

FOR EVERY CHILD

UNICEF Canada Magazine
Winter 2012



Because No Child Is Too Far

Reaching indigenous communities
Saving lives with attended births
Recovery in Pakistan and the Horn of Africa
The UNICEF supply chain at work

unicef 
canada

A message from President and CEO David Morley

Two tiny newborn babies, barely weighing 2 kilograms each, are born in Jhagar, a remote village in the central state of Madya Pradesh, India. The twins were born within an hour of the mother arriving at the UNICEF-supported birthing centre. The babies made it safely into the world because Sanju Kaim, a nursing midwife, was there to help (see "Attended Births Save Lives," page 15).



David Morley visits a child-friendly space in Dagahaley Camp, Kenya.

Each year, UNICEF goes farther and farther to reach the world's most vulnerable children. We do this because it is the most productive and the most cost-effective method to save children's lives. In remote and hard-to-reach communities around the world, many children struggle to hold on to life. Ensuring their survival is UNICEF's mission—and your generous donations are what enable us to go the distance.

Perhaps nowhere is UNICEF's reach more apparent than in the South Pacific (see "Going the Distance for Children at Risk," page 8). Here, UNICEF staff battle tsunamis, drought, earthquakes and rising sea levels to deliver life-saving programs and supplies to vulnerable children in 14 different island nations covering an area over 30 million square kilometres. Dr. Isiye Ndombi and his team conquer long distances, harsh conditions and numerous other hurdles to accomplish their goals—building schools, supplying fresh water and guarding against child exploitation to name just a few.

And the barriers UNICEF overcomes to reach children in need are not just geographic. Sometimes it's about how we work, not just where we go. For example, UNICEF is committed to finding new approaches to help the world's many impoverished indigenous communities (see "Reaching Indigenous Communities," page 12). We strive to lift children like 15-year-old Dora Alonzo out of poverty, while ensuring traditions and customs are respected and preserved.

UNICEF is active in more countries than any other organization. Our determination and reach are unparalleled. Because nowhere is too far to go to make sure a child survives.

David Morley
President and CEO
UNICEF Canada



UNICEF is the world's leading child-focused humanitarian and development agency. Through innovative programs and advocacy work, we save children's lives and secure their rights in virtually every country. Our global reach, unparalleled influence on policymakers, and diverse partnerships make us an instrumental force in shaping a world in which no child dies of a preventable cause. UNICEF is supported entirely by voluntary donations and helps all children, regardless of race, religion or politics.

FOR EVERY CHILD

For Every Child
UNICEF Canada Magazine Winter 2012

For Every Child is a bi-annual magazine published by UNICEF Canada. We welcome your comments and suggestions at foreverychild@unicef.ca.

Editor: Jennifer Stokes
Researcher: Benita Hansraj
Contributing Writer: Jennifer Story
Translation Coordinator: Isabelle Larouche

Photo on the cover:
©UNICEF/Guatemala/2011-01
An indigenous Guatemalan girl stands in a courtyard. UNICEF is working tirelessly in Guatemala to ensure all children have equal access to critical resources, including accessible education.

For more information about UNICEF Canada call 1 800 567 4483 or email info@unicef.ca. Visit our website at unicef.ca.

UNICEF Canada
1100-2200 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4S 2C6



UNICEF For Every Child Magazine Winter 2012



8

UNICEF Pacific takes extraordinary measures to reach vulnerable children in the South Pacific. Full story on page 8.

© UNICEF/NYHQ/2006-25538/Giacomo Pirozzi

Features

- 4/ HAVE SCHOOL, WILL TRAVEL**
Nomadic children get an education thanks to mobile schools
- 8/ GOING THE DISTANCE FOR CHILDREN AT RISK**
Geographical hurdles don't stop UNICEF Pacific from getting the job done
- 12/ REACHING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**
UNICEF responds with tailored approaches so no community is left behind
- 15/ ATTENDED BIRTHS SAVE LIVES**
Health sub-centres reduce maternal and infant mortality rates in rural India

Departments

- 6/ Q & A WITH PAUL FISZMAN**
An interview with the Deputy Director of UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre
- 13/ IN CANADA**
UNICEF Canada traces its beginnings to Halloween campaign
- 14/ SPOTLIGHT ON SUPPORTERS**
KIWANIS and UNICEF team up to eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus
- 16/ EMERGENCY RESPONSE**
Pakistan and the Horn of Africa on the long road to recovery
- 18/ IN THE FIELD**
The UNICEF supply chain provides lifesaving products to vulnerable children worldwide

Have School, Will Travel

Nomadic children get an education thanks to mobile schools



IF WE TOOK A SNAPSHOT OF THE STATE OF EDUCATION ACROSS THE GLOBE, THE IMAGE WOULD SHOCK MANY OF US. Current estimates place the number of out-of-school children at 93 million—more than double the entire population of Canada. The majority of these children are girls, and almost 80 percent of them live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

The good news is that the school attendance rate is rising worldwide, and that is thanks in part to UNICEF's focus on reaching the hardest to reach—the most productive and cost-effective way to save children's lives. To meet its target of all children in school by 2015, UNICEF employs innovative strategies to get kids in school and keep them

there—work that couldn't happen without the generous support of donors like you.

One amazing success story can be found in the Sudan, where nomadic communities comprise a full 8 percent of the country's 45 million citizens.

These communities often fear that sending their children to school will result in an end to their traditional lifestyle and practices. But that fear is slowly subsiding, and today a decade-old partnership between the government, UNICEF and the country's nomadic populations is bearing fruit. The most tangible outcome of that agreement is the introduction of mobile schools that have been successfully established in several states traversed by the country's nomadic population.



A group of children play activity games in front of a ger. The traditional tent, made of felt, is used as a mobile kindergarten in the desert of Mongolia. These tents are able to move location as the herder families go from winter to spring pastures for their animals.

© UNICEF/MGLA2007-00665/Holmes

The first mobile schools in Darfur and Kordofan were set up in tents or temporary structures made of straw and bamboo. Some simply used the shade of large trees. Besides educational and teaching materials, the schools were equipped with solar lamps to facilitate evening classes for both children and adults.

Today, there are more than 200,000 nomadic children enrolled in some 1,500 government nomadic schools in almost every state in Sudan. It's a measure of how things have changed.

In White Nile State, located in the centre of Sudan, the first 109 students to complete their primary levels have just graduated, and with impressive marks. Fifteen-year-old Zahra, now a proud graduate, was one of the first students to be enrolled. "I remember that when I was six years old, my parents told me there was going to be a school in our community and that I was going to be one of the students," Zahra recalls. "I was so excited!"

"We are very proud of the excellent results achieved by our children," says Elomda Elhaj Mohamed Ageid, the community leader.

Sudan's success, in fact, has inspired officials in neighbouring Eritrea to adopt a similar approach.

Eritrea's education authorities, with support from UNICEF, are developing a plan for their own nomadic populations. They have recently completed a study tour of Sudan to provide themselves with an up-close-and-personal look at successful mobile schools in action.

The first mobile schools in Darfur and Kordofan were set up in tents or temporary structures made of straw and bamboo. Some simply used the shade of large trees.

They observed, for instance, the various kinds of inventive school structures—including tents, iron frames covered by grass mats or twigs, and mud-brick or cement buildings—being employed in the Sudan.

"Flexibility is the key for nomadic education," said Dr. Hamid El-Bashir, a UNICEF representative in Eritrea. "No one size fits all because each nomadic community has its own social, economic and environment conditions, and its own traditions."

Did you know?

Worldwide, only 60 percent of children of the appropriate age attend secondary school. In sub-Saharan Africa, that number drops to only 25 percent.



Interview with Paul Fizman, Deputy Director of UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre

Speaking from UNICEF headquarters in New York City, Paul discusses his work with the information and communications hub that coordinates effective and immediate emergency response to children worldwide



WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, UNICEF IS THERE, NO MATTER HOW severe the circumstances. The sooner UNICEF can respond, the more children survive. It's that simple. This is why UNICEF created an Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN), located at the UNICEF headquarters in New York City. OPSCEN is the eyes and ears of UNICEF, gathering and disseminating information on both natural and man-made disasters, and ensuring a co-ordinated, rapid and effective response to help children at risk.

For Every Child recently spoke with Paul Fizman, Deputy Director of OPSCEN, at his office in New York City.

When and why was OPSCEN created?

OPSCEN was created in 1996 to improve our emergency response by better managing the rapid flow of information. Staffed by two volunteers, it began 24/7 operations during the Kosovo crisis in 1999 and has maintained uninterrupted services ever since. OPSCEN now has 11 full-time staff.

What does OPSCEN do that country offices can't do for themselves?

OPSCEN serves as UNICEF's information and communications hub for emergencies. It ensures efficient and effective decision-making. We take a major burden off the country office so it can focus on the front line work of saving lives. Most country offices are already stretched

to capacity. OPSCEN has all this experience and expertise, and we're always on standby to assist country offices at a moment's notice.

How has emergency response improved with the creation of OPSCEN?

It has improved the speed of our response. Within minutes of a large emergency, OPSCEN's systems kick into high gear. These systems include information updates, humanitarian maps and geopolitical analysis, as well as teleconference and videoconference links among the country and regional offices and headquarters. OPSCEN maintains an extensive database of key personnel throughout UNICEF and across other UN agencies so that we are ready to pull the right people together at a moment's notice. These efficiencies translate into lives saved in an emergency. For this reason, the OPSCEN team takes even the smallest administrative details very seriously.

Can you give us a recent example of OPSCEN's work speeding up or markedly improving UNICEF's response?

Immediately following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, OPSCEN provided focused support to the country office, which was itself badly affected by the disaster. OPSCEN stepped in to become a kind of satellite office, managing a large part of the communications. We ensured the country,



In the town of Sam Ouangja, Central African Republic, girls sit together in class at a UNICEF-supported school in a camp for refugees from neighbouring Sudan.

© UNICEF/NYHQ2008-0590/Holtz

regional and headquarter offices were all communicating optimally to make life-saving decisions about critical issues like supplies, funding and staffing. OPSCEN's support allowed the Haitian office to expand its programs to reach more vulnerable children even while its own communications infrastructure was so badly affected.

How does OPSCEN gather its intelligence?

OPSCEN gets its intelligence from a broad range of sources, ranging from news agencies—both global and local—to academic institutions, think tanks, security organizations, UN agencies and other UN emergency centres such as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Situation Centre. OPSCEN also maintains communication with field staff for their unique perspective on geopolitical, humanitarian and security developments.

Why is it important that the office be open 24/7?

It is critical that UNICEF staff working around the world be able to receive the support they need at any time, particularly for staff working in countries with higher security risks. OPSCEN is the "first responder" for any security incident affecting UNICEF staff around the world. UNICEF operates in countries affected by war precisely because the needs of children are so great in these countries—but of course there are security risks involved.

Thanks to OPSCEN's 24/7 operations, UNICEF staff can access immediate support and follow-up for any kind of security incident. Many colleagues have reported to us that they feel very assured to have this "lifeline," and we feel privileged to provide it.

Are there any examples of children you've helped that stand out?

There are many examples of OPSCEN making a measurable difference to child survival. Our team celebrates every one. One poignant example was when we supported the repatriation of children abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army from Sudan. We helped them return home to Uganda by assisting with coordination between the two country offices. It was a relatively simple thing for us to execute, but with a huge impact for children.

Anything else you think is crucial for our audience to know about your work?

OPSCEN staff work shifts: days, nights, weekends and holidays. These individuals give so much to UNICEF and make significant personal sacrifices to do so. I would like to extend my appreciation to this incredibly dynamic and compassionate team and thank them for the great work they are doing to help children survive. Along with our donors, they believe in UNICEF's commitment to reach every child.

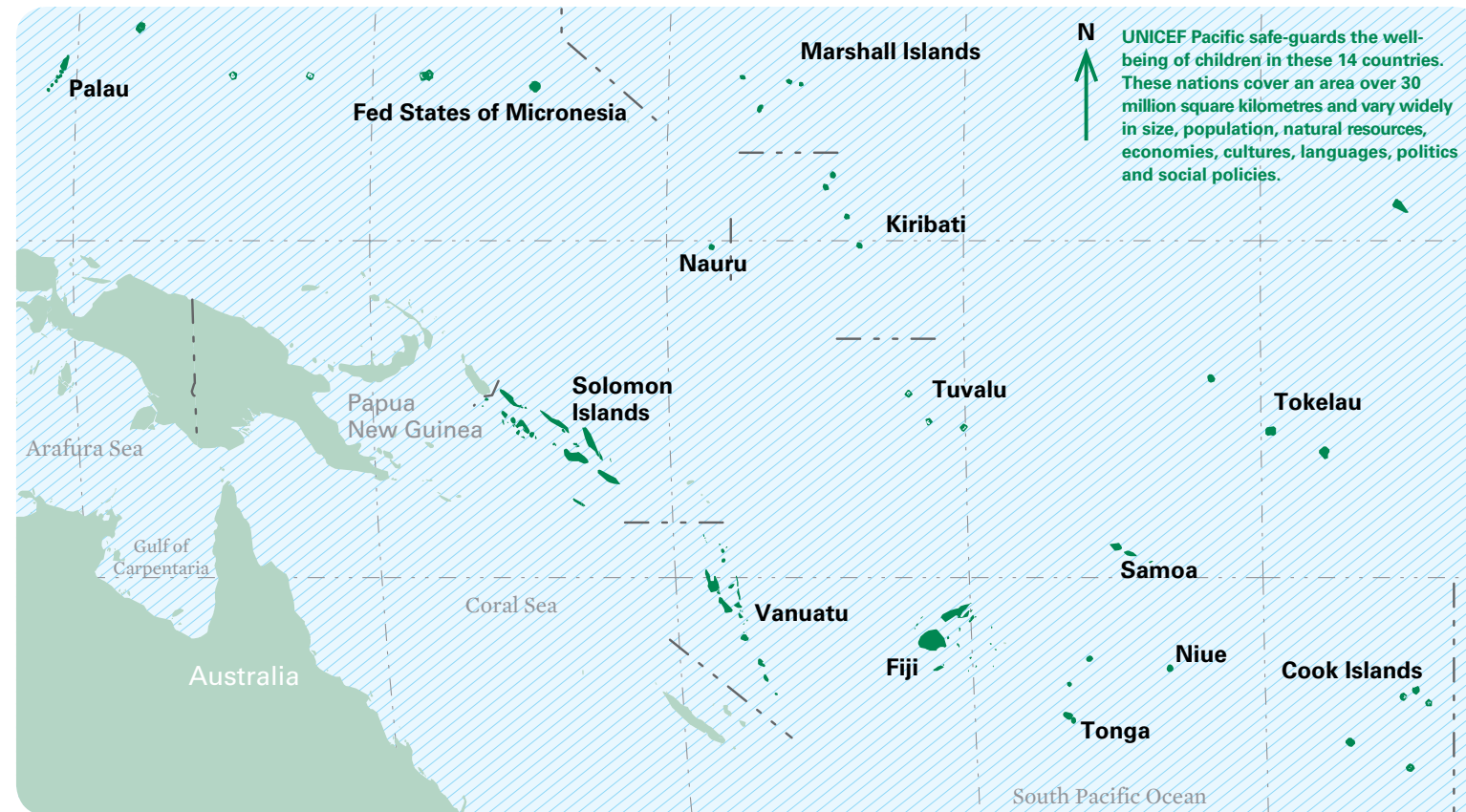
UNICEF is one of the partners and supporters of International Children's Day. In Honiara, Solomon Islands, people celebrate with a parade, speeches on child rights, performances, games and art workshops.

GOING THE DISTANCE FOR CHILDREN AT RISK



Luisa, 4, and Nathan, 4, play with an alphabet puzzle during a kindergarten class at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

© UNICEF/NYHQ2006-25338/Giacomo Prozzi



UNICEF Pacific safe-guards the well-being of children in these 14 countries. These nations cover an area over 30 million square kilometres and vary widely in size, population, natural resources, economies, cultures, languages, politics and social policies.

Perhaps nowhere is UNICEF's extraordinary efforts to help vulnerable children more evident than in the South Pacific.

The staff at UNICEF Pacific is faced with a unique set of circumstances: they must safe-guard the well-being of children in 14 different countries covering an area over 30 million square kilometres and spanning numerous distinct cultural groups. The nations that comprise the region vary widely in size, population, natural resources, economies, cultures, colonial heritages, languages, politics and social policies.

The region is home to some 2.3 million people, 900,000 of which are children. Some 400,000 of these children live in the Republics of Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Samoa—five countries that are listed by the United Nations as least developed nations.

The UNICEF Pacific representative here is Dr. Isiyé Ndombi. He is responsible for managing the staff and programs for the region. Against this complicated backdrop, he and his team develop plans to advance children's rights—and then they put those plans into action.

Beyond the logistical hurdles posed by the Pacific's demographics and geography, there are a number of other significant factors that challenge Dr. Ndombi and his team.

"The high proportion of children puts phenomenal pressure on health care, education and other services," says Ndombi. "Some islands, though, are experiencing a decrease in population due to out-migration. As more Pacific Islanders move to the cities and urban centres, the region's tradition of 'subsistence affluence' is quickly being eroded.

Pacific Islanders are now struggling with urban poverty, undernutrition, youth unemployment and crime."

Another obstacle that Dr. Ndombi and his team must overcome is the large distances within and between countries. "This makes UNICEF's work here more costly and time consuming than in other areas of the globe," says Ndombi. The main office is in Suva, Fiji, with satellite offices in Vanuatu, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands.

A third challenge facing the team is that the islands are regularly confronted with a high frequency of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, flooding and droughts.

A category 4 cyclone can potentially take a country five to ten years back in terms of development gains. UNICEF Pacific works closely with communities, governments and partners to map disaster risks. They must prepare for disasters in advance in order to lessen the impact when they inevitably come.

The Pacific region, perhaps more than any other region, is confronted with the consequences of climate change. "Here, you come face-to-face with families and communities that have already lost homes, land and fresh water to rising sea levels," explains Ndombi. "For children and young people it is not a future issue—they are experiencing the

Did you know?

In the Pacific, the majority of children with disabilities never attend school and have limited access to health care. Two-thirds of these childhood disabilities could be prevented.

A category 4 cyclone can potentially take a country five to ten years back in terms of development gains.

consequences of climate change today. Children and young people in the low-lying islands, such as Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu, have to grapple with the potential total disappearance of their country."

Still, despite these hurdles, the goals here are no different than in other parts of the world—to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families now, and for the future. Thanks to your generosity, UNICEF Pacific has made great strides in the following program areas:

EDUCATION: Children are often forced to miss school when natural disasters strike. When a tsunami struck Solomon Islands in 2010, in spite of widespread landslides, flash floods and earthquakes, UNICEF Pacific responded quickly, erecting temporary schools for children so they might feel secure in a protective environment.

HEALTH AND SANITATION: Immunization is vital to protecting children from various killer diseases like measles, polio, tuberculosis, tetanus, whooping cough and meningitis. UNICEF Pacific vaccinates roughly 60,000 children each and every year, providing them with the chance to grow up healthy and strong.

CHILD RIGHTS: A number of countries in the Pacific have among the highest population growth rates in the world, and their populations are expected to double by 2050.

With the surge of children in the Pacific over the coming years, UNICEF's critical work in improving birth registration services; modifying and enforcing national legislation involving children as victims, offenders and witnesses; and improving interagency coordination for child welfare is essential to ensure every child survives and thrives.

Some of the staff here observe that in delivering these programs across such a huge geographic area, the phrase "what a small world" is spoken with surprising frequency. This "small world" feeling stems from islanders' neighbourliness and commitment to their community. Many Pacific islanders know each other either through marriage or because they attended higher education together. Those social networks and relationships often make it easier to figure out how to meet ambitious goals to improve the lives of children across 14 different countries.

The vision of UNICEF is to reach the hardest to reach, to go wherever it takes. Your extraordinary UNICEF Pacific Team lives that vision every day. To Dr. Ndombi and his staff, it's just part of getting the job done.

Reaching indigenous communities

UNICEF responds with tailored approaches so no community is left behind



Two children from an indigenous community stand arm-in-arm in a class in Ban Pho School in remote Lao Cai Province, Viet Nam.

© UNICEF/NYHQ2009-0234/Esteve

DORA ALONZO, 15, IS WEARING A BEAUTIFUL, HAND-WOVEN

dress in yellow, pink and blue. “We’re girls—we like to play, we like to laugh, we like to sing, we like to enjoy life,” she says on the eve of a gathering at the Children’s Museum in Guatemala City.

The gathering marked the publication of *Mirame: Situación de la Niña Indígena en Guatemala*, a book about the reality of indigenous girls’ lives in the Central American country.

Dora is a member of Guatemala’s vast Mayan indigenous community that, together with the smaller Xinca and Garifuna groups, make up over 40 percent of the country’s population.

Dora’s joyous description of her friends masks some grim statistics: indigenous women contribute to the country’s high rates of maternal mortality, while the girls spend the least time in school. Overall, the nation’s indigenous people fare less well than the general population in education, health, nutrition and protection. For girls, the disparity is even more acute.

Mirame is a joint effort of UNICEF Guatemala and La Defensoría de la Mujer Indígena (DEMI), a non-governmental organization that promotes the rights of indigenous women and girls. It’s one of the many ways UNICEF strives to improve the lives of indigenous children, while also respecting their cultures and traditions.

Our planet is home to 370 million indigenous people living in 90 different countries. Each has a unique culture,

history, language and connection to the land. Unfortunately, indigenous people also account for 15 percent of the world’s poor and one-third of the 900 million people living in extreme poverty. Indigenous children are less likely than other children to be in school and often face a lifetime of discrimination and exclusion, deepening their disadvantages and perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

UNICEF’s work with children in indigenous communities is guided by the United Nation’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted in 2007 and the key international instrument for promoting and protecting their rights. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, UNICEF is a global leader in finding unique, tailored approaches to address the needs of the world’s indigenous communities, no matter where that takes us.

In Viet Nam, responding to the unique needs of indigenous children means a focus on language and education. Made up of 54

distinct ethnic groups, Viet Nam is a diverse society where UNICEF and its partners in the Ministry of Education have been actively developing a program to encourage greater school enrolment and reduce drop-out rates. Nurturing mother tongue-based bilingual education is seen as a key part of this effort.

And it’s clear that the project, involving thousands of primary and pre-primary schools, is working. As classes get under way in the Ban Pho School, children in their elaborately decorated traditional dress all vie to answer questions posed by the teacher.

“If they only learn in Vietnamese,” says teacher Ly Mui Xuan, “school is foreign to them and they often drop out. But learning in their own language from pre-school is a good foundation.”

Did you know?

In Guatemala one out of two children is malnourished, but in indigenous areas chronic malnutrition can reach as high as 80 percent in children under five years of age.



National UNICEF Day

UNICEF Canada traces its beginnings to Halloween campaign

Enthusiastic volunteers wear UNICEF boxes to raise awareness of National UNICEF Day in downtown Toronto this past October.

BORN IN BEIRUT, LEBANON, DURING HER COUNTRY’S CIVIL WAR, Bayan learned first-hand the suffering children face during conflict. She lived in bomb shelters, searched for water—even lost family members in the fighting.

Today, Bayan is a school teacher in Canada. She has a husband, children of her own—and speaks four languages. Between the horror of war and the peace she now enjoys, she found hope. UNICEF helped her do it.

“One day UNICEF gave us paper and pencils,” Bayan recalls. “I remember sitting with them, drawing for hours. These were tools for our education, but through them I could finally express how I felt.”

Drawing on her experiences, Bayan now works proudly with UNICEF Canada, sharing her story and helping others see the value of education, here and abroad.

One of the ways UNICEF ensures child survival is by educating the next generation. Education provides children with opportunity and hope, and it improves their odds of escaping poverty. UNICEF works at both the community and government level to ensure that every child—regardless of gender, ethnicity, background or circumstances—has access to a quality education. With a primary focus on the world’s most disadvantaged children, UNICEF is determined that all children will have a lifetime of opportunities.

UNICEF Canada was founded by individuals concerned about children and their survival. They believed in UNICEF’s mandate to help vulnerable children get the education they deserve. The Canadian UNICEF Committee was formed in 1955 with the organization of the first Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign, an initiative aimed at getting kids

around the world in school. From this simple Trick-or-Treat program grew a mass movement that led the Government of Canada to declare October 31 National UNICEF Day.

National UNICEF Day has evolved into a month-long campaign involving schools, corporations and community groups. It has become an engagement tool that brings classes and whole schools together in an effort to support other children around the world. Thanks to the generosity of Canadians from coast to coast, UNICEF Canada met their 2011 goal of raising \$2 million—enough to provide the gift of education to up to five million of the world’s most vulnerable children.

As part of the campaign, more than 2,000 Canadian schools received educational resources to teach children the value of global citizenship and how they can help children just like them living around the world. Because every child has the right to learn.

Did you know?

A small amount of money can go a long way to help a child get the education they deserve:

- \$10 provides pencils and exercise books for 20 students
- \$32 provides a soccer ball and pump
- \$86 provides a bicycle

KIWANIS and UNICEF join hands to eliminate MNT

Project aims to raise \$110 million by 2015



Village health worker Tilrupa Pokharel (left) pauses on a mountain pass in Nepal. She walks from village to village visiting pregnant women and adolescent girls in their homes.

© UNICEF/NYHQ2007-1495/Khemka

MOST CANADIANS ONLY THINK ABOUT TETANUS WHEN THEY GET THEIR SHOTS AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE.

But, worldwide, Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) takes the lives of up to 59,000 newborn babies each year. Since 1990, an estimated 10 million women have died from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Even worse, MNT is entirely preventable.

Neonatal tetanus (NT) occurs as a result of unhygienic birth practices and has a fatality rate of 95 percent. It has excruciating symptoms: spasms, arching of the spine and painful convulsions. A baby suffering from tetanus becomes highly sensitive to light, sound and touch. Even a mother's voice can trigger convulsions. Maternal tetanus (MT) strikes women during pregnancy, and the symptoms are equally devastating.

In 1989, the 42nd World Health Assembly called for the global eradication of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus by 1995. By 1999, 58 countries were still considered at risk for the disease. Today, though much progress has been made, 39 countries have yet to achieve the goal of eradicating tetanus.

These statistics are exactly why Kiwanis International pledged to raise US \$110 million by 2015 for the Eliminate Project, the largest single pledge ever for global MNT elimination efforts. These funds will ultimately protect at

Neonatal tetanus has excruciating symptoms: spasms, arching of the spine and painful convulsions.

least 61 million women and their future babies who are at risk of this deadly disease. Kiwanis is currently mobilizing its 600,000 adult and youth members in over 60 countries worldwide to ensure this goal becomes a reality.

The funds will go to delivering tetanus vaccines to every woman of reproductive age and improving hygienic practices during childbirth.

"In the past, I have seen many children becoming infected because we had no way of receiving this vaccine and preventing this disease," a villager from rural Laos told UNICEF.

"Since this campaign has come to our village, I have witnessed a change in the health of our community."

"Time and time again, Kiwanis has shown its commitment to UNICEF and children around the world," says Susan Larkin, Director of Community Engagement for UNICEF Canada. "Kiwanis members know how to get the job done, and we are proud to support their fundraising efforts every step of the way."



Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of clubs and members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children.



Attended births save lives

Health sub-centres reduce maternal and infant mortality rates in rural India

SANJU KAIM GOT AN UNEXPECTED BONUS ON HER FIRST DAY as a nurse midwife in Jhagar, in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, India. Alone in the village's small health centre, she delivered not one baby girl—but twins!

Sanju had been nervous. Then 23, she was responsible for the health and well-being of young mothers who relied on her to bring new life into the world.

"I studied hard to be a midwife and was well prepared to do this job," Sanju recalls. "But I admit that I was surprised that day."

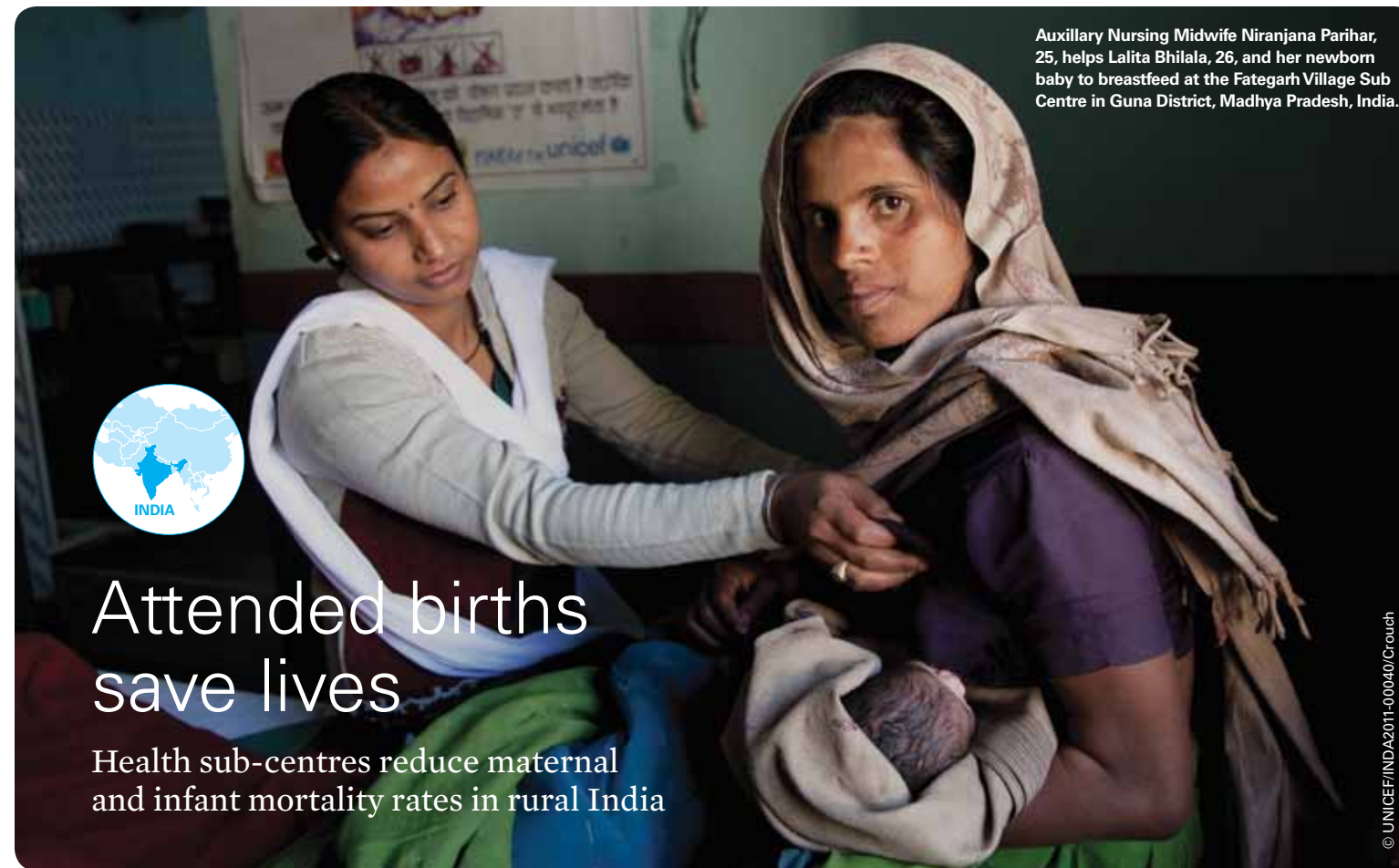
The twins' mother arrived on the "Janani Express" (Mother's Express), the centre's free minivan service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. She had been travelling for an hour on rural roads from the village of Ratanagar, 20 kilometres away. By the time she arrived, she was fully dilated and barely made it to the delivery room. Moments later, Sanju was holding the babies, who each weighed barely 2 kilograms.

"I was so happy to do this," Sanju says now. "I have no regrets about joining this field. It gives me a lot of pride."

Sanju is just one of dozens of young midwives striving to make a difference in Madhya Pradesh, where infant and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in India.

Thanks to our generous donors, UNICEF and the state government here are creating a network of health sub-centres offering round-the-clock safe delivery services to women from remote villages who would otherwise be at greater risk giving birth at home.

Auxiliary Nursing Midwife Niranjana Parihar, 25, helps Lalita Bhilala, 26, and her newborn baby to breastfeed at the Fategarh Village Sub Centre in Guna District, Madhya Pradesh, India.



© UNICEF/INDA2011-00040/Crouch

India accounts for a quarter of the world's maternal deaths. Only 53 percent of women in India have their births assisted by a skilled attendant.

The two most critical interventions for safe motherhood are to ensure deliveries are attended by trained attendants and to refer the mothers for emergency care as needed. Whether it's a doctor, nurse or midwife, attendants must be able to handle normal deliveries safely, be able to recognize complications and be prepared to refer the mother for emergency care. It is crucial that these emergency services be located within safe travel distance so that they are accessible to the women who need them.

In Sanju's maternity ward, new mother Reena Dhakad, 20, smiles from underneath a heavy blanket as she tends to her baby boy, born just two hours earlier.

Her mother-in-law, Ramkali Dhakad, 49, says the sub-centre services are far superior to the days when women gave birth on the floor at home. If mother or child had difficulties, many died, she says.

"Previously we had no choice," says Ms. Dhakad. "Everyone should come to these hospitals."

Did you know?

Globally, every year over 500,000 women die of pregnancy-related causes, and 99 percent of these occur in developing countries.

Shama, 3, stands outside her family's makeshift tent in Sindh Province, Pakistan. Shama is sick with diarrhea, a potentially serious condition.

ONE CANADIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Pakistan and the Horn of Africa on the long road to recovery



UNICEF staffer Chris Tidey has seen a number of UNICEF emergency operations in action.

This year, Chris visited both the Horn of Africa and the flood-affected areas in Pakistan. He spoke to us from Pakistan about what he has seen and learned.

What unique challenges does UNICEF face in Pakistan?

More than 5 million people have been affected by this year's floods, in an area still recovering from last year's devastation. In a sense, we are dealing with an emergency on top of an emergency. As a result, the recent flooding has exacerbated problems like malnutrition and access to health care and education. There are no quick fixes, but UNICEF is committed to helping Pakistan's children for however long it takes. Fortunately, UNICEF donors are committed to helping, too.

What creative strategies have you seen employed by UNICEF?

The latest floods have damaged infrastructure essential to the delivery of healthcare services for children and families. UNICEF has responded by going mobile. We support 30 mobile and 30 static health teams focused on basic maternal, newborn and child health assistance. We also support 90 mobile immunization teams that have administered almost 175,000 vaccines against measles and polio. As well, UNICEF is training Lady Health Workers (public health educators), who will focus on treating diseases like diarrhea, malaria and pneumonia.

What do you see as UNICEF's unique contribution in the Horn of Africa?

The underlying causes of this emergency—increased global food prices, successive years of failed rains, conflict and



A child rests on a cot at a nutrition stabilization centre at the District Hospital in the town of Lodwar, Kenya.



A health extension worker speaks to Berida Jateni about her malnourished 10-month-old daughter, Firdoze, in Meleb Village, Ethiopia.

political instability—are complex and not readily solved. The challenge is compounded by the massive outflow of refugees from Somalia to the other affected countries. Within Somalia itself, ongoing conflict can hinder humanitarian access.

Fortunately, UNICEF is working with partners on the ground in Somalia to deliver lifesaving services and supplies to vulnerable children. Donors have also really stepped up to try and meet the enormous demand for basic necessities.

The political instability in Somalia prevents many humanitarian agencies from operating on the same scale as UNICEF can. We support 800 feeding centres, reaching 17,000 severely malnourished children every month. Nearly 14,000 families inside Somalia are receiving monthly food rations through UNICEF, while more than 12,000 hot meals are being provided every day to families near the borders with Kenya and Ethiopia. Thanks to UNICEF's construction and repair of water systems, 1.2 million people are receiving clean water.

Shama's Story: Pakistan



Lado Shero holds her three-year-old granddaughter, Shama, tenderly to her body as she sits on the ground in a makeshift roadside shelter in the flood-affected Badin District, in southern Sindh Province.

Shama has contracted diarrhea and has been vomiting. She has received medicine, which is helping, but her family's situation remains dire.

Lado explained that her family home was destroyed when the monsoon rains came last month. Grabbing her family, Lado trudged 1.5 kilometres through flood waters to the nearest high ground.

With no source of clean water in the vicinity, the family was forced to drink contaminated water. But, now, UNICEF has set up a 1,500-litre water bladder just down the road, which is filled by a water tanker twice daily. The clean water supply will make a positive difference in the health of children at the make-shift camps occupied by Shama and other families like hers.

Mohamed's Story: Somalia



Mohamed, 2, weighed just over 5 kilograms when he was brought to Benadir Hospital in Mogadishu.

Due to prolonged drought, Mohamed's family lost all of their livestock back home in central Somalia. They are just one of tens of thousands of families across Somalia who have fled to Mogadishu, which is now home to 470,000 displaced persons. About 100,000 people have recently arrived in the city, escaping famine and drought.

Mohamed was admitted to the hospital's UNICEF-supported stabilization centre. The hospital staff addressed his severe malnutrition with therapeutic formulas and round-the-clock medical care. His weight has increased to 9 kilograms, and a nurse says he will soon be discharged from inpatient care.

"We now live in Badbaado camp for the displaced, where we intend to stay because we don't have any means to survive back home," said Mohamed's mother. Badbaado camp shelters nearly 30,000 displaced persons, including thousands of children just like Mohamed.

Two-year-old Godson Noel, who suffered from cholera symptoms, is now home with his mother, Igenice, after being released from the medical centre in L'Estere, Haiti.

© UNICEF/HIA2010-00752/Dormino



Moving Mountains

How UNICEF's supplies reach vulnerable children worldwide

LATE ONE COOL JANUARY NIGHT, AFTER AN EXHAUSTING three-day drive across the country, a UNICEF cargo truck safely offloads emergency supplies for nearly 20,000 displaced people in western Côte d'Ivoire.

The supplies were stored temporarily in a secure UNICEF warehouse prior to being distributed in displacement camps located in three nearby towns.

"Normally the drive from Abidjan to Man takes 12 hours, but parts of the route are now classified as off-limits," said UNICEF Côte d'Ivoire Officer-in-Charge Sylvie Dossou.

"Our truck driver, Konate, eventually found a way," she adds, "including crossing a dirt track where it was really slow going—seven hours to drive 136 kilometres! I am very proud of him. Now these emergency supplies will reach the vulnerable children and families who desperately need them."

The story of the UNICEF supply chain is really about every child and family that UNICEF helps. Whether it's lifesaving food, vaccines and water pumps, or bicycles and school supplies, all the goods UNICEF needs to save lives has to be made, moved and distributed. It's a massive, complex web of people and products that is designed to get what's needed to the people who need it, right when they need it the most.

More than 900 people make up the UNICEF supply community. They manage the procurement, distribution and delivery of over 5,000 products to address the needs of children. In 2010, UNICEF procured \$1.955 billion worth of supplies from all over the world.

The primary warehouse in Copenhagen, Denmark, covers an area equivalent to three football fields. Five additional



Men load emergency medical supplies at a UNICEF warehouse in the port city of Gonaives, Haiti.

© UNICEF/NYHQ2010-2448/Dormino



Workers offload boxes of UNICEF relief items from an airplane at the international airport in Tbilisi, Georgia.

© UNICEF/NYHQ2008-0698/Volpe

supply hubs have also been established to ensure that, in emergencies, children and their families receive needed supplies quickly, with minimum transport costs. These hubs—located in Ghana, Cameroon, Dubai, Panama and China—together with the Copenhagen operation, contain sufficient emergency supplies to meet the needs of 250,000 people for three weeks.

Simply put, without its intricate network of suppliers, warehouses and delivery systems, UNICEF would be incapable of rapid emergency response. And it's all made possible through the generosity of donors like you.

But supply is not all about big buildings, massive shipments and cargo planes. For some products, like Plumpy'Nut™, local is where it's at. Plumpy'Nut is a Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). Before RUTF, the main treatment for the 20 million children around the world suffering from severe acute malnutrition was therapeutic milk administered at a hospital or feeding centre. Because Plumpy'Nut has a 24-month shelf life, it is possible to give parents a one—or two—week supply to feed their children at home.

Plumpy'Nut is made from peanuts, powdered sugar, oil, vitamins and minerals, and it comes in foil packets. It's also heavy and bulky. Air freight—commonly used for emergency response—increases the cost of Plumpy'Nut by 100 percent. So it only makes sense to focus on developing a localized supply. In 2005, 100 percent of the Plumpy'Nut supply came from France. Today, over 23 percent of the supply comes from 12 different countries around the world. This way, UNICEF can feed more children quickly with less cost, and ultimately help more children survive and thrive.

Local procurement saves time and money, and also contributes to local economies recovering from crisis by employing local workers. For example, when the earthquake devastated Haiti, it also devastated the supply hub there. A new one was quickly set up, and in no time 50 workers,

all local, were loading trucks with hygiene kits for immediate dispatch to quake-stricken communities in Port-au-Prince and Jacmel.

These workers had all been directly affected by the disaster. "Yet," says UNICEF Logistics Specialist Sebastien Laplanche, "they show up every day, eager to move the supplies as fast as possible to other Haitians in need."

Godson Noel's Story Haiti



It is late morning in the small community of L'Estere, Haiti. Godson Noel and his mother, Igenice, just returned home from the hospital to their single-room shack fashioned from clay. His siblings have been eagerly awaiting their arrival. Just yesterday, they weren't sure they would see their brother again.

Igenice buys their water at the neighbouring well for 50 cents a gallon. "I never treated the water," she says. "But at the hospital they told me to treat with chlorine before using it. I'm really scared. My young son was sick with cholera. This could have happened to all my children."

In Haiti, more than 50 percent of the population lives on less than \$1.25 per day. Money for fuel to boil water or for chlorine tablets is not always an option.

That is why UNICEF has been distributing millions of chlorine tablets, also known as Aquatabs, throughout Haiti. They are one of the hundreds of products the UNICEF Supply Division deliver quickly to humanitarian disasters.

The primary warehouse in Copenhagen, Denmark, covers an area equivalent to three football fields.



© UNICEF/NYHQ2009-0870/Brian Skol

YOUR WILL IS THEIR FUTURE

A purposeful life deserves a lasting legacy.

The decision you make today can shape an ever-brighter future for the world's children for generations to come. Resolve to let your spirit of hope and giving live on into the future. Choose to make a charitable bequest in your will to UNICEF Canada.

To learn more, contact bequests@unicef.ca or call Jackie Jones, Legacy Manager at 1 800 567 4483.

unicef 
canada

unicef.ca/bequest