



2016 HIGHLIGHTS



Save the Children®

MAKING AN IMPACT FOR CHILDREN

THE IMPACT OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Every child deserves the best chance for a bright future. Because of valued partners like you, more children than ever before are surviving and thriving. In the U.S. and around the world, more children are growing up healthy, educated and safe. When crisis strikes, more children are benefiting from the unique care they need. More children's voices are being heard and their issues given top priority by world leaders. Together, we're transforming children's lives, changing the course of their futures and ours. Thank you!

Every Day: A Healthy Start

NEWBORN SURVIVAL AND CHLORHEXIDINE

Almost one-quarter of newborn deaths in Bangladesh are caused by infection – and a new baby's recently cut umbilical cord is a common entry point for bacteria. Save the Children is helping to reduce these preventable deaths by scaling up an efficient and low-cost way to protect newborns against bacterial infections.

Chlorhexidine is a safe and commonly used antiseptic. When applied to the umbilical cord stump immediately after birth and during the first week of life, it

can help protect babies from infection. Trials have shown that chlorhexidine can prevent over 20 percent of newborn deaths. With Save the Children's support, Bangladesh adopted the use of the antiseptic for newborn cord care in 2013. Since then, we've helped roll out chlorhexidine programming across the entire country by training more than 85,800 health workers who have reached an estimated 181,600 newborn babies.



Chlorhexidine applied to the umbilical cord stump can help protect newborn babies from infection. In Bangladesh, Save the Children has helped roll out its use nationwide.



Save the Children's innovative "length mat" helps monitor a child's growth in Cambodia.

THE NOURISH PROJECT HELPS REDUCE STUNTING

Save the Children is in the midst of a five-year, USAID-funded project to prevent stunting in Cambodia. Stunting – or chronic malnutrition – is the result of a poor diet over a number of years. Children who suffer from stunting are too small for their age because they haven't developed properly. Approximately 40 percent of Cambodian children under age 5 are stunted, chiefly due to poverty and lack of access to quality nutrition services.

The NOURISH project strengthens communities to support improved nutrition. One way we do this is through growth-monitoring activities. Recently, we successfully tested an innovative "length mat" that helps families and communities monitor a child's growth and understand if the growth progress falters. The mat is a portable, attractive, easy-to-use tool that measures children's height at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months so parents and the community can see minimum growth expectations and are alerted to take action if necessary.

Every Day: The Opportunity to Learn

READY ON THE FIRST DAY

In America's most isolated places, in communities plagued by poverty, children begin school without the foundation of early learning they need to succeed. Many are not developmentally and socially ready for school at age 5. Not only are they behind on their first day of school – they may never catch up.

Early learning programs offer the most promise for increasing school readiness. Our Early Steps to School Success home-visiting program puts at-risk babies and toddlers on track to begin school prepared. The vast majority of children we serve score at or above national norms at ages 3 and 5 as measured by the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test.

We're also providing quality preschool programming through Head Start and, after a successful pilot program last year in Kentucky, we began implementing our two-week school-readiness summer camp KinderBoost in three states. KinderBoost helps preschoolers familiarize themselves with their new school environment, make new friends, engage in learning activities and build their confidence so they can start kindergarten on par with their middle-income peers.



Hunter, age 5, was one of the first participants in Save the Children's new KinderBoost program in Kentucky, which was implemented for the first time in 2015. This year, we expanded KinderBoost to two more states, helping more girls and boys start school prepared.

BREAKING BARRIERS TO GIRLS' EDUCATION

Girls and boys in rural West Africa enroll in primary school in fairly equal numbers. However, many girls never go on to secondary school because



they face discrimination and are at risk of child labor, early marriage and pregnancy, and gender-based violence while at school.

Our experience shows that the more time girls spend in school, the better their chances of breaking the cycle of poverty and becoming productive young adults. Our new School Me program in Sierra Leone and Côte D'Ivoire seeks to help girls make a successful transition from primary to secondary education.

Through this exciting program, we are fostering a critical mass of support for girls by engaging them and key people in their lives – boys, parents, teachers and community and religious leaders – in activities that challenge and change gender norms so that girls and boys have equal opportunities to learn and to participate in decisions that affect them.



With support from Literacy Boost, children in Rwanda's Gicumbi rural area are making significant gains in reading comprehension.

BUILDING A GLOBAL CULTURE OF LITERACY

Literacy Boost is Save the Children's answer to a global learning crisis. More than 250 million children ages 5-12 are unable to read or write, whether they are in school or not. Literacy Boost aims to expand learning opportunities both at home and in the community. This "life-wide learning" approach creates a culture of literacy that extends beyond school walls. The program has already helped almost 4 million children in more than 30 countries.

A new Stanford University study in Gicumbi, a rural area in northern Rwanda, shows that the average Literacy Boost student reads more fluently and scored higher in reading comprehension than more than 60 percent of the students who did not participate in the program. Save the Children's program in Rwanda combines teacher training, assessments, community action, innovative classroom design and support for the publishing of children's books in order to increase literacy.

Every Day: Protection from Harm. Building Resiliency.

KEEPING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

The Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster-prone in the world. According to one recent assessment, four of the five countries with the most people affected by disasters were in this region. Yet many schools are not prepared. When schools are destroyed, closed due to damage or used as emergency shelters, children miss out on learning and are at greater risk of exploitation and child labor. The longer children stay away from school, the less likely they are to return.

Through our new Education Safe from Disasters initiative, we're addressing these short- and long-term consequences of a disrupted education. Our ambition is that children will lose no school days because of a disaster, and that no child will be killed or injured should a disaster strike while they are in school. Education Safe from Disasters gives our local staff the tools to start or strengthen school-based, disaster risk reduction activities, to document what works and to share what we're learning with others.



We're working to ensure children like these youngsters from Nepal will never again have their education disrupted by an earthquake or other natural disaster.

FIVE GIRLS TAKE A JOURNEY OF HOPE

Journey of Hope is Save the Children's signature psychosocial support program for children, adolescents and adult caregivers affected by an emergency or other community trauma. Developed after Hurricane Katrina, this innovative program has been part of our response after every major U.S. disaster since 2007 and was recently introduced in international crises, as well.

Through Journey of Hope, children learn to cope with what they have experienced, building a stronger sense of self-esteem and cultivating skills for interpersonal relationships.

In Houston, the program helped a group of girls new to their school – and to the U.S. – all of whom had lost loved ones or left them behind. Intense rivalries and bullying had become a significant problem for the girls. After they went through eight weeks of Journey of Hope sessions with their classmates, the bullying stopped and new friendships began. Significantly, despite the program having ended, the girls continue to meet each week to support one another.



Five girls who struggled with bullying extend their hands in a friendship star after having participated in our Journey of Hope program. Thanks to Save the Children's innovative program, the girls now have a strong support network in place of bitter rivalries.

Breakthroughs for Children

PREDICTING THE FUTURE TO HELP KIDS

Technology is playing an increasingly important role in our work for children around the world. One example is our innovative Hunger Analytics Portal (HAP), a tool through which we plan to leverage data to fight child hunger.

HAP is focused on helping us make more well-informed decisions by accumulating data from multiple sources and building models so we can better understand and plan for food shortages. We will initially deploy HAP in West Africa (Nigeria) and the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia), with the option to quickly scale up to other regions.

Providing targeted assistance to vulnerable households before crises unfold can improve families' resilience. It can also help prevent a crisis by protecting the assets of people like 24-year-old Etele from Ethiopia, keeping children healthy and well-nourished and preventing households like hers from falling into poverty.

As we develop this cutting-edge tool, we expect to expand its use from food security into other interventions, such as emergency responses, logistics planning and refugee management.



“We totally depended on farming for all of our lives. When it was no longer there, things became so hard my husband left our home. As the only parent, I have to provide for my three children and myself all alone.”

Etele, Ethiopia

EXPANDING OUR ROLE IN DIGITAL CASH

The mobile phone has become a lifeline for the world's poor. Of the estimated 2.5 billion people who lack access to financial services, more than 1 billion have a mobile phone that can provide a vital link to digital cash transfers and vouchers – a key pathway out of poverty.

Save the Children has long been at the forefront of this digital transformation. Our innovative electronic payment solutions help people better manage risks; create safety nets against the shock of an emergency; and invest in livelihoods, health and education.

In Yemen, for example, we're partnering with MasterCard to deliver electronic transfer programs to improve food security and nutrition. The program will reach approximately 9,000 households over three years, providing electronic food vouchers in exchange for work that rebuilds water canals, terraces and roads.

We will continue to expand our expertise in delivering aid through digital payments and mobile banking options that can lead to greater financial inclusion for the world's poorest, most vulnerable families.



Alister holds up the mobile phone his family uses to receive cash transfers in the Binga district of Zimbabwe. The family uses the cash to pay for a monthly food supply and school books for the children.

CURBING PREVENTABLE DEATHS IN CHILDREN

Pneumonia is the leading cause of death in children under age 5, and the majority of its more than 900,000 child victims are from developing countries. But there is hope.



Pneumonia is easily treatable if diagnosed accurately and in time. Hence, the great need for new diagnostic tools designed specifically for use in low-resource settings.

The Children's Automated Respiration Monitor (ChARM) is an exciting innovation with potential to change the way health workers diagnose and treat pneumonia. Save the Children collaborated with Philips Research Group to develop this device, which automatically determines respiratory rates without dependence on power sources.

We worked with Philips to field-test the device in Kenya, where 17 percent of recent deaths among children under age 5 were caused by pneumonia. The study is a key step toward recommending the ChARM system for large-scale use to manage pneumonia among the world's most vulnerable children.

In Times of Crisis: Readiness. Relief. Recovery.



Save the Children's search-and-rescue vessel, the Vos Hestia, is expected to save up to 20,000 lives through 2017.

SAVING LIVES AT SEA – SAVING FUTURES ON LAND

Every day, thousands of refugees and migrants are crowding onto tiny boats and dinghies that are too often inflatable and unable to withstand the strain of a trip across the Mediterranean from North Africa to Italy. Babies, children and pregnant women are among them, and 90 percent of girls and boys who come to Italy by sea arrive alone.

At Save the Children, we have taken to the Mediterranean ourselves to reach these incredibly vulnerable children and adults, and help avert tragic drownings as people seek safety and security in Europe. In September, we launched a fully crewed and equipped search-and-rescue vessel. It can accommodate hundreds at a time after their rescue from the sea.

While refugees and migrants are on board and our vessel returns to Italy, we provide food, water, medical care and psychosocial first aid, among other vital services. Our first rescue operation assisted more than 300 migrants in the Mediterranean, including a one-month-old baby girl.

With this vessel, we have expanded our reach to all points of these children's journey and increased our capacity to provide much-needed aid.

Save the Children has been responding to Europe's migration crisis throughout the past year and has been present along the entire route taken by refugees and migrants. We are working in countries of origin including Syria, Nigeria and Afghanistan, and in Syrian refugee camps and host communities across the Middle East. We also work in "transit countries" like Turkey, Serbia, Croatia, Italy and Greece, meeting the physical and emotional needs of children on the move. And, we are working in destination countries like Germany and the United Kingdom, ensuring children's rights are respected and that they have access to proper care and support. We have remained flexible to respond to circumstances as they shift and change – and our search-and-rescue vessel extends our reach to the most dangerous point in the children's entire journey.

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES IN THE UNITED STATES

When lead seeped into the water supply in Flint, Michigan, we supported the distribution of safe water and nutrient-rich food packages to help children threatened by a serious public health emergency.

We also responded to devastating floods this summer when torrential rains swept through West Virginia and Louisiana.

Our staff in those states immediately sprang into action, using your support to aid children in our existing programs and in surrounding communities. We provided essential items like food, water, blankets and car seats, along with other much-needed supplies so children could be kept healthy and safe as their families began to recover. In West Virginia and Louisiana, your support is also helping us restore children's access to child care and education.



TAKING THE FIGHT TO ZIKA

Our health experts are on the frontlines of the fight against the Zika virus. From the U.S. to the Caribbean and Central and South America, we are educating people about Zika and its prevention. We're taking action because of the risk that children whose mothers are infected with the virus during pregnancy may be born with microcephaly or other neurological abnormalities that can be life-threatening and last for a lifetime.

In the U.S., we're reaching children and families in our early childhood development programs and through the 200 schools in 20 states where we work to improve children's literacy. Zika messages have also been included in our Get Ready Get Safe emergency preparedness program.

In many communities in the Caribbean and Central and South America, we are also helping to eliminate mosquito breeding sites, organizing local cleanup campaigns, training health workers and have distributed insecticide-treated bed nets and mosquito repellent.



Children in El Salvador learn about Zika and its prevention during an education campaign Save the Children organized at their school.