

# IMPACT

THE UNICEF AUSTRALIA SUPPORTER MAGAZINE

unicef 

AUSTRALIA

for every child

ISSUE

**03**

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## 2018-2019 UNICEF Australia Directly Supported Program\* Results

20

Projects

12

Countries (PNG, Indonesia, Fiji,  
Vanuatu, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar,  
Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Kiribati,  
Timor Leste, Solomon Islands)

\$6.6M

Annual budget AUD

535,816

Children directly benefited

43

Health centres with improved  
maternal and child health services

14,002

Children access inclusive,  
quality early learning

13

Child protection laws  
and policies developed

42,544

Children with increased  
access to clean water

\*Directly Supported Programs are specially prioritised projects that UNICEF Australia directly channels funds and expertise into areas that can positively impact children including early childhood development, health, water/sanitation and hygiene, child protection, disability inclusion, gender equality and education. The majority of funds raised from individuals in Australia funds UNICEF's global response to emergencies and where the needs are greatest.



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### ON THE COVER:

Nur, 16, is learning to install and repair solar panels. "I'm learning this so that I can do repairs myself in my house," Nur says. "The boys can come here, so why not the girls?" © UNICEF/UN0326947/Brown



## EDITORIAL

## Tony Stuart, CEO

You could be forgiven for thinking lately that our world is full of only bad news – drought, bushfires, wars, outbreaks of disease - all affecting children.

The good news, however, is that UNICEF Australia is making a real impact and your support continues to make a difference.

In June we appealed to the Australian public to respond to a malnutrition crisis in countries like Afghanistan, Yemen and Somalia – UNICEF treated 4.1 million children around the world for severe acute malnutrition last year.

In February we supported the largest ever vaccination campaign in the region following an outbreak of Poliovirus in Papua New Guinea targeting 100 per cent of children.

The global measles outbreak which has also reached our shores sadly took the lives of more than 60 Samoan children under five-years old.

"Parents are just not getting their children vaccinated," - Sheldon Yett our representative implored during a visit to

Sydney. (see below UNICEF's response).

While this outbreak is a reminder of the importance of routine immunisation in Australia, there is still much more to do in the Pacific.

At home the drought and the bushfires have impacted the lives of children across the country.

In October we held a drought summit for 88 young people from New South Wales who weren't just frustrated by the lack of rainfall, but were disappointed by the absence of serious solutions.

Their calls to action around mental health services, financial and education support are now acknowledged by government. New state-wide policies have been implemented [see pg. 6]. The Federal Minister for Health has also invited us to contribute to the development of a new national youth mental health strategy.

IMPACT also brings the good news of a partnership in Bangladesh for Rohingya refugee children and young women [on pg. 4].

We continue to create new opportunities and deepen the positive impact we can have on children's lives – it gratifies us to know that you are part of this global village that can help every child survive and thrive.

**Tony Stuart**  
Chief Executive



## NEWS UPDATES

## Pacific measles response

UNICEF is helping the Governments of Samoa, Fiji and the Kingdom of Tonga to respond to a devastating measles outbreak in the Pacific region. UNICEF delivered 500,000 doses of measles vaccine and essential medical supplies to reach populations most at-risk in Samoa, Fiji, the Kingdom of Tonga, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Tokelau and Tuvalu.

The outbreak in Samoa tragically claimed the lives of more than 60 children by the 10th of December – a state of emergency was declared. UNICEF supplied more than 260,000 doses of measles vaccine and 90 per cent of eligible individuals in Upolu and Savai'i were vaccinated by 9th December.

## Polio eradication closer than ever

In October UNICEF Australia joined a World Polio Day event at Parliament House – with the Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, and co-chairs of the Friends of UNICEF Parliamentary Association, Katie Allen MP and Peter Khalil MP – where it was announced its newest private partner for polio eradication with KASTA Technologies. The four-year partnership will directly support UNICEF's polio eradication work in the Asia Pacific and fund oral vaccines for approximately 1.8 million children. In November the Australian Government announced a further AUD\$15 million commitment to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative which will invest in girls' immunisation, and support hundreds of thousands of female vaccinators and mobilisers.



Tasesa, 10, receives a measles vaccination as part of a UNICEF-supported National Vaccination Campaign in Samoa. ©UNICEF/UNI232371/Stephen

# Building futures for children and young women in the Rohingya mega camps

BY FELICITY WEVER, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

In the past two years around 910,000 Rohingya refugees have fled widespread violence and persecution in Myanmar for the Cox's Bazar region in Bangladesh.

In crises such as this, schools and kindergartens provide safety and a sense of normalcy for traumatised children. Being able to continue their education and learn skills also gives children hope that they will one day contribute to their community and support their family.

UNICEF has rapidly expanded existing education programs to meet the massive needs, scaling up from providing education for 12,000 Rohingya children already living there to supporting 192,000 children.

Schools are equipped with a UNICEF 'school-in-a-box' containing everything a classroom needs to get started. You open it up and within 10 minutes, you're operational as a school.

Around half a million children came to the camps with nothing, literally just the clothes on their backs, so when they receive a school backpack from UNICEF it's the only thing they personally own and no one can take it away.

UNICEF's Australian supporters contributed an incredible \$2 million in funding for the Rohingya refugees, which is still helping thousands of children learn to read and write for the first time.

Two years on, however, there's still no solution for the resettlement of Rohingya refugees in sight.

Our attention now turns to providing for the long-term needs of children and young people: meaning more quality education and opportunities.

Despite the impact we've already had by increasing access to education in the camps, an estimated 96 per cent of 15 to 24-year-olds have no access to learning at all.

Early marriage remains a risk to many young girls who can be forced to stay at home once they've reached puberty. This ultimately affects their mental health.

Early childhood development such as play-based learning for children under five is also lacking unfortunately because there are just not enough formal facilities. Many young kids end up staying at home and their wellbeing suffers.

Fortunately for some children, home-based schools and pre-schools where community members teach kids who live nearby, are dotted throughout the camps.

I met one woman, Tahera, 21, who runs an informal pre-school out of the bedroom of her home, while husband Kamal runs a primary school in the living room. When they first arrived in the camps, they saw a lot of children hanging around. They gathered all the children and started teaching them.

With limited space in the camps, UNICEF is tapping into this informal network by providing training and support for community-based teachers particularly young women, which helps





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## DELIVERING EDUCATION FOR ROHINGYA CHILDREN

**72%**

Of education services for Rohingya children aged four-14 years delivered by UNICEF

**2,263**

Learning centres set up

**192,000**

Children enrolled – many the first in their family to learn to read or write

**100**

Community members, predominately young women, to be trained as teachers under a new community-based early childhood education program



meet the need for early childhood development and creates opportunities for girls like Tahera.

“Before it was just very basic, learning to write, A,B,Cs. Now they have a proper curriculum, books and workbooks. The children are very happy to come to school. Since the journey was very difficult, they need a happy place to come,” Kamal told me.

UNICEF also supports embroidery, sewing, and solar panel repair training for young women. Many of the girls are hoping to set up their own businesses with the skills they learn.

The courses also help create a safe space for young Rohingya women to meet and connect. “We like that we can go and be together and learn new

things. Before, we were not allowed to meet at all,” one of the girls in the course told me.

The young women say they want to help expand the training programs so more girls can have the same opportunities.

### THIS PAGE

“I have a lot of friends. They help me study,” says Yasmina, 10, at a UNICEF-supported learning centre. Yasmina suffers from a speech impediment and learning disabilities. ©UNICEF/2019/Bangladesh/Sokol.

### OPPOSITE

Kamal and Tahera with their three children. ©UNICEF/2019/Bangladesh/Sokol

# Drought-affected young people in NSW come together for action

BY BRINSLEY MARLAY,  
EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

In early October, we brought almost 100 young people from drought-affected regional and remote New South Wales (NSW) together in beautiful Lake Macquarie for a summit to examine the impacts of prolonged drought and to develop effective long-term solutions.

Drought affects young people in direct and specific ways. It interrupts their education, affects their mental health and aggravates the stressors in their family life. It also exacerbates many of the day to day challenges of living in regional and remote areas - particularly isolation and loneliness.

Despite this, young people are among the least consulted about this subject. And in NSW, they have overwhelmingly not been included in policy discussions about the protracted drought.

So we decided to take action, first with a report which we released in February 2019, then with the youth summit – an idea that originated from young people we had met with.

We knew it should be a positive wellbeing experience for all young people who attended, which would help to counter isolation by strengthening social and peer-based networks. It also had to help shape future solutions through establishing direct dialogues

between young people and practitioners and policy-makers.

We focused on the best interests of drought-affected children - on their social networks, their families, their communities and the broader policy environment. We worked to increase their knowledge, social connectedness and advocacy skills. And we were solutions focused – looking closely at coordination and broad systemic change.

**“WE LISTENED. AND THEN  
WE INVITED FORMAL  
DECISION-MAKERS TO  
LISTEN WITH US.”**

Before, during and after the summit, we actively supported our young participants to speak directly and safely with the media which some have gone on to do incredibly well since the summit. We supported them to develop a platform of action as a blue-print for local, state and federal governments.

We listened. And then we invited formal decision-makers to listen with us.

For the majority of our participants, this was the first time they had been

part of a focused conversation about these issues, and after years of drought, they openly wondered, ‘why?’

After three days of discussions, workshops and much needed recreational activities, these young people issued their call to action, which – in very abridged form - asked for real world strategies to manage both the human impacts and the natural resources in a changing climate; evidence-based, data-driven and accountable decision-making from governments and politicians; long-term planning and coordination across local state and federal governments to support disaster risk reduction and drought responses; and access to decision-makers.

As this issue of IMPACT went to press, UNICEF Australia and a delegation of youth summit participants were visiting high-level government ministers in Canberra for follow up conversations.

## ABOVE

The young people took part in group activities such as rope climbing and canoeing at the NSW Youth Drought Summit. ©UNICEFAustralia/Ziaziaris.

## MAIN

In group discussions at the NSW Youth Drought Summit, young people spoke of the hardships, stress and daily struggles they face as a result of the drought. ©UNICEFAustralia/Ziaziaris



## FIELD WORKER PROFILE

# Dr Dick Chamla

## CHIEF OF HEALTH, UNICEF AFGHANISTAN

Imagine knowing a vial of medicine is all it could take to save a child but it may not get it to them in time. This is the heartbreaking reality for Aussie humanitarian doctor Dick Chamla.

Drought, conflict and floods have destroyed parts of Afghanistan making it incredibly difficult to access hundreds of thousands of children in remote communities.

The lack of access has exacerbated already soaring numbers of child and maternal mortality and children suffering from disease and severe acute malnutrition.

"We are among the few agencies in which we travel on the ground but insecurity is a really big challenge. We don't know what will happen," Dick, from Canberra, says.

"It is a huge dilemma as a health expert because I think, this person is dying and I can't do anything. It is really heartbreaking."

UNICEF remains one of the few organisations working on the ground to provide not only immediate aid but also to negotiate access with government and non-state actors to reach children in need.

Right now, we are supporting 1,300 health facilities across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan providing life-saving medical care and equipment to families in need.

"We are having a huge difference on the ground. We are the only agency which has the largest presence over the country with offices in almost every region of Afghanistan and structures and mechanisms even in areas under Taliban," Dick says.

"I am proud. I am here because I am really helping people.

"I feel we have lots of challenges. It is hard work, but we will do it."



## DONOR PROFILE

# Pam's Story

## PAM ARNOLD, UNICEF INSPIRED ADVENTURES PARTICIPANT

## ABOVE

Pam Arnold and the UNICEF Inspired Adventurers in Spain during the Camino walk.

### WALKING THE CAMINO FOR KIDS

I was fortunate to walk the Spanish Camino de Santiago for the first time in 2014. As most pilgrims will relate, the completed journey ends with the desire to begin again.

Hence, in 2019, after my retirement and at the age of 70, I was inspired to embark on another Camino.

This time the challenge was different. The impact of drought, floods, war and famine on various communities motivated me to help families, particularly women and children, who were both the victims and survivors of these catastrophic events. I was very impressed with the work which UNICEF was undertaking and was inspired to fundraise.

On arrival in Madrid a visit to the UNICEF Spain office left me in no doubt that this was an organisation worthy of my support. Each participant in our small group had their own story

to share, but the glue that held us together was a common desire to do our small part in UNICEF's work for children.

Meeting other pilgrims from different countries and sharing their stories was such a gift. Our inspirational local guide, Christina, supported us and encouraged us, especially when our spirits were flagging. This aspect of my trip will remain with me forever.

Ultimately, achieving the goal of walking the Camino was integral to being able to raise awareness and fundraise for such a worthy cause.

The Camino works its magic.

**Inspired by Pams story? On our next adventure, we're heading to the heart of Australia to trek the legendary Larapinta Trail and we would love to have you join us! Email [teamunicef@unicef.org.au](mailto:teamunicef@unicef.org.au) for more information.**




Locals gather around the house of Bacy, 20, in Siure, Chimbu, where a UNICEF-supported positive parenting program has been rolled-out. The program highlights the importance of spending time with children. In Papua New Guinea and other countries in our region, UNICEF is supporting parents and governments to create safe communities for children. UNICEF implements the positive parenting program in PNG with support from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This funding has been managed through UNICEF Australia's International Programs in collaboration with the UNICEF PNG Country Office. Credit: UNICEF/Christina Simons

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