

IMPACT

THE UNICEF AUSTRALIA SUPPORTER MAGAZINE

unicef 

AUSTRALIA

for every child

ISSUE

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EMERGENCY UPDATE

Syria and Türkiye Earthquake

In the early hours of the morning of 6 February 2023, a major earthquake struck Syria and Türkiye and left us all with heavy hearts. Over the first ten days, more than 35,000 people within the two countries had reportedly been killed, including children, with tens of thousands more injured. Sadly, these numbers were only set to rise as the clean-up began.

Many buildings, schools and homes were destroyed, leaving families displaced and exposed to the elements at a time of year when temperatures regularly drop below freezing. In its 12th year of war, Syria is in the grip of one of the most complex humanitarian situations in the world. This latest disaster comes as a cruel reminder that for so many, the struggles never seem to end.

UNICEF has been in Türkiye for more than 70 years and Syria for over 50 years, which positioned us to rapidly mobilise desperately needed supplies and services, such as clean water, nutrition and emergency first aid, while also ensuring evacuation to safe spaces for children.

Above: Four-year-old Hamzeh is screened for injuries and malnutrition in Syria, as part of UNICEF's mobile medical response after the earthquake that hit Türkiye and Syria. © UNICEF/UN0781272/Al-Asadi



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On the cover: Young girl skips outside her home in the remote Pacific island nation of Kiribati. © UNICEF Kiribati/2022/Chudeau

Top: Children and families in Syria fill jerrycans with UNICEF-supplied clean water in February 2023. In the aftermath of the earthquake, water lines and existing pumping stations were damaged, requiring immediate aid. © UNICEF/UN0781308/Al-Asadi

Middle: Nurse Kakoroa providing vaccines to little ones in Kiribati. © UNICEF Australia/2022/ItaeaPhoto

Bottom: Panha, 16, from Cambodia is part of the Generation Future program. © UNICEF Cambodia/2022/Sells



WELCOME LETTER

Tony Stuart, CEO

Thanks to your incredible support, UNICEF teams have worked around the clock to provide emergency relief and long-term development solutions for children in need throughout 2022.

In times of crisis, it's with deep gratitude for people like you that we can continue providing humanitarian aid to children and families in emergencies, like the recent devastating Syria and Türkiye earthquakes.

In Ukraine, UNICEF continues to support children whose lives are being upended by the war. We're providing life-saving treatment to millions of malnourished children across the Horn of Africa and Central Sahel and delivered emergency relief to families impacted by extreme flooding in Pakistan and the economic and energy crisis in Sri Lanka.

In July, students across greater Sydney voiced their opinion on what future urban and rural communities should look like at the Better World Youth Summit. In November, our Young Ambassadors visited Canberra to meet with our nation's leaders, including Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong.

Now, in 2023, we are striving to be bolder and more ambitious in our long-term development solutions and advocacy work while giving children and young people a voice in matters that affect their lives. This includes

supporting the constitutional recognition of a Voice to Parliament for First Nations peoples as aspired to in the Uluru Statement of the Heart.

When every child and young person is given an opportunity to have a voice, we see it result in better outcomes. This same principle of participation is needed to drive better outcomes for First Nations communities in Australia. The Voice to Parliament is an essential step in creating a fairer and more equitable future for all Australian children.

In this edition of IMPACT, we share stories that show how much we can achieve when we work together.

Tony Stuart
Chief Executive Officer



NEWS UPDATE

Somalia's looming famine

Thanks to the incredible outpouring of support from people like you, humanitarian and local communities have ensured the dire situation in some parts of Somalia have not yet reached famine levels. However, from April 2023, famine is still projected in communities whose livelihoods depend on agriculture and among internally displaced people. Heartbreakingly, an estimated 54.5 per cent of children in Somalia are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by June 2023.

Above: Khadijo lives in a camp for internally displaced people. Her youngest child was diagnosed with malnutrition and is currently receiving treatment at a UNICEF-supported health centre.

NEWS UPDATE

Pakistan floods

Months after unprecedented climate-induced floods ravaged Pakistan, UNICEF continues to work alongside the local government to deliver urgently needed supplies and services to the **20.6 million people**

still in need of humanitarian assistance. This includes life-saving treatment for malnourished children, health services, education, child protection, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene supplies.

Six-year-old Benazir goes to school for the first time since UNICEF established a temporary learning centre in her area, which was one of the worst hit by the recent floods.
© UNICEF/UN0730511/Bashir



Ukraine: one year of strength and courage

It's been 365 days since the war in Ukraine escalated, devastating the lives of children, their families and communities.

The war in Ukraine has sparked displacement on a scale and speed not seen since World War II – of the **8 million refugees** from Ukraine across Europe, the **majority are women and children**.

Our impact in 2022



1.4 million children engaged in education inside Ukraine.



2.9 million children and caregivers were reached with psychosocial support.



4.6 million people were provided with safe water.



4.9 million people were provided with access to healthcare.



1.4 million + people reached with multi-purpose cash assistance inside and outside Ukraine.

By the end of 2022, **17.7 million people were estimated to be in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, including 3.4 million children** requiring protection interventions. Sadly, over 1,000 children have been killed or injured while millions have fled, separated from their families or put at risk of violence.

Thanks to the incredible support and generous donations of our international community, UNICEF has strengthened our presence of over 25 years in country, working alongside our partners to provide urgent humanitarian assistance in a constantly changing and volatile situation.

Because of you, we were able to provide the children of Ukraine with access to safe water, and healthcare, even after infrastructure was damaged or destroyed. In partnership with UNHCR, we set up 40 Blue Dots; safe spaces along border crossings that provide children and families with critical services to help them with their onward

journey. Our psychosocial services offered support to over 2.9 million children and caregivers within Ukraine and neighbouring countries, and our multi-purpose cash assistance programs helped meet the needs of over 1.4 million people.

With your help, we provided more than 5 million children with continued access to education. Through the online learning systems UNICEF helped set up during the pandemic, millions of children have resumed their studies. We train teachers, run mobile education teams and build child-friendly spaces in underground shelters. And we're helping the millions of children who've fled to neighbouring countries start at new schools with language classes, learning supplies and assistive devices for children with disabilities.

Together we have achieved so much for the children of Ukraine, but it's not the time to look away. 365 days later, Ukraine's children need us more than ever.



UNICEF delivers winter clothes and educational supplies to thousands of children and families in need during the cold winter months. © UNICEF/UN0757905/Filipov



Building pathways for the future

A birth certificate is a foundational piece of your identity.

Without one, everyday things like enrolling in school, opening a bank account and getting a drivers license, become nearly impossible. It is easy to assume that every Australian has a birth certificate but sadly more than 160,000 First Nations people have missed out on this basic right.

UNICEF Australia is working to raise awareness of this key issue to help eliminate the barriers that First Nation's people face when obtaining a birth certificate or registering a birth. Our ultimate ambition is achieving universal birth registration in Australia.

"UNICEF HAS A VISION OF AN AUSTRALIA WHERE THE BIRTH OF EVERY CHILD IS REGISTERED. MOST AUSTRALIANS THINK THAT EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY HAS A BIRTH CERTIFICATE BUT THAT IS NOT THE CASE."

NICOLE BREEZE, DIRECTOR OF AUSTRALIAN PROGRAMS, UNICEF AUSTRALIA

How is UNICEF Australia working with our partners and local communities to drive change?

- ① Provision of targeted support for families who face barriers when registering births, in partnership with the Pathfinders* National Aboriginal Birth Certificate Program. Over the past six months, UNICEF Australia has supported six Pathfinders roadshow events which saw over 500 births registered across NSW and the ACT.
- ② Strengthen research and evidence based to understand the issues and barriers to birth registration in partnership with academia and community organisations.
- ③ Campaign for Universal Birth Registration and the provision of certification to drive awareness of the issue with governments and Australian public. Our goal is to drive systemic change that allows us to count every child and help build pathways for them to thrive in the future.

**Pathfinders, a community-based organisation that runs a First Nations Birth Certificate Program.*



Meet Kirby, mum of three

Kirby never received a birth certificate and it's made things difficult for her when trying to secure employment. She attended a Pathfinders roadshow in Canberra in October 2022, where she received the necessary paperwork to obtain birth certificates for herself and her children. Kirby can now pursue her goals in finding a job that's right for her, work with the youth in her community and become a role model for her children.

"ABORIGINAL PEOPLE EXPERIENCE UNIQUE BARRIERS TO GAINING ACCESS AND RECEIVING THEIR BIRTH CERTIFICATES."

COSTS, LITERACY, LIMITED ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND RECORDS, REMOTENESS, AND A HISTORY OF BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT, MAKE APPLYING FOR A BIRTH CERTIFICATE COMPLEX."

ALAN BRENNAN
PATHFINDERS CEO

Left: UNICEF Australia and Pathfinders unite to help First Nation peoples gain their birth certificate. © Pathfinders / Supplied
Above: Kirby, speaking during an interview with our teams. © Pathfinders / Supplied

Every minute, a child is pushed into **severe malnutrition**

Thanks to your support, children are receiving a second chance at life.

Good nutrition is at the core of child survival and development. If a child receives a healthy, balanced diet they are better able to grow, play, learn and thrive.

Sadly, millions of children around the world are not getting the nutritional requirements they need to be able to thrive, and for some this could mean that they may not survive past their fifth birthday.

UNICEF is on the ground in 190 countries ensuring children get the best start in life.



48 per cent of the Haitian population are acutely food insecure. Nutritional assessments show in some areas that 20 per cent of children aged from 6 to 59 months suffer from acute malnutrition.

With the outbreak of cholera late in 2022, it became vital for **UNICEF to establish mobile health clinics to screen and treat children** – a malnourished child is three times more likely to die from cholera.

© UNICEF/UN0721763/Joseph



To assist with the prevention of severe acute malnutrition, **UNICEF is on the ground in Mali to provide education to caregivers as well as supply ready-to-use therapeutic foods, like Plumpy'Nut®.**

Community health workers take every opportunity to raise awareness about good nutrition. Mobile clinics in Mali provide health services and counselling on infant and young child feeding.

© UNICEF/UN0701267/N'Daou

Due to record flooding over the past year, more than 1 in 9 children in Pakistan have been found to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Under the nutrition program, a total of **58,530 severely wasted children have been enrolled for treatment**, along with nutrition counselling for mothers and caregivers.

UNICEF and our partners have established outpatient centres for the prevention, detection and treatment of cases of severe acute malnutrition and other forms of malnutrition – even in the most remote areas of the country.

© UNICEF/UN0721770/Joseph



PAKISTAN



In Niger, increased food prices and flooding have led to food insecurity, with 15 per cent of children under five years of age acutely malnourished.

UNICEF supports the government of Niger to scale up the availability and use of quality high-impact nutrition interventions in the first 1,000 days of life, with a focus on preventing stunting and wasting.

© UNICEF/UN0688719/Dejongh



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How does peanut butter save children's lives?

It's not your ordinary peanut butter. It's called Plumpy'Nut®, one of the many forms of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) that UNICEF supplies around the world.

Plumpy'Nut® is used to treat severe acute malnutrition in young children. Each sachet is the equivalent of a full nutritious meal and just three sachets a day for six to eight weeks can be all it takes to save a child's life.



To find out more go to
shop.unicef.org.au

Vaccines for every child by plane, boat, or truck



We won't stop until we reach every child, everywhere with life-saving vaccines.

In October 2022, the UNICEF Australia team travelled an arduous journey by plane, boat and truck with our partners from Rotary to visit one of UNICEF's most remote field offices in the world, Kiribati.

As a climate-affected island nation, Kiribati is a place where access to safe and clean water is challenging and increases the likelihood of diseases such as rotavirus. Rotavirus causes a severe form of diarrhoea and is sadly responsible for a significant percentage of deaths in under fives.

Meet some of the local heroes on the ground who are working daily to provide life-saving vaccines in some of the hardest to reach communities, ensuring every child has a bright future.



“MY FAVOURITE PART OF MY JOB IS TO MAKE SURE THAT MY CHILDREN, AND ALL CHILDREN, DO NOT GET ANY DISEASES!

I ENCOURAGE OTHER PARENTS IN MY COMMUNITY TO RECEIVE VACCINATIONS FOR THEIR KIDS BY TELLING THEM THE EXAMPLE OF MY KIDS.”

KAKOROA

When UNICEF teams met Kakoroo, a local dad and Kiribati public health nurse at a UNICEF-supported health clinic, he was busy prepping for a day of routine immunisations for little ones in their remote, close-knit community. His current focus is administering rotavirus vaccines, supplied by UNICEF thanks to the support from Rotary’s ‘Give Every Child A Future’ program.

We were told by another public health nurse, Maria, that **the community has seen a remarkable 90% decrease in deaths in children under five** since the program was implemented.

“In past years, the cases for children under five with severe diarrhoea were more than 30 or 50 in a month. But nowadays, it’s down to 3 to 5 cases. I am very glad about the cases that came to us early, because we were able to treat them, so they had no further problems,” Maria says.

Next door to the UNICEF-supported health clinic is Kakoroo’s home, and like many I-Kiribati people he lives just a short walk away from the rising Pacific Ocean’s edge. Kakoroo has two energetic and cheeky children who play lovingly together in their traditional, open air home.

Kakoroo explains that he prioritised vaccinating his children. “My kids are in good health now. Since they have received their vaccinations, and I have not seen any diarrhoea, pneumonia or any other serious diseases in them,” he said.



Kakoroo said that his community is like a family. He spends time talking with his community, advising on how to cook proper nutritious food for children, raising awareness on hygiene practices and on the value of life-saving vaccines.

Thanks to our generous supporters, UNICEF can be there to strengthen healthcare systems in countries like Kiribati, meaning healthcare workers like Kakoroo are given the tools and training they need to support and protect children.

Together, we can support governments, communities and local partners in the Pacific, creating a ripple effect of good health practices for generations to come.



Want to hear more from Kakoroo?



SCAN ME

Opposite: UNICEF and Rotary teams travel to a remote health clinic in Kiribati. © UNICEF Australia/2022/Itaea
Above: Kakoroo and his children pose for a photo in the local health clinic. © UNICEF Australia/2022/Itaea
Inset: Public health nurse, Maria, administers the rotavirus vaccine supplied by UNICEF.
 © UNICEF Australia/2022/Itaea

From little things, big things grow

Meet sixteen-year-old Panha, protecting the environment for the next generation

The classroom is a hive of activity. Dozens of young students buzz through the room, excitedly sharing facts, taking notes and drawing pictures. The subject today is a small but powerful one: the humble bee, and the teacher is 16-year-old Panha. Panha is the young woman behind a revolutionary program aimed at protecting and restoring threatened populations of Cambodia's bees by educating and empowering students across the country.

"Cambodian native bees are declining, and the world is facing the same issue. Like me, many other people in Cambodia don't know much about bees... that's why I want to help others understand the importance of these animals," Panha says.

Panha is one of 15 young people who have been selected for UNICEF Cambodia's Generation Future program; an initiative that supports young minds to launch big ideas through seed funding, training, and guidance from expert mentors.

With the support of Generation Future, Panha and her team of

volunteers have reached more than 300 students in six Cambodian provinces with workshops that educate students about the impact of declining bee populations on ecosystems and agriculture, and the simple things they can do to protect these small but critical pollinators. Through this program, Panha hopes to inspire children and young people to start important conversations with their families and communities about bees and the environment.

Since joining Generation Future, Panha has been awarded the international Bestseller Foundation's Young Environment Ambassador Award



CAMBODIA



The impact of Generation Future

Cambodia has one of the youngest populations in the world, with historically few opportunities for young people to have a say in decisions that impact their future. Programs like Generation Future are part of a growing movement to raise young voices and empower a new generation of Cambodian leaders.

Generation Future connects participants with expert mentors who offer technical advice and guidance, and provides them with training in important project management skills like project design, budgeting, marketing and social media. This training and support helps students to build, grow and raise the profile of their projects.

Since Generation Future began in 2021, **more than 2,000 children and young people have engaged directly with the program**, either as participants or volunteers. But the reach of Generation Future and its young participants doesn't stop there. The various projects have also reached more than 20,000 supporters through their online, awareness-raising campaigns.

"I DIDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE MY INTEREST ABOUT BEES AND THE ENVIRONMENT UNTIL UNICEF GENERATION FUTURE"

for her project's contribution to the environment. The \$5,000 USD prize money will go towards achieving her goal to grow the program and reach even more young minds across Cambodia.

"I didn't have the opportunity to pursue my interest about bees and the environment until UNICEF Generation Future... the training has helped me to build my confidence. Now I can teach students on a subject I am passionate about. Programs like this help those students who have amazing ideas - which can make a huge impact - to actually implement the idea they think will make a better Cambodia," says Panha.

By empowering young people to have a voice on issues that matter to them, and providing them with leadership and life skills, we are helping to grow a generation that is skilled to create sustainable economies and peaceful societies for the future.

→ *Generation Future is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).*

Above: Panha, 16 © UNICEF Cambodia/ 2022/ Raab
Inset: Panha's project inspires other young people in classrooms across Cambodia. © UNICEF Cambodia/ 2022/ Sells



Community love for Sri Lanka

Last August, we saw an incredible outpouring of love from everyday Australians in support for Sri Lanka, a country currently experiencing its worst economic crisis after decades of political conflict and unrest.

Celebrity chef, Peter Kuruvita swiftly came together with his friend Eresha De Zoysa and UNICEF Australia to co-host a gala dinner for 400 attendees with just three weeks notice. Social entrepreneur and proud Sri Lankan, Eresha, said it was amazing to see the community, “moving mountains,” in support of those most vulnerable in Sri Lanka. “This economic crisis is unlike any other in that it is a great equaliser in Sri Lanka. It impacts the entire country,” she said.

“Everyone participated in so many meaningful ways, from local mums to performers and businesses donating their time and incredible services on the day. Sri Lanka was showcased in every different way! This is simply a testament to the commitment and contribution of the community who supported this initiative.”

→ **The ‘Love for Sri Lanka’ Gala raised more than \$330K towards nutrition, clean drinking water, healthcare, education and child protection for children and families in Sri Lanka.**

Above: Eresha and Peter make their grand entrance, while UNICEF Australia Ambassador, Edwina Bartholomew is MC for the night. © Baljinder Singh



City2Surf's youngest runners support UNICEF

After years of lockdowns, City2Surf is finally back in Sydney as one of our most exciting community events.

Last year we saw two of our youngest runners, Emily and Charlie put on their joggers in the name of other children who need support around the world.

11-year-old Charlie says, “I loved running the City2Surf, it was a real challenge for me. I was so happy when I made it to the finish line and that I could support UNICEF, as they do lots of good things for kids all over the world.”

12-year-old Emily agrees, “I chose to support UNICEF because they help

girls in Afghanistan to get an education, because they have been stripped of their rights. It is important to support other children who need it, because imagine if you were in their shoes. An education is essential for our minds to flourish, we learn how to grow and how to make a life for ourselves.”

→ **Together Emily and Charlie raised a combined total of \$1,739 for vulnerable children around the world – go team!**



If you would like fundraise for UNICEF Australia, go to:
www.unicef.org.au/organise-your-own-fundraiser

Above: Emily and her mum racing to the finish line! © Sportograf.com

Inset: UNICEF supporters and staff, and Charlie and his dad (centre) celebrate a successful event. © UNICEF Australia/2022/Labade

Young people take to the halls of Parliament

Every year, our Young Ambassadors aged 15-25, talk to young people across Australia on the issues that matter most to them. They then take these stories to the halls of Parliament, amplifying young voices and calling for action.

Here's how it went for the class of 2022.

So why are you lobbying in Parliament house this week?

> Harrison: We are here today to advocate on behalf of young people across Australia. We have workshopped a report full of new solutions to issues that children and young people care about.

> Daniel: Mental health and education particularly were vocalised by young people. But the report was diverse, discussing issues of inclusion, climate change and youth participation as well.

> Chris: The results from our survey showed that young people are really engaged, they just need pathways to their decision makers and the ability to participate in the national conversation.

What were some of the highlights of the trip?

> Amber: We were all so excited to meet with ministers, especially powerful women, such as Anne Aly (Minister for Youth), and Penny Wong (Minister for Foreign Affairs). As a young person you can feel disillusioned with decision makers and politicians. But they've all been friendly, genuine and engaged in productive discussions around youth issues.

> Emily: My absolute favourite moment was meeting Senator Jordon Steele-John (Greens senator and disability advocate). It's so nice to see young people with intersectional identities represented in politics, I have never really seen that before. It really gives me hope for more young people to get into spaces like this.

Do you feel that change has been made?

> Amber: I really came away from discussions with ministers feeling there was room for further discussion and collaboration with young people in the future.

> Emily: One of the greatest outcomes of this week was seeing the youth steering committee sitting in Parliament. This is a government initiative that has been a response to young people, like UNICEF Young Ambassadors, calling for more youth representation in Parliament. It's so exciting for the future of young people. I know that for me being part of the Young Ambassador program has given me actionable skills that I can take with me in the future.

> Harrison: Yeah, I agree. I am hopeful that we are really impacting tangible change for youth voices in Parliament and in the end, improve civic engagement for young Australians. I really can't wait to see what comes out of our conversations.



Watch what our Young Ambassadors have been up to at Parliament House



SCAN ME

Main: Young Ambassadors outside Parliament House, Canberra.
© UNICEF Australia/2022/Labade
Inset: Young Ambassadors meeting with Senator Penny Wong (right).
© UNICEF Australia/2022/Labade

Building a better world

for children and young people



Last year, we saw young people all over the world readjusting to a post-pandemic world. We saw the rising costs of living in a world which is being profoundly affected by climate change. Importantly, we saw increasing inequality for some of our most vulnerable young people. Our response? **We need to ensure communities are child friendly, equitable and climate resilient for the next generation to thrive.**

Proudly brought together by UNICEF Australia, the Bupa Foundation and hosted by the Taronga Conservation Society Australia, 'The Better World Youth Summit,' hosted 150, Year 10 students from schools across Greater Sydney to share their perspectives on what would make a better world for Australian children and young people.

Through workshops and discussions, these incredible young people put together a series of recommendations to be elevated to Australia's decision makers in the coming year.

"EVERY CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON HAS THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE AND HAVE THEIR OPINIONS INCLUDED IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES THAT AFFECT THEIR LIVES."

ARTICLE 12 OF THE UN CONVENTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



All images @UNICEF Australia/2022/Moran



To read more about the Summit, young people's formal recommendations and to find out what's next, visit: unicef.org.au/better-world-youth-summit

"I THINK A BETTER WORLD LOOKS LIKE SOMEWHERE WHERE WE ARE UNIFIED AS CHILDREN AND YOUTH, WE'RE INCLUDED, AND OUR IDEAS ARE HEARD. IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE WORK FOR TODAY SO THAT THERE IS A TOMORROW."

VAISHNAVI, 15



What we heard



OPPORTUNITIES, INNOVATION AND WORK

"Invest in young people! Create better jobs. And better-quality jobs!"

"Make it easier to hire young adults when it's their first job"



ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND PLACES

"Solving the issue of climate change will help ensure a sustainable and great world for future generations."

"More walkable and people-friendly cities"

"More green spaces like gardens on buildings with sufficient sunlight"



VOICE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

"I grew up listening to police sirens everywhere. My hope for a better future is less crime and gang violence"

"More diverse community programs in local community centres"

"An Indigenous education centre"



FACILITIES, SERVICES AND SPACES

"More schools and better accessibility in schools"

"Community spaces where kids feel safe"

"Maximise available resources for children to make their own choices."



ALWAYS READY WITH LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT

UNICEF is supporting children like two-year-old Wafaa and one-year-old Thikra, to recover from malnutrition. We support mobile health workers across countries like Yemen in providing treatment for malnutrition, such as access to ready-to-use therapeutic food. ©UNICEF/UN0671527

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Aid** 

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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.