



United Nations Association of Australia

# AUSTRALIAN AID AT WORK SPOTLIGHT ON UNICEF, THE UN CHILDREN'S FUND

UNICEF is the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund. UNICEF is mandated by the UN General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential in over 190 countries.

UNICEF's focus in Australia is to raise financial resources for their work in developing countries, raise awareness of what UNICEF does and win support for children's basic rights. UNICEF has the global authority to influence decision makers and the diversity of partners to turn the most innovative ideas into reality. It works to fundraise and deliver international development programs in education, child protection and survival, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and emergencies.

In real terms, that means training teachers and providing school supplies so all children have access to education; supplying vaccinations to protect children from disease; setting up safe spaces and informal education to protect children from exploitation, abuse or trafficking; and supplying antiretroviral medication against HIV, bringing us closer to seeing the first generation of babies born HIV-free.

All UNICEF's work is funded by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

## > SNAPSHOT OF UNICEF'S PROJECTS

### ETHIOPIA

Strong health systems are important to the health and development of strong children, but when medical care is far away and only accessible by donkey or camel, even the strongest of health systems are of little use. In Ethiopia, a UNICEF project is ensuring health care is accessible to even the most remotely located families.

Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) manage and treat common illnesses and combat malnutrition, prioritising the care of mothers and children. More complicated or critical cases are referred to a health facility with specialised health workers.



### CAMBODIA

UNICEF is helping communities in Cambodia to establish preschools, with the aim of increasing participation in early childhood education across urban poor areas, ensuring all children have the opportunity to reach their potential and escape poverty.

### PAPUA

In Papua and West Papua, UNICEF is working to improve access to quality education.

The program is working in two provinces to develop strategic education plans, and improve teaching and learning practices in more than 800 schools in six selected districts.

The program is also helping improve literacy and numeracy teaching in small and remote schools through teacher training and the provision of learning materials.



Mobile health and nutrition team leader, Kalid Ibrahim Abdirkadir, 22, pre-pares a vaccination at a temporary health station in remote Ethiopia, where he is conducting a health screening. Kalid travels harsh terrain to reach the children he meets in his clinics.

They gather from among the farming communities and meet under the shade of acacia trees set up as stations for treating mothers and their babies.

Kalid has been trained to use simple tools to diagnose malnutrition and advise mothers on the care and health of their children.

He also gives children routine vaccinations to help prevent common childhood illnesses that, far from medical help, can be a life sentence for these children.

## > UNICEF CASE STUDY

### CHILD SURVIVAL

“Every child has the inherent right to life, and the State has an obligation to ensure the child's survival and development.”

- Article 6, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.

Healthy children grow into healthy adults with opportunities to work, contribute to their communities and, in turn, raise healthy families. Basic good health is a child's right and UNICEF works at scale across the world to take simple interventions and tested solutions to improve child health and child survival rates.

Clean water to drink and bathe in, improved sanitation, routine childhood immunisation and substantive, nutritious food are all simple solutions to realising a child's right to good health.

Since UNICEF's founding, its expert teams across more than 190 countries have built an extensive global health presence and work daily to bring practical solutions to the women and children at greatest risk.



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