

IMPACT

THE UNICEF AUSTRALIA SUPPORTER MAGAZINE

unicef 

AUSTRALIA

for every child

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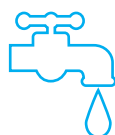
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Meet Abbie, a 12-year-old magazine editor

Thanks to your support, our teams in Tonga have provided:



1,648

families with clean and safe water by restoring household rainwater systems



617

children with psychosocial support to help them recover from the disaster



77

tons of emergency supplies, such as jerry cans, recreation kits and personal protective equipment



EMERGENCY UPDATE

Tonga

In January, a deadly volcanic eruption cut Tonga off from the world for days and triggered a 1.2 metre high tsunami which crashed into the capital, Nuku'alofa.

Communities, roads and airports were blanketed in thick ash, and flood waters damaged infrastructure, homes and schools. About 85 per cent of the population in the South Pacific Island Nation were affected by the disaster.

Thanks to people like you, UNICEF delivered life-saving supplies to help children access clean water and keep learning.

Generous gifts from our supporters meant that our teams could deliver 44 tons of emergency supplies to Tonga from our storage facilities in Brisbane and Fiji. This included water, sanitation, and hygiene kits, recreational kits for children, and jerry cans, buckets, and water purification tablets.

While Tonga was still reeling from the eruption, another potential crisis loomed with the first recorded community transmissions of COVID-19. In response, UNICEF delivered a further 33 tons of supplies, including personal protective equipment, masks and COVID-19 vaccines.

Thank you for helping us to reach entire communities with life-saving support. Because of your generosity, children in Tonga now have the support they need to recover. We cannot do this work without you.

On the cover: In Laos, a father (pictured), his wife and young children are benefiting from a cash transfer program supported by UNICEF Australia and the Australian Government. © UNICEF Laos/2022/Helin

Above: Moui-He-Kelesi, 11, and his older sister Paea-He-Lotu, 15, clean outside their home, after the volcano eruption and tsunami in Tonga. © UNICEF/UN0581166/Wolfgangramm

Above: Thanks to your support, UNICEF emergency supplies reached tsunami-affected communities with the help of our partners during the COVID-19 outbreak in Tonga. © IFRC Asia Pacific/2022



WELCOME LETTER

Tony Stuart, CEO

The first half of 2022 has been a challenging year for children. Conflict, poverty and disaster continue to impact families around the world, yet our work to protect every child in need does not stop thanks to your support.

In January, our neighbours in Tonga were hit by a devastating earthquake and tsunami. An estimated 85 per cent of the population was affected.

You responded generously, helping our teams to deliver urgently needed water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, as well as psychosocial support.

More devastating news came in February. The world watched in shock as millions of children and their families fled war in Ukraine. Our teams have been in Ukraine for 25 years. Thanks to you, we were able to rush life-saving supplies to children and their families inside Ukraine and in neighbouring countries, keeping them safe, healthy, and protected. At times of crisis like this, we couldn't be more grateful for your support.

At home in Australia, we have been working with local partner Cathy Freeman Foundation to reach First Nations young people in remote communities with the training courses they need to reach their goals and thrive.

We also welcomed our 2022 UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors. They have been busy speaking up on behalf of children and young people about topics such as climate change and mental health. With your support, we continue to champion the rights of all children, no matter who they are or where they live.

I hope you enjoy reading about the impact you have made so far this year. On behalf of our passionate teams here in Australia and around the world, a heartfelt thank you for your continued support. You are changing lives.

Tony Stuart
Chief Executive Officer



A UNICEF-supported health worker is conducting health outreach activities to support rural farming families struggling to feed their children in Sri Lanka. © UNICEF/UN0649707/UNICEF Sri Lanka

NEWS UPDATE

Sri Lanka

After recovering from decades of civil war, inflation has led to Sri Lanka facing the worst economic and energy crisis in decades.

UNICEF estimates that **2.8 million Sri Lankan children urgently need humanitarian assistance**. The price of food and fuel is rising and life-saving medicines are in short supply. Families

can no longer afford to send their children to school, placing millions of children at risk of exploitation and violence.

UNICEF is leading efforts on the ground to save children's lives. We are treating malnutrition, ensuring access to education, providing safe drinking water and health services for children and families. With more than 50 years of experience in Sri Lanka, our teams are working daily to ensure that no child is left behind.

NEWS UPDATE

Horn of Africa

Across the Horn of Africa, children and families are making desperate choices to survive. Extreme drought, driven by climate change and the domino effect of the war in Ukraine, is causing an economic crisis. Food and fuel prices have increased, and there is a lack of access to clean water.

Almost 2 million children are in desperate need of treatment for severe acute malnutrition and child marriage rates are increasing in the region, as families struggle to afford to keep their children at home.

Alongside partners, UNICEF is working across the region to provide life-saving aid, such as access to therapeutic food, clean water and health services. UNICEF is also providing cash transfers, to keep children in education, protecting them from abuse and exploitation.



© UNICEF/UN0649452/Rutherford

Stories of hope and survival

How you are helping to provide life-saving support
for children impacted by war in Ukraine

Thanks to your generous support, our teams on the ground have provided

2 million

children and families
with access to health
care in Ukraine

2.1 million

people with access to
safe and clean water in
Ukraine

40,000+

children with education
and early learning
in Ukraine and
neighbouring countries

37

Blue Dot hubs established
(as of July 2022) in Bulgaria,
Italy, Moldova, Romania,
Poland and Slovak Republic,
which can reach 1,000
people per day with support

Lubava, two, plays at the UNICEF and partner supported Blue Dot hub in northern Romania. She has just crossed the border from Ukraine with her mother, Anastasia, and her brother Dima, nine. Lubava means 'love' in Ukrainian. © UNICEF/UN0632063/Vockel

3 ways you're making a difference

After months of war, nearly two-thirds of children are displaced within Ukraine and beyond. Thanks to your generous support, our teams in Ukraine and neighbouring countries are delivering health care, psychosocial support, education, clean water and more.



© UNICEF/UN0622381/Holerga

A safe place to rest

More than half of refugees are children, many of whom are separated or unaccompanied. Emma, five, found shelter at a Blue Dot hub on the Romanian border with her mother and younger brother. **These Child and Family Support Hubs provide a safe, welcoming space to rest, play and simply be a child.** Emma spent the day drawing and playing games in the child-friendly space, giving her mum Yulia respite after their tiring journey. From Romania, the family will go to Germany, but they plan to return to

Ukraine as soon as the war ends. "We have a home, we have a father, we have a mother in Ukraine," says Yulia.

Learning doesn't stop in a conflict

Until a few weeks ago, Anastasiia (pictured) was teaching English at a school in Odessa, Ukraine. Now she is doing the same, but at a school in Romania for refugee children. **Our teams have sent several School-in-a-Box kits, as well as sport kits and backpacks.** Anastasiia's students Sofiya and Liza fled the war together, leaving

their families behind in Odessa. While they wait to return home, they enjoy attending their new school. The girls received bags with school supplies, which contain notebooks, coloured pencils, and a painting pallet.

New life in a warzone

Imagine fleeing a war while pregnant. This was reality for 23-year-old Diana. She was forced to flee her home after a missile strike damaged it, finding safety with her family in Odessa. When her waters broke, Diana's sister drove her to the maternity hospital. In the safe and capable hands of the hospital staff, she gave birth to her daughter Violet. "This was difficult and physically painful at the beginning. Now I feel better," says Diana. UNICEF has provided midwifery kits and essential medicines to hospitals and maternity centres across the country to ensure mothers like Diana can give birth safely.

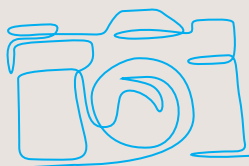
→ **On behalf of our passionate teams at UNICEF and the children of Ukraine, thank you so much for your continued support. You are changing lives.**



5.4 million
refugees across Europe



6.2 million
internally displaced
as of June 2022



Ukraine

PHOTO ESSAY

1

Local children in Romania visited this centre which hosts refugee children from Ukraine. The children spent hours drawing and making crafts together with UNICEF staff.

“I MADE A LOT OF NEW FRIENDS TODAY. IF YOU ARE BRAVE, AND YOU HAVE A JOYFUL HEART, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.”

ALEX, ROMANIA

2

UNICEF staff surprise Andrei on his sixth birthday with an improvised birthday cake – a *papanasi* – a traditional Romanian desert like a doughnut. Andrei found safety at a Blue Dot hub in Romania after fleeing Ukraine with his mother and sister.

3

Nine-year old Iryna (left) and seven-year-old Olena paint in a subway station in Kharkiv, Ukraine where they are sheltering with their families from the conflict. UNICEF-supported volunteers have set up spaces where teachers, psychologists and sports instructors play with children on a regular basis.



1

© UNICEF/UN0630184/Moldovan



2

© UNICEF/UN0627042/Nicodim



3



© UNICEF/UN0632027/Hudak

4

“IF YOU ARE NOT UNDER FIRE AND ARE SAFE, DO NOT HESITATE TO VACCINATE YOUR CHILDREN.”

HANNA, 30, UKRAINE

4

After fleeing shelling in Kyiv, Hanna is determined to give her one-year-old twins, Solomiya and Myron, a shot at a healthy future. UNICEF is training health professionals at local health centres like this one, where displaced families are getting their children vaccinated.



© UNICEF/UN0634455/Gilbertson



Hugh Jackman meets humanitarian worker Yuliya

UNICEF Ambassador Hugh Jackman connected with Yuliya in Romania where she is helping children forced to flee. She introduced Hugh to seven-year-old Kostya who was excited to share a drawing of his favourite superhero – can you guess who?

Watch a tour of a Blue Dot hub by scanning the QR code below!



Our supporters in action



SUPPORTER PROFILE

South Australian florist Liana goes above and beyond

"I felt I needed to do something, but what could I do?" says Liana.

After seeing the devastating injustices of war in Ukraine, Liana decided to use her family florist business in South Australia to raise money for UNICEF Australia's Ukraine Emergency Appeal.

"We had an early crop of sunflowers, and I was on Instagram and Facebook trying to get them sold. My friends commented that the sunflower was Ukraine's national flower and I got goosebumps."

After only a few days of starting her sunflower fundraiser Liana sold out. **She raised \$900 dollars to support and protect children and families fleeing violent conflict in Ukraine.**

"People were buying 10 bunches at a time. People bought from the other side of town... paying delivery and didn't care!"

"The community just comes together, and we rally. I believe the more you do, the more you get – if you do good, you will get good."

Above: Supplied by the Bunyip Newspaper, South Australia



Hobbysew employees show the amazing pieces created to raise money for Ukraine at the Kings Park store. Supplied by Hobbysew.

Quilters across the globe do their bit for families in Ukraine

Quilters from across the world have joined forces to 'patch' together their support for children and families in Ukraine.

The fundraiser was spearheaded by American based fabric designer Pat Sloan. Pat designed a 'star within a star' block pattern in yellow and blue, the

colours of the Ukrainian flag, for quilters to create as a symbol of strength and support for Ukraine.

As of June 2022, quilters from 24 countries have raised an incredible \$320,000 (AUD) for families in Ukraine. As a result, Hobbysew Australia stores have come on board to support this fundraiser and exceeding its goals.

Tony Castley, owner of Hobbysew Australia and an active philanthropist of more than 25 years, says when he heard of the success of the UNICEF Australia fundraiser, he knew he had to rally more Australian quilters.

"Our family business has always looked for ways to support families less fortunate and we're proud of the way the quilting community has come together to do what we can for Ukraine."

Hobbysew stores in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory are selling pattern kits for \$15 to quilters with all proceeds going to UNICEF Australia's Ukraine Emergency Appeal.

Want to make a difference like our amazing community fundraisers?

Thank you to all our incredible supporters who have helped children from Ukraine receive life-saving support. But the war is far from over. **Keep making a difference today by scanning the QR below.**



→ Are you a quilter? If you would like to take part in this exciting initiative go to www.ukraine.unicef.org.au/quiltersstandforukraine

The disease we can't forget about

Vaccine expert Chris Maher: why childhood vaccinations matter more than ever



"I AM HOPEFUL THAT IN THE FUTURE WE WILL SEE THESE DISEASES BECOME INCREASINGLY RARE."

Above: Chris Maher AO is UNICEF Australia's Senior Vaccine Adviser. He has been involved in immunisation and disease eradication programs for decades. © UNICEF Australia/2022/Labade

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed healthcare systems to the brink. It also created a perfect storm for other disease outbreaks. We spoke to our Senior Vaccine Adviser, Chris Maher, about what this means for children and how UNICEF is helping.

UNICEF has been working for decades to eradicate diseases. Why are we now seeing outbreaks?

When the pandemic hit, health resources were allocated to containing the spread of COVID-19. In some countries, immunisation programs were affected as health workers were needed to treat patients with COVID-19 and distribute Personal Protective Equipment. This has led to a decline in overall immunisation and an increase in the number of children who did not receive their usual immunisations.

Recently, measles cases have been on the increase globally, with the highest numbers being reported in Africa and the Middle East. In countries that are already facing conflict, drought, and high levels of poverty and malnutrition, measles may have a terrible impact.

Why is a measles outbreak worrying?

Measles can kill large numbers of vulnerable children very quickly, especially when children's immune systems may already be compromised due to malnutrition. Measles is a severe disease and for those who survive, it can leave a child's immune system vulnerable.

Measles is a 'canary illness', it is a warning that immunisation levels have declined and that there is a risk of epidemics of other vaccine preventable diseases.

How is UNICEF working to contain these outbreaks?

A critical part of responding to outbreaks is through rapid and large-scale immunisation programs. UNICEF works with governments and partners to support these programs.

I worked on the polio eradication program in Cambodia in the 1990s. The disease was endemic, leaving kids paralysed. We worked with local parents and carers, where there can be issues of trust around vaccines, to explain their importance. Because of this successful community engagement, we reached children with vaccinations in every community and village in Cambodia. In five years, polio was eradicated.

At UNICEF, our teams work daily alongside communities and health services to restore basic immunisation programs that have been affected during the pandemic. With the experience of our teams, I am hopeful that in the future we will see these diseases become increasingly rare.

→ Thank you for supporting this life-saving work. Each year, UNICEF reaches almost half of the world's children under five with vaccines, helping children grow up healthy and happy.

A girl shows her vaccination mark at a health clinic. Afghanistan is one of only two countries where polio is still endemic. © UNICEF/UN0594788/Karimi



A little cash goes a long way to change lives

Redefining how we support new mothers in Laos

“Being pregnant and giving birth is a heavy chore,” says 35-year-old Khao (pictured right), a pregnant mother of six, as she sits outside of a local health centre in rural Laos.

Khao belongs to the small ethnic group of Bru people, who have their own language and customs. Khao walked long distances with her husband into the jungle whilst having contractions, to give birth to her first child.

This is a common story for women in Khao’s area. The tradition spans generations and is enforced by the community to ensure no bad luck is brought to a family.

Khao stayed a week in the jungle, nursing her baby and waiting for her husband to bring food each day. Khao had three children this way, until the local health centre was built – transforming women’s lives by supporting safe births in the community.

Like most women in her village, Khao supports her family through farming. Their only source of food is from her small field and access to cash is limited. Her wages are often not enough to support her children. And giving birth means time away from work.





Khao has come to her local health centre in the Nong district, Laos to register for the cash transfer program. © UNICEF Laos/2022/Helin

But Khao is determined to give her children a better life.

Today, she is part of a UNICEF-supported cash transfer program led by the Government of Lao PDR and supported by UNICEF Lao PDR in partnership with the Australian Government.

Monthly cash transfers of approximately \$18 AUD are enough to support mums and bubs during pregnancy and the first few years of life. For Khao, this cash support guarantees enough money to buy nutritious food for her children.

"It is big money for me," says Khao. "I will buy food for all my children. I get vegetables from my own garden, but meat I must buy. I will buy beef."

When women like Khao are provided with the resources to recover from birth without fear of survival, they can heal physically and provide proper care to their babies.

The first 1,000 days of a child's life are essential for development, with a baby's brain building up to a million connections every second of their first few years of life. Through proper stimulation, bonding and nutrition, a parent can set the stage for a child's ability to reach their full potential.

Nurse Phoukham who works at the local health centre says the program is changing lives in the community.

"NORMALLY MANY FAMILIES COULD OFTEN NOT EVEN AFFORD TO BUY RICE... BUT THIS PROGRAM GIVES THEM CASH TO BUY THINGS THEY NEED."

"People tend to have problems after the birth because they cannot go to the farm right away, but now they get cash to support them during the pregnancy and after the birth."

"Cash transfers give (mothers) the opportunity to make decisions themselves."

"Normally many families could often not even afford to buy rice... but this program gives them cash to buy things they need."

Thanks to your generous support, innovative programs like this can be delivered in real time and adapted to the specific needs of a family.

Importantly, it allows children and families to receive equitable support exactly where the need is greatest, affecting generations to come.

What is social protection?

Social protection programs are designed to reduce the lifelong consequences of poverty and exclusion on children.

Cash transfer programs help support families with what they need, when they need it, from health care to nutritious food and quality education.

Flexible funding provides choices to parents and carers, to give all children a fair chance in life.

→ UNICEF has provided more than 2,000 new mothers with nine monthly cash payments to improve maternal and neonatal health in Laos.



Left: A local mother and her baby in a rural community of Laos who is being supported by the UNICEF cash transfer program for new mothers. © UNICEF Laos/2022/Helin

Right: Local children stand on a long bamboo bridge in Nong District in Laos where Khao lives. © UNICEF Laos/2022/Helin

Youth Voices

Meet Abbie, a 12-year-old magazine editor



What were you doing at 12? We chatted to Abbie about why she created an online magazine about women in sport and her passion for UNICEF.

What inspired you to create HER WAY?

> **Abbie:** I've loved women's sport for a few years but was frustrated that there weren't any magazines all about women's sport. So, my parents suggested I make my own! I've been fortunate to be invited to some big events and report on sporting matches where I get to chat to the athletes.

What sports do you play?

> **Abbie:** Currently I play AFL in the winter, and I just started cricket last

summer. I enjoy playing in a team and making new friends. I'm thinking about joining a netball team as I've loved getting to know more about that sport.

Who have you been most excited to interview and why?

> **Abbie:** It's hard to name just one athlete! Paralympian Madison de Rozario would be near the top – she's been a huge supporter of mine ever since we first met. I also loved interviewing Jess Fox, Cate Campbell and Ellie Cole.



"I'M HAPPY THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO HELP UNICEF OUT A LOT."

→ **\$1 from every purchase of HER WAY magazine goes to UNICEF Australia's 'Empower Girls Through Cricket' appeal.**

To purchase Abbie's magazine visit www.her-way-magazine.square.site/about



Why did you decide to donate to UNICEF?

> Abbie: When I first started the magazine, I decided that I would help a charity at the same time, and preferably one that helped girls my age through sport. We found a UNICEF program and that felt like a good fit. I'm happy that I've been able to help UNICEF out a lot!

What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

> Abbie: I get asked a lot if I want to be a sports journalist in the future, but as some current journalists remind me, I already am one, which is a crazy thing to say at 12 years old! But starting HER WAY makes me want to be involved in sport or journalism in the future. Both need more women!



Breaking down barriers – with a bat and a ball

Sport is a powerful force for good in countries like Sri Lanka, which is currently facing its worst economic crisis in decades. Families are also recovering from almost 30 years of civil war based on ethnic and religious tensions.

Sport can break down barriers and promote participation. UNICEF's Sri Lanka sports program teaches young people leadership, teamwork and inclusion.

UNICEF is working with the government to build this program into the physical education subject from Grades 6-11. Our teams also work with children's clubs to train leaders and reach young people who might not be in school.

→ **Thanks to your support, we're empowering future leaders and bringing divided communities together.**

Above: Abbie chats with Australian fast bowler Hannah Darlington. © Supplied/Abbie

Inset: Abbie interviews Australian captain Ali Briggshaw at the Dally M awards in Brisbane – the official annual player awards for the National Rugby League competition. © Supplied/Abbie

Above: Thanks to a UNICEF-supported program, Abisha and her friends now have access to cricket gear and a coach. © UNICEF Sri Lanka/2020/Jayawardena

Empowering young people in remote Australia



**“IF THEY CAN SEE IT,
OUR POWER,
THEY CAN DREAM.”**

ANTHONY HENRY

“I feel more confident, and there is more opportunity for me,” says Dakota, from Woorabinda, in Central Queensland.

For First Nations youth living in remote Australia, the transition from school to further education and employment is more challenging to navigate than their peers in the city. Systemic, structural and geographical barriers mean it is harder to get the necessary identification, skills and training.

But with the right support that is culturally safe, young people can flourish and reach their goals.

Dakota has already gained an impressive list of achievements, thanks to a new initiative by the Community Spirit Foundation supported by UNICEF Australia.

The Sprints Passport Program provides short education and training courses to 15 to 18-year-olds. This provides them with skills and certifications to support their transition into employment.

Dakota was mentored by the Community Spirit Foundation team while she finished a barista course and as she started a Certificate III in Sport and Recreation.

“I was really nervous, but they were there to encourage me. They told me I can do anything,” says Dakota.

Dakota has her sights set on being a youth worker and recently applied for a traineeship at the local youth club. She was also selected to play for the Indigenous Rugby Sevens team.

The first step to supporting young people in remote communities is to help them obtain personal identification documents, such as birth certificates, driver’s licences and Unique Student Identifiers (USI), which they need to enrol in registered training courses and secure employment.

Woorabinda Elder Anthony Henry says the program is uniting the community.

“We have to build the pathways for our grandchildren,” says Anthony. “This program puts a fire in their belly.”

Over the past 12 months, the program has supported 30 young people to gain identification, further education and certifications, helping them transition from school to the workforce.

Empowered, young people like Dakota can build a future for themselves and their families of their making.



About Woorabinda

> Woorabinda is in Central Queensland on the traditional lands of the Wadja and Ghungalu Aboriginal people. About 1,000 people call Woorabinda home.

> Woorabinda was first established in 1927 as a replacement for the Aboriginal camp at Taroom. Indigenous people from around 52 clans across Queensland were forcibly placed in Woorabinda.



From L to R: Sprints Passport Program participants Adrienne, Dakota, Rex, Assam and Thomas with former Program Coordinator Ivy Yoren (second from right) in Woorabinda.
© UNICEF Australia/2022/ O'Dell

Social media for social good

BY EMILY UNITY

The concern

My generation grew up with social media. Whilst our brains were still developing, we were faced with a new level of connectedness and information overload that the world had never seen before.

Whilst social media has been typically vilified, I believe that it is neither inherently good nor bad. Instead, we need to be supported to learn healthy digital habits.



Graphic designed by UNICEF Australia
Young Ambassador Emily Unity © Supplied

The hope

When I was 13, I was diagnosed with depression and anxiety. I felt like I was permanently broken. I felt so hopeless that I would stay in bed for days with nothing other than my phone.

Unexpectedly, online spaces were a place of refuge for me. I found people of diverse struggles and identities that I couldn't find in real life. Online spaces were some of the only places where I could worry less about discrimination or prejudice, and I was able to safely explore and accept my true identity away from the judgement and expectations in my real life.

Social media helped me find support at a time where I was physically and emotionally unable to seek support in my real world. If it weren't for online spaces, I honestly don't know whether I could be writing this article right now.

The action

I truly believe we can all play a part in creating a healthier future for children and young people, no matter who we are or where we come from.

We are all still facing major problems: climate change, inequity, discrimination, and health crises. To solve these, we need to work together at scale across communities and countries.

The digital space is a new playing field, and it's a chance for us to disrupt power systems. As young people, we can connect across physical boundaries and start conversations about how to co-design healthy technologies. We can share our stories and amplify our voices to influence decision-makers, magnifying our vision for a better world.

I believe that by working together, we can use social media for social good.

→ If you, or a child or young person you know are experiencing negative thoughts or feelings, there are services out there to listen and help!
Call Kids Helpline at 1800 55 1800 or Lifeline on 13 11 14.

**"SOCIAL MEDIA HELPED
ME SEE THE HOPE IN MY
RECOVERY JOURNEY – I
DIDN'T HAVE TO BE ALONE."**

UNICEF Australia Young Ambassador,
Emily Unity (they/them) is 23 from Victoria.
© UNICEF Australia/2022/Moran



WHEN CHILDREN NEED HELP, UNICEF WILL ALWAYS BE THERE

Just \$10 can help us
reach a child in need.



A mother and son were reunited in front of their damaged home with support from UNICEF after a month apart due to violent conflict in Ukraine. © UNICEF/UN0632758/Gilbertson VII Photo

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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.