



# 2018 Annual Report



Save the Children

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Cover photo: The Connected Beginnings program aims to prepare children and their parents for school. It runs out of the Dumaji Children and Family Centre in Doomadgee, a remote Aboriginal community situated in the Gulf Country of northwestern Queensland. As part of the program, children and their families headed to Adels Grove for a cultural camp. Photo: Robert McKechnie/Save the Children Australia

Other featured photos are by Robert McKechnie, Marian Reid, Mike Chilton, Allison Joyce, Ellery Lamm, Tim Muir, Jonathan Hyams and Hanna Adcock, and are representative of our programs. \*Names have been changed to protect identities.

This is the annual report of Save the Children Australia. Save the Children Australia is one of 30 members of the Save the Children Association (a Swiss entity). Save the Children Australia directly implements projects in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Save the Children International (a UK entity) implements international projects in non-member countries around the world on behalf of the members of the Save the Children Association. We use the term 'Save the Children Australia' when referring to the specific work of Save the Children Australia and we use the term 'Save the Children' when referring to the broader work of the Save the Children global network.

Save the Children Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the traditional owners of the country through our use of programs that respect and foster cultural identity and self-determination. Our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) focuses on building relationships, respect and enduring opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Save the Children Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to its Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

Save the Children Australia is fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program.



# CHAIR AND CEO REPORT

Save the Children Australia can proudly mark 2018 as a year of achievement in the face of significant challenges. While the charity sector as a whole experiences disruption, Save the Children is responding with bold and ambitious initiatives.

As we reflect on 2018, it is clear that the work of organisations like Save the Children is more important than ever. While Australia's official aid program dropped to its lowest level in our history, the need, due to complex humanitarian challenges overseas and entrenched poverty here at home, rose to an all-time high.

**In 2018, we saw some of the worst of humanity.** Looking around the world it was striking that most of the worst humanitarian crises for children were man-made.

Sadly, we live in a world where children are bombed. Where they are attacked as they travel to school. Where families are torn apart and children forced to face the world alone. In Australia, we are confronted by the fact that one in five children still start the school year not 'school ready'. That indigenous children make up 7% of the general youth population, but 54% of those in youth detention. And that child abuse remains endemic.

Against this backdrop, Save the Children Australia, like many other NGOs in 2018, was buffeted by fundraising headwinds and declining margins on government grants, which required us to make some painful decisions.

In such a world, it would be easy to feel pessimistic. However, seeing the achievements of Save the Children's work in Australia and overseas is a great antidote to such pessimism.

**Projects that inspire hope:** In Cambodia, there are more than 550,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing people, many of them children. They are isolated, unable to attend school, excluded from employment and vulnerable to exploitation. In response, Save the Children is delivering Cambodian Sign Language education through schools and online video and digital content. Now able to follow their lessons, the life prospects for these children have been completely transformed.

In the largest refugee camp in the world, Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, we established temporary learning spaces, health centres and other programs, so that traumatised Rohingya children can continue their education and explore their creativity and curiosity in a safe environment.

Back in Australia, 'Out Teach', our outreach initiative for students in the justice system, won a Gold Medal from the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards for its outstanding record in getting young troubled lives back on track. And within our organisation, we are proud that 25% of our Australian Program workforce identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

These are just a few of Save the Children Australia's wonderful achievements in 2018. Through 37 international programs we provided health, education and protection to thousands of children and families across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. In Australia, we continued our vital work through 51 programs at over 200 sites around the country.

**Leading with bold, ambitious initiatives:** There is no doubt that we live in a time when the charity sector is undergoing unprecedented disruption, where attacks on international cooperation, multilateralism and universal human rights are the new 'normal'.

Save the Children Australia is responding by exploring bold, new ways to increase the effectiveness of our work. This can be seen in our partnerships with organisations with expertise in supporting early stage social entrepreneurs, including Global Ideas, Inclusiv Ventures and many others. Social entrepreneurship sits at the intersection of social mission, market orientation and innovation. We are committed to this new model's ability to address children's most pressing needs and create transformative change.

We are also pioneering new funding models for the sector with the launch of our Endowment and Impact Investment Funds. The earnings from donations to the Endowment Fund will be used to fund innovation in the areas of health, education and child protection. This is complemented by the launch of our ground-breaking Impact Investment Fund. This fund, the first of its kind for a charity in Australia, will enable investors to contribute funds for innovative ventures that generate social impact. While much has changed in the 100 years since Eglantyne Jebb founded Save the Children, many of the challenges facing the rights of children remain. However, Jebb was never daunted by opposition to her cause. Despite being charged with sedition by her own government for highlighting the plight of starving children, she built a global organisation to change laws, engage with the public and mobilise funds for relief programs.

Inspired by her example, we look forward to celebrating our 100th year with even greater success in protecting the rights of children in Australia and around the world.

**OUR AMBITION:**  
A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY CHILD LIVES, LEARNS AND IS SAFE FROM HARM.

1

**SURVIVE:**

No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday.

2

**LEARN:**

All children learn from a quality basic education.

3

**BE PROTECTED:**

Violence against children is no longer tolerated.

*Peter Hodgson*

Peter Hodgson  
Chair

*Paul Ronalds*

Paul Ronalds  
Chief Executive Officer

# ABOUT US

Save the Children is one of the world's leading independent organisations for children. In Australia and all around the world, we do everything possible to make sure children get a healthy start in life, have the opportunity to learn and are protected from harm.

As we look back over our work in 2018, and look forward to our centenary in 2019, we are reminded of how much has changed in the past 100 years.

In 1919, as Europe was reeling in the aftermath of the First World War, our founders, Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton, felt compelled to make the British public aware of the plight of children languishing across enemy lines. Their compassion and unyielding spirit led to a movement that would go on to save millions of lives over the next hundred years – under the name of Save the Children.

The work of Eglantyne and Dorothy was nothing short of extraordinary. A hundred years on, it continues to inspire the work we do - it pushes us to innovate, to adapt and to lead the way as the world changes around us. Because one thing remains certain, the world's children need us now like never before.

Today, Save the Children has teams of committed professionals working in some of the world's most remote, dangerous and disadvantaged places. We are ready to respond when disaster strikes, when disease breaks out and when conflict erupts – to give children and families every possible chance to overcome the challenges they face.

## A truly global movement

Save the Children is a truly global movement for children. The Save the Children Association is made up of 28 members working in more than 116 countries. As a whole, we share one name, one strategy and one vision of the change we want to achieve in the world.

In this way, we can work both as Save the Children Australia and as part of a collective organisation with Save the Children International.

To take advantage of our global scale and ensure we are as efficient and effective as possible, the 28 members of the Save the Children Association work through a single structure when delivering projects internationally. This means Save the Children Australia's projects in Australia and the Pacific (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) are delivered directly by us. Our international projects are delivered through Save the Children International and local Save the Children partners.

## FIGHTING FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FOR 100 YEARS

One hundred years ago, our founders devoted their lives to making the world a better place for children. Today, their legacy lives on. It lives through the programs, policies and people who work tirelessly for children every day. And it lives through each one of our supporters, who share our vision to create a better world and a brighter future for the children who need us most.

## Where we work

In 2018, Save the Children Australia supported 38 projects in 17 countries around the world. In Australia, we directly reached 17,384 children and 11,888 adults in 195 communities and locations. As a global organisation, we worked in 116 countries directly reaching 40,795,551 children. When referring to 'direct reach', we count individuals that have received direct support, participated in activities or accessed services provided by Save the Children or our partners.

## AUSTRALIA

PEOPLE REACHED\*

29,272

## AROUND THE WORLD

CHILDREN REACHED^

40,795,551

## SPEND

PERCENTAGE OF INCOME  
SPENT ON PROGRAMS

73%

\* DIRECTLY BY SAVE THE CHILDREN  
AUSTRALIA.

^ DIRECTLY BY THE SAVE THE CHILDREN  
GLOBAL MOVEMENT.



# OUR WORK IN AUSTRALIA

We want every child living in Australia to have the chance to fulfil their dreams. Children should be proud of who they are, where they come from and what they aspire to be.

Young people are ambitious. They're creative, brave and full of bright ideas. When they know they have their families, their teachers and their communities to back them, there's no limit to what they can achieve.

But for many children in Australia, childhood can be difficult. Some find it hard to connect with the traditional education system. Others get mixed up with the law and don't get the support they need to get back on track. And sadly, there are those who are faced with violence within their own homes or communities.

We are committed to making sure children are engaged in education and learning. That families provide positive, safe and nurturing home environments. And that communities are strong, safe and supportive so that all children and young people have everything they need to be the best they can be.

## OUR WORK IN 2018

In 2018, we worked with over 29,272 children, young people and adults across Australia to help keep them safe, on track and connected to community and culture.

One way we do this is by tapping into the power of collaboration, bringing agencies, individuals and community services together to help achieve systematic change. We are the backbone organisation for four collective impact projects across the country. They are:

- the Children's Wellbeing Initiative (CWI) in East Gippsland, Victoria
- the Woombooriny Aambooriny United Partners Initiative (WAUPI) on the Dampier Peninsula, Western Australia
- Grow Well, Live Well in Palmerston, Northern Territory
- the Youth Partnership Project in Armadale, Western Australia.

The Youth Partnership Project has achieved significant changes in the lives of children in Armadale. The school attendance of participants has increased from 69% to 95%, with a corresponding 90% reduction in suspensions and significant improvements in literacy levels. In 2018, it was recognised for 'outstanding commitment to place-based services or solutions' at the Community Services Excellence Awards.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS\* IN AUSTRALIA

51

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED IN AUSTRALIA

29,272

## Lessons learnt in 2018

In line with Save the Children's core value of collaboration, we continue to strengthen our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations. Genuine partnerships built on mutual trust, respect and equality are powerful mechanisms to drive sustainable change.

As part of our 2016-2019 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, we are committed to supporting the handover of programs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as appropriate and we develop sustainable strategies for every project as part of this commitment.

In 2018, we transitioned two programs back to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander control. The Safe House program in the Dampier Peninsula, Western Australia, was handed over to the Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation and the Early Childhood program in Wilcannia, New South Wales, to the Maari Ma Aboriginal Health Corporation.

Shared planning was required to prepare people for the transition of the program delivery, staff, and resources. Communication and transparency were key factors when providing support to staff in the transition process and we emphasised that the change was based on Save the Children's strong belief in self-determination and Aboriginal ownership of the program and resources.

We know these programs are in capable, local hands and will continue to grow in strength.



## TASMANIA

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS\*

14

COMMUNITIES & LOCATIONS

14

PEOPLE REACHED

1,135

## VICTORIA

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS\*

14

COMMUNITIES & LOCATIONS

80

PEOPLE REACHED

7,353

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS\*

5

COMMUNITIES & LOCATIONS

13

PEOPLE REACHED

1,418

## QUEENSLAND

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS\*

18

COMMUNITIES & LOCATIONS

27

PEOPLE REACHED

9,417

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS\*

4

COMMUNITIES & LOCATIONS

6

PEOPLE REACHED

1,890

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS\*

14

COMMUNITIES & LOCATIONS

12

PEOPLE REACHED

2,643

## NEW SOUTH WALES

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS\*

9

COMMUNITIES & LOCATIONS

44

PEOPLE REACHED

5,411

\* 'PROGRAMS' REFERS TO ANY SINGLE SAVE THE CHILDREN AUSTRALIA PRODUCT THAT MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED AT A NUMBER OF SITES AND LOCATIONS ACROSS ONE OR MORE STATES, BUT IS COUNTED AS A SINGLE PROGRAM.

# IMPROVING OUR IMPACT FOR CHILDREN

In order to create real and lasting change for children, we are always looking at new ways to improve and maximise our impact. In 2018, we continued to seek out alternative approaches, enterprises and partnerships to help improve scale, quality and impact.

## Centenary Innovation Campaign

To ensure no child is left behind as we approach our 100th anniversary in 2019, we intend to partner with loyal supporters and new visionaries to transform the lives of all children.

We are launching the Centenary Innovation Campaign, an ambitious strategy to raise new capital to enable us to identify, support and accelerate social innovations and enterprises that are focused on improving education, health and child protection outcomes for children worldwide.

The campaign will accelerate our ability to harness the latest social innovations for transforming children's lives.

Working together with partners and supporters, we will give children the opportunity to grow up healthy, educated and protected, regardless of who they are or where they live. Because every last child deserves a future.

## Centre for Evidence and Implementation

The Centre for Evidence and Implementation (CEI) was founded by Save the Children in 2015 and puts quality evidence at the heart of efforts to improve the lives of children, families and communities facing adversity.

CEI's global team of research, policy and practice experts is based in Australia, Singapore and the UK and works with clients to:

- understand the evidence base
- develop methods and processes to put the evidence into practice
- trial, test and evaluate policies and programs to drive more effective decisions and deliver better outcomes.

CEI works in close collaboration with its global partnership network to ensure that it accesses and produces only high-quality evidence, developed through rigorous and innovative methods.

CEI's clients include policy makers, Australian and international governments, program providers, practitioners, philanthropists, organisation leaders and funders.

## Child Wise

Child Wise joined Save the Children in late 2017 and is now operating as an independent social enterprise. With a single-minded purpose of building the capacity of families, communities and organisations to keep children and young people safe from child abuse, Child Wise provides fee for service consulting and training to organisations that engage with children.

Child Wise training programs include *Speak Up About Child Abuse*, *Creating a Child Safe Organisation*, and *Leading a Child Safe Organisation*. These programs have been delivered across Victoria in 2018 and will be rolled out nationally in 2019.

Child Wise consultants also work with organisations to undertake sophisticated child safety needs assessments and provide recommendations to improve child safeguarding. Our accreditation program offers organisations a visible symbol that they have undertaken the necessary work to be safe for children.

The merger with Save the Children has given Child Wise a national platform that will drive considerable expansion of service delivery throughout 2019 and beyond.



# OUR WORK AROUND THE WORLD

We work with girls, boys, families and communities in 20 countries across South-East and South-Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Pacific region. We save children's lives, protect them from harm and help them fulfil their potential.

All around the globe, children are dying from preventable causes. They're missing out on education due to poverty, conflict or gender inequality. They're experiencing violence, exploitation and neglect.

And during humanitarian crises, children are at their most vulnerable.

As part of our 2030 Ambition for Children, we aim to ensure no child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday, all children receive a quality basic education, and violence against children is no longer tolerated.

Our evidence-based programs have a real and lasting impact for children and their communities in Australia and around the world.

## OUR WORK IN 2018

In 2018, our development programs continued to transform the lives of children, their families and communities in 20 countries across Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

We completed the first year of 12 new projects supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). ANCP has provided a versatile platform for us to continue in three key areas.

- **Innovation.** Our e-learning platform on child protection case management, developed as part of our Families First project in Indonesia, is one example of innovation in our ANCP portfolio. The platform uses Module Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment (MOODLE) software and is being used by government workers in all provinces of Indonesia.
- **Replication.** We have employed Save the Children's Parenting without Violence (PwV) Common Approach in our *Safe Communities, Safe Children* project in Papua New Guinea. It uses a holistic programming approach – engaging with parents and caregivers, empowering children, supporting communities and strengthening gender-sensitive child protection systems.
- **Collaboration.** In our *Play to Be School Ready* project in Solomon Islands we collaborate closely with local communities to ensure quality Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD). Save the Children signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 35 communities, which created committees to oversee and manage program activities and mobilise extra domestic financial support.

## Lessons learnt in 2018

This year, we significantly grew our portfolio of international programs. We also strengthened our position to respond to key opportunities by:

- investing in technical support for disability and gender inclusion
- forming strategic partnerships with organisations such as Humanity & Inclusion, CARE International and the Danish Refugee Council
- investing in key leadership roles in the Pacific to build a more streamlined approach to our presence in the region.

We have recognised that we can't wait for others to bring opportunities to us. We need to be propositional in our approach by undertaking contextual analysis, forming highly capable consortia and presenting well thought-through proposals to donors.

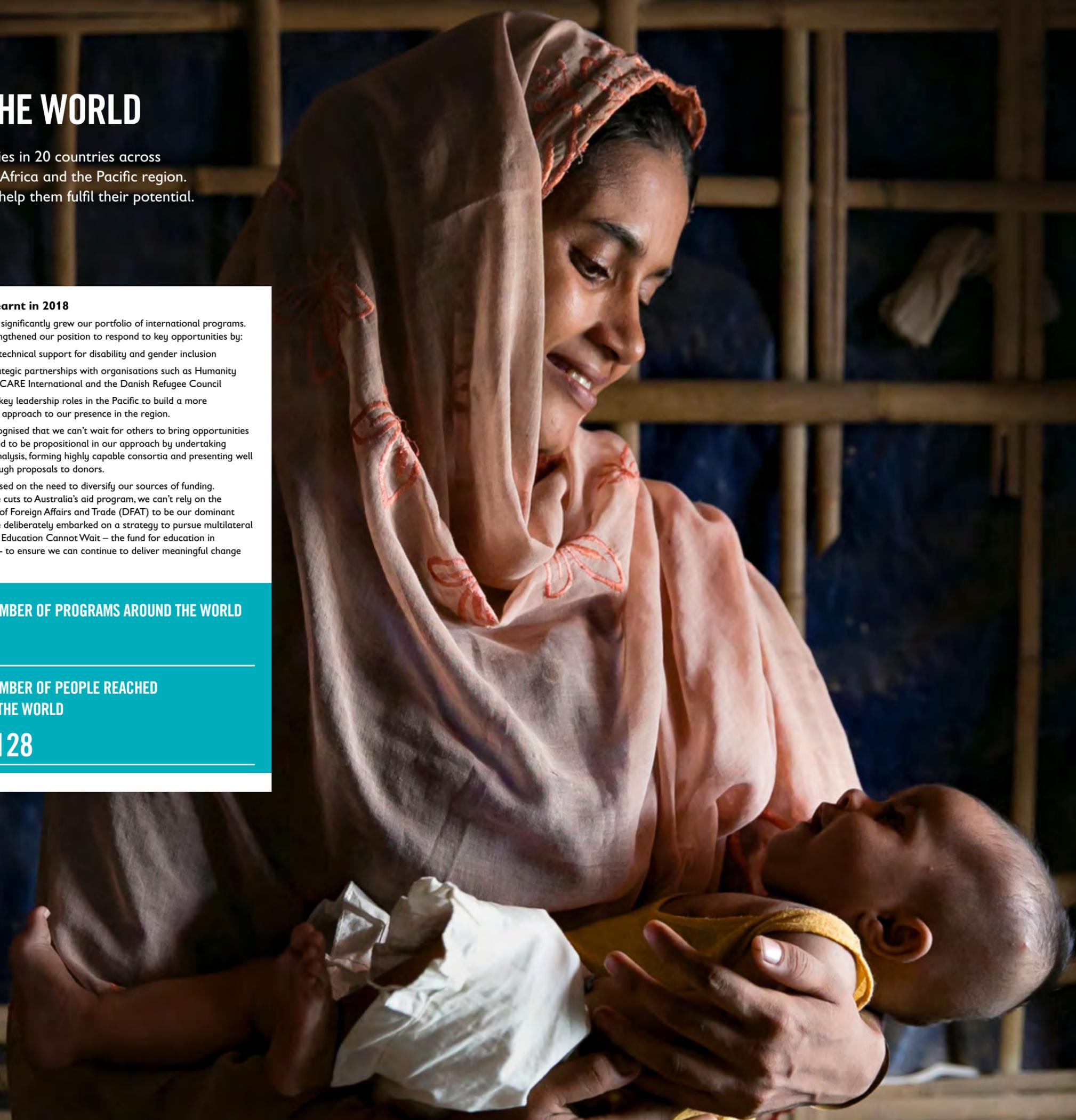
We also focused on the need to diversify our sources of funding. With massive cuts to Australia's aid program, we can't rely on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to be our dominant funder. We've deliberately embarked on a strategy to pursue multilateral accounts like Education Cannot Wait – the fund for education in emergencies - to ensure we can continue to deliver meaningful change at scale.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AROUND THE WORLD

37

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED AROUND THE WORLD

393,128



# OUR WORK AROUND THE WORLD

## OUR HUMANITARIAN WORK IN 2018

In 2018, we were there in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated the island of Sulawesi, providing water, food and shelter alongside our Indonesian partners, Yayasan, Sayangi and Tunas Cilik.

In Bangladesh, our teams distributed hundreds of shelter kits, kitchen utensils and hygiene kits to Rohingya families. We established health posts, temporary schools, and set up Child Friendly Spaces where children can play safely, make friends and begin to recover, as well as safe spaces where unaccompanied children can stay until they're reunited with their families.

We also continue to provide support for children and families caught in the crisis in Yemen. Humanitarian needs across the country are dire – the health system has collapsed, basic services are non-existent, and malnutrition and disease claim hundreds of lives every day. We delivered cholera prevention programs across the country, providing emergency medical support to collapsing hospitals, and distributing food to extremely vulnerable and food insecure communities.

### Humanitarian lessons learnt in 2018

As we continue to develop and improve our humanitarian programs and processes, we intend to be more conscious of the need for disability inclusion in every aspect of our response planning.

An emergency situation can bring a whole range of different considerations and concerns into play for people living with a disability. Key partnerships with organisations such as Humanity and Inclusion in our Iraq program will ensure a more holistic and inclusive approach.

## AFRICA

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

1

COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS

1

REACH

19,996

## SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

5

COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS

2

REACH

30,375

## PACIFIC

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

13

COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS

4

REACH

23,457

## MIDDLE EAST

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

2

COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS

2

REACH

12,289

## SOUTH EAST & EAST ASIA

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

16

COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS

7

REACH

307,011



# CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN IN 2018

In Australia and overseas, our work focuses on overcoming the biggest challenges facing children today. Every child deserves a healthy start in life, an education and protection from harm – and when these rights are not being realised, we help break down the barriers that stand in their way. Here are some of the biggest challenges that faced children in 2018 – and how Save the Children responded to them.

## MISSING OUT ON EDUCATION



Education is key to a child's future. And, with 90% of brain development happening before the age of five, the early years are critical in shaping children's lifelong capacity for learning. Yet, around the world, there are still 264 million children and young people who aren't going to school.

The barriers to accessing education vary. Sometimes it's simply that limited education is on offer, or there are limited resources to help children learn. For some, it's down to poverty, disability, gender and discrimination. For others, conflict or disasters stop education in its tracks. Sometimes, children are just too hungry to learn.

Regardless of the barrier to learning, the outcome is the same: children's futures are put in jeopardy. They are at an increased risk of abuse and exploitation. They are more likely to take part in criminal activity. And they'll miss out on support for additional educational needs or mental health problems.

### Our response:

The right to learn is universal. We take an active approach to ensuring children have the best chance to learn – and learn early. We run programs in Australia and around the world dedicated to helping girls and boys access an education in all environments. Find out more on pages 14–17.

## LIVING WITH ABUSE AND VIOLENCE



Every year, more than 1.5 billion children suffer from violence and a child dies every five minutes as a result. Children living with disabilities, and girls in particular, are among the most vulnerable. The violence perpetrated against children comes in all forms – physical, sexual, emotional, neglect – and often happens in the places children should feel most safe. In their homes, schools and communities.

There are also other environments where children are at an increased risk of harm and exploitation. In institutional care settings, where eight million children are living despite the majority having at least one living parent. In camps and in transit when they have migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced. In conflict zones, where they are not just caught in the crossfire but are targets themselves.

### Our response:

We are committed to ending all forms of violence against children in line with both our 2030 Global Ambition for Children and our Sustainable Development Goal 16.2. Our programs seek to protect the most marginalised and vulnerable girls and boys in Australia and overseas. Find out more on pages 18–21.



## DYING FROM PREVENTABLE CAUSES



Every year, 5.4 million children die before their fifth birthday from preventable and treatable causes. These causes include pre-term health issues, birth complications, disease and malnutrition. This is underpinned by a lack of access to quality healthcare services, poor health, nutrition and hygiene practices, gender inequality and, in many countries, lack of clean water, safe sanitation and food.

Globally, a child's risk of dying is greatest in the first 28 days of life. But infants who survive into toddlerhood are still vulnerable to preventable, treatable diseases such as pneumonia, malaria and diarrhoea. Much progress has been made in recent decades to reduce the number of child deaths worldwide, but there is still more we can do to reach the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

### Our response:

Immediate and sustained action must be taken. We are working in Australia and in low-income countries around the world to help provide increased access to quality healthcare services and promote shared community accountability across sectors. We are also supporting improved family and community health, nutrition and hygiene practices to enable children's survival and healthy growth and development. Find out more on pages 22–25.

## CHILDREN CAUGHT IN EMERGENCIES



Whether it's a natural disaster such as a drought, flood, cyclone or volcano, or a protracted crisis such as an ongoing conflict, it's children who are most vulnerable in emergencies.

Emergencies lead to circumstances that threaten the safety and wellbeing of children. They might be forcibly displaced from their homes and separated from their family and caregivers. They might become malnourished, injured or contract a communicable disease.

And emergencies are not over when the last shot has been fired or the flood waters subside. Incidences of violence, barriers to education, recruitment of children into armed forces and other forms of exploitation, abuse and neglect all increase in the aftermath of a disaster. The impact on children's emotional and mental wellbeing can last a lifetime.

### Our response:

When it comes to children in crisis, every moment counts. We provide physical help and protection during and after emergencies. We prepare and protect children, provide disaster relief and help children and communities recover. Find out more on pages 26–27.

# PROVIDING LEARNING PATHWAYS IN AUSTRALIA

We work with children and families in every corner of the country to help give young people a positive, safe and supportive educational journey.

We know starting early is the key to giving a child the skills and confidence to achieve their dreams. That's why we work with parents all over Australia to help them become their child's first teacher and to promote positive and encouraging learning environments at home.

We work hard to meaningfully engage with young people throughout their mainstream educational journey with programs like Hands on Learning, YES! Alternative Education and Cool4School.

We understand that not every child responds to school systems and structures in the same way. That's why we've developed programs that offer young people alternative pathways to gaining the knowledge and skills that will give them every chance to shape their own future.

### A snapshot of our work: Out Teach

A tailored education plan is often the key to helping young people re-enter education after a period of disengagement.

Our Out Teach programs in Tasmania and Victoria build on young people's strengths, support them to achieve their educational goals and help them to define their own pathway.

We use a van as a mobile classroom, where students can learn in outdoor and informal settings – especially effective for students who struggle to learn in a traditional classroom environment. Our educators work closely with youth workers to ensure the emotional and psychological needs of students are addressed so they can focus on their education.

Out Teach helps students by developing positive, non-judgemental relationships with young people. By addressing social barriers and meeting the students' immediate needs, this program aims to reconnect young people with their ambitions and help them believe that with an education, anything is achievable.

### A 2018 HIGHLIGHT

Our Out Teach program in Tasmania received a gold award at the Australian Institute of Criminology's 2018 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards, which recognises and rewards best practice in the prevention and reduction of violence and other types of crime in Australia.

### What we learnt in 2018

We know that the voice of young people is critical to ensuring that our Out Teach program responds to their lived experiences and has a lasting impact.

This is why we focused on improving our outcome measurement tools during 2018 to better reflect the impact Out Teach is having on improving young people's motivation and capacity to engage in learning. We improved resources to ensure they suit the students and enhanced the program's procedures, so it can be easily replicated in new sites – allowing more students to access Out Teach.

For a unique program such as Out Teach, as well as other programs focused on the needs of young people, it is critical that indicators of success are co-constructed with the students they serve.

### JOHN IS GETTING BACK ON TRACK



John\* often felt 'judged' at college. He said teachers would "decide who I am before they even know me". It wasn't easy for him to stay engaged with his education. His schooling habits, anxiety and drug use were all making it harder. But when he started seeing an Out Teach educator, he began to re-establish his self-belief and now he's moving forward with his education. He's even looking for work experience. In John's own words, "I have done more school work in the last few weeks than I have done in the last four years".

### Our other education programs in Australia include:

- **Home to School Participation** works to increase engagement of culturally and linguistically diverse families in their children's school community so that children stay productively engaged with their education.
- **Play2Learn** works within a supported playgroup model and helps improve early childhood development and parenting skills while providing a safe and supportive space for families and an important connection to community. Kids Connect support children aged 8 to 12, and their families, who need assistance with domestic issues that are impacting on school attendance and performance.
- **Cool4School** provides children with the skills and strategies they need to self-regulate their behaviour at school, reducing school suspensions and minimising disengagement.
- **Hands on Learning** is an innovative education program that caters to the different ways young people learn. Artisan teachers work with students on projects that help them achieve success at school.

## 2018 EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN AUSTRALIA SNAPSHOT

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

27

COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS

168

REACH

18,419



# EDUCATING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

We break down the barriers that stand between children and their education to give them the chance to learn in a safe and positive environment.

Right now, 263 million school-age children are out of school. That's one child out of every six not getting education. Without it, the chances of reaching their full potential and having a bright future are limited.

There are many different barriers that stand between children and their education. For some, poverty has forced them to leave school early. For others, conflict has destroyed or damaged the buildings they used to learn in. Girls are more likely to be excluded from education than boys, and children with disabilities are less likely to start and stay in school than children without disabilities.

We run programs around the world dedicated to helping girls and boys access an education. Whether it's in a remote part of the world, in a refugee camp or right after a disaster, we work to give every child access to education.

## A snapshot of our work: Rapidly Improving Standards in Elementary (RISE)

The RISE program in Papua New Guinea is equipping teachers with the tools, techniques and confidence to provide effective lessons that help children aged 4 to 8 years develop their literacy and numeracy skills. Improved teaching practice at this critical stage of a child's life is leading to lasting improvements in children's literacy and numeracy skills.

In 2018, we revised the Literacy Boost and Numeracy Boost modules of our RISE program and trained more than 1,000 teachers to deliver them. We trained 50 teachers and other staff members to use learning kits developed for children with disabilities and additional needs.

We also trained 400 community literacy volunteers and delivered Book Banks to 380 communities. This has led to greater availability of reading material to support children's learning.

## A 2018 HIGHLIGHT

The RISE program piloted Reach & Match Learning Kits in 2018. The sensory play materials in these kits create a more inclusive learning environment and empower children living with disabilities and additional needs.

## What we learnt in 2018

We know gender, disability and language all play a key role in educational access and quality.

In 2018, the RISE program explored this further in Papua New Guinea by developing a series of research reports that looked at:

- barriers to education for girls aged four to eight years old.
- the incidence of disability across three provinces.
- the spread and diversity of vernacular languages.

The findings explored the impact of gender norms, family environments and financial barriers on education. They also showed that children living with disabilities in Papua New Guinea have clear aspirations for their present and future life. Yet, there are currently many barriers to education including poverty, geographic remoteness, stigma and discrimination. And when gender and disability intersect, children experience 'double discrimination'.

The findings of these reports will help inform future programming.

## THINKING OF THE FUTURE



Mr Malon Gigil is a Community Literacy Volunteer in the RISE program. He runs four reading clubs, which are attended by both elementary students and primary school students in his community.

Mr Gigil is supported by three other volunteers that he personally trained. He is driven by a passion to serve his community and make a difference. "I was unable to complete my studies," he says, "but I hope that one day, one of these children that I teach can become what I couldn't to make a name for our village".

## Our other education programs around the world include:

- **Early Childhood Care and Development for Floating Villages Project (Cambodia)** aims to improve access to quality early opportunities for children aged 0 to 5 years old, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Literacy Boost (Solomon Islands)** provides both teacher training and the materials children need to practise their reading skills in daily life. By focusing on core skills, Literacy Boost helps children learn to read independently.
- **Education Cluster Support (Iraq)** helps provide access to education for conflict-affected children in Ninewa, Salahuddin and Anbar governates, and the Kurdish Region of Iraq. Activities have included back-to-school campaigns and collaborating with the UN to organise the clearance of explosives and mines from schools.

## 2018 EDUCATION PROGRAMS AROUND THE WORLD SNAPSHOT

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

18

COUNTRIES

13

REACH

157,148



# PROTECTING CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA

We want every childhood to be free from abuse and violence. When children are in danger, we work hard to protect them, provide them with a safe place to go and make sure they are safe from harm.

Children are often voiceless victims of domestic and family violence. Right now, in Australia, more than half of the women who experience domestic violence have children in their care.

Children who grow up in households where domestic or family violence is commonplace are likely to experience poor concentration, aggression, poor self-esteem, depression and anti-social behaviours with peers.

We know we must develop appropriate solutions to protect children from danger and long-term harm. And we must work with families to create safe environments that support long-term learning and development.

### A snapshot of our work: Refuge Early Childhood Program (REaCH)

The New South Wales REaCh program focuses on supporting children's rights in domestic and family violence refuge settings and building the capacity of the frontline refuge workforce to implement child-centred play and parenting programs.

Refuge workers across the state are trained, supported and resourced to meet the learning and developmental needs of children whose lives have been impacted by violence and who live in refuges.

Through a collaborative approach of sharing knowledge and working in partnership with refuge staff, Save the Children works to enhance understanding of child rights, child-centred play-based learning, parenting supports and child friendly environments. This work gives refuge services the support they need to respond to children's needs in a crisis setting.

### A 2018 HIGHLIGHT

The first REaCh training was held in 2018. A three day group training session and a six week on-site training package was run for an Aboriginal refuge service, providing support and resourcing for refuge workers to enhance the provision of high quality, trauma-aware responses for children.

### What we learnt in 2018

The struggle to acknowledge children's individual needs within the complex needs of families is a common reality. Feedback from workers during the first REaCh training sessions revealed most refuges have a limited understanding of the impact of trauma on children and their developmental needs.

However, the impact of training is immediate, leading participants to review their daily practice and interaction with children, as well as their policies and practices in relation to working with children.

### FINDING A SAFE HAVEN



"I was at the refuge for around six months ... once I settled in, it felt like home. It gave me the chance to decide, 'where to next?'. The refuge was like this safe haven where I knew I couldn't be found, I was safe. If I needed somebody to talk to, the ladies were always there to help."

"I never realised, even though my son didn't see a lot of it ... he still overheard a lot. And his behaviours were really concerning me. He has come a long way ... he doesn't have the nightmares that he used to."

*Kylie, a domestic violence survivor from one of our Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Refuges*

### Our other child protection programs in Australia include:

- **Our Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Refuges** provide accommodation for children and women and ensure their individual needs and rights are met.
- **Everyday Positive Play** supports domestic and family violence practitioners working in Queensland's Domestic and Family Violence Refuges. The REaCh program in New South Wales is building on this innovative work.

## 2018 CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMS IN AUSTRALIA SNAPSHOT

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

24

COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS

41

REACH

9,914



# PROTECTING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

Our child protection work aims to reach significant milestones on the path to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16.2, 'End abuse exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children'.

Every five minutes, a child dies as a result of violence. The violence perpetrated against them comes in many forms. Seventy-five percent of the world's children experience violent discipline. Millions more live in conflict zones. Some experience abuse in institutional care. Others are vulnerable after being forcibly displaced from their homes.

In 2018, we worked in partnerships with governments, local organisations, communities and other stakeholders to improve laws, policies and systems to better protect children from sexual exploitation and all forms of violence. We also worked to improved access to child protection services for children at increased risk – children with disabilities, children with HIV, children from ethnic minorities, children from migrant backgrounds and girls.

One key focus has been engaging parents and communities in positive parenting programs that promote behavior change, with an emphasis on improving engagement with men.

### A snapshot of our work: Combatting Child Trafficking

In Solomon Island's Western Province, children living close to logging sites, fishing industries and tourism hubs are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

This project works in eight communities in Western Province, educating vulnerable communities on the risk factors and consequences associated with child trafficking and child sexual exploitation. Each month, it provides four awareness-raising activities to four target groups of women, men, girls and boys. Young people now feel more empowered to talk about sensitive topics, and communities are demonstrating more protective behaviours.

One parent stated that the awareness-raising activities have really opened parents' eyes and helped them to reflect on their responsibilities to protect children. Awareness sessions on referral pathways to formal child protection and police mechanisms are conducted jointly with the Royal Police Force and Social Welfare division. Communities can now identify the services available at the provincial level to report cases. The project is also strengthening the knowledge and capacity of the government and other service providers.

### A 2018 HIGHLIGHT

Early marriage has devastating consequences for a girl's life but in Solomon Islands, the current legal age for marriage is just 15 years old. In 2018, we supported the Solomon Islands' National Advisory Coordinating Committee for Children in drafting a letter to the Law Reform Unit to review the Marriage Act.

### What we learnt in 2018

Child protection is overlooked at all levels in Solomon Islands, including within communities, making children extremely vulnerable to abuse. This project brings information about child protection to communities, and links them to relevant services such as the police and social welfare.

Most of the time, relevant information such as legislation around child abuse issues and the existence of service providers never reached the community level. The biggest lesson learnt in this project was how to connect communities with the relevant information and stakeholders to help them better protect their children.

### TAYLOR FINDS HER VOICE



Taylor\* attends the Combatting Child Trafficking project in Petunia Community, Western Province, Solomon Islands. In her words: "Through Save the Children's awareness activities, we as single mothers have confidence in ourselves to voice our opinions... I can share what I learn from the awareness activities with others in the community and – I have to be honest – for once I feel valued and I feel like people are now understanding my situation."

### Our other child protection programs around the world include:

- **Protecting Children Through System Strengthening and Evidence (Cambodia)** works to better protect children from violence by strengthening and supporting social work and case management and improve resourcing at local and national levels.
- **Safe Communities, Safe Children (Papua New Guinea)** is helping communities keep their children safe by building the capacity, knowledge and skills of key community members, parents and caregivers.
- **Safe in my Community – Protecting Very Young Adolescents (Laos)** works with very young adolescent boys and girls, parents and community members to challenge the root causes of gender-based harmful practices such as early marriage.

## 2018 CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMS AROUND THE WORLD SNAPSHOT

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

16

COUNTRIES

10

REACH

40,418



# IMPROVING NUTRITIONAL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA

We must make sure all children have access to nutritious food, proper healthcare and active play so that future generations can reach their full potential.

In Australia, children enjoy better health compared to past generations thanks to major breakthroughs in medical research, better management of diseases, improved access to neonatal healthcare and increased community awareness of health risks.

Yet despite this leap forward, there are still areas of significant concern – obesity and other lifestyle-related diseases plus mental health issues – that may threaten the quality and length of Australian children’s lives. One in four Australian children are overweight or obese, with children from disadvantaged communities being most impacted.

This is why we work to improve children’s intake of nutritious foods and increase their engagement in active play – as well as supporting parents to care for their children’s health.

## A snapshot of our work: Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities

Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities works to build the skills and knowledge of our Play2Learn playgroup staff, giving them the confidence and ability to improve the lifestyle habits of families involved in the program.

We’ve partnered with Australia’s leading child health research institute, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, and incorporated a program they designed called Confident and Understanding Parents (CUPs).

In the pilot stage, Play2Learn staff were trained in the scientific evidence for healthy eating and active play, as well as how to discuss these practices with parents. Resources were provided to help with the delivery of these messages during Play2Learn sessions.

We are also establishing community gardens in various locations so families can grow their own fruits and vegetables and children can enjoy the benefits of planting, nurturing and eating their very own nutritious, home-grown foods.

## A 2018 HIGHLIGHT

Our partnership with Australia’s leading child health research institute, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, includes access to their technical expertise and a thorough evaluation of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities program.

## What we learnt in 2018

Supported playgroups provide an ideal environment for children to begin improving lifestyle habits. Good rapport and positive relationships between Play2Learn staff and families allow them to deliver health messages in a non-judgemental and personalised way.

Already, parents involved with our Play2Learn programs have reported their experiences of making new positive, healthy choices at home and how these changes have helped improve the behaviour, sleep patterns and overall wellbeing of their children.

The partnership we have established with Murdoch Children’s Research Institute gives us the confidence that Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities is in line with worldwide best practice, and illustrates the importance of cross-sector partnerships.

## EATING THE RAINBOW



One of the parents in a Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities playgroup in Moe, Victoria reported that her family is now a lot better at sitting together at mealtimes and can see the positive effect this is having on their family. She also described how the ‘eating a rainbow’ activities supplied by the workers had been particularly helpful in encouraging her pre-schooler to try more fruit and vegetables.

## Our other health programs in Australia include:

- **Play2Learn** is a supported playgroup program which aims to improve early childhood development, parenting skills and connection to community.
- **The Healthy Recess Program** provides a free and nutritious recess snack as an incentive for children to regularly attend school and to encourage better concentration, behaviour and capacity to learn. The program also supports young people and their families to improve nutrition literacy through practical cooking workshops.
- **Healthy Gums Healthy Tums** helps parents of children aged 0–12 years develop healthy eating patterns for their children, improve their oral hygiene and boost overall wellbeing. It increases the likelihood of children thriving in the areas of physical health, wellbeing, social competency, language and communication.

## 2018 HEALTH PROGRAMS IN AUSTRALIA SNAPSHOT

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

3

COMMUNITIES AND LOCATIONS

15

REACH

764



# REDUCING CHILD MORTALITY AROUND THE WORLD

We work towards ending preventable child deaths by focusing on improving reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition, and increasing community awareness around HIV and tuberculosis.

Almost 5.4 million children under five die from preventable and treatable causes each year. An estimated 45% of these deaths are linked to undernutrition because, when a child under five does not have enough food, they are at a 12 times higher risk of dying from common infections. Undernutrition also affects children's cognitive development and performance in school, which have long-term consequences. What's more, nearly a quarter of all children under five – 155 million – are stunted (too short for their age) due to chronic malnutrition and disease, and 52 million are wasted (too thin for their height).

**A snapshot of our work: Reaching the Children Left Behind: Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition Project**

In Laos, the Reaching the Children Left Behind project is being implemented in Nan, Pak Ou and Nambak districts of Luang Prabang province.

The three districts have a population of 127,314, with 70% from ethnic minority groups. The goal of the project is to reduce deaths and stunting caused by chronic malnutrition in children under five years old.

## A 2018 HIGHLIGHT

Activities in the first year of our Reaching the Children Left Behind program in Laos have included strengthening the skills of midwives through onsite mentoring, constructing two new birth rooms, introducing an early childhood development and referral system and developing a communication plan to help raise awareness and change behaviours in communities.

## What we learnt in 2018

The idea of a community accountability mechanism was initially met with apprehension, which demonstrated the importance of awareness-raising and sensitisation sessions with government stakeholders before starting the design process.

Consultation was also a key component during the design of the social behaviour change communication plan. This helped to build a consensus and resulted in increased ownerships and buy-in from key stakeholders.

We also learnt that reporting on access to services by people living with disabilities is low and that this may be because this information is not required to be entered in the Ministry of Health reporting system. Also, staff may not be identifying disabilities during service provision.

## FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY



Mr Vahtor is father of three from Laos. He was recently selected as a community volunteer to help raise awareness of mother and child health and nutrition. "I quickly realised that this was a very important training that would benefit my family and my community," he says. "I learnt many new skills such as how to weigh children and how to support families to make good decisions for the care of their children." Mr Vahtor felt confident after the training and was excited to contribute to the health of the mothers and children in his village.

## Our other health programs around the world include:

- **First 1,000 days of Life (Vanuatu)** aims to reduce stunting among children under five in Vanuatu by increasing coverage of evidence-based health and nutrition practices among pregnant and lactating women and caregivers, improving community engagement, and influencing national level nutrition policies.
- **Tackling TB and HIV Together (Papua New Guinea)** helps prevent HIV and TB by raising awareness in higher-risk communities, as well as the broader community.
- **Partnering to Save Lives (Cambodia)** was a partnership between the Cambodian Ministry of Health, the Australian Government, CARE, Marie Stopes International Cambodia and Save the Children that worked to improve quality, equitable access and use of reproductive, maternal and newborn health services. In 2018, we successfully closed this five year consortium project.

## 2018 HEALTH PROGRAMS AROUND THE WORLD SNAPSHOT

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

8

COUNTRIES

7

REACH

198,655



# HELPING CHILDREN IN CRISIS

We deliver life-saving relief in the very first hours and days of an emergency. We reach children and families quickly, reunite them when they have been separated and stay to help them recover and restore their lives.

When there's a disaster, children are the most vulnerable – and it's important that their specific needs are addressed. In emergencies, we not only provide life-saving aid such as water, food and shelter, we also help children recover from the stress they've experienced by providing safe spaces where they can play, spend time with other kids and receive on-going support.

### A snapshot of our work internationally

In the crowded refugee camps in Bangladesh, our water, sanitation and hygiene program has been critical in the fight against communicable disease – particularly during the wet season. We increased access to sanitation facilities with the construction of 250 gender segregated latrines and 139 bathing units. We also continue to run 82 Child Friendly Spaces, where children can play together, learn together and build their confidence. And our new maternity ward in the Save the Children Primary Healthcare Centre welcomed its first baby in July.

In Yemen, with support from the Australian Humanitarian Partnership, we've provided life-saving support in some of the most difficult to reach and under-served areas in the country. We delivered food assistance to 2,100 households, along with critical hygiene promotion sessions. We restored water points and sanitation facilities, helping provide safe drinking water and protection from the spread of cholera and other diseases.

*"Our initial take away is that you're running a highly professional, integrated and appropriate program in very trying conditions."* – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### A snapshot of our work in Australia

The Daly River floods in the Northern Territory forced the evacuation of 350 residents by helicopter. Over ten days, our trained early childhood educators and family support workers ran Child Friendly Spaces where children could play, learn and interact – while parents sought information, healthcare needs and supplies in preparation for their eventual return home.

## A 2018 HIGHLIGHT

Save the Children Australia was awarded the largest ever competitive grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for humanitarian action (A\$20 million) to support stabilisation, recovery and reconstruction efforts in Iraq. A consortium of NGOs and local partners, led by Save the Children Australia, will undertake the two-and-a-half-year project in northern and central Iraq.

### What we learnt in 2018:

Among a number of challenges faced during our response in the refugee camps in Bangladesh was the limited participation of and access to women within the Rohingya community.

Household visits, regular interaction and increased understanding of cultural sensitivities helped build trust between Save the Children staff and the community members, resulting in a greater number of Rohingya women participating in community strengthening and health promotion activities. This in turn supports health improvements of the whole family unit.

Anyone who has worked in a war-torn country like Yemen will be familiar with the access, logistical and economic challenges of providing aid in such a volatile and fragile environment. Delays in sourcing supplies, difficulty negotiating check-points and administrative barriers were common obstacles to implementing effective programming.

Our staff on the ground have shown extraordinary flexibility, patience and ingenuity in doing everything possible to meet the humanitarian needs of communities, families and children.

Heavy rain and an unexpected lightning strike on the third day of our Daly River response also provided a unique challenge. Potential dangers were mitigated by following incident reporting processes, strong staff morale and good collaboration with other service providers.

### HASINA'S BABY GIRL



Rohingya refugee Hasina\* was the first mother to have her baby delivered at the new maternity ward of Save the Children's healthcare centre in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The centre is a place where women like Hasina know they can give birth safely and their babies will be well cared for. "I was happy to see the baby for the first time, I felt peace in my mind," Hasina said.

"We can access healthcare. We receive medicines here free of cost. We are happy and at peace."

### Our other emergency responses include:

- Syria Emergency Response**  
 We're responding to the needs of children and adults in conflict-affected Syria, Syrian refugees, and in host communities in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.
- Laos Dam Flood Response**  
 In Attapeu Province, Laos, we're supporting families with nutritious food, education and appropriate protection services in the aftermath of destructive floods.
- Vanuatu Volcano Evacuation Response**  
 We sent teams to support families evacuated from their homes on the volcanic Ambae Island – providing communities with protection programs, early recovery materials and education services.
- Building Peaceful Futures, Iraq**  
 We're helping restore resilience to vulnerable households by providing access to essential protection, water and sanitation facilities, legal support and primary and sexual reproductive health services.

## 2018 EMERGENCY RESPONSES SNAPSHOT

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

10

COUNTRIES

6

REACH

277,381



# OUR ADVOCACY WORK

We stand up for the rights of children, help them get their voices heard and make sure issues that affect them are given top priority.

We're committed to campaigning on issues that affect kids in Australia and around the world.

We work to engage both our supporters and our nation's leaders in these issues so that together, we can break down barriers and ensure children have access to high-quality early learning opportunities, that they can access the very best health care and that they are protected from violence and exploitation.

In 2018, our advocacy and campaign efforts placed particular emphasis on supporting refugee children displaced by crisis and strengthening government responses to nutrition and education.

## Education for all

Hands on Learning, a program supported by Save the Children, delivers a model of school student engagement to support students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, who disengage.

To advocate for this effective model a week-long showcase of students' work was organised in March 2018 at Melbourne's Parliament House, with talks and presentations targeting MPs. The event received extensive social media coverage from MPs including the Minister for Education, Minister for Youth Affairs and media coverage in local newspapers.

The policy team has also made a number of government submissions including Closing the Gap Refresh and to the Committee on Intergenerational Welfare Dependence to advocate for the Hands on Learning model.

Research was undertaken with parents of young people who participate in Hands on Learning – this is being collated into a policy report to be provided to government stakeholders.

## Advocating for better health

In 2018, we focused on increasing awareness of the high levels of child malnutrition that exists in Pacific countries – particularly Papua New Guinea. Our policy team produced an in-depth budget review, policy papers and guidance notes, which were presented to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and government MPs in Canberra as well as key decision makers in Papua New Guinea.

The work was aided by strengthening relationships with key partners (UNICEF, Ministry of Planning and Monitoring) in Papua New Guinea who helped push through approval of a multi-sectoral national nutrition policy. Through this advocacy work and relationship building, Save the Children has established a civil society alliance to maintain a focus on child malnutrition, and influence upcoming financing and policy implementation.

## Campaigning for the protection of children

Save the Children Australia is a founding member of the cross-sector network organisation, Rethink Orphanages.

Rethink Orphanages works to prevent the unnecessary institutionalisation of children by shifting the way Australia engages with overseas aid and development.

Throughout 2018, several submissions and representations were made to the parliamentary inquiry into modern slavery to help inform proposed draft legislation and advocate for the inclusion of orphanage trafficking as a form of modern slavery. The Modern Slavery Bill 2018 was passed in December and has now become law. The passage of this bill also means Australia has enabled the world-first recognition of orphanage trafficking as a form of modern slavery.

## Harnessing the generosity of the Australian people to support refugees

Australia has a long and proud history of resettling refugees who have fled violence, poverty and conflict. But in recent years, the public debate on refugees has become quite toxic, often focusing on a refugee's mode of arrival rather than their plight or need.

In 2017, we saw an opportunity to change the conversation. We looked at countries like Canada, where a long-standing program enables Canadians to come together and 'sponsor' a refugee. As a result, the 'Community Refugee Sponsorship Initiative' (CRSI) was set up in partnership with leading refugee advocates Amnesty International, the Refugee Council of Australia, Rural Australians for Refugees, the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce and Welcome to Australia.

In 2018, we advocated for the Australian Government and opposition to support an expanded model of community sponsorship in Australia, where individuals and communities can come together to meet the costs and support needs of refugee families. We launched reports, leveraged media, brought international experts to Australia, and lobbied the corridors of Parliament in Canberra to generate support for our plans. In December 2018, at its national conference, the Australian Labor Party amended its policy platform to include a specific target to bring 5,000 new refugees to Australia using the CRSI model.

## Standing up for children in emergencies

In the months since violence in Myanmar caused the world's fastest growing refugee crisis, the many thousands of Rohingya families crowded in camps in Bangladesh continue to face unimaginable challenges. The monsoon rains brought landslides and the threat of the spread of disease, food and shelter remain scarce and children relive the horrors they've experienced while trying to rebuild their lives.

It's critical the Rohingya have our continued support – now as much as ever. Our advocacy teams have worked to keep the issue in the public eye and lobbied the Australian government to ensure an ongoing and suitably supported response. Publicly, we promoted awareness through media stories and petitions, and published our research report on the impacts of this conflict experienced by children. We also produced advocacy briefing notes and communications that were presented to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, members of parliament and other decision makers in Canberra.

## Relevant Reports:

- *Childhood Interrupted: Children's voices from the Rohingya refugee crisis.* Outlines children's experiences and testimonies living in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar through consultations with children in refugee and host communities.



# YOUR SUPPORT DRIVES OUR WORK

Our wonderful supporters generously give their time, money and ideas to help make the world a better place for children. Here are some of the people who made a big difference in 2018.

## A COLLECTIVE EFFORT



The Children's Wellbeing Initiative brings together community groups, businesses, education providers and sporting clubs to tackle complex wellbeing issues faced by children in East Gippsland that no single organisation or policy could solve alone. Save the Children is proud to be the facilitating organisation at the centre of the initiative.

The initiative is supported by our past and current philanthropic partners; R E Ross Trust, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Besen Family Foundation, Collier Charitable Fund, Bell Charitable Fund, Ian Potter Foundation and Gandel Philanthropy. With their incredible support, along with government, 90 local organisations, and community members, we have connected with over 2,000 children and families.

As a result, we are seeing positive shifts in the key objectives, including a significant decrease in the number of children considered developmentally vulnerable. The initiative is a great example of how setting clear goals and having a shared plan for collective effort can harness resources and change lives.

## A PERFECT PARTNER



It's Woodside Energy's passion for building local capacity that makes them a perfect partner for Save the Children.

We first teamed up in 2014 and have already worked together on programs in Western Australia and Myanmar. In 2018, the partnership took us almost halfway around the world to Dakar, Senegal. Through Save the Children, Woodside is helping build capacity in early years education systems, improve teaching techniques and make schools safer.

The pilot phase reached 400 teachers, benefiting 21,000 children. Over the coming years, Woodside will increase its support to allow further expansion in the most disadvantaged suburbs of Dakar.

"Their Social Investment Strategy has been developed from the very best in academic research," says Jason Tither, our Corporate Partnership Manager in Western Australia, "and their vision that every child thrives in their development, learning and life, perfectly mirrors Save the Children's core mission and values."

## ART IMITATING LIFE



When children at Mango Hill State School in Queensland, were preparing for the annual dance event, the Wakakirri Challenge, they decided it was a great opportunity to fundraise for a good cause. But first, they needed to do their research.

After looking at lots of different charities, they decided Save the Children was the perfect fit.

They choreographed their own dance and named it 'What about the children?'. Their dance was truly a case of art imitating life, telling the story of a boy who used dance to raise money for children in need.

Just like the boy in the story, the school did a great job of fundraising, reaching a grand total of \$800.



# YOUR SUPPORT DRIVES OUR WORK

## RETAIL STORE VOLUNTEER 2018 SNAPSHOT

VOLUNTEERS

1,600

RECYCLED ITEMS SOLD

1.5M

OVERALL RETAIL SALES

\$6.3M

### OUR VOLUNTEERS



Our volunteers support our op shops, programs, events and offices throughout Australia. With a range of ages and backgrounds, our volunteers bring a wealth of knowledge, expertise and compassion to the organisation. In 2018, more than 2,000 volunteers generously gave their time and energy to support Save the Children's work, with the majority of these helping in our retail stores. Our volunteers were also active in assisting Australian Programs, Finance, Fundraising, Marketing, IT, People & Culture and Risk.

In any one of our 63 retail stores, our customers can find a wide selection of recycled fashion, toys, books and vintage gems. In 2018, we did a lot of work to improve our shops, including remodelling a number of stores, increasing furniture sales through recruitment of additional drivers and running targeted campaigns to increase our loyalty members.

There's no doubt the friendly volunteers who staff our op shops are an important part of the shopping experience. Volunteers like Ellen, who helps keep our Northcote store running smoothly.

Ellen loves volunteering because, she says, the Northcote store has a great vibe and the customers are great. She understands how important it is for Save the Children's fundraising and she always arrives with a cheery disposition, ready for the day ahead.

### OUR BRANCHES



Our 18 local members branches are committed groups of volunteers who raise funds and awareness for Save the Children.

They are located all over Australia and are formed of volunteers in elected positions such as president, treasurer and secretary. Some also run our op shops.

In 2018, our branches collectively raised \$409,399.

Branch	Funds raised
Western Australia	\$335,409
Victoria	\$45,990
New South Wales	\$26,800
South Australia	\$1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$409,399</b>

The South of the River Branch in Perth, Western Australia, has been going strong for 60 years – and three of its original members are still raising funds in their retirement home! The eldest is 93 years old and is testament to the commitment of our branch members – and the ongoing friendships that have formed over the years.

"The main focus of our branch is to raise funds throughout the year," explain Maureen, one of the South of River branch members, "as a team, we collect donated books from the public then pack, price and sell them."

"Since becoming a volunteer, I understand that this journey is one I share with many others – we enjoy not only working together as friends, but also learning about the children that need our support, both in Australia and overseas. I find it a privilege to be part of the family that supports Save the Children."



# BUILDING AND MAINTAINING TRUST

Trust is at the heart of our ability to raise funds, influence decision-makers and ultimately fulfil our mission for children.

## How the funds were spent

We have a conservative approach towards managing and protecting donations.

From every dollar spent in 2018:

- **73 cents** went directly to benefit children through our health, education, child protection and humanitarian response programs, and through increasing public awareness of international aid and development issues
- **10 cents** went towards raising the funds we need to deliver these programs
- **9 cents** was allocated to administration costs to make sure we have the talented people, infrastructure and systems we need to manage and deliver our programs for children
- **8 cents** was invested in commercial activities such as our retail stores and social enterprises.

## Managing our risk

Our staff are committed to reaching children, young people and families who are living in vulnerable situations – and this often means working in difficult and challenging places.

We have a high appetite for working in these locations, but we take our duty of care towards staff and the people we work with very seriously.

When making decisions, we make sure potential risks are considered, and we have policies and tools in place to make sure our work is child-focused and culturally safe. If an incident does occur, our global processes help us respond and escalate quickly and effectively.

Our representatives, the families we work with, and any external party wishing to provide feedback have access to complaint and whistleblowing processes.

## Transparency in the workplace

Save the Children Australia is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct, which defines standards of governance, management, financial control and reporting.

In late 2017 and early 2018, the international development sector responded to troubling reports of misconduct, including allegations of sexual harassment within Save the Children UK. Save the Children Australia has a zero-tolerance policy towards abuse or harassment of any kind and we conducted a review of our own policies to determine ways to strengthen them. As part of the process, focus groups were conducted to obtain staff input into the review.

We believe the policies and procedures we have in place in Australia are robust. We have a strong code of conduct requiring all staff to act with respect, integrity and professionalism towards both their colleagues and the children and communities with whom we work.

We have policies and procedures in place to formally and independently review allegations – and take swift action against any individual who has violated our policy.

In 2018, we participated in the Independent Review into the Practice and Response of ACFID Members in the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct conducted by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM). The independent review made 31 recommendations which were all accepted by ACFID and Save the Children.

The Australian community places great trust in organisations like Save the Children and we have a duty to hold ourselves to the highest of standards. The VIFM independent review reminds us all that there is no room for complacency, whether it be in relation to the protection of vulnerable children or the safety of our dedicated staff.



## RAP update

Save the Children Australia has an unwavering commitment to a reconciled Australia; a fair and just nation where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children can reach their full potential.

This commitment is demonstrated by our 2016-19 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

Dialogue is fundamental to reconciliation, and in 2018, we were proud to have Montana Ahwon, a Youth Worker from Kununurra, Western Australia, represent Save the Children at the 17th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York.

The forum provides an opportunity for Indigenous peoples to share knowledge and discuss issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. It is also committed to working collaboratively to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As we look forward to the final year of our 2016-2019 action plan, our focus will continue to be on realising the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities – and building the capacity of staff members from the broader community.

## Measuring our impact

At Save the Children, our impact goes beyond how many children and families we work with – the number of people we reach is important but it's only part of our story. It's also the positive changes we make in their lives.

Measuring impact beyond reach is challenging – particularly across a portfolio of work as diverse as ours. But we have been investing significantly in this area because we know reach can be a misleading measure of impact as it gives no sense of how effective our programs are. In 2018 we appointed a Head of Quality and Evaluation who is responsible for strengthening how we measure and report our impact.

We are investing in improving our digital systems for impact data capture, analysis and reporting. We are undertaking detailed evaluations of our major Australian programs such as Play2Learn to improve their effectiveness. We have undertaken an audit of our indicators and tools used across our international programming to develop an outcomes framework for portfolio-wide reporting on impact.

## Putting children first

As a child rights organisation, we are committed to protecting children from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Child safe practices are firmly embedded within Save the Children and we make sure everyone understands and promotes child safety across all areas of the organisation. Our strict training procedures and protocols ensure any allegations or instances that could involve harm to children are immediately reported to relevant authorities.

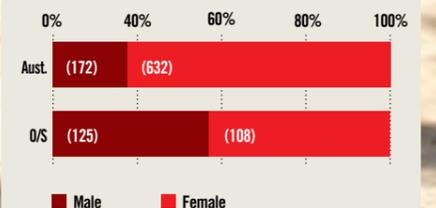
We also take our responsibility for promoting child safe practices very seriously. At the end of 2017, we merged with Child Wise, which brought an additional 26 years' experience of protecting children to the organisation. This merger strengthened our commitment to making sure all organisations working with children around Australia are child safe and positioned to achieve better outcomes for children.

## Building a diverse workforce

Our workforce is made up of dedicated individuals with wide-ranging skills and diverse backgrounds, whether working in the field or in our head office in Melbourne.

Approximately 25% of our Australian Programs staff identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and we have a targeted workforce development plan designed to continue to build local capability. In the Pacific, we are looking to increase workplace leadership and development opportunities. We are looking at ways to increase diversity and strengthen inclusiveness in the workplace.

## Staff 2018:



# OUR FINANCIAL PROFILE

## Where the money came from

In 2018, our total income was \$127.1 million, an increase of 17% from 2017. This was primarily due to growth in Grant Income (\$22m or 8.1%) and commercial activities as we continue to diversify our income streams (+\$2.6m). This was partially offset by a \$4.5m reduction in community support income and \$1.3m in other income.

Grants relating to our work in Australia grew by 11% (\$4.6m) and programming in the Pacific grew by 36% (\$3.6m).

## Explanation of Terms

**Community Support Income:** Donations, fundraising, legacies and bequests received from the Australian public and corporations. Continued generous public support enables our community support income to assist us to effectively deliver programs to children and to respond to emergencies such as the Syrian crises and Rohingya appeal.

**Grants – DFAT:** Grants received from the Australian Government’s overseas aid program.

**Grants – other:** Grants received from other Australian Government departments and international organisations and government bodies.

**Commercial activity:** Includes revenue from commercial activities such as our retail stores and consulting services.

**Other income:** Includes investment income.

## Where the money went

As a result of our growth in programming, the percentage of overall spend attributable to programs grew 2% on 2017. Our investment in projects to improve efficiencies is critical to ensure the ongoing effectiveness and sustainability of the organisation. The proportion of spend on commercial activities has also increased (+1.7%) due to our continued focus on growing this part of the organisation. The proportion of spend on fundraising costs has reduced by 3.3% in 2018, partly due to the increase spend on programming activities and partly due to a reduction in fundraising costs.

## Explanation of terms

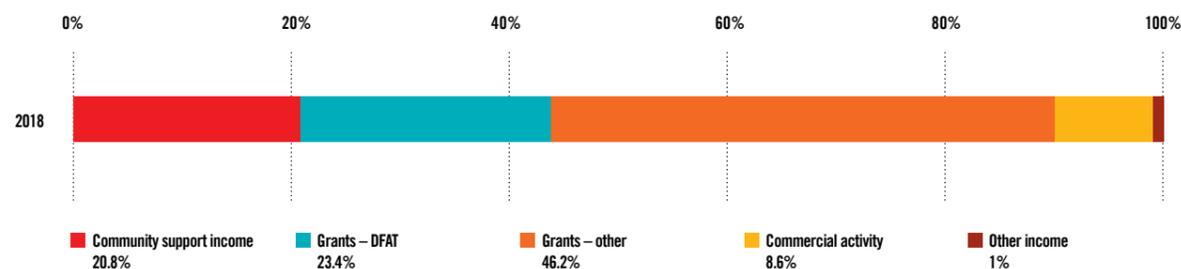
**Program expenditure:** Long-term development and emergency response work across both international and domestic programs, as well as community education which includes costs related to informing and educating the Australian community of development, humanitarian and global justice issues.

**Fundraising costs:** Costs associated with developing and securing our donor supporter base in order to attract donations to fund our program and advocacy work.

**Accountability and administration expenses:** Administrative and other costs required to efficiently run the organisation. It includes items such as staff costs in areas such as finance, IT, human resources, administration, office maintenance, audit and legal fees, insurance premiums, and IT equipment costs, as well as investments in further developing the organisation’s capabilities and infrastructure.

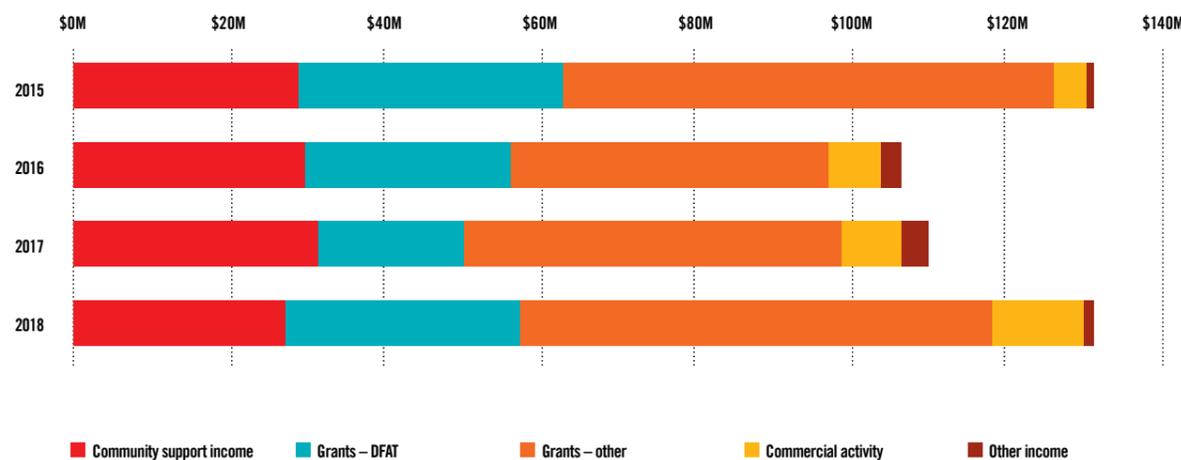
## Where the money came from:

Year ended 31 December 2018 (expressed as a % of total income)



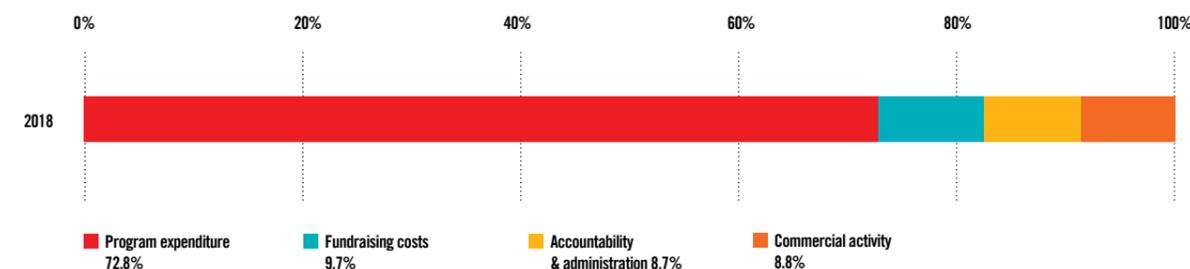
## Where the money came from:

Four-year trend



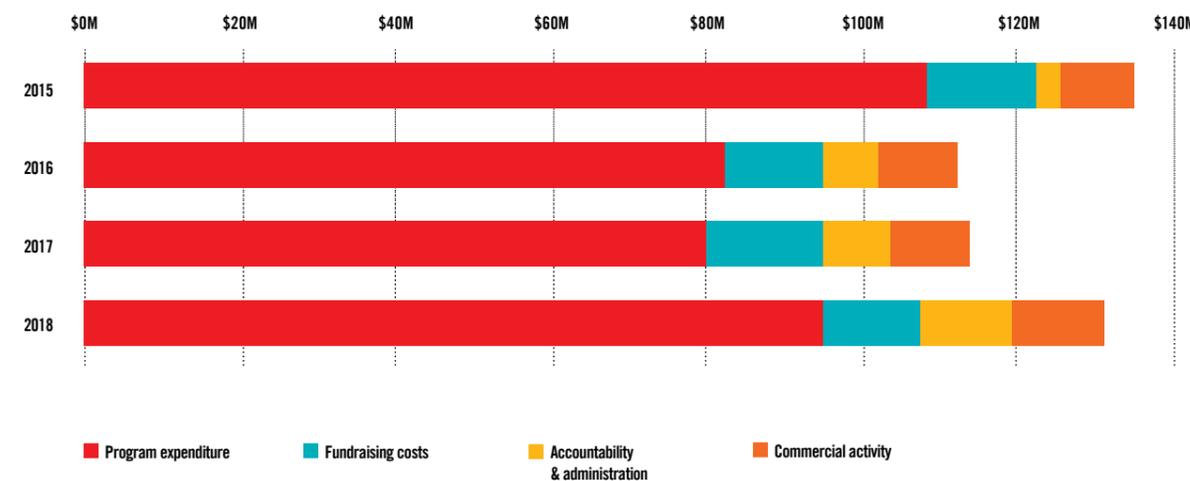
## Where the money went:

Year ended 31 December 2018 (expressed as a % of total expenditure)



## Where the money went:

Four-year trend



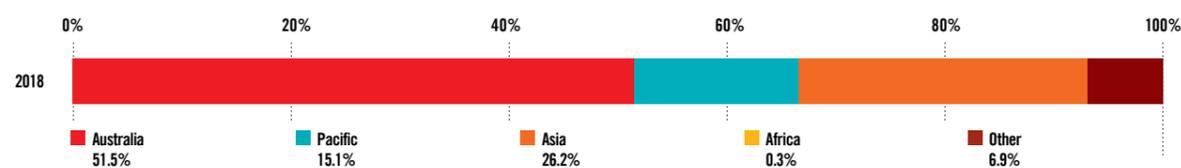
# OUR FINANCIAL PROFILE

## Project expenditure ratio

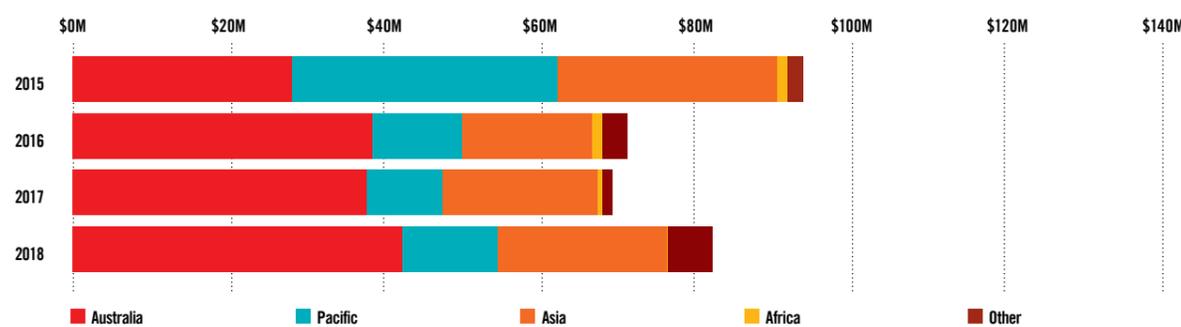
**Program Expenditure Ratio** is the total amount spent on programs including program support costs and community education. This is expressed as a percentage of total expenditure.

Our program expenditure ratio has increased to 72.7% from 70.8% in 2017 and is reflective of increased programming in all regions, highlighted by strong growth in the Pacific and Middle East.

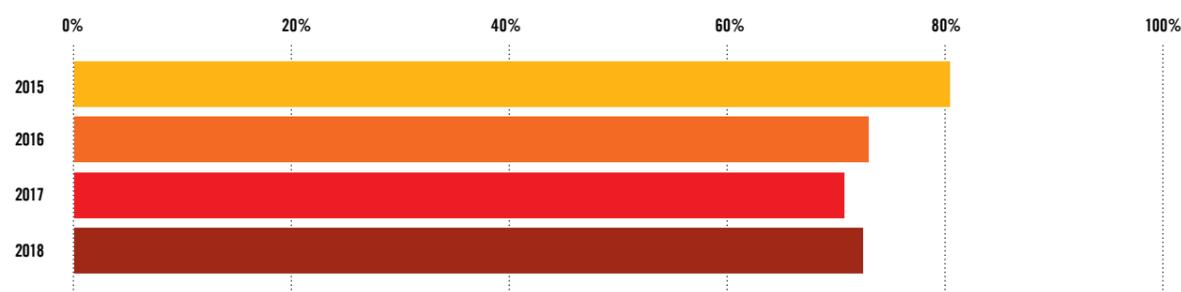
**Program expenditure:**  
Year ended 31 December 2018



**Program expenditure by region:**  
Four-year trend



**Program expenditure ratio:**  
Four-year trend



## Administration cost ratio

**Administration Cost Ratio** is the total administration costs expressed as a percentage of total expenditure.

The administration cost ratio in 2018 has reduced to 8.7% from 9.1% in 2017, with administration costs increasing at 10%, lower than the growth in income. We continue to remain focused on providing the right support to our growing programs portfolio, whilst ensuring we do this efficiently to maintain this ratio at below 10%.

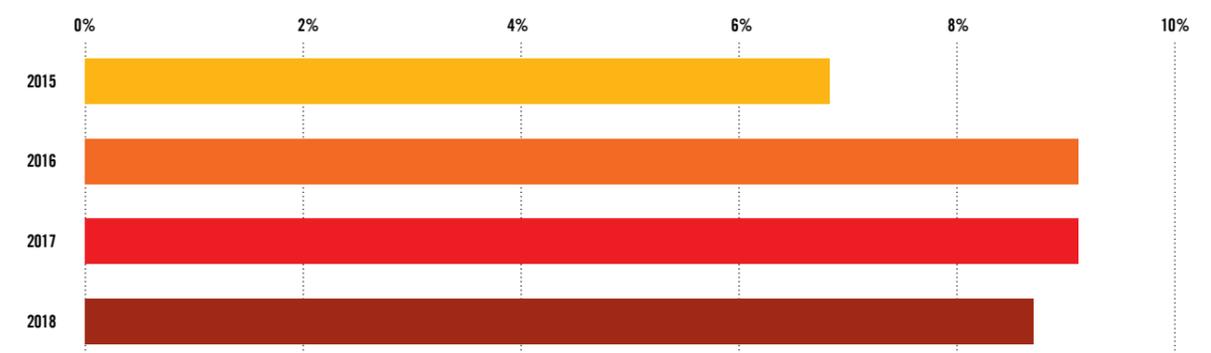
## Cost of fundraising ratio

**Cost of Fundraising Ratio** is the total fundraising cost as a percentage of community support income.

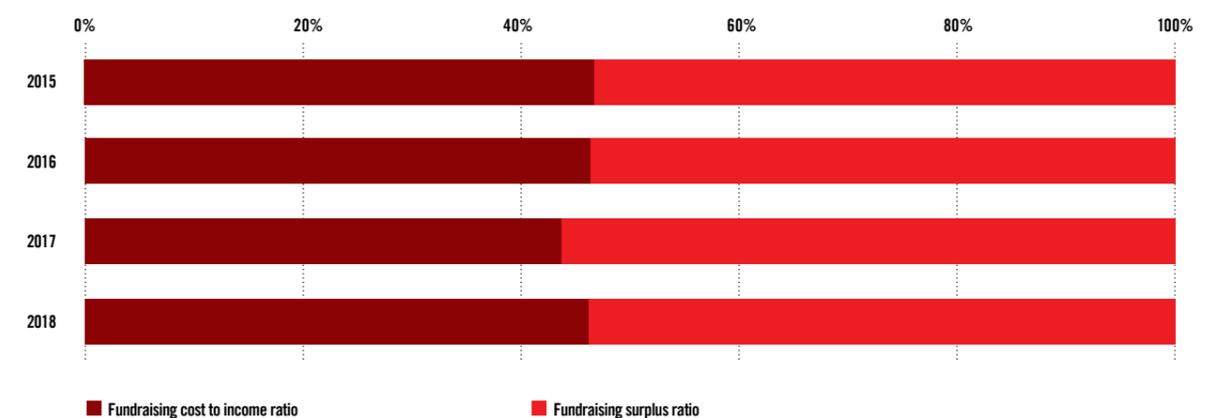
**Net Surplus from fundraising ratio** is the balance of revenue from community support income after deducting fundraising costs.

Our cost of fundraising ratio has remained steady at 46.6%, consistent with the past 3 years. We continue to focus on investment in our fundraising across multiple channels. Another ratio often given attention is the fundraising cost ratio as a percentage of total revenue. In 2018 this was 10.0%, a decrease from the 13.0% recorded in 2017 due to the strong increase in grant income and a reduction in fundraising costs.

**Administration cost ratio:**  
Four-year trend



**Cost of fundraising ratio:**  
Four-year trend



For Summary Financial Statements and Full Financial Statements, visit our Annual Report page at [savethechildren.org.au/annualreport](http://savethechildren.org.au/annualreport)





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