

IMPACT

THE UNICEF AUSTRALIA SUPPORTER MAGAZINE

unicef 

AUSTRALIA

for every child

ISSUE

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In 2021 you supported children in Afghanistan by helping us to provide:



134,600

children and caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support



295,944

children with life-saving treatment for severe acute malnutrition



758,701

children with education, including early learning



EMERGENCY UPDATE

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is one of the most dangerous places to be a child. Last year conflict, drought and COVID-19 collided, making life incredibly difficult for children and families.

More than 667,000 people have been forced to flee their homes and UNICEF estimates that 1 in 2 children under five will be acutely malnourished in 2022. Nearly a quarter of the country lack access to basic drinking water and half lack access to basic sanitation.

But in times of crisis, generous Australians like you step up. You helped us to deliver safe water to drought affected communities, routine vaccinations, health care to hard-to-reach areas, and life-saving treatment for malnutrition.

After more than 65 years, our teams remain on the ground in Afghanistan delivering for every child. In that time, we have built trust with everyone we need to get the job done across 13 offices nationwide. With your help, we have provided life-saving support for the children of Afghanistan and will continue to do so.

Thank you for responding so generously and urgently in this time of crisis, we could not reach vulnerable children in Afghanistan without you.

Above: In August 2021, UNICEF staff help install a community fresh water pump at a refugee settlement in Kabul where more than 1,700 people - half of them children - still live after having fled conflict in Kapsia province seven years ago.
© UNICEF/UN0506224/Fazel



On the cover: A young girl smiles in a camp for internally displaced people in the north of Afghanistan. © UNICEF/UNI321585/Fazel

Above: Children play outside new tents installed in Afghanistan for community-based education programs. © UNICEF/UN0443251/Fazel



WELCOME LETTER

Tony Stuart, CEO

Happy 2022 to you and your families. Thanks to incredible supporters like you, last year we improved the lives of millions of children and rushed emergency supplies to those in the greatest need.

We are living in a crucial time when the human rights of children are under threat to a degree that has not been seen in more than a generation. At UNICEF Australia, our work is possible entirely because of voluntary donations from people like you. We have never been more grateful for your support.

In August 2021, a UNICEF report found that an estimated 850 million children live in areas with at least four overlapping climate and environmental shocks. It was amazing to see young people raise their voices at COP26 and speak up for our planet. These are the voices of our future leaders.

2021 also saw the majority of Australians getting vaccinated against COVID-19, but vaccine inequality is growing by the day in low-income countries. Papua New Guinea, Yemen and Uganda have yet to vaccinate 10 per cent of their population, but we are working to change that.

As a key member of COVAX, UNICEF has now helped to deliver more than 965 million vaccines to 144 countries. Our 'Give the World a Shot' campaign has raised over \$1.6m, enough to vaccinate more than 600,000 people – thank you for standing up for the most vulnerable.

We were also thrilled to be involved in the launch of the National Children's Mental Health Strategy alongside the

Australian Government. We cannot underestimate the impacts of the pandemic on children's mental health and this plan offers practical pathways for early prevention and access to support.

Our 2022 plan is all about determination. Determination to protect every child, no matter what. Whether it's a devastating COVID outbreak in India, threats to girls' education in Afghanistan or ongoing vaccine inequality, we will be there for children.

There are some incredible stories in this edition of Impact that show how much we can achieve when we work together. Wishing you and your loved ones a fantastic 2022.

Tony Stuart
Chief Executive Officer



NEWS UPDATE

Vaccine equity

As Omicron spreads and global vaccination rates climb, low-income countries are falling behind. In the African continent, only nine per cent of the population is fully vaccinated.

Globally, 775 million booster shots have been administered, but in Africa only 320 million have received their first dose.

Strained health systems, closed schools and delayed childhood immunisation programs are affecting children's lives. Families are struggling to maintain their income, increasing rates of poverty.

UNICEF is on the ground training health care workers, providing personal protection equipment, syringes and the infrastructure to store and transport vaccines safely.

Until everyone has access to vaccines, none of us are truly protected.



NEWS UPDATE

Ethiopia

The worsening political crisis and escalating violence in Ethiopia has displaced millions and increased rates of poverty and malnutrition.

14 million children in Ethiopia need humanitarian assistance.

COVID-19 and ongoing conflict in the Tigray region have closed schools. More than 500 schools have been destroyed and many are being used as temporary shelters for displaced families. There is a critical lack of teaching, learning materials and school furniture.

In 2021 UNICEF worked to find alternative learning locations for children. UNICEF supported 191,553 emergency-affected children with education and child protection services.

From the classroom to the kitchen

The STEM program building
futures in Burundi



Top: Gislaine, 16, fetches wood in a field five kilometres from her home in the south of Burundi. © UNICEF Burundi

Above: Ange, 13, adds firewood to her rocket stoves while cooking at home. © UNICEF Burundi

In Burundi, a landlocked country between Rwanda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in East Africa, 90 per cent of people live in rural areas. Many families still cook on open fires, which uses a lot of firewood and causes health risks due to smoke inhalation. Women and girls are often responsible for collecting firewood, which can put them in danger and take time away from their studies.

The Creatable program, supported by UNICEF Australia, teaches innovation, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to high school students to help solve real world problems.

Let us introduce you to the 'rocket stove'. This STEM solution is an effective, affordable and safe alternative to cooking on an open fire. Its development means young people

spend more time learning in school than risking their health and safety to collect and burn firewood every time they eat a meal.

Local Creatable student Jean Baptiste is passionate about supporting his family to have access to the rocket stove with his new skills.

"If I visit my relatives, I will build them an improved stove. My wish is that this kind of course can be accessible to all Burundian students."

Creatable in Burundi is a comprehensive and inclusive school-based program created in partnership with Australian production company FINCH that teaches innovation and STEM to adolescents.

Creatable first started in Sydney schools and is now being taught in Burundi to 1,000 students across 10 schools in 10 provinces.

“IN THIS COURSE, THE IMPROVED STOVE ALLOWED US TO SEE THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY.”

GISLAINE,
CREATABLE STUDENT

In the past, Burundi has been marked by decades of conflict and political instability. Although today the country is mostly at peace, about 65 per cent of the population live below the national poverty line and education opportunities are limited for young people.

In Burundi, only half of students complete secondary school and access to quality STEM education is challenging, particularly for girls. Gislaine (pictured left), is a student who used to collect wood in a field five kilometres from her home multiple times a week. **Thanks to your generous support, more young girls like Gislaine are participating in STEM subjects, while also improving their day-to-day lives.**

“Now I only go there once a week,” says Gislaine. “Once you use this improved stove, you can’t go back.”

“In this course, the improved stove allowed us to see the world differently.”

Nestor is a science and technology teacher of Year 7, 8 and 9 students and undertook training on the Creatable program. Nestor found that students were eager to go home and build a rocket stove for their families.

“Before, it was difficult to solve some problems, but with Creatable my mind is open,” he says.

“The results of the second term are clearly better than those of the first. This new course has motivated the students and allowed them to start doing small development projects.”

→ **As a new Priority Program for UNICEF Australia, this program is possible because of generous people like you.**



What is a rocket stove?

Watch the short documentary on how the “rocket stove” is changing lives by scanning this QR code!



Above: Gislaine and Jean Baptiste practice building a rocket stove in front of their classmates at school. © UNICEF Burundi

Nestor teaches his class in the south of Burundi.
© UNICEF Burundi



YEMEN

Protecting children living in the world's worst humanitarian crisis

How you are helping to provide life-saving
support for Yemeni children in conflict

In 2021

9 million

people provided with
emergency cash transfers,
helping 1.5 million
children and families to
meet their basic needs

5 million+

children and families
provided with access
to safe and clean
drinking water

5 million+

children reached with
polio vaccines

620,000

children provided
access to education,
such as life
skills training

Meet three extraordinary kids

In Yemen, 11 million children are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. For seven years, children's lives have been plagued by conflict, economic decline, displacement and now the compounding effects of COVID-19. Thanks to generous supporters like you, our teams have reached children in Yemen with life-saving supplies. We won't stop until we reach every child – no matter what.



→ Ibrahim, 17

Ibrahim, is one of the **10,000 children who have been killed or injured since fighting started in Yemen in March 2015.**

Ibrahim was tending to his family's sheep when he stepped on a land mine. "My sister was shouting 'Ibrahim! Ibrahim!'. I shouted 'I have no legs' and she carried me. She took me home and then the people in my village took me to the hospital."

At the hospital, Ibrahim underwent

an operation for his legs. "After [the] operation, I woke up and did not see my legs. I was very sad and upset because I could not play with my friends as they do," he says. "After getting these artificial limbs, I am happy I can walk by myself."

Your support has helped hundreds of vulnerable children like Ibrahim in Yemen who have survived life-changing injuries. Our teams continue to provide psychosocial support and mine risk education to make sure every child is safe and protected.

→ Zoya, 1

Zoya is one of the 2 million children displaced across Yemen. She is also one of the **2.3 million children under five facing severe acute malnutrition.**

Her family live in harsh economic conditions, struggling to access adequate food, clean water and shelter.

Thankfully, Zoya's parents found a UNICEF-supported health clinic where compassionate health workers cared for her and diagnosed her with malnutrition. They were able to provide her with treatment free of charge and get her on the road to recovery.

People like you have supported more than 4,000 health care centres in the country to provide relief to children and families dealing with severe acute malnutrition.

Zoya's mum shared with our teams, "When I see my daughter sick, I feel very sad for her...but since she came to the hospital for treatment, I started to notice that her condition is improving. I hope my daughter recovers completely."

"I wish my daughter wellness like all other children, and I also hope that she will receive a good education in the future," says Zoya's dad.



→ Yamamah, 13

In Yemen **more than 2 million children are unable to access an education due to conflict and COVID-19.** Yamamah, is one of the lucky ones and the only girl in her family who goes to school.

When schools closed during the pandemic, Yamamah was eager to return to learning. "In the time of Coronavirus, I used to read the lessons and prepare them, so when I got back to school, I could participate with the teachers in the classroom," she says.

You are providing children with education in Yemen through UNICEF-

supported rebuilding projects, providing clean water facilities, learning materials, and supplementing teacher's salaries.

Yamamah knows it's important that teachers are valued. She believes that they should receive salaries, "so they can feel proud that they are teachers." More than 170,000 teachers in Yemen have not received a regular salary for more than four years.

Yamamah wants to continue studying and dreams of becoming a doctor. "Through medicine, I can provide help to people who are poor and cannot get medical help," she says.



→ **On behalf of our passionate teams at UNICEF and the children of Yemen, thank you so much for your continued support. You are changing lives.**



**Thanks to your support,
we have reached**



3,928

children through the
Bushfire Mental Health
and Psychosocial
Support Programs



1,301

parents, educators and
professionals supported
through the Mental
Health and Psychosocial
Support Program



25+

communities with
direct support

Top left: Sarah and Billie from Royal Far West with toys and books they use in group sessions. © Royal Far West

Top right: Think Feel Do bears are sensory tools that help children share their thoughts and feelings. © Royal Far West



More than just a teddy bear

How we're helping Aussie kids heal
from the Black Summer bushfires

Two in five Australian children and young people were impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires. Trauma from natural disasters can impact their mental health, education and overall wellbeing.

One of the most effective recovery methods used by our teams is Think Feel Do bears. These sensory toys are filled with rice and decorated with three patches to represent a brain for thinking, a heart for feeling and paws for doing.

Thanks to your support, we work with our partner Royal Far West to bring psychosocial support to communities hardest hit by the fires. We sat down with Occupational Therapist Billie to understand how these small toys are making a big difference.

UNICEF: How have you seen this disaster impact children?

Billie: Initially, kids were a lot more sensitive and wanted to be close to their family. Some were easily triggered by a sunny or windy day, or the sound of a siren. Following the fires, COVID-19 impacted all the communities and led to school closures and less opportunities for social interaction. This was a big challenge as social supports are an important contributor to recovery.

UNICEF: How do Think Feel Do bears help children recover?

Billie: We get kids to share their thoughts and feelings or think about what they could do to help themselves when they feel a certain way. At the end, the kids choose a bear to take home. This opens a conversation

between kids and their family with the bear acting as a safe tool for communication. Quite a lot of kids lost their homes and their favourite toys during the fires. Giving them something that is theirs and that may be replacing something that they lost – that is a nice part of it.

UNICEF: How do you reach children with support?

Billie: We work closely with about 30 schools and several pre-schools. We go on outreach visits to the communities, and we work with the school to meet the needs of children, families, and educators. We do group work with the kids, and workshops with educators and parents to help them understand how they can support their children. After the visit, we do follow up therapy through tele-health.

→ **Want to get involved?**

Royal Far West is seeking volunteers to help make Think Feel Do bears. Visit www.unicef.org.au/bears to download the instructions.

Ambassador and rugby player Will Genia shares why vaccination is an issue that hits home

As a proud Papua New Guinean, it is incredibly difficult to see my home country facing the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic as other countries open up and return to some kind of normal.

With cases and deaths dramatically rising in the tens of thousands, **less than 3 per cent of the more than 9 million people living in Papua New Guinea (PNG) are vaccinated** as I'm writing this in late 2021.

Hospitals around the country and in the communities where I grew up are under huge stress with vital supplies running low. Health workers are exhausted, and many have been infected.

Low vaccination rates are caused by lack of access to vaccines, with many people having to walk for hours to reach health centres, but also by misinformation shared widely amongst communities in PNG. Misinformation travels quickly and is generated by unreliable sources that are costing people their lives.

This is why I am using my voice to speak up.

UNICEF is working in low-income countries around the world to make sure everyone has access to vaccines. As part of COVAX, they've delivered 965 million vaccines to more than 144 countries so far.

We all have a role to play in stopping the spread of misinformation so that people feel confident to get vaccinated. I believe it's important to empower people with the correct information and create spaces where they can express how they feel. Working with UNICEF Australia has meant I can educate myself about COVID-19 and vaccinations, share this knowledge, and start positive conversations online and in my own community.

When people know the facts and feel comfortable to have conversations with their doctor or health workers, they feel more confident to roll up their sleeve.

Protecting communities from COVID-19 is a global issue, but also one that hits close to home. As a son, brother and dad, it's heartbreaking to watch communities at home in PNG lose their loved ones. My mum and brother had COVID-19, and sadly some of my cousins and friends have also passed away from the disease.

It's particularly devastating for all the kids who are losing grandparents, parents and carers.

We must protect everyone, especially the people keeping children safe, educated, and healthy. The children of PNG, and here in Australia, cannot afford to have their futures disrupted yet again.

We know vaccination saves lives and that it is the best way to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our communities from the life-threatening spread and effects of COVID-19.

I encourage everyone to go out and get their shot. You can also donate to UNICEF Australia's 'Give the World a Shot' campaign so that every community has access to vaccines, because this pandemic is not over for anyone, until it is over for everyone.



UNICEF supports Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 response. Since 2020, thanks to generous supporters like you, our teams have provided:

- Frontline workers with critical COVID-19 supplies and logistics to protect against infection.
- Cold chain equipment distribution and installation to store doses for routine and COVID-19 vaccination in 22 provinces.
- Thousands of children and their families with ongoing mental health and psychosocial support.
- More than 173,000 people with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. UNICEF is delivering vaccines to those who need them most.

Find out how you can play your part.



Above: In April 2021, the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines are shipped to Papua New Guinea from India through the COVAX facility.
© UNICEF/UN0439487/Vatava Media

Will Genia is a rugby player for the Kintetsu Liners, dad, proud Papua New Guinean, and UNICEF Australia Ambassador. © Supplied



DONOR PROFILE

Cecile Ravell

Cecile is based in Melbourne and is passionate about helping others to achieve their potential. She lives these values through her career and through seeing the incredible impact of her role as a supporter of UNICEF Australia.

As a young medical scientist, Cecile dreamed of travelling the world as a doctor, but when her mother developed cancer, she felt her place was at home.

"Not being able to contribute hands-on to those in need of support around the world, I donated to those charities which I believed did the best work," says Cecile.

Over the years, Cecile has supported UNICEF's programs in education, health care and the protection of children.

"I am passionate about their work in child protection, particularly the prevention of child marriage," says Cecile.

"Now, as I enter the final furlong of life, my thoughts have turned to leaving a bequest to UNICEF in my Will."

"While I am still living, I am filled with joy knowing that I can leave a legacy which will enable children to achieve their potential."

→ If you would like more information about how to leave a gift in your Will to UNICEF Australia, you can get in touch with Abi from our friendly Gifts in Wills team via email at bequests@unicef.org.au or phone on **1300 884 233**.

Priority Program Results

2020-2021 Financial Year

Australian Programs

Your funds have also directly supported UNICEF Australia's 'Priority Programs', which are part of a special commitment to support critical, underfunded programs here in Australia and particularly in our nearest, neighbouring countries in the Asia-Pacific region.



13,984

children reached with uniforms, books and electronic learning devices in bushfire affected communities.



5,229

children and adults supported with mental health, psychosocial support and wellbeing activities.



3,000

children and young people engaged and consulted with to understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their lives.



2,652

parents and teachers supported and provided with trusted, evidence-based COVID-19 information during the pandemic via online education hub and webinar series.

International Programs



1,066,789

children reached through international development programs, including 414,568 boys and 430,860 girls.



139,488

children and families reached through emergency relief projects addressing the effects of COVID-19.



13,672

Children provided with access to early childhood education programs across Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste.



11,623

Health workers received training in delivering life-saving health services such as immunisation delivery, malnutrition management and maternal and newborn care.



Youth Voices

A report for children,
by children



Meet Indiana, 19, and Harper, 17, the designer and artist of the 'Children's Voices in a Changing World' children's report.

Each year, our Young Ambassadors talk with children and young people across Australia about issues that affect their lives. Their views are then compiled into a report and presented to our country's leaders in Canberra.

Hear what Indiana, a former Young Ambassador, and her brother Harper have to say about using their voice and artistic talent to advocate for the rights of young people.

"I learnt in my term as a Young Ambassador that children are experts in their own lives," says Indiana. "Although we are not experts at graphic design, we were able to add our perspective as young people to the illustrations."

Working across several months, Harper drew the illustrations by hand and Indiana brought them to life digitally.

"I was inspired by the many walks of life that are all considered youth," says Harper. "And how despite their many differences, they share similar struggles and experiences."

Indiana says they are proud of the report and the opportunity to bring children's voices to the front.

"INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISIONS THAT DO OR WILL AFFECT THEM IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT."

INDIANA, 19



NO ONE IS SAFE, UNTIL EVERYONE IS SAFE

Just \$5 can deliver two
doses to someone in a
low-income country.
www.vaccinaid.org.au



Vaccines are carried through
Nepal's remote far-west to
a health post where she
works as a support staff.
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UNICEF Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country of the land and communities in which we and our partners work throughout Australia, and their connection to their lands, waters, and communities. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures, and to Elders both past, present and emerging.