



Save the Children

THERE FOR EVERY CHILD

THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND
UPDATE OCTOBER 2023

Photo credit: Damian Mobbs / Save the Children Vanuatu

It takes a village to raise a child

But it takes a concerned global community to help save them from life-threatening situations.

Children around the world are caught up in crises they shouldn't have to deal with, whether they're caused by the climate crisis, human-made conflicts or political injustice.

With your support, our Child Emergency Fund, is helping us to prepare better, respond more quickly and protect children for longer.

Above: A drone shot of Lee Roy, 15, standing in front of his family's house that was damaged during the tropical cyclones - Kevin and Judy - which hit Vanuatu in March 2023.



Vanuatu hit hard by twin cyclones earlier this year

Tropical Cyclone Judy and Tropical Cyclone Kevin - both Category 4 - hit Vanuatu on March 1st and March 3rd respectively.

On the 5th of March, a state of emergency was declared across the country. In total, an estimated 251,000 people were affected by the tropical cyclones, including houses being damaged, people having to stay in evacuation centres, and people having to stay with host families.

Fortunately, no deaths or significant injuries were reported in connection with the tropical cyclones.

Two-year-old, Messi plays in a Child Friendly Space with Save the Children staff member, Lilliano.

THE EMERGENCY FUND, IN ACTION IN VANUATU

Noa* is 11 years old. He lives in a village in Vanuatu with his parents as well as his two siblings and three cousins who live with the family.

The family was forced to take shelter from back-to-back tropical cyclones in March, moving to a safe house in the community's school.

The cyclones tore off part of the family's roof even though Noa's father had tied down the corrugated iron sheets with extra reinforcements. The family's water tank was damaged and, as a result, their water supply became contaminated. The food in their garden rotted and the family's banana trees fell down as well.

"Our gardens no longer have food. Our banana trees with fruit all fell down, but we still harvest and eat them. Our water sources have been contaminated with dirt and leaves making it unsuitable to drink. Apart from the fallen bananas that we harvest and eat, we collect cabbage off the ground too. That's dying really fast though." Noa, 11

Left: Noa and his Mum, Emele, receiving a health and hygiene kit from Save the Children.

Your support to our Child Emergency Fund meant that Save the Children was there on the ground helping Noa and the many other children and families in his community.

Distributions of hygiene, shelter and household kits to families were immediately undertaken, reaching 4,372 people.

Following this, the Ministry of Education in Vanuatu asked Save the Children to set up Temporary Learning Spaces where schools had been damaged.

Child Friendly Spaces were also set up in Evacuation Centres in Eratap and Pango where communities were most heavily impacted.

Emele with Noa and her 4-year-old daughter at a Child-Friendly Space.





Ayaz*, 15 (centre) and his siblings and mother in their cramped, single room house in Cox's Bazar.

Living on 27 US cents a day... how Rohingya families are surviving

Six years after 750,000 Rohingya people fled violence in Myanmar to seek safety in Bangladesh, refugees living in Cox's Bazar now have a third less food than five months ago.

Since March 2023, the World Food Programme has been forced to cut food assistance to the refugees in the camps by a third - to just US\$8 per month or US \$0.27 per day - due to a massive funding shortfall.

Rohingya refugee families are only able to buy rice and a litre of oil and children are falling sick from the severe shortage of nutritious and diverse foods, like meat, eggs or vegetables.

THE EMERGENCY FUND, IN ACTION IN COX'S BAZAR

After six years, there is no end in sight for the misery Rohingya refugees are having to endure. The lives of half a million children are at risk from recent food cuts.

Shaheen Chughtai, Save the Children's Country Director in Bangladesh, recently said:

"The humanitarian response is at breaking point. The UN's 2023 humanitarian response plan for the Rohingya refugees is only 30% funded. This is a children's crisis, and those children are in danger of becoming a lost generation."

Ayaz (pictured above) and his family have had multiple reductions in their food rations. They used to be able to purchase chicken beef, fish, apples, and oranges. Nowadays, however, the family is limited to purchasing staples only like rice and oil.

As the oldest sibling, Ayaz tries his best to fill the void left by his father who died several years ago. Looking forward, Ayaz dreams of becoming a doctor. He wants to provide for his family so that affording basic necessities like food and clothing isn't a struggle.

Left: Ayaz walks his younger siblings to a Save the Children supported Learning Centre.

Save the Children New Zealand is supporting two health posts through our Emergency Fund.

These health posts are vital for families like Ayaz's, particularly at the moment when a Dengue fever epidemic is sweeping Bangladesh.

From March - July this year, almost 17,000 consultations took place in the two health posts. As well as treating ill patients, staff run a series of outreach activities aiming to raise awareness of various issues, including the importance of vaccinations, and also a range of preventative sessions on relevant topics.

Trained Community Health Workers also visit households on a regular basis.

A health worker treats a young patient in the Health Post supported by Save the Children.



SPOTLIGHT ON UKRAINE

5.1 MILLION PEOPLE REMAIN INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN UKRAINE

Intensified hostilities continue to force thousands of families from their homes, including in the Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Sumy regions over recent months. The impact this has on children is immense with the well-being and education of many children affected.

Currently, only 30 per cent of the 3 million school-aged children in Ukraine are in full-time face-to-face learning, while nearly 40 per cent only access education online.

Save the Children continues to provide bunker kits for schools, establish Digital Learning Centres and provide mine risk awareness resources for students and teachers.

FIGHTING A DIFFERENT KIND OF BATTLE

Save the Children has been supporting children battling cancer in Ukraine, namely through our partnership with Tabletochki.

Recently, eleven Ukrainian hospitals providing paediatric cancer care received support in the form of medications, and medical supplies and equipment valued at over 270,000 USD.

In the oncology department of the hospital in Dnipro Region, three-year-old Denys* is just one child fighting the battle of his life.

Denys*, 3 is celebrating the beginning of the school year playing with a building kit while waiting for cancer treatment.



Currently, the oncology department accommodates 20 children, some of whom have been receiving treatment for over a year. Many of these young patients missed out on the school celebrations they would have attended if not for their ongoing treatment.

So the hospital organised a special celebration, where the children recited poems, engaged in games, and, notably, each child had the chance to ring a bell, symbolising the commencement of the school year.

As part of this celebration, Save the Children distributed 20 Individual Learning Kits with stationery. Recognising that some of the children were unable to attend due to their ongoing drips, Save the Children staff ensured the delivery of these kits directly to their hospital wards.

For children like Denys, it's these small acts of kindness - made possible because of your support - which mean the world.

Your support for our Children's Emergency Fund is literally saving lives. But as more crises and emergencies occur, there is more need than ever for extraordinary supporters like you to help us reach more children when they need it most.

Please donate now to help us reach more children when disaster strikes.

Be part of our global community so that, together, we are there for every child.

One by one. Life by life. Child by child.

THE EMERGENCY FUND: OUR APPROACH

- ✓ **READY** Before disaster hits, we help communities to prepare for the worst.
- 🕒 **RESPOND** Within hours of a disaster striking, our teams can be on the ground, saving children's lives.
- 🛠️ **RECOVER** In the months after the crisis, we provide ongoing support to help children rebuild their lives.