Education in Emergencies: Tsunami-Stricken Indonesia

In September 2018, a powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake and tsunami devastated the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia. Eleven-year-old Sophia Angelica Majid remembers running to escape the waves that engulfed the shoreline.

Sophia Angelica lost her home that day, and her treasured books, games, and laptop full of homework notes. But one month later, her principal handed her a UNICEF bag filled with brand new school supplies. Once again, she had exercise books, pens, rulers, an eraser, a sharpener, and crayons just for her. Something so simple offered hope for her future.

Sophia’s school was one of the first to benefit from the shipment of 450 school tents and 300 School-in-a-Box Kits that UNICEF delivered to over 1,400 affected schools, more than 184,000 children and nearly 13,000 teachers in Sulawesi. School-in-a-Box Kits provide a variety of educational resources so students can continue learning, even after a disaster strikes.

Kids Boost Immunity (KBI) provides free science, social studies and health lessons developed by teachers to inspire digital-age students. The 35 online lessons and quizzes for grades 4-12 include how to evaluate information sources, germs and infections, and the immune system.

The best part is, for every student that gets 80% on a digital quiz after a lesson, KBI donates a vaccine for a child through UNICEF Canada, boosting immunity worldwide.

Students at Senator Reid Elementary in Surrey, BC have earned an amazing 3,255 vaccines in support of UNICEF Canada.

Teacher Tanis Filiatrault says, “As students gained knowledge on the importance of vaccinations in helping the marginalized, their motivation transitioned from healthy competition between classes to altruism.” Kids Boost Immunity is a national program that is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the BC Ministry of Health.

UNICEF, as the world’s largest buyer of vaccines is pleased to be the beneficiary of the quiz-solving efforts of students across the country and encourages more students to learn more about how vaccines work.

Quizzes Save Lives:

Zara, Kids Boost Immunity quiz participant

Did You Know?

Education can be a lifeline for children in emergencies. Attending school can provide a sense of routine and normalcy for a child, even when the situation around them is unstable. The classroom can protect students from violence and recruitment into armed groups.

More about Kids Boost Immunity

Find out more and sign your school up at www.kidsboostimmunity.com

For every child, an education.

Thanks to you!

A child’s voice can be a commanding force for change. As an organization dedicated to supporting children’s rights, UNICEF listens to young people and empowers them as advocates to help shape their futures. That is why I am especially grateful for the support we receive from students in more than 120 schools and community groups across Canada on National UNICEF Day.

Thanks to your hard work, and with the help of your teachers and community leaders, your schools and groups raised $64,161 in 2018. This money will make a real and lasting difference in the lives of children by supporting education programs across the globe. And when raising the money, you created more awareness of the right all children have to a quality education. The more time children can spend in the classroom, the better chance they have to reach their potential. We have made great strides in education but many still face barriers, including wars and natural disasters. Being part of the United Nations family gives UNICEF the ability to reach some of the world’s most difficult regions, but we rely entirely on voluntary donations. The money you raised means we can help even more children.

I also have some exciting news about this year. My team is working on plans to launch a new UNICEF Halloween program. Keep an eye on unicef.ca for more information as we firm up the details! I hope you will join us.

Thank you again for your hard work.

Sincerely,

David Morley
President and CEO

Following a flare-up in conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo near the end of 2016, UNICEF has provided temporary classrooms to ensure displaced children can continue receiving quality education that will allow them to thrive, as seen here in October 2018.

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For every child, an education.

Thanks to you!
Sonia Mailhot has been teaching for almost 30 years. She has been getting involved with National UNICEF Day for over a decade and shares about why this day is an important part of the school year.

You have been an avid supporter of UNICEF since 2004. Why UNICEF?

I support UNICEF and other charities because these are important causes to me. They are an opportunity for us to come together as a school and make a difference. Our UNICEF Carnival has always been a favorite of the kids because they have so much fun.

What message do you have for K-12 teachers in other schools who may be interested in getting involved with UNICEF Canada’s work globally?

You can make an impact in your school as well as all communities in need. Broadlands has been fundraising for UNICEF since 2005. Teacher and UNICEF Canada Ambassador, Bayan Yammout remembers how impacted he was by UNICEF’s work as a child. To this day, he volunteers overseas and cheers her students’ efforts on by supporting the Global Citizens Club.

You have been an avid supporter of UNICEF since 2004. Why UNICEF?

UNICEF has always reached out to see if I needed anything. They send materials for me to use and I share with classrooms that educate children on why we fundraise and who it helps.

Can you tell us one of your best memories of involvement over these years?

UNICEF has distributed backpacks and other school supplies.

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How has your involvement with UNICEF impacted you as a person, your students and the community?

UNICEF has distributed 1.5 million children with access to education, supported the release of around 1,000 children from armed forces, and groups, provided more than 3.5 million people with access to clean water, screened more than 3.5 million children for severe acute malnutrition, and vaccinated almost 6 million children.

When we succeed in making a difference, it really fills my heart. The children get to learn about what is happening around the world and how lucky they are to live in such a great country. Parents not only give money but are donating treats for the kids and volunteers their time to help on carnival day – often in costume!

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UNICEF has provided UNICEF-supported latrines at Yar’s school.

As you are about to retire, in what ways will you continue to support UNICEF’s work in your own way?

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Knowing me, I’d likely come back to help the day of the carnival! I have so many friends and colleagues and will definitely be available to help.

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Teacher’s Spotlight

Sonia Mailhot

RH Cornish, Ontario

Teacher: Sonia Mailhot

"Children around the world are in need of help and we are in a situation where we can do just that," says teacher, Sonia Mailhot. Every year, RH Cornish’s UNICEF Carnival gets students, teachers and families involved in National UNICEF Day. After learning about the challenges that children face globally, one grade 2 student shares their love for the carnival! "I have close friendships with my students and will definitely be available to help."

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