

# THE WORLD'S CHILDREN

YOU'RE PART OF A LIFE-SAVING,  
LIFE-CHANGING STORY THAT  
BEGAN 100 YEARS AGO.

**THANK YOU!**



Save the Children  
100 YEARS

**AUTUMN  
EDITION**

**1957**

# WORLD'S CHILDREN

Welcome to a very special edition of **The World's Children**.

Save the Children was founded 100 years ago when two sisters refused to turn their backs on children who were suffering after the First World War.

One hundred years later, Save the Children runs all sorts of different programs around the world – and protecting children in conflict remains one of the most important. We've chosen the stories in this edition of *The World's Children* to reflect this vital part of our work.

There's the story of Anne and Vichuta who met in the aftermath of the horrific Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia and were reunited 40 years later. There are the young people in South Sudan who are learning new skills and refusing to let conflict hold them back. There's Najwa, who had to leave Syria to protect her family and is doing everything she can to make the most of life in Australia.

You'll also read about one of our founders, Eglantyne Jebb – a remarkable and inspiring person.

With your support, we'll always be there for children when they need us – not only to protect them, but to stand up for their rights and fight for the future they deserve.

A huge amount can be achieved in 100 years and the next 100 starts right now.

Enjoy reading.

**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!**

## 1919

After seeing how children were suffering in Europe after the First World War, **Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton launched Save the Children** to help them – in the same year, the first Australian division was started in Melbourne by Cecilia John.



EGLANTYNE JEBB



DOROTHY BUXTON

## 1924

**The Declaration on the Rights of the Child, originally drafted by Eglantyne Jebb, was adopted in 1924 by the League of Nations.**

It was the first time the world formally recognised that children had unique rights that needed to be protected.



Photos: Robert McKechnie, Save the Children

# A CENTURY OF CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

For 100 years, Save the Children has been working to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. It all began in the aftermath of the First World War and it continues today thanks to dedicated supporters like you. Here are just a few key moments from the past 100 years.

## 1940s

In 1940, during the Second World War, our supporters helped us set up play centres in air-raid shelters across the UK.

Today, our Child Friendly Spaces play a similar role in crises all around the world – giving children a safe place to play and get support to cope with everything they've been through.



## 1950s

In the 1950s, we began running programs in Australia. Welfare centres and pre-schools for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were among our first programs.



## 1960s

Save the Children Australia opened its first op shops in the 1960s.

Today, we have 59 shops across the country. Our shoppers help make our work in Australia and around the world possible.



## 1970s

Towards the end of the 1970s, and during the early 1980s, our emergency relief efforts helped children and families who had suffered through the horror of the Khmer Rouge years in Cambodia.



### DO YOU EVER WONDER WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In 1979, we were working on the Thai-Cambodia border, supporting families who had fled the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. In the midst of the tragedy, 14-year-old Vichuta was helped by Anne, a nurse with Save the Children. Their friendship has lasted 40 years.

**Turn to page 8 to read their story.**



## 1980s

**In the 1980s, Save the Children began working in the Pacific.**

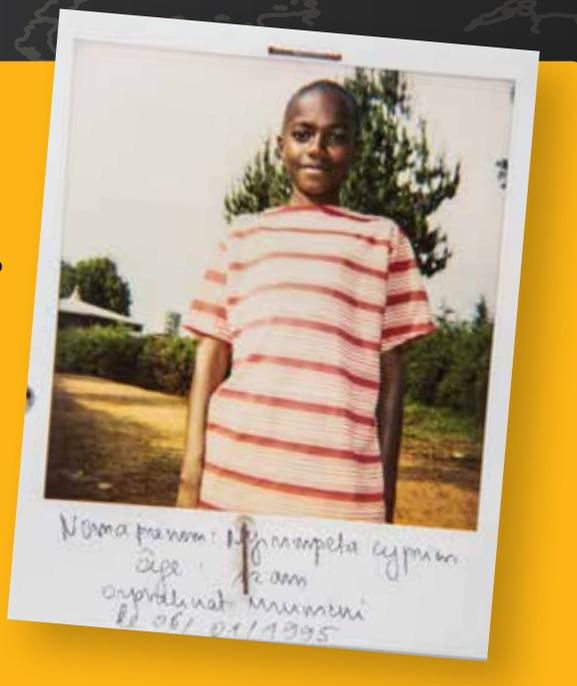
Today, we work in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.



## 1990s

**After the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, Save the Children's groundbreaking family tracing work managed to reunite 20,000 children with their families.**

Polaroid pictures of the children were attached to their case files and helped reunite children like Cyprien with family members who had survived the atrocities.



## HELPING CHILDREN CAUGHT IN CONFLICT, FROM 1919 TO 2019

When Save the Children was founded, it was to help children suffering as a consequence of conflict. Today, you help us continue that work in many different ways – both at home and overseas.

**Find out how you've helped Najwa and her family on page 10.**

## 2010s

Right now, we are witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. More than 70.8 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 25.9 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.

**Save the Children continues to provide life-saving aid to children and families who have been forced to leave their homes in places like Syria and Iraq.**

# THE STORY OF OUR FIRST DONATION

How Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton started Save the Children

**On 15 May 1919, one of the women who would – just days later – establish Save the Children stood in court. Eglantyne Jebb had been arrested in Trafalgar Square for handing out leaflets without a permit from government censors.**

The leaflets condemned Britain's blockade of Germany and its allies, which was still in place even though the First World War was over. They bore the picture of a starving child, with the headline, 'Our blockade has caused this – millions of children are starving to death'.

At the trial, Jebb was found guilty and fined £5. But she used the trial to make her point – that children were suffering and needed help – and at the end of the trial,

the prosecuting counsel gave a symbolic £5 donation to the cause. The moral victory belonged to Eglantyne.

**That £5 could be seen as Save the Children's very first donation. It was four days later, on 19 May 1919, that Save the Children was founded at packed meeting in London's Albert Hall.**

Eglantyne's sister was the first to come forward and speak to the crowd. "I stand here tonight to appeal to you for the lives of children," she told them.

At that time, with the war still so vivid in people's memories, it was not the easiest case to make. Not everybody wanted to help children of 'the enemy'

## A FITTING TRIBUTE

**Geoffrey Court is a long-time supporter of Save the Children. He has great admiration for Eglantyne Jebb and decided to leave a bequest to Save the Children to help make sure the work he believes in continues.**



"I'm sure if you asked most people on the street who Eglantyne Jebb was, they'd have no idea whatsoever. My guess is that her response to that would be 'Well, that doesn't matter. As long as our work for children is honoured and keeps on going. Don't worry about me.'

"I think you've got such a terrific story about her that you do want to keep on honouring it. Make sure she's not forgotten."

"Everything you read about her... a remarkable woman. To establish an organisation like this, against all the criticism that she was copping, was quite a massive achievement. And the fact that the Convention on the Rights of the Child came

out of Save the Children I think is an enormous tribute to her.

"There's nothing better than donating while you can still see the results of your giving. And when you're looking at your estate, the first priority is going to be family. But after that, ask the question, is there any way you could help to ensure that an organisation like this will keep on going? To make sure the standards, the quality of the programs can be maintained on an ongoing basis?

"Because you can guarantee in a hundred years there's still going to be a need to look after the rights of children. There will be children who need help. Who need protection. It's not going to go away."

**Save the Children was founded in London in May 1919. In November of the same year, the first overseas branch was set up right here in Australia, by Cecilia John.**

and some threw rotten fruit in protest. The majority, however, were inspired by Eglantyne and Dorothy and they were soon donating money to the cause.

Over the next few years, Save the Children grew. In 1921, when Russia was gripped by famine, Eglantyne and Save the Children chartered a cargo ship, the SS Torcello, to carry lifesaving food and medical supplies to Russia – an impressive feat of international negotiations and logistics that saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

And Eglantyne was instrumental in changing how the world saw children – in 1924 she presented a short document at the League of Nations Convention in Geneva, which listed what she believed were the unique rights of children. This declaration was adopted by the League of Nations a year later.

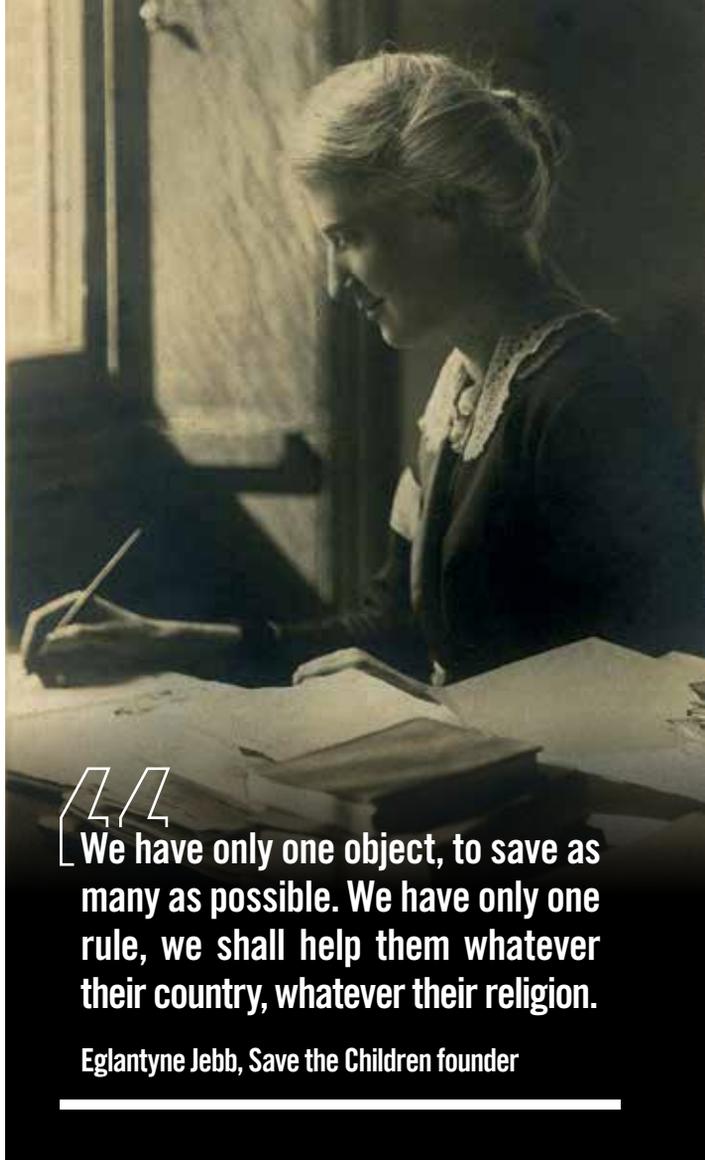
### **Today's United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are inspired by Eglantyne Jebb.**

Eglantyne dedicated her whole life to protecting children's rights. At that meeting in the Albert Hall in 1919, she said, "it is impossible for us as normal human beings to watch children starve to death without making an effort to save them ... We have only one object, to save as many as possible. We have only one rule, we shall help them whatever their country, whatever their religion." Those words continue to inspire our work today.

Eglantyne died in 1928 at age of 53. Some years later, a newspaper wrote that when Eglantyne had been gravely ill, 'of one thing only she was afraid – that the work might cease.'

One hundred years later, we are working in 116 countries around the world, including right here in Australia – and our work continues thanks to people like you.

You are keeping Eglantyne's legacy alive by being there for children when they need you. **Thank you.** ■



“We have only one object, to save as many as possible. We have only one rule, we shall help them whatever their country, whatever their religion.”

Eglantyne Jebb, Save the Children founder

**Choosing to leave a gift in your will is a wonderful act of kindness.**

**To find out more, please contact Martin Williams on 1800 76 00 11 or visit [savethechildren.org.au/bequest](http://savethechildren.org.au/bequest)**

# THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Do you ever wonder what happens next for the children you support?

**In 2010, when Vichuta stepped off a train in London, she was waving a little blue dictionary. Since it was given to her by a Save the Children nurse in 1979, the dictionary has been one of Vichuta's most precious possessions – and inspired the work she does today.**

Vichuta was 14 in 1979. By then she had already experienced unthinkable horrors. In 1975, the Khmer Rouge had taken over Cambodia and declared 'Year Zero'. What happened next was one of the worst mass killings of the twentieth century.

"I was nine when the Khmer Rouge came to the capital," Vichuta remembers. "There was a lot of screaming, shooting, bombing, rockets falling everywhere. I saw my mum crying and they took my father away."



**Whether it's a penny or pound, it will reach people in so many different ways. The ripples. It does count.**

**Anne, former Save the Children nurse**

In 1979, she arrived in a refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodia border and met Anne, a Save the Children nurse, for the first time. "I was one of five nurses and two doctors," says Anne. "When you are briefed you think – piece of cake, I can do that. But when you get there the reality hits you."

Vichuta was keen to help the medical team and volunteered her time, following Anne as she rode around the camp on her bicycle. It was here that Anne gave Vichuta the dictionary that continues to mean so much.

"When you put that dictionary into my hand – that little blue book – you were just a nice English nurse that was trying to help us," Vichuta tells Anne, "but I took it as a sign from my father. He always used to say, 'pay attention to your education – it'll give you a good life.'"

Anne and Vichuta have reunited a few times since they first met but when Anne saw Vichuta getting

off the train with that little blue dictionary, she says "I was just gone. It's such an emotive thing ... she always said how Save the Children gave her the life she now has. To me, the blue dictionary captures that. Thirty-five years of being grateful to Save the Children. It's an incredibly powerful thing, I think."

Thankfully, Vichuta was given asylum in Canada and thrived. But things could have been very different. "Vichuta's life could've been snuffed out at any point in those previous four years. She could've died in the camp – many died in the first days. We were just separating the dead from the living at one stage, it was horrific. But she survived that. Then she was given asylum in Canada, with 35,000 others."

In Canada, Vichuta went to university and got a law degree. And these days, inspired by Anne, she's helping others. "It's why I started my charity to provide legal aid free of charge for children



who are victims of gender-based violence, rape, domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and forced marriage.”

“Anne saved our lives,” Vichuta says. “I would not have become a lawyer. I would not have been able to travel and speak around the world about our work, our story, our children. Now I’m here. I’m proud. I’m proud to be with Anne. Because of her, I’m here.”

We talk about big numbers when we talk about humanitarian emergencies, but beyond those numbers, there are individuals, each with their own experiences and their own hopes and dreams for the future. Of that, Vichuta’s story is a good reminder.

You might not be able to help everyone, but your support helps someone and to that person, it means the world – and who knows what they will go on to do for someone else?

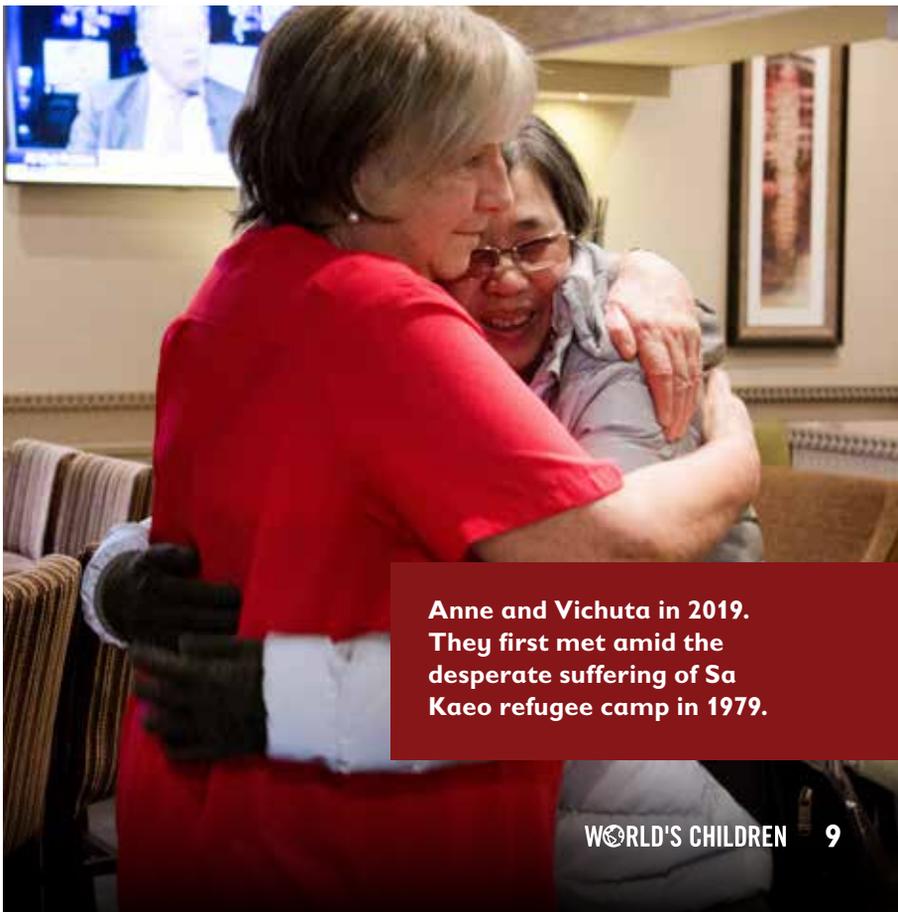
“There’s a lot of cynicism and compassion fatigue,” Anne says, “people get battered down with it. But whether it’s a penny or pound, it will reach people in so many different ways. The ripples. It does count. Every single person can make a difference and does make a difference.” ■



**Anne working in a clinic in Sa Kaeo refugee camp, 1979.**



**14-year-old Vichuta in Sa Kaeo refugee camp, 1979.**



**Anne and Vichuta in 2019. They first met amid the desperate suffering of Sa Kaeo refugee camp in 1979.**

# SAFETY IS JUST THE START

A new life, thousands of miles from home

**When families who have fled conflict are resettled in Australia, the search for safety might be over but that doesn't mean the hard times are behind them. Getting to know a new country, new language and new culture can be tough. And that's not to mention what it must be like to desperately miss home.**

Najwa, from Syria, clearly remembers the day she arrived in Australia with her family. "When we landed in the airport, it was so quiet," she tells us. "I can't explain my feelings then, it is not easy to describe, we had got used to hearing the sounds of gunshots and explosions."

"There were no signs of the military in the streets and no gunfire ... that was the most beautiful moment of my life since I left Syria. In that moment, in Australia, I started to feel safe."

**When Save the Children was founded in 1919, it was to help children suffering as a consequence of conflict.**

**Today, you help us continue that work in many different ways – both at home and overseas.**



Our It Takes a Village programs across the country help newly arrived refugee and migrant families settle into life in Australia.

These programs help to build children's confidence and language skills, while providing support to their families.

In Australia, our It Takes a Village programs around the country support newly arrived refugee families, like Najwa's, settle into life in Australia. We help them navigate new systems, cope with a new language and support their children to get the most out of their education.

"In the beginning, we didn't have any relationships with anyone and I didn't know anybody here," says Najwa, who worked as an accountant before war broke out in Syria. "But I believed that to achieve any goal I want, I had to be more social. The best way was to find a place or a group where I can meet other people."

Najwa started going along to It Takes a Village, where her children were able to spend time with other kids in the playgroup and she was able to practise her English.

"Before, my kids, they didn't have any friends, but once they came to Save the Children, to the playgroup, they've been playing and being with other kids, they are so happy. When I see them playing with the others, it makes me happy ... it makes the whole family happy."

"Now, they are talking English fluently, they are really good with their education. I'm so happy and proud of them. I'm telling them, you are not taking it step by step, you are jumping."



**That was the most beautiful moment of my life since I left Syria. In that moment, in Australia, I started to feel safe.**

**Najwa, mum of 5, Syria**

“Before, especially my youngest one, the two-year-old, he’s isolated, when he’s at home, he’s not been playing with his siblings. But, since he started with Save the Children, he’s completely changed. He’s now happier and more active, and he’s so kind with his other siblings as well.

“The decision to leave Syria was really hard for me because I was born there and lived there my whole life. But, as a mum, home is the place where my kids feel safe, secure and have a future. This is the most important thing for me. For that, I feel that Australia is my home.” ■



# HOW ANWAR BEAT PNEUMONIA

Supporters like you helped Anwar get better with these (not-so-simple) steps

**We first met Anwar\* early one morning, as his parents were desperately looking for help for their sick son. They were in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, which has been their home since fleeing violence in Myanmar.**

Anwar was just 18 months old and had been sick for a week. His parents hadn't known how serious it was until the night before when he began screaming, trembling and crying.

## HERE'S HOW ANWAR GOT BETTER:

### 1. First, we built a healthcare centre...

The 20-bed healthcare centre opened the same week Anwar got sick – which meant he could be properly diagnosed and receive 24/7 inpatient care.

### 2. ...and trained our community mobilisers.

Our community mobilisers deliver health messages and identify serious diseases to help keep families healthy in crowded camps. It was one of these community mobilisers that saw Anwar and his parents in distress and took them to our healthcare centre.

### 3. The healthcare centre was staffed with doctors who were quickly able to diagnose Anwar. They checked Anwar's oxygen, heart rate and temperature and diagnosed him with pneumonia. Treatment started immediately.

### 4. The healthcare centre had the equipment needed to help Anwar get better. Anwar was given oxygen and monitored by staff. His parents began to see a big difference in their son. His coughing stopped, his temperature dropped and his breathing became regular again.

### 5. Anwar headed home with his family! After three days of treatment, Anwar was discharged from the healthcare centre and headed back to their tent. ■

“When I took my son to the clinic, he was lying in my arms.

When I brought him back, he was walking. He came back as a healthy child.

Anwar's mum, Rahima



We visited Anwar and his family a few days after they left the healthcare centre. Anwar was full of energy and playing with a friend next door – it was wonderful to see what can happen thanks to support from people like you.

# PEACE & HOPE

Young people building a better future in South Sudan

**Every day, amazing people are doing amazing things to help give kids a brighter future. Michael from South Sudan is one of them – but he knows it’s a team effort.**

Michael works about five hours outside South Sudan’s capital, Juba, giving young people training, education and vocational skills that will help them find employment. There’s something for everyone with trades such as carpentry, masonry, computer literacy, agriculture, welding, hairdressing and dressmaking all on offer.

The young people in this program have missed out on education because of conflict in their country and they’ve been through a lot. Some were recruited as child soldiers, others are survivors of rape and many have seen family members being killed.

But Michael has seen these young people move from desperation to hope and that’s what motivates him, day in, day out. “The type of skills and knowledge we are teaching them now will help them reconstruct South Sudan,” he says. “We can’t count on the past generations.”



“When I first decided to do welding, I was asked “Why do you choose welding? It is not a woman’s work ... but once they saw I could make useful things and earn money, no one tried to control me. I’m going to set up a workshop with my friend Maisie!” **Tina\* (left), 17**

Michael has helped change the lives of many young people – but he sees it all as a team effort. “The lives we’ve touched, the changes I’ve made, are not my changes alone ... the fact that Save the Children supporters give, and support people they don’t even know – people that are not related to them, who will give them nothing in return – that is amazing.”

This program couldn’t be more timely or vital. Violence has forced

a third of South Sudan’s population – mostly young people – from their homes. And with people lacking opportunities, traumatised by war, and ethnically divided, the situation could become a perfect storm for perpetuating the conflict. But with the support of programs like this, South Sudan’s young could be the changemakers their country so desperately need. ■

“I saw many people doing construction in the community and I tried to join them. I practised but they told me to come here and get a certificate. When I get a certificate I will be able to compete with the others for work and support myself.”

**Matelo\*, 16**



For me to be very successful in agriculture it's not only important to know how to grow vegetables but also how to market and learn other skills ... I want to learn everything!” **Chol\*, 13**

## Join us for an incredible adventure to Nepal

The Nepal Trek 2020 for Save the Children is your chance to take on a life-changing adventure and help children everywhere get a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm.

The Trek will see a passionate team of supporters take on the Annapurna range of the lower Himalayas. You'll trek through stunning scenery, following narrow paths between terraced rice fields, rhododendron forests and majestic snow-capped mountains by day and sleep in traditional mountain huts by night. You'll also discover the history and culture of Nepal's colourful capital and explore some of its incredible sites.

Best of all, you'll trek with Save the Children supporters and raise money to help give all children access to the bright future they deserve. Sound like an adventure for you?

### REGISTER NOW

The Trek will take place 7–18 March, 2020. Places are limited. Register now at [inspiredadventures.com.au/events/save-the-children-australia-nepal-trek-2020](https://inspiredadventures.com.au/events/save-the-children-australia-nepal-trek-2020) or call Inspired Adventures on **1300 905 188**.



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a bright blue zip-up school uniform, is smiling warmly at the camera while playing a keyboard piano. Her hands are positioned on the keys. In the background, other children are visible, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The setting appears to be a classroom or a music room with colorful posters on the wall.

# Thank you!

On the front of this edition of *The World's Children* is an original cover from Autumn 1957. The back cover shows Afsana, aged 10, attending a music class for children from a nearby brothel in Bangladesh.

**Thank you for always being there for children – yesterday, today and tomorrow.**



**Save the Children**  
100 YEARS

1800 76 00 11

[savethechildren.org.au](http://savethechildren.org.au)

\*Name has been changed to protect identity. Photo: Allison Joyce/Save the Children