unrestricted funding for UNICEF's global programs in future years.

Amid the decline in legacy receipts and the loss of core fundraising revenues, particularly those associated with international travel, tourism and hospitality sectors, UNICEF Australia received financial support from the Australian

Government through the JobKeeper subsidy which protected jobs and safeguarded the organisation's programmatic work at a time of great need.

Where the money goes

UNICEF Australia's contribution to children includes funds to international and domestic programs, together with local program support costs and community education expenditure which informs and educates Australians on child rights.

In 2020, contribution to children increased to \$21.9 million from \$19.2 million in 2019 and represented 70 per cent of overall expenditure, excluding non-monetary costs and amounts funded by UNICEF grants.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF Australia has been working with our partners to reach children and their families with vital health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, gender-based violence and social protection services. UNICEF Australia has contributed \$3.9 million to a range of COVID-19 focused domestic and international programs.

UNICEF Australia's remittance of unrestricted regular resource funding to UNICEF grew by 10 per cent to \$7.1 million in 2020 (2019: \$6.5 million) ensuring that UNICEF is able to support children wherever the need is greatest and respond quickly at the onset of disasters. In response to the Beirut explosion and ongoing humanitarian crises in Yemen and Syria, UNICEF Australia also directed more than \$1.2 million in emergency funding to the Middle East region.

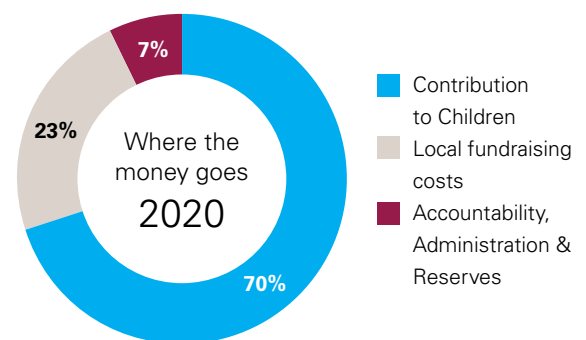
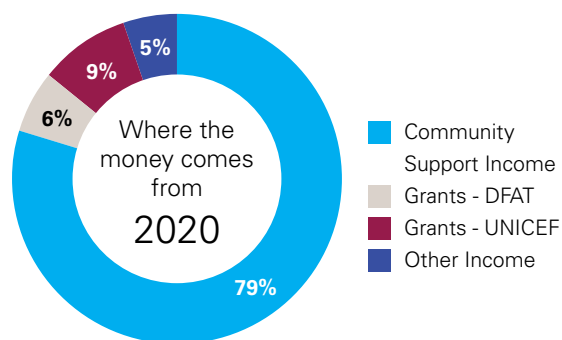
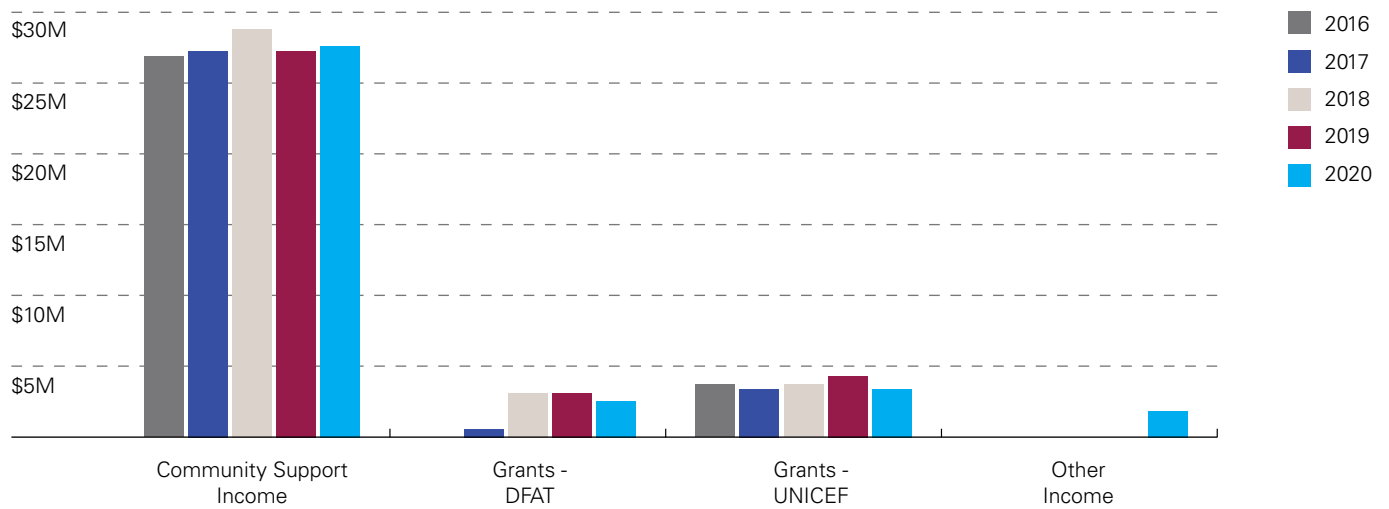
With the support of the Australian community and DFAT, UNICEF Australia contributed \$7 million (2019: \$7.8 million) to directly supported programs (International Priority Programs) across the East Asia and Pacific region and has advanced a further \$1.3 million in prepayments to continue those programs in 2021.

Together with our partners, UNICEF Australia implemented domestic programs totalling \$1.5 million to support bushfire-affected communities, providing psychosocial support to children and their families, and offering practical support for children going back to school.

Fundraising costs fell by \$1.1 million across 2020, partially as the organisation prioritised high-performing activities and reduced investments elsewhere. This reduction in costs was also due to the introduction of lockdown measures and social distancing requirements across Australia which limited our ability to continue certain long-standing fundraising campaigns. Fundraising costs are funded through a combination of UNICEF grant funding (2020: \$3.2 million; 2019: \$4.4 million) and UNICEF Australia resources (2020: \$7.3 million; 2019 \$7.2 million).

Accountability and administration expenditure is required to efficiently run the organisation. It includes such items as staff costs for finance, human resources and administration as well as audit fees and insurances. Accountability and administration costs were reduced both in absolute terms and as a proportion of public expenditure; with lower travel expenditure during the year and a continued focus in reducing our fixed cost base.

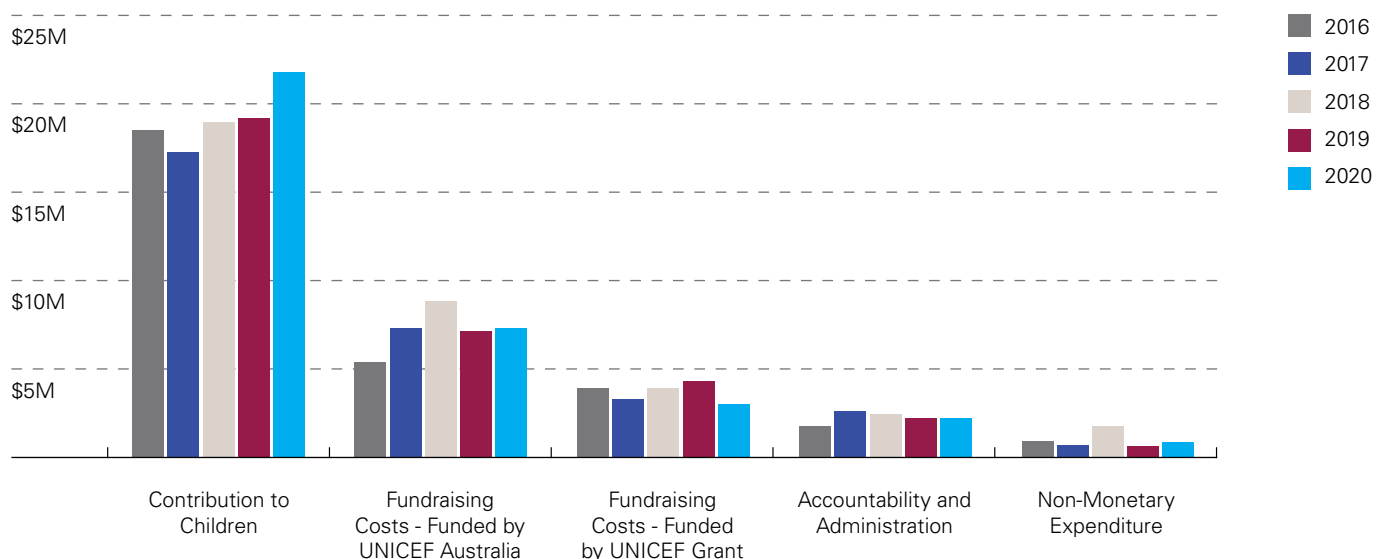
Five-year revenue trend (by source)



*Community Support Income includes donations and gifts from the Australian public and corporations, both monetary and non-monetary, as well as income from legacies and bequests. Other Income includes investment revenue, commercial activities revenue, other Australian grants and other income.

*Percentages shown as a proportion of operating expenditure which excludes non-monetary expenditure and fundraising costs funded through UNICEF grants.

Five-year expenditure trend (by type)





A UNICEF representative meets with young locals at Tavea Village, Fiji, after Tropical Cyclone Yasa in December 2020.
© UNICEF/UN0400167/Stephen/Infinity Images

unicef 
AUSTRALIA
for every child

Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited
ABN 35 060 581 437
PO Box 488 Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230
Phone: 1300 884 233 | Fax: 1300 780 522
Email: unicef@unicef.org.au | www.unicef.org.au