

# IMPACT

THE UNICEF AUSTRALIA SUPPORTER MAGAZINE

unicef   
AUSTRALIA  
for every child

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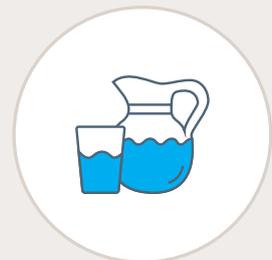
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## Global Impact



176 million

children vaccinated against  
measles between 2014 – 2017



150 million

people received safer water  
between 2014 – 2017



59 million

children provided education  
materials between 2014 – 2017

### ON THE COVER:

Ikia Thomas holds one of his newborn premature twins. The child is one month old and is not yet named. Ikia is one of many super dads in Papua New Guinea helping to care for their newborn babies by providing Kangaroo Care to keep babies warm and safe from hypothermia. © UNICEF/ UN0260051/Mephram



## EDITORIAL

# Tony Stuart, CEO

Welcome to IMPACT where you can read about our achievements for children in Australia and around the world. We are fighting hard for every child's fair chance including boys, girls and young people in Australia as well as the kids living through abominable wars.

Our world is sadly blind to the situation of children in horrific wars such as Yemen or to the half-million Rohingya kids who fled violence in Myanmar to Bangladesh. Media coverage of their plight is almost non-existent while our country's overall foreign aid budget decreases.

Support from individuals like you and the private sector gives these children hope. Australia has vulnerable children suffering virtually in silence in our midst so we ask you in this election year to contact your local member of parliament and ask what are they doing about it. One in six children in Australia are living in poverty, many have told us they feel invisible (see our special report on p.6). If they're listening our politicians must do more and do better – too many children are being left behind.

Balancing our work between the needs of children in Australia and overseas is a challenge but we are lucky to have public and private partners. In Papua New Guinea (PNG) we helped pilot a hypothermia bracelet for newborn babies ('Bebi Kolkilock'). In Vanuatu we're helping trial vaccine delivery by drones to children in remote island communities backed by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's innovationXchange. This year we're seeking private support for a 'Futurepreneurs' project for young people in PNG. Read about our community-based pilot project in response to severe acute malnutrition in Indonesia.

Our impact for children is driven by a sound investment principle that you also share. We are largely privately funded and your ongoing support helps stop violence against children, improves responses to child abuse, education, migration, poverty and gives children a voice in Australia. Our work for children in the Asia Pacific and in emergencies around the world is not possible without you. Thank you and I hope you enjoy IMPACT.

**Tony Stuart**  
Chief Executive



## NEWS UPDATES

# Australia

In December members of UNICEF Australia's policy and advocacy team visited the New England region in New South Wales to speak with children and families affected by drought. A report will be issued to ensure political and community stakeholders have a deeper understanding of how children have been dealing with the longest, harshest drought in living memory.

# Yemen

In December promising negotiations between warring parties of Yemen's three year civil war and an agreed ceasefire in the port city of Hudaydah meant that thousands of children had a much-needed reprieve from fighting. The city serves as the entry point for humanitarian aid meanwhile 11 million children across Yemen still need assistance to survive, including nearly 400,000 who suffer from severe acute malnutrition. UNICEF is expanding delivery of therapeutic support and increasing the number of treatment centres and trained health workers, and an ongoing polio vaccination campaign has reached over four million children so far.

## NEWS UPDATE

# Vanuatu

In December a one month-old baby on the island of Erromango in Vanuatu became the first child ever to be vaccinated with a vaccine delivered commercially by drone. UNICEF Australia is a partner of the project to trial commercial drone delivery of vaccines, led by Vanuatu's Ministry of Health and the Civil Aviation Authority of Vanuatu, the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) innovationXchange, and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.



# Your impact in action: nutrition

BY ALICE HALL, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS MANAGER

Indonesia is battling extremely high levels of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). That's why thanks to your valuable support, UNICEF has joined forces with the Indonesian and Australian Governments to create an approach with local health workers for the early detection and treatment of SAM. It is the most dangerous form of malnutrition, where a girl or boy becomes too thin for their height and age which can threaten their lives. For children like two-year-old Amy in Indonesia, the risk can be fatal and requires urgent action.



**THIS PAGE:**

Annie, the UNICEF-supported community health worker providing nutritional advice to mothers of young children identified at risk of severe acute malnutrition in a village in Kupang, Indonesia, 2018 Credit: UNICEF/Dinda Veskarahmi

**“WE REGULARLY VISIT THE COMMUNITIES THAT UNICEF WORKS WITH, OFTEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ORGANISATIONS, TO IMPROVE HEALTH, NUTRITION, SANITATION, HYGIENE, SAFETY AND EDUCATION.”**

**M** eet Annie. She is one of the UNICEF-supported community health workers in her village in Kupang, Indonesia, where she helps children like Amy who are suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Amy was living with her two older brothers and grandparents in their village in Kupang when her grandmother, Yohana, noticed she had a fever and wasn't eating much.

The lack of basic health coverage means many children in Indonesia face serious health and nutrition challenges - nearly 135,000 children do not reach their fifth birthday.

“My dream is that all children should grow up to lead healthy lives,” says Annie.

Community health workers like Annie can save Amy's young life. She is the go-to health support for worried mothers and fathers in a village where there are no doctors or emergency departments in walking distance.

Amy weighed just five kilograms and was suffering from SAM, but through eating three sachets a day of Plumpy Nut for six six weeks Yohana was reassured her granddaughter would recover.

You may have seen Plumpy Nut, it is a ready-to-use therapeutic food which has all the nutrients and energy a child needs to recover from SAM. It is a convenient paste which is extremely easy to feed to young children without needing special preparation or refrigeration.

Twelve weeks after Yohana first took Amy to the local health centre, Amy fully recovered – accompanying her brother on his walk to school and carrying his school bag for him - and thanks to your support, Yohana is equipped with the information she needs to ensure Amy can stay healthy and never suffer from malnutrition again.

One of the major attractions of implementing community health workers is the drastic reduction of time a child will need to spend in hospital. In remote Indonesia, a stay in hospital typically involves a long journey from home, and therefore a long time

commitment for the caring parent. Our program allows children to be able to recover at home, which in turn means that parents will be able to continue caring and providing for their entire family, rather than being drawn away to hospital for long periods.

Funded by generous donations from people like you, this pilot program is a success, one which the Indonesian Government is working to bring to life at scale throughout the country, with the assistance of the Australian Government and UNICEF's corporate partner Qantas.

These are essential programs that develop foundations for healthy development of children and young people.

We regularly visit the communities that UNICEF works with, often in partnership with local government and organisations, to improve health, nutrition, sanitation, hygiene, safety and education. Our aim in this work is to develop the capacity of the people within these communities, to be able to continue with the practices that the programs bring to them, so that they can begin to alleviate and eventually eradicate factors that contribute to poverty and ongoing disadvantage.

**UNICEF has prioritised health action to help reduce child mortality in Indonesia focusing on:**



- Malnutrition
- Maternal and Newborn Health
- Immunisation
- Malaria elimination
- Universal Health Care

The miracle that programs like this deliver, apart from saving the lives of children like Amy, is their value for money. It is just one example of the power of your donation to help children survive through UNICEF Australia's ability to manage the piloting and sustainable implementation of programs that will help children across the East Asia and Pacific region.

Empowering communities through knowledge, this is the power of Australian supporter's donations at work and why we're thrilled to be involved in delivering this project, so thank you for your generosity, which is saving lives in Indonesia.



**RIGHT:**

Yohana and Amy during a recent visit to the local health centre in Kupang. Credit: UNICEF/Dinda Veskarahm

# Children's voices matter

BY OLIVER WHITE, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

**W**e all know it's common during election campaigns for politicians to use children and babies as political props. But how often do our political leaders truly factor the needs or the views of children and young people into their decision-making? How often do they recognise them as stakeholders in the policies they are developing?

Over the last year, our team has been hard at work consulting with children and young people around the country to find out what they are thinking, the experiences of their everyday lives and the ways in which government policies and initiatives have been impacting upon them. And we are making Australia's decision-makers aware of it.

We've spoken to thousands of children across Australia. We spoke to vulnerable and hard to reach children in every state and territory during our national consultations for The Children's Report, released in



**ABOVE:**  
A NSW high school student during a recent consultation with the UNICEF Australia team. Credit: UNICEF/Simone Ziazaris

October. We polled 1001 children and young people across the country for their views on education, which we released on World Children's Day. Throughout the second half of 2018, our Young Ambassadors consulted with over 1500 primary

**“THIS YEAR, WE HEARD AND THEN REPORTED THAT VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA FEEL INVISIBLE AND IGNORED.”**

and secondary school students across six states and territories. And we finished the year by visiting rural NSW to talk to children affected by the drought.

So why is this so important? Well, consulting with children is more than just asking children for their ideas and views. Children and young people have the greatest insights into the way policies, initiatives and services affect them. So their ideas, concerns and suggestions are critical when adults are attempting to develop effective ways of helping and protecting them, and of understanding children's issues.

It is easy to think that children are only experiencing difficulties in other countries. But we know, from our daily headlines, that too many children in Australia are in extremely vulnerable and disadvantaged circumstances. This year, we heard

and then reported that vulnerable children in Australia feel invisible and ignored. Children and young people are disappointed in the leadership and decision making from our governments. They mistrust our politicians and question their willingness to address the issues that are important to them – important social, political and environmental issues they want addressed.

Yet, overwhelmingly, we found they are eager to participate in society and to make valuable contributions to national discussions on major issues that affect them now and will continue to affect them

into the future.

This year we are taking what we've heard to the Federal Government and the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, while

our Young Ambassadors will join us in Canberra to share what they've heard in schools.

We hope that you will continue to support us in representing what are in the best interests of children and young people in Australia, just as we do around the world. In the next few months and with your help we're asking politicians to really listen to children and young people; to make decisions that are fully informed by the lived experience, needs and concerns of children. Together with their ideas and views we believe that our politicians can commit to making a real difference to children's lives.

**MAIN:**  
Walgett, NSW, December 2018. Credit: Wendy Fay





A doctor measures the arm of baby Yahya, 9 months old, suffering from malnutrition at a treatment centre in a hospital in the outskirts of Sanaa, Yemen. © UNICEF/ UN0253359/ Huwais



#### FIELD WORKER PROFILE

## Julie Gill

### UNICEF CHILD PROTECTION SPECIALIST, YEMEN

In the worst place in the world to be a child, an Australian field worker is charged with the immense job of protecting children. Julie Gill, from Melbourne, is Chief of Child Protection in Yemen, a place where a worsening civil war is taking a horrific toll on millions of children and their families.

"The thing in Yemen is we have to be very flexible. You cannot start the day thinking that you are going to do A, B, C. Your day can be completely different to what you started out with. It requires constant brainstorming of doing things differently and reshaping your program to fit and then reshaping it the next day," says Julie. "It requires you to be alert, flexible and creative."

Overwhelming demand for medical services in Yemen has stripped hospitals and clinics bare of supplies. Schools have been forced to close. Right now 400,000 Yemeni children under five are starving to death. UNICEF has opened new treatment centres for the mostly acutely malnourished children, and is helping to provide therapeutic care for tens of thousands of them every day.

"In Yemen, there are different challenges every day," says Julie. "Children are killed and injured almost every day; from stepping on mines, tampering with unexploded ordnances, from the impact of airstrikes, being trapped in crossfire, or from being directly engaged in the conflict."

Yet nothing can dampen Julie's resolve to help. "What could be more important than the protection of children in a conflict? This is what motivates me," she says.

"And of course a very big thank you for Australians who care about children and the protection of children in conflict."

If you want to donate to help children in Yemen, visit [www.unicef.org.au/yemenappeal](http://www.unicef.org.au/yemenappeal)



#### DONOR PROFILE

## Bec's Story

### REBECCA EVANS, ADELAIDE

I live with my partner in Adelaide and in November 2018 my family grew by two, tiny, beautiful premature twins! I gave birth at only 30 weeks. I had to have an operation early on in my pregnancy as one of the babies was getting all the nutrients and the other none, so both were going to die. Luckily the surgery worked and they arrived safely, looking so small and so precious at just 1.1kg and 1.6kg.

Being so premature, they needed to be in Neonatal ICU for six weeks where they could be safely cared for in isolettes. The neonatal team also showed me how to do "Kangaroo Care" where I hold my baby skin-to-skin, to naturally warm up their little body and steady their heartbeat to match mine. I know this technique is something UNICEF medical staff teach mums and dads overseas in countries like Papua New Guinea and can save a child's life.

This is my story, but if I wasn't in Australia with our health care it could have been a very different ending. For Christmas last year, I asked my friends to donate to the UNICEF Newborn Appeal instead of buying us presents, because I know UNICEF do great work for other children around the world. Being a Neonatal ICU and preemie mum is pretty full on, and I couldn't imagine what it would be like for parents who don't have the medical support we have here in Australia.



UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador  
Priyanka Chopra visits Rohingya  
refugee children in Jamtoli camp,  
Cox's Bazar district, Bangladesh.  
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