

EVERY CHILD

HOW YOUR GIFTS SAVE LIVES

SPECIAL REPORT FROM
JAMES ELDER IN GAZA

YOU GIVE CLEAN WATER TO
WALA'S FAMILY IN SUDAN

COUNTY GALWAY PUPILS TURN
BLUE FOR CHILDREN

unicef 

for every child

WELCOME

A tough year, but many reasons to be hopeful

In a year that tested humanity to its limits, your wonderful support for children in 2023 shone through.

I saw your amazing support in action in Turkey following the earthquakes there last year.



Despite the overwhelming odds in countries wracked by hunger, war and climate shocks, your kindness delivered health care, protection, food, water and sanitation to the most vulnerable children of all.

The joyful stories and smiling faces in this newsletter are all down to you and our amazing community of caring supporters in Ireland and across the world. Together we made a direct

difference to millions of children's lives, and we cannot wait to make 2024 a year of real progress and lasting change for children too.

Thank you for being a beacon of hope to children in crisis.

Peter Power,
Executive Director

Just look what you achieved for children in 2023!



26.8

million
children
vaccinated against
measles



17

million
children saved
from severe acute
malnutrition



13.9

million
children
given access to
education



23.2

million
people
supplied with
safe water



2023

A catastrophic year for children

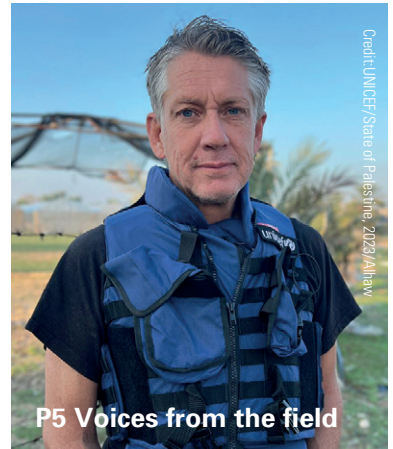
2023 was one of the worst on record for climate change, bringing relentless droughts and intense storms and floods to children in countries like Somalia and South Sudan. Natural disasters like earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and floods in Libya devastated children's lives in an instant. While conflicts in the State of Palestine, Ukraine, Syria, Sudan and Yemen caused immense suffering to a staggering 460 million children.

But through it all, your support for children blazed a trail.

As we embark on a new year filled with hope, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to you for your unwavering support for children. You are changing their world. Thank you.

In this issue

- 4 Gaza latest
- 6 Earthquake recovery in Turkey and Syria
- 8 Conflict response in Sudan
- 10 Libya comes back from floods
- 11 How you keep us ready to respond to crises
- 12 Nathan's 1-to-1 with the Taoiseach
- 14 A postcard from Paddington
- 15 Fun games to play



P5 Voices from the field

**Sign to save lives – for free!
See the back page.**






11-year-old Salam on her way to collect water for her family in the Gaza Strip.

GAZA

You're a life saver for children

Every day, 11-year-old Salam risks her life braving the bombardments to collect the drinking water her family cannot survive without. The situation facing families like hers in the Gaza Strip is now beyond dire. In a region that has long suffered severe problems, water and sanitation services have reached the point of collapse with large-scale disease outbreaks looming. So far, you have helped us reach tens of thousands of children like Salam with life-saving water, as well as food, medicines and blankets. UNICEF has been supporting Palestinian children in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the early 1980s, and, thanks to you, we're still there today helping children in what is now the most dangerous place on earth to be a child.

Thanks to you

-  **150,000** people have been given life-saving medical kits
-  **7,200** people have had their dignity restored with hygiene kits
-  **9,500** children have been provided with warm winter clothing

Voices from the field



At the end of last year, UNICEF spokesperson James Elder spent almost two weeks in Gaza. Amidst the horrors he witnessed, he also saw the phenomenal power of your donations to save children's lives against all the odds. What follows here is his first-hand account.

It breaks my heart to see the desperate suffering of children in Gaza.

Thousands and thousands of boys and girls have been killed and the terrifying bombardments are merciless. Over a million people are being pushed to the south with nowhere to go, no food, no water, no sanitation, no medicine.

The situation is absolutely dire.

In all my years with UNICEF and the crises I have been to, I have never witnessed anything as bad as this.

Hospitals are on life support with heroic health workers often operating without

light because there's no fuel and without anaesthetic because there are no medicines.

But I am so full of admiration for how they carry on trying to do everything they can to help children despite the inhumane and terrible conditions.

Amid all this horror, UNICEF continues to respond. I was on missions taking the exact things people in Gaza say they urgently need. Life-saving food, water and medicine.

Going from south to north, to hospitals, to communities. We will continue to be on the frontlines for these children, getting vital aid to those who need it – thanks of course to your wonderfully generous support that we are so very grateful to you for.

James Elder



In Gaza, I met 12-year-old Omar who has lost his twin brother and both his parents in the conflict. "I keep closing my eyes, so I don't forget their faces," he told me.



As Sidra navigates life after the loss of her father and sister, her grandfather, Hassan, has been her pillar of strength and support.

You're healing the trauma of crisis

Almost a year after multiple earthquakes devastated parts of Turkey, 10-year-old Sidra still struggles to sleep at night. Sidra and her mother, Sernaz, were trapped beneath the rubble of their home for 18 hours. When they were eventually rescued, Sidra heard the terrible news that her father and older sister had both been killed. Long after a crisis is over, children continue to suffer the traumatic after-effects, which is why UNICEF does not leave. With your help, we have reached over a million children and caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support through 47 child, adolescent and family support hubs.

Credit: UNICEF/Turkey, 2023/Sackler

**Thanks
to you**



1.2 million children and caregivers have been given professional psychosocial support



3.9 million people have been given access to clean water, keeping them safe from disease



Over 98,000 people have been reached with warming heaters, blankets and winter clothes

Radwan and Rimas are thrilled with their new winter clothes given to them by UNICEF thanks to your kindness.



You're giving protection from the cold

Radwan, 9, and his sister, Rimas, 5, have lovely warm clothes thanks to the cash transfer their mother, Maysaa, received from UNICEF with your help. Like millions of families in Syria, they were forced from their home by conflict and spent years in temporary shelters. When the earthquakes hit northern Syria in February of last year, your kind donations helped to support displaced families like theirs through the harsh winter by providing them with money to spend on fuel for heating, gas for cooking, and warm clothes and blankets to protect their children from the bitter conditions.

Credit: UNICEF/Syria, 2022 Janji

Thanks to you



211,969 families have been provided with critical winter cash transfers



797,000 children have received free health checks, ensuring their wellbeing



71% of children under 1 have been protected against diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus

Nine-year-old Wala holds the water purification tablets given to her family by UNICEF thanks to kindness like yours.



SUDAN

You're giving life-saving water

At just nine years old, Wala has one of the most important jobs. Every morning before school she collects water for her family. In Sudan, over 17 million people lack access to a safe drinking water supply and are at risk of disease. Every time Wala brings water home to her family she knows she could be putting them in danger. But thanks to you, families like hers now have water purification tablets that help them to ensure their water is safe to drink. Since April last year when civil war erupted in Sudan, you've helped us to deliver vital water treatment chemicals to clean drinking water for thousands of people. You have saved lives in what is now a dire humanitarian crisis.

Thanks
to you



Over **4.3 million** people have been provided with safe, clean water



1.6 million children have been vaccinated against measles, protecting them for life



621,600 children have been treated for severe acute malnutrition, saving their lives

In flood-affected Soussa, in eastern Libya, a young girl smiles. Your support brought help and hope to thousands of children just like her.

Credit: UNICEF/Libya, 2023/Alatrib



LIBYA

Your support is a lifeline after crisis

Months after Storm Daniel unleashed havoc across eastern Libya, bursting dams and destroying homes, hospitals and schools, UNICEF is still there helping children and communities to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. With your support, we're helping to restore basic services such as essential child nutrition and screening programmes. We've helped to re-open schools and set up temporary classrooms in the most badly damaged areas. We're working with the authorities to get primary healthcare services back up and running, and we're establishing safe water points, including two water treatment plants providing safe water to 10,000 residents in Derna – the most badly affected city.

**Thanks
to you**



18,843 people have been supplied with 5.5 million litres of life-saving safe water



2,606 children have been reached with vital mental health support by 16 UNICEF mobile teams



8,682 children have been supported back into school to resume their education

Your rapid response helps children through crisis

Emergencies can strike at any time and children are always the ones who suffer first and most. You help to make sure our support for children begins long before a crisis occurs and continues long after it is over too.



LONG BEFORE

Your donations help stockpile humanitarian aid in our global warehouses so that we're always ready to rush supplies to a crisis zone.



0 HOUR

A natural disaster hits or conflict erupts.



+72 HOURS

UNICEF is on the ground, delivering life-saving aid like food, water, blankets and medicines to children and their families.



Thank you for being there for children before,



**+1
WEEK**

UNICEF conducts site visits to assess the needs on the ground. Your donations kick into action helping to keep vital aid arriving to the hardest-hit areas.



**+1
MONTH**

You help UNICEF teams continue to ensure communities can access essentials like shelter, clean water, food, safe sanitation and hygiene and that vulnerable children are protected.



**LONG
AFTER**

Thanks to you, UNICEF is still there helping communities to recover and rebuild, supporting children back to school and to access trauma counselling in child-friendly spaces where they can play, learn and feel safe once more.



during and long after emergencies strike

Nathan calls for education for every child

UNICEF Youth Activist Nathan Dunne took over the Taoiseach's office as part of UNICEF's World Children's Day celebrations marked each year on 20th November. The fifth-year student from Ballymun talked to Taoiseach Leo Varadkar about why more investment in education is needed to prevent children from less advantaged communities like his from being left behind.

"I am really proud of where I come from," Nathan says. "I would love to



see bespoke supports developed to deliver equal opportunities for young people when it comes to education and career choices."

Schools go blue for children

There are so many fun ways to get together with friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to raise vital funds for children!



Newcastle N.S, Athenry

To celebrate World Children's Day, pupils had fun turning their school blue, swapping their uniforms for blue clothes and raising vital funds together for UNICEF's Gaza Appeal.

Edmund Rice school, Tramore, Co. Waterford

Children were asked to wear blue and donate €2 as part of their campaign called #ERSTWaterForLife in support of children in Gaza. Pupils made posters and created a video, which they shared across the school's network.



For info, or to set up a fundraiser for UNICEF, contact us at info@unicef.ie

A boy washes his hands at a new water tap installed by UNICEF in a village in Kantiwa Valley in Afghanistan, where villagers never had clean and safe water before.



Credit: UNICEF/Afghanistan, 2023/Khan

A remarkable legacy of work

For over 30 years, Therese Dooley worked in more than 60 countries as one of UNICEF's leading water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) specialists. Recently retired to her hometown of Carlow, Therese remains passionate about the need for the delivery of safe water and sanitation to children in emergencies and long after they strike too.

“One thousand children under the age of 5 die every day because of unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene. In emergencies, supplies like water purification tablets and hygiene kits, containing soap, are truly life-saving.”

Children depend on us to save their lives in an emergency. And we depend on the generosity of the public. Thank you so much to anyone who has given a donation to UNICEF to help children in Turkey, Syria, Libya and elsewhere in 2023. Your gift has helped to save children's lives.



Credit: UNICEF/Dooley

Therese Dooley, retired UNICEF Global Advisor & WASH Specialist.

Did you know that long after emergencies strike, you can help to rebuild children's lives and give them a bright future, by leaving a gift in your Will to UNICEF?

Request your **FREE** guide to making your Will.

Learn more about how a gift in your Will can transform children's lives for years to come. Please tick the box on the form enclosed to receive your Legacy guide.

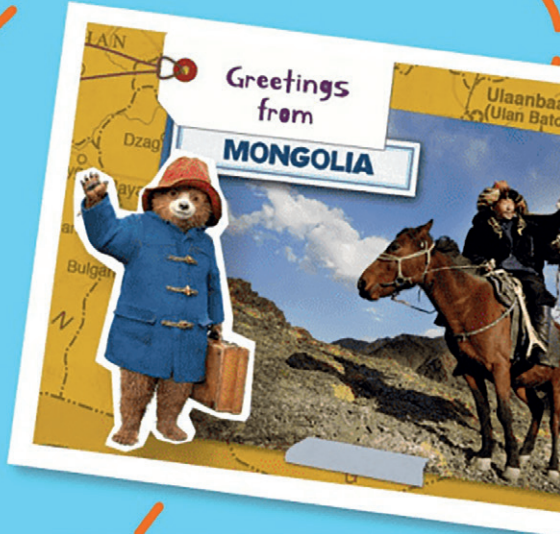
Alternatively, you can speak in complete confidence to Pauline, our Legacy Gifts Manager. Please call **01 878 3000** or email pauline@unicef.ie





Paddington's back!

Ahead of the release of Paddington 3 later this year, this could be the ideal opportunity to sign up to Paddington's Postcards.



Delight a child in your life with a postcard from Paddington every month!

With the arrival of each new postcard and pack, they'll explore a different country with Paddington and learn more about the life of a child who lives there.

Perfect for children aged 4-10, Paddington's Postcards are a wonderful way to teach your little adventurer about other children, families and communities around the world. And your monthly donation helps UNICEF support children every single day by investing in their health, safety and future all year long.



Start your adventure today!
[unicef.ie/paddington](https://www.unicef.ie/paddington)

Fun time

Can you get UNICEF's aid to the children who need it?



Credit: UNICEF/Burkina Faso, 2023/Dejough



Can you unscramble these words?

All the answers are one word only!

1. HARK EQUATE _____
2. AND US _____
3. LEND RICH _____
4. PANTING ODD _____
5. TALK BEN _____
6. FILM YA _____
7. PANEL _____
8. ICE FUN _____



Matviy likes having fun too

Credit: UNICEF/Ukraine, 2023/Filippov

Because of constant shelling in the war in Ukraine, six-year-old Matviy has only seen his teacher twice since he started school last July. But now, thanks to your kindness, he can catch up on his learning and have fun with his friends at a UNICEF-supported 'Spilno', a safe space for children, in Chuhuv where he lives.

“Today I’ve learned to write number two in Arabic,” says six-year-old Haloum proudly. She is a Grade 1 student at a school in Rural Damascus, Syria.

unicef 
for every child

You can save children’s lives with just your signature

Credit: UNICEF/Syria, 2023/Shahan

Did you know that your signature could be worth a minimum of €112 to UNICEF and maybe even more? If you donated over €250 in a single year, your donation is eligible for a tax refund. You can help UNICEF claim an extra 45% cash back on your donations. And your signature and one form are all it takes!

You can save even more children – for free

For children in crisis situations right now, your signature could be a life saver. You could give them emergency therapeutic food, clean water, safe sanitation, medicines and immunisations. Your signature today could help even more children to not only survive, but thrive. It really is that easy to give this additional donation to children who need it.

Just sign. Save lives. For free.

You can complete or download a tax form here: unicef.ie/tax

Or please contact our Donor Care Team who will be happy to help. You can get in touch with them on 01 878 3000 or email info@unicef.ie

Cover photo: Three-year-old Israa eats a piece of bread while standing in front of her family’s tent in Khan Younis city, in the southern Gaza Strip. “The very loud sounds of bombing scare me,” she says. “I want my toys and my bed, not this tent.”