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AUSTRALIA

for every child



# Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

UNICEF Australia's Priority Programs Results 2017 – 2020

# The first thing we would like to say is thank you.

Thank you for generously supporting UNICEF Australia's essential work to bring clean drinking water, safe sanitation, and good hygiene practices to children, families and communities around the world. Your support is making a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable children, often living in the most remote areas, and helping UNICEF Australia ensure no one is left behind.



**114,442 children**

benefitting from programs to improve WASH



**2,276**

people trained in  
implementing WASH  
programs



**325**

WASH clubs established  
in schools



**106,860**

children provided with  
improved access to clean  
water



**103,894**

children (including 51,160  
girls) educated on  
menstrual hygiene  
management



**57,892**

children provided with  
improved access to  
sanitation facilities



**112,064**

children (across 450  
schools) provided with  
improved access to  
handwashing facilities

# Foreword

Clean water, basic toilets and good hygiene practices are essential for children's survival and development.

Today, there are around 2.4 billion people who do not use improved sanitation, and 663 million who do not have access to improved water sources. 7 out of 10 people without access to improved sanitation live in rural areas.

Without these basic needs, the lives of millions of children are at risk. A lack of decent toilets and clean water causes diarrhoea, which can lead to malnutrition, stunting, developmental delays and weakened immune systems and, on average, claims the lives of almost 800

children every day. As children spend long hours in school, the cleanliness of education facilities is a significant determinant of their health and wellbeing.

Access to safe water and sanitation facilities can also contribute to increased school attendance, particularly for girls, who tend to bear the greatest burden in collecting water, and children with a disability.

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 that students can safely return to school amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.



“Not all organisations and projects improve sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene in schools at such a dramatic scale that covers whole provinces and countries, so it is incredible to be involved in programs like this that do!”

- Aaron Moore, International Programs Manager, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, UNICEF Australia



# UNICEF Australia's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Program

UNICEF Australia undertakes WASH projects that are game changing in nature. It does this by focusing its support where it can make the greatest impact for vulnerable children in the region and supporting projects that are good value for money. These projects are:

1. **Simple**: they are easy for whole schools and communities to connect and engage with
2. **Scalable**: they can be taken from pilot to scale, impacting whole countries and regions
3. **Sustainable**: the impacts of the project outlast the project period long into the future.

Between 2017-20, UNICEF Australia has successfully supported innovative WASH projects that are simple, scalable and sustainable. For example, the successful introduction of the Three Star Approach to WASH in Schools (WinS) to Chin and Kachin states in Myanmar was so effective that the pilot exceeded its aims by more than 166%, and 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, and the embedding of WinS data collection within the national Education Management Information System (EMIS), which now informs all future WinS initiatives to ensure they are appropriate and effective in supporting girls and boys in attending school.

These outcomes are truly game changing for the WASH sector, for governments and nations, and for children!

UNICEF Australia's WASH projects focus on improving WASH in Schools (WinS), whilst promoting participation and consultation, ensuring local ownership and sustainability in the outcomes of the project.

WinS is a holistic approach that integrates aspects of health, nutrition, education and child protection. The Three Star Approach of WinS is a simple, scalable and sustainable means of incentivising schools and

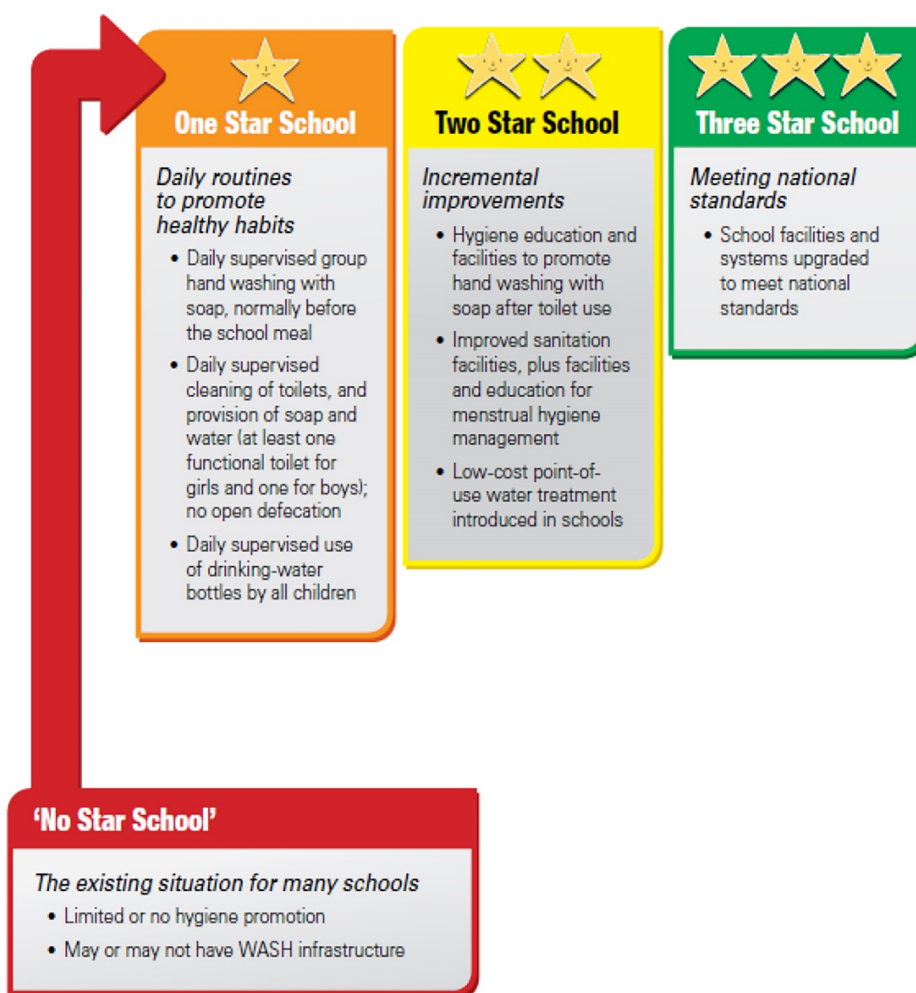
communities to make incremental low-cost improvements to become healthy learning environments for children. From 'No Star' to 'Three Stars', schools are accredited based on their level of infrastructure and access, and the promotion and integration of positive practices in hygiene behaviour change into daily life, such as hand-washing.

UNICEF Australia's WASH program for 2017-20 consisted of four projects spread across Myanmar, Fiji, Zimbabwe and Laos).



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# The Three-Star Approach to WASH in Schools



UNICEF uses the Three-Star Approach to improve WASH in Schools. This diagram illustrates how schools can move from a 0 star to a 3 star rating by meeting different water, sanitation and hygiene criteria. Moving up a 'star level' is an exciting prospect for schools who are honoured in an award ceremony and proudly celebrate their collective achievement

# Where we work

This map highlights the countries in the world where Priority Programs for children, families and communities were implemented.



## Cambodia

### Child Protection:

Protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation, and unnecessary family separation.

### Early Childhood Development:

Prioritising inclusion to meet the holistic needs of children.



## Pacific

### Child Survival:

Saving lives by protecting children against rotavirus in Kiribati.

Drone delivery of vaccines and health supplies to remote, inaccessible communities in Vanuatu.

Sustainable introduction of rotavirus, pneumococcal and HPV vaccines in 9 Pacific Island Countries to improve child survival.

### Early Childhood Development:

Investing in Guadalcanal's best human capital – children.

### WASH:

Reach for the Stars: improving access to WASH in schools using the Three Star Approach in Fiji.

### COVID-19 Response:

COVID-19 support to health, nutrition, WASH and communication.

COVID-19 response to education in the Solomon Islands.



## Laos

### Child Protection:

Strengthening community based child protection services for vulnerable children.

### Child Survival:

Addressing chronic malnutrition in rural communities.

### Early Childhood Development:

Improving access to early learning for remote communities from ethnic minorities.

### WASH:

Improving access to WASH in rural Savannakhet and providing support to communities in the flood impacted region of Attapeu.

### COVID-19 Response:

COVID-19 support to education, ECD and child protection.

### Social Protection:

Leaving no one behind: establishing the basis for social protection floors.



## Indonesia

### Child Survival:

Scaling up the integrated management of acute malnutrition.



## Myanmar

### Child Protection:

An integrated child protection system for the prevention and response to violence against children.

### WASH:

Thant Shin Star: Improving access to WASH in remote rural schools by piloting the Three Star Approach in Chin and Kachin states



## Papua New Guinea

### Child Protection:

Supporting accelerated implementation of Child Protection Act and National Child Protection Policy.

### Child Survival:

Roll out of early essential newborn care (EENC) with a focus on prevention and management of neonatal hypothermia.

### Early Childhood Development:

Ensuring equitable access to ECD for all children in Papua New Guinea.

### COVID-19 Response:

Responding to child protection and nutrition needs in COVID-19 response.



## Timor-Leste

### Child Protection:

Momentum and Opportunity: Strengthening the Child and Family Welfare System.

### Child Survival:

Improvement of healthcare quality for maternal and child survival.

### Early Childhood Development:

Inspiring teachers and accelerating learning through play.

### COVID-19 Response:

Addressing the secondary impacts of COVID-19.



## Zimbabwe

### Child Survival:

Improving child survival through quality maternal, newborn and child health services in rural health facilities and communities.

### WASH:

Improving access to WASH in remote and isolated schools.



## Bangladesh

### Early Childhood Development:

Ensuring children in Rohingya refugee communities don't miss out on the best start in life.



# Reach for the Stars Incentivising improvements in WASH in Fiji

The Reach for the Stars project assisted a total of 55,677 people (536 men, 546 women, 28,136 boys, 25,917 girls, 341 boys with a disability and 201 girls with a disability), making impacts across the following key areas:

- 1. Strengthened capacity:** Over 1,000 people received training in the Three Star Approach to WASH in Schools and over 250 schools all reached at least 2-star status.
- 2. Increased access to safe water:** Nearly 47,000 students from 98 schools improved their access to safe water. 3,660 students now have disability accessible access to safe water.
- 3. Improved hygiene behaviours:** Over 54,000 students in 129 schools were provided with increased access to hand washing facilities and hygiene

education like the importance of hand washing, which has become crucial in the wake of COVID-19. Nearly 47,000 girls and boys including those with disabilities were educated on menstrual hygiene management.

A **game changing** aspect of this project has been its ability to embed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) questions into Fiji's Education Management Information System (EMIS).

This means all Fiji schools now report annually on their level of access to WASH, providing reliable national

school WASH data that was previously unknown. **This data is powerful in directing both current and future WASH interventions** and funding to ensure they are effectively targeting those schools and students who need it most.

The project also facilitated the development of **Fiji's first ever WASH in Schools Policy** document and the creation of a new budget line for WASH in Schools within the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts (MEHA), leveraging a government commitment of FJ \$300,000 (AU \$200,000).



The Reach for the Stars project undertook **ground breaking research dedicated to menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for girls with a disability**. This research led to the development of a disability inclusive MHM WASH module that was integrated into the Fiji Government's "Toolkit for Disability-Inclusive Education" along with a set of factsheets, comprising simple hand drawn pictures to communicate MHM messages to children with a disability.



# Exceeding targets for improved school WASH in Myanmar

The Thant Shin Star (Reach for the Starts) project assisted a total of **58,004** people (191 men, 764 women, 28,340 boys, and 28,709 girls)

**1. Strengthened capacity:** Nearly 1,000 people received training in the Three Star Approach to WASH in Schools. WASH clubs were established in 315 schools, with 111 schools reaching 1-star status, 8 schools reaching 2-star, and 3 schools 3-star status, and remaining schools to receive their star rating status late 2020.

**2. Increased access to safe water:** Over 57,000 students from a total of 315 schools improved their access to safe water through the provision of drinking water bottles, water filters, new or renovated dug wells or tube wells, water storage tanks, water filtration tanks, piped water connections and water pumps.

**3. Increased access to sanitation:** 182 new urinals and 130 new toilets were installed and another 604 toilets renovated to improve access to sanitation for over 57,000 students.

**4. Improved hygiene behaviours:** Over 57,000 students benefitted from improved hygiene through the provision of hygiene kits, new group handwashing stations and basins established in key locations, such as near toilets and food canteens. Education to both boys and girls on menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is helping to reduce stigma around menstruation and the provision of MHM facilities and dedicated MHM rooms made a powerful difference to

girls, who could now attend school with dignity during menstruation.

The Thant Shin Star project **dramatically outperformed against its key targets** by supporting 315 schools (target 190) and reaching 57,049 students (357% beyond its target of 16,000). It achieved this through **significant leveraging of resources from communities** and the Ministry of Education. Schools, through their parent teacher associations, contributed on average 23% of all costs, demonstrating the value they placed on the project, with a further 5% provided by the Myanmar Government.



The Thant Shin Star project installed a menstrual hygiene management (MHM) room in a school of 122 students in Tedim district, Chin, for girls to access and change sanitary materials during menstruation.

**“There is no need for us to go home, miss class or feel embarrassed when we have our periods,”** says student, Mang Dei Thang. The MHM room has provided girls more confidence, dignity and independence. And that makes a big difference to a girl’s education!





## Sustainable WASH in Laos

The Laos Sustainable WASH project assisted a total of 24,118 people (11,483 men, 11,385 women, 616 boys, and 634 girls) in rural and flood impacted regions of Laos

1. **Strengthened capacity:** Over 200 people received training in WASH, with WASH committees and clubs established in 14 villages, five flood response transition camps and 10 schools.

2. **Increased access to safe water:** Over 700 students from 10 schools have improved access to safe water. 16,000 flood affected people were provided with clean water sources.

59 water points were built or upgraded and two water towers constructed, bringing piped water supply to 705 people in 140 households.

3. **Increased access to sanitation:** Over 800 students were provided with improved access to sanitation facilities. Three villages are now Open Defecation Free (ODF) (meaning every household now has

access to their own toilet), with a further two villages between 91-95% ODF.

4. **Improved hygiene behaviours:** Over 400 boys and girls in six schools can now access group handwashing facilities and 10,000 flood affected people received education on hygiene and hand washing.

Access to water has always been scarce for the village where new mum, Nong, and her husband, Khantahly, live in Attapeu, Laos. But when a hydroelectric dam collapsed in 2018, flash flooding tore through six villages, killing more than 50 people and displacing over 50,000, and completely destroying the handpumps that had been installed in the village only four years earlier. "Instead of working in the field, most of mine and my husband's time disappeared making the laborious daily commute to collect water. On top of that, we didn't even know if the water was safe to drink or not," says Nong.

UNICEF has been supporting Nong's village and the Laos Government since the first days of flash flooding. Community consultation led UNICEF to build two water towers to provide piped water connections to each household and the local school in Nong's community. "This has lifted a heavy burden off my shoulders," says Nong, "I no longer compromise on the hygiene of my baby."



# Reaching remote, satellite schools with improved WASH in Zimbabwe

WASH in Satellite Schools assisted a total of 8,262 students (4,013 girls) and 207 teachers (85 women) in 27 remote and isolated schools with access to improved water and sanitation.

The majority of this impact was achieved before 2017, with 2,182 people (44 men, 19 women, 1,066 boys and 1,053 girls) benefiting from the project from 2017-20.

UNICEF Australia's work in Zimbabwe has been supporting some of the poorest and most isolated schools to gain access to water, sanitation and hygiene. Previously, students had to walk one kilometer to access murky water from an open, unprotected water source. Establishing access to safe water onsite turned out to be notoriously difficult, with UNICEF contractors digging seven dry bore holes and breaking high grade

equipment before locating water some distance away. The project involved the local community in the process and women ferried large stones on their heads for the tank stand construction and dug and backfilled pipeline trenches to transport the water. By mid-2018, the project successfully brought water to nine schools for 2,119 students (1,066 boys and 1,053 girls) by drilling, quality testing and certifying nine new

boreholes, one for each school.

As a means of addressing the problems of locating water, three schools piloted an innovative solar power pump that enabled them to widen the possible location of a suitable water source and then reticulate the water back to the school. If the pilot is successful, UNICEF hopes to introduce the solar system to other remote schools.

The impact of the project has been dramatic – in one school, the handwashing tank previously needed to be filled twice a day to serve the large number of students, but **now it never runs dry and students can refill their water bottles within five minutes and be back in class**. The system includes six separate outlets and feeds the school garden, a chicken rearing project the school recently commenced, as well as serving the larger surrounding community. There is also access to water in the girls' toilets now, supporting easier menstrual hygiene management so girls don't have to miss school while on their periods.





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UNICEF Australia would like to thank all our supporters for their generosity in making the above-mentioned WASH program possible. The results and impacts delivered by this program would not be possible without your assistance.

UNICEF Australia would like to acknowledge the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). ANCP funds contributed to both the Reach for the Stars project in Fiji and the Thant Shin Star project in Myanmar.

UNICEF Australia would also like to thank MMG, who were instrumental in funding Sustainable WASH in Laos. 14 local villages around MMG's operations in Savannakhet now have access to improved access to WASH thanks to MMG's commitment to supporting local communities where it works.

Special thanks to Marriott International Inc and 3P Learning whose support of WinS projects in Myanmar and Fiji has led to sustainable improvements in the lives of thousands of girls and boys, providing them with a safe and healthy place to learn.

