

WORLD'S CHILDREN

SUPPORTER MAGAZINE – WINTER 2018

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

How you're helping
create a community of
support for families in
East Gippsland ■

LOOMING DARK CLOUDS

Helping Rohingya
refugees in Cox's Bazar
prepare to withstand
the monsoon deluge ■

RECLAIMING THEIR CHILDHOOD

See how your support
is giving girls forced
into marriage a
second chance ■



Save the Children



**Your support is helping
make sure **children**
can keep learning,
even after their school
has been destroyed.**

Last year, a fierce five-month conflict in Marawi in the Philippines forced more than 360,000 people from their homes. Hospitals and schools were destroyed and the mass displacement disrupted the education of over 62,000 school-aged children.

Thanks to your support, we've set-up additional temporary classrooms for schools that have had to take on extra students. You've helped us to work with partners to facilitate psychosocial support and to provide back-to-school kits so children like Aisah* can continue to learn while she waits until it's safe to return home.

*Name changed to protect identity

Inside cover photo: Hanna Adcock/Save the Children
Cover photo: Robert McKechnie/Save the Children

WORLD'S CHILDREN

Welcome to another edition of World's Children.

When I visited regional Victoria earlier this year, it gave me a real buzz to see the impact our programs are having; how our wonderful staff are working above and beyond to be there for families contending with some of life's most difficult challenges.

But what also struck me was the way our programs are helping bring communities together.

The young mums who gather together and share their stories and support during playgroup sessions. Country blokes who get together for a pizza and chat about fatherhood in our weekly Dads' nights. The warm-hearted volunteers who lend a helping hand and a compassionate ear in our Volunteer Family Connect programs. Children from all backgrounds playing happily together. The many partners we work with, to share expertise and ensure the right kind of support is directed where it's needed most. And you – supporting children day in, day out, and never giving up.

All of these relationships continue to grow and develop every day to make life a little easier for young families and to make sure children everywhere are getting the opportunities they deserve. And it's important you know that this is all happening because of your support.

Not only are you supporting families caught in the crossfire of conflict, or helping rebuild communities in the wake of emergencies or natural disaster; you're also helping provide much needed relief for the mums, dads, grandparents and children who live in Australian neighbourhoods, towns and communities.

I hope you enjoy these stories, you should feel proud to be a part of them.

Paul Ronalds
Chief Executive Officer
Save the Children

Thank you to everyone who supports our work. Our corporate partners, trusts, foundations, the Australian government — and people like you!

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THE KINDNESS ♥ OF STRANGERS

Community spirit alive and well in East Gippsland

Jess* is living with her two children in a single room of a friend's house in Bairnsdale, East Gippsland. She's 22 and has been looking for her own place but rentals are limited and expensive.

"Life threw me a curve ball," she says, "And I've had to roll with it."

Her kids, Caleb* aged 2 and Jacinta* 10 months, are what keeps her going. "Without them, I probably just would have locked myself in my bedroom... and not come out."

Jess has just started bringing her little ones to Save the Children's Supported Playgroup.

The playgroups offer a place where children can play freely with other kids their own age, and where parents can feel safe and supported, and can build friendships with other mums and dads in their community.

"The interaction with other people is just so good for their development... playgroup is where it's at."

Staff at the centre are on hand to help parents build on their strengths. They offer advice and encouragement to foster confidence during what can often be a challenging and exhausting time.

The flexible structure of the playgroups suits Jess and her little boy. "It's really good for Caleb. All he wants to do is run around and do everything at once. He doesn't want to sit down and do painting for 20 minutes. He wants to sit down, splash paint on the paper and then run out to the sandpit. Like, immediately."

Supported Playgroups also offer more intensive early childhood and family support services to mums and dads who need a little extra help. An aspect of the playgroup that Jess was initially reluctant to pursue.

"I tend not to ask for help. Even when I really need it, it's not something I tend to do... I learnt at a very young age that nobody is coming to save me. I have to do it myself, so that's what I do."

At just her third visit to the playgroup, Jess met some other young mums who became concerned about her housing issues. The mums – each experiencing

unique challenges of their own – began asking around and were soon on the phone to a friend of a friend who had a place to rent. One even offered for Jess to stay with her in the meantime. They'd just met that day.

The group also encouraged Jess to have a chat with one of the support staff. They told her how there's no shame in asking for a little help. And that it's really quite a brave thing to do.

So, one of the dads in the playgroup offered to take baby Jacinta off Jess's hands. He settled the baby with deft expertise while Jess went off to a quiet room for a chat.

This is what community spirit is about. Encapsulated in a playgroup, all before morning snack time. Being supportive is not always about offering solutions. Sometimes it's about allowing the space for trust to build between peers and letting people wait until it feels ok to reach out. ■

Your support is helping families in more isolated communities find their feet, build healthy new relationships and enjoy nurturing home environments for their children.

*Names changed to protect identity. Photos: Robert McKechnie/Save the Children





“When we get close to the playgroup he starts clapping his hands. I make sure we try to get him here every day we can because he absolutely loves it. He just thinks it’s great.

“The staff are all very supportive, right from the first day we started coming here. They’ve always been very good, always there, always very helpful. And everybody loves Carl – he’s a happy little boy.”

■ **Carl’s Dad, Tim.**

With your support, Save the Children’s Play2Learn Playgroup in Bairnsdale, East Gippsland provides a safe and comforting space where parents and their little ones can play, interact and build healthy and helpful relationships.

WEATHERING THE STORMS

Giving kids the confidence to be prepared for the forces of nature

Droughts, floods and cyclones are becoming more and more frequent. Today, there are twice as many natural disasters as there were 20 years ago. We can't prevent these events from happening, but we can teach young people how to respond.

Involving children in disaster preparedness and response helps their readiness and resilience grow. Children have a unique ability to see things differently to adults so it's important they get a chance to make the decisions that will ultimately affect them, their families and future generations too.

Your support is helping build resilience in the world's most disaster-prone regions

In Bangladesh, you're helping give a voice to young people.

Our programs make sure their concerns and views are heard and give them a platform to share their ideas with their communities. We help children design their own climate change adaptation activities and source technical advice and funding to bring their ideas to life.

In Fiji, your support has been key in starting the conversation about disaster preparedness.

We've created flashcards to be used in schools – these encourage



Children take part in an evacuation simulation at their school in Aceh, Indonesia.

discussion between children and teachers about all types of hazards and risks and help them understand why disasters happen and what to do before, during and after the worst has passed.

In the Philippines, you've helped students set the agenda on climate change. On their own local community radio program, young presenters explored ideas linked to climate change adaptation, to build their confidence to plan and respond.

In Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, your support helped develop and roll out a 12-lesson disaster management plan in schools. Workshops simulated warning and evacuation procedures

and equipped educators with a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities in an emergency scenario in schools.

In Laos our Safer Schools project wouldn't be possible without you.

The project is helping schools prepare for the impacts of natural hazards and disasters such as floods, storms, droughts and pests.

In Indonesia, you're helping children inform and educate their communities. Children are learning how to conduct hazard mapping, while our teams help facilitate contingency planning and run disaster simulations workshops in schools and villages. ■

LOOMING DARK CLOUDS

A report from the ground in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Storm clouds over Cox's Bazar at this time of the year mean bad news. It's monsoon season and this part of Bangladesh is one of the most flood prone areas of the country.

The heavy rains this year are even more dangerous with almost 800,000 Rohingya refugees living in overcrowded camps.

UN and aid agencies have warned of the potential for a "disaster within a disaster".

Floods can inundate camps, and cause landslides on denuded hill slopes. They can cut water supply, sanitation and health care systems, and cause epidemics. Rohingya children are particularly vulnerable, suffering high levels of malnutrition and low rates of

immunisation back in Myanmar, and now living in harsh conditions where they rely on food rations to survive.

In what was the fastest growing refugee crisis in the world, Rohingya refugees settled in a relatively small amount of land, in a densely populated country quickly creating the world's biggest refugee camp. Jungles frequented by elephants were even cleared so Rohingya families could set up tents. In October, four Rohingya people, including three children, were trampled to death by an elephant in Balukhali makeshift camp.

"I saw Rohingya children playing football and flying kites... Where aid is getting through it is making a difference of life and death."

■ **Dr Unni Krishnan**
(@unnikru), Director,
Emergency Health
Unit, Save the Children.

With your support, the Emergency Health Unit is able to provide life-saving medical assistance and integrated health care services in Cox's Bazar.

Thankfully, the generosity of people like you is evident throughout the camp.

There are safe areas for children, called Child Friendly Spaces, as well as Temporary Learning Centres, Food Stations, Wash Stations and Health Centres servicing the many hundreds of thousands of children who live here.

While I was visiting a primary health centre run by Save the Children's Emergency Health Unit in the Karantoli camp, I saw Rohingya children playing football and flying kites. They had food and access to basic health and nutrition services. Where aid is getting through it is making a difference of life and death.

However, there are many dangers still lurking here. A diphtheria outbreak has already claimed 40 deaths. Flooded conditions, cramped spaces, contaminated water and crowded camps are an ideal setting for disease outbreaks.

Storms and heavy rains amplify anxiety among children who are already distressed from the inexplicable violence they faced back home in Myanmar. Children are very resilient but there is a limit to what young minds can withstand.

With all the challenges they face, it's comforting to know that our warm-hearted donors and our tireless staff and volunteers are on their side. ■



Photo: Robert McKechnie/Save the Children

DRESS UP, VE LIVES!

How your new wardrobe can change children's lives

We recently jumped on a tram and headed up Sydney Road in Melbourne to visit our Brunswick Op Shop. We took three of our colleagues to see what pre-loved bargains we could find for them. Here are the results! We have more than 60 op shops across Australia, and this is how the money you spend in them can help kids in Australia and overseas.



JILL'S OUTFIT: \$24

Dress: \$15
Shoes: \$3
Flower clip: \$3
Bracelets: \$3



\$26 can buy a newborn baby kit for mothers who have had to leave their homes in an emergency.

SARAH'S OUTFIT: \$18

Dress: \$7
Necklace: \$8
Black bracelet: \$3



\$18 can buy a schoolbag kit so kids on the move still have the resources they need to help them keep learning.

SARAH'S OUTFIT: \$60

Grey dress: \$39
Black jacket: \$9
Bag: \$5
Shoes: \$7



\$60 can provide life-saving treatment and support for 20 children who have malaria.

JILL'S OUTFIT: \$34

Black and white striped top: \$7
Cream pencil skirt: \$7
Shoes: \$9
Bag: \$5
Necklace: \$6



\$32 can provide enough therapeutic food to treat a severely malnourished child for a week.

JAMES' OUTFIT: \$41

Suit jacket: \$15
Pants: \$9
White shirt: \$5
Black shoes: \$12



\$44 can provide three families with plastic sheeting so they have shelter in an emergency.

Looking for an Op Shop near you?
Visit savethechildren.org.au/Op-shops
to find your nearest store!

RECLAIMING THEIR CHILDHOOD

Abida*, from the Maradi Region in the south of Niger, was never told that she was going to be married

“In the village, you hear people talking about it and your friends tease you about it... All the children my age who I used to play with, their parents decided to get them married at the same time.”

At 13, Abida was forced to marry her husband who was 40. She was his second wife. Now 17, she has two children, aged three and one.

In Western and Central Africa, one in seven girls get married before their 15th birthday. In Niger, 60% of

girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are married. In some of the poorer regions, 9 out of 10 are married.

Child marriage often has devastating consequences for a girl's life, effectively ending her childhood by forcing her into adulthood and motherhood before she's physically and mentally ready. It also means children like Abida are forced to drop out of school to keep house and to have babies.

Aissa Laouan Wandarama works for Save the Children in Niger. She helps co-ordinate programs that aim to change the thinking on early marriage. She understands the consequences of denying a girl her freedom more than most.

“If a generation of girls keep missing school, it can also fuel the continuous vicious cycle of poverty and malnutrition that we are witnessing today in Niger,” she explains.

“Probably the single best way of preventing early child marriage is to invest in girls' education, girls' empowerment, girls' leadership.”

Abida now attends Save the Children's 'Literacy Boost' program. A program run for young women who were forced to leave school too young, to

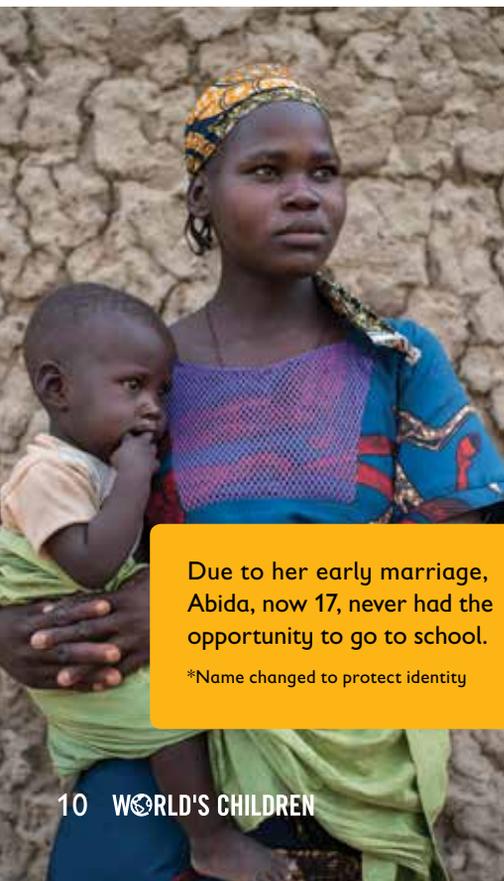
help them pick up where they left off. **A program made possible by people like you.**

“I'm going to school because I want my life to be brighter and so that I know what I'm doing and I know more about the world.”

Together we can work to make sure young girls everywhere are given the childhood and the right to education that they deserve. ■

WITH YOUR SUPPORT WE CAN CONTINUE TO:

- Provide community social workers to help support and protect children in vulnerable situations
- Provide assistance for girls to return to school/continue their education
- Promote the benefits of education and raise awareness about the dangers of early marriage to the community
- Educate parents and families on treating girls and boys equally
- Strengthen local child protection groups to alert, monitor and respond to cases of early marriage



Due to her early marriage, Abida, now 17, never had the opportunity to go to school.

*Name changed to protect identity

*Name changed to protect identity. Photo: Diana Zeyneb Alhindawi/ Save the Children

MAKING A SPLASH!

Join Peppa on a Muddy Puddle Walk for Save the Children

If you have young children in your life, chances are you'll have heard of Peppa Pig.

She's the animated star of a UK children's tv show and she's a global phenomenon. Ask any child you know between 2 and 6, they'll tell you all about her.

One of Peppa's favourite things to do is to jump in puddles, and she's very kindly asked children across Australia to join her for a **Muddy Puddle Walk** to help raise funds for Save the Children.

We're encouraging playgroups, kindergartens, families and you! to arrange a special walk for the little ones between 13-19 August – preferably with as many puddles as possible – with the aim to have fun AND to raise funds.

Kids will be encouraged to get outside, get some exercise, get a little bit muddy and raise money to help create brighter futures for children all over the world – and right here in Australia. Genius!

You can find out more about Muddy Puddle Walk at www.muddypuddlewalk.com.au

Help Peppa find her way through the maze to George!



Peppa Pig © Astley Baker Davies Ltd/Entertainment One UK Ltd 2003. 



You're helping Syrian children find a space to **learn and play.**

It never ceases to amaze us how children living in some of the world's toughest places show so much resilience, courage and charm.

Thank you for helping provide activities, early learning centres and child friendly spaces for the tens of thousands of Syrian boys and girls in Za'atari Camp in Jordan.

 Save the Children

1800 76 00 11
savethechildren.org.au