

# WELCOME

This newsletter is dedicated to you; a celebration of the amazing difference you are making to children's lives every day despite the fact that more children are living in crises – both man-made and natural – than ever.



**1 in 4 children** live in a conflict or disaster zone

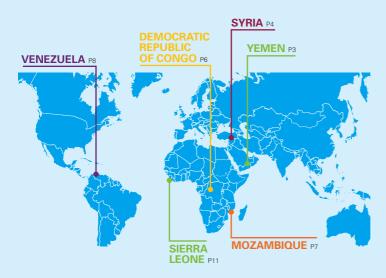


1/2 a billion children now live in flood zones



**160 million** are in areas with severe drought

With your help, UNICEF is working around the clock in every crisis to reach the most vulnerable children. You were there to help in DRC's Ebola outbreak and when cyclones hit Mozambique. You were there to make sure children in war-torn countries like Syria and Yemen got the help they so desperately needed.





#### **NUTRITION:**

2.1 million
children like Soumaïla
treated for severe acute
malnutrition



#### **WATER & SANITATION:**

**32.2 million**people like Hasenat
given access to
safe water



#### **HEALTH:**

28.9 million children like Anyama vaccinated against measles



#### **EDUCATION:**

**3.9 million** children like Rodan went to school



### Children overcome hunger thanks to you

Conflict in Yemen escalated in 2015, causing what is now the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The situation remains desperate with 1 in 3 children at immediate risk of acute malnutrition.

### Thanks to kindness like yours Salem and his siblings survived hunger.

When seven-month-old Salem's parents had to flee their home because of the war, they couldn't afford to feed their four children. They had to leave everything behind and ended up living in a single room trying to survive on the meagre wages Salem's father Mohammed managed to bring home each day.

Salem, his sister Sarah (4) and brother Hadeel (2) were all screened at a mobile health clinic funded by donations like yours. The children were suffering from malnutrition, but thanks to you, they were immediately given treatment and supplies of emergency food.

With your help, UNICEF is providing lifesaving assistance to thousands of families like Salem's. One way your gifts help is by funding mobile

clinics in the most affected and hard-to-reach areas. The clinics provide vital health and nutrition services, giving families a chance to regain their dignity and rebuild their lives

In an emergency, simple peanut paste saves children's lives.



Against all odds, in 2019 alone, generous donors like you helped to:

- **Deploy more than 199**mobile teams in 160
  districts across the country
- Treat over 215,000 children for Severe Acute Malnutrition
- Provide over 6 million people with safe drinking water.



For children like four-year-old Sham who was born in a refugee camp in Jordan, life in the bitter cold of winter is especially hard when all you have to protect yourself from the elements is a flimsy tent on a wet and muddy scrap of land.

But despite the terrible conditions she lives in, Sham is all smiles. She is delighted with her new woolly hat and winter clothes given to her thanks to UNICEF donors like you. It was the first time anyone had helped her family.

"The children are really happy," says Sham's father, Sultan. "The help we get from UNICEF is so important."

You are giving hope to vulnerable children during the dark and cold winter months and providing a safety net for families who are struggling on a daily basis to survive.

### You're rebuilding schools in a war zone

War disrupts education, setting back an entire generation of children. For years, Yousef, who is from Homs in Syria, had to study in a dark and dusty basement because all the schools in his area were destroyed. But he was among the lucky ones because a group of passionate



teachers came together, using whatever they could rescue from schools destroyed by the fighting, to turn the basement into a makeshift school. Many children in war zones can't go to school at all.

"I remember it being very stuffy," recalls Yousef who attended the underground school for three years. "And we were often interrupted by noises of nearby fighting," he says.

Last year, shortly after his 10th birthday, Yousef got to experience studying in an actual school thanks to generous UNICEF donors like you. Five schools in the area were repaired, freshly painted and supplied with desks, chairs, whiteboards, and water and fuel tanks. Yousef's school is now working double shifts to allow over 2,000 children to continue their education in a safe and comfortable learning environment.



### The miracle baby cared for by you

The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo is the second largest ever and the first in a conflict zone, with 3,000 confirmed cases, including more than 900 children. But Victorine whose name means 'Victory', is not one of them. Instead, she lies happily in her baby basket. She is too young to know her mother died from Ebola. She doesn't know what a miracle she is, born two months prematurely, somehow she escaped the virus. Thanks to donations like yours, she and her brother Trésor, 30 months, are now being cared for by women who have survived Ebola at a nursery funded by you. It's just one of many nurseries we support – a welcoming place, with rooms full of toys and walls painted with colourful cartoons.



## Surviving the storm with your help

When Cyclone Idai and then Cyclone Kenneth slammed into Mozambique last year, thanks to you, UNICEF was the first to reach the affected areas to deliver food, water, blankets, medical care and shelter. Like many poor families who were the most badly hit, Joaquina and her six children lost everything in the storm and had to flee to an emergency shelter set up in a school. They lived there for three months.

With latrines destroyed and stagnant water lying everywhere for weeks after the storms hit, waterborne diseases like malaria and cholera were a real threat to children like Joaquina's. But thanks to your help, UNICEF was there to vaccinate children against cholera and to restore water systems.

"Our home was destroyed and everything that was in it," recalls Joaquina. "But luckily nothing happened to my six children." Joaquina has since rebuilt her corrugated iron home and now sells coal in small bags to feed her children.



In the immediate aftermath of the storm you helped to:

- Vaccinate more than 700,000 children against polio
- Give **127,000** people access to safe water, sanitation and basic services
- Treat **73,384** children under 5 years for acute malnutrition.



### "You're not alone." Liam takes your message of hope to Venezuela's children.

In January, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Liam Neeson travelled to Brazil's border with Venezuela to meet displaced children who are fleeing poverty and violence. Liam visited one of the largest shelters for Venezuelans in Brazil where, with your help, we are providing children with medicines, food, water, education and child protection services. Latin America and the Caribbean are already hosting about 3.9 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees in what has become one of the world's largest migration flows.

"I spoke with Venezuelan families who crossed the border, many of them with children and babies," said Liam. "They are exhausted, vulnerable, and still in shock. As a father, my heart broke when I heard their stories. But I also saw hope in the eyes of refugee children who seized every opportunity to learn in a safe environment, grow healthy and eventually, rebuild their lives in Brazil."

During his four-day trip, Liam joined UNICEF in urging the international community to increase its support to refugee and migrant children from Venezuela



During his visit to the Criança Feliz (Happy Child) Programme in Boa Vista, Liam met Camila (centre) and Ceteno (right), pictured here holding her four-month-old nephew Dylan.



### Joan's legacy gift to the children of Syria

UNICEF Ireland supporter, Joan was a teacher. She loved children all her life and wanted her legacy gift to give children a future. That's exactly what it is now doing because it is funding Start-Up Za'atari, a programme created to help Syrian refugees living in Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan – the world's largest camp for Syrian refugees. For young people growing up there, third-level education and long-term employment was once just a dream.

### But now Joan's legacy is making their dream of a brighter future a reality.

Mahmoud (13) is one of 100 Syrian refugees who have taken part in various workshops – including robotics, creative visioning, fashion design and artificial intelligence – all designed to empower and foster creativity and to teach the skills necessary for future employment.

Joan's final gift has empowered vulnerable young people to create positive change in their communities, which just goes to show that no matter how big or small your legacy gift, every gift counts and everyone can make a difference to children's lives.

If you would like to know more about including a gift to UNICEF in your will, please call **Sarah Moyles on 01 – 8783000** or email **sarah.moyles@unicef.ie** 



### Charles speaks up for children

Last November, Donegal teenager Charles Gallagher (18) got the right to 'take over' Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's office for a day as part of World Children's Day which celebrates the signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Nations of the World. Here in Ireland we mark it by bringing a young person to shadow the Taoiseach for a day, offering them a really meaningful opportunity to express the fears and concerns of young people directly to the leader. Last year was extra special as we marked 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Sixth-Year student Charles described the opportunity as 'a dream come true' and spoke passionately about mental health support for young people, the curriculum, the urban/rural divide, and the climate crisis.

## A HUGE thank you to all our young community fundraisers!

Great things happen when young people get together to fundraise for children. From bake sales to assembly collections, students all over Ireland went the extra mile in 2019 to raise much-needed funds for UNICEF.

We would like to thank all the pupils of Our Ladies National School, St. Cancice's Co-Ed National School, St.Corbans B.NS, St.Peter's Primary School and UCD Math Society (top right). The students of Dominican College Wicklow held an event to highlight the plight of children worldwide to their fellow students and the transition year students of Regina Mundi College in Cork raised vital funds with a non-uniform day in their school.

Thank you to you all!







For more information about our community fundraising opportunities, or to set up a fundraiser for UNICEF yourself, please contact us at info@unicef.ie



### Michel takes the trip of a lifetime to see your support in action

In 2019, Aer Lingus and UNICEF Ireland celebrated 22 years of partnership and over \$21m raised for children around the world through the 'Change for Good' on board collections. Michel De Luca, a senior cabin crew member with Aer Lingus, travelled to Sierra Leone to see the impact of your donations on children's lives.

"It was an honour to join the fabulous group of UNICEF Change for Good Ambassadors. We visited local communities, villages, a new maternity ward, a neonatal clinic, schools and a brand new water treatment plant.

It has been amazing to see in person the huge impact that these projects have had in the communities of Sierra Leone, a country already devastated by civil war and the worst outbreak of Ebola. All of this was made possible thanks to the generous donations of people like you and the hard work of UNICEF.

The smile of children finally able to access education, the pride of a young village chief able to provide his community with basic toilets, the relief in mothers' eyes at being able to vaccinate their babies, these are only a few of the memories I will cherish forever.

I thought I already knew the good work UNICEF carries out but this experience was a real eye opener and I wish everybody could have the chance to see the amazing job UNICEF does behind the scenes. This is why I will continue to be an Ambassador with pride and in my heart I will always champion the cause for UNICEF."



### **UNICEF Child Survival Gifts**

Medicine to fight disease. Food to combat hunger. Warm blankets to survive the cold. Books to begin an education. The simplest gifts make the most powerful impact.

### **Child Survival Gifts save lives, they help:**

- Vaccinate half of the world's children
- Deliver 20% of the world's newborn babies
- Provide 80% of the world's emergency food.



100% guaranteed delivery to children in need. See our new gifts at: www.unicef.ie/shop