

Together we fight for children every day

children

NOW

GREAT EXPECTATIONS!

Why pregnant women in Kenya love the boda boda paramedic

19 CHILDREN AND COUNTING:

meet Uganda's hardest working foster mum

ON THE GROUND:

aid worker Ahmad explains the challenges in Syria

HOPE WILL WIN:

building a new future for the Rohingya refugees



Save the Children

WELCOME

What's new inside your supporters' magazine for summer 2018

Welcome to the new-look Children Now, our bi-annual magazine that showcases some of the ways that, alongside our incredible supporters, we're helping children to build a better future.

In this issue, you'll read about how you're helping children to thrive, including inspiring stories from Africa, Asia and Europe.

We're particularly in awe of super foster mum Francine*, who shares her home in a Ugandan refugee camp with 19 children. And in India, Chattu*, a 13-year-old boy living in a honey slum whose sights are set firmly on becoming a doctor.

There's also a special report from Bangladesh on the crisis affecting Myanmar's Rohingya community - one year after we began humanitarian relief efforts there. Find out how we're supporting and protecting some of the world's most vulnerable children by giving them safe places to play and learn.

Closer to home, you'll meet ten year-old Frasier from Brighton. He's written an award-winning book 'There's a Boy Just Like Me' about an imaginary friendship between a boy from the UK and a refugee affected by conflict.

We think you'll agree that with boys like Frasier, our future is in good hands. Together, we're standing side by side with children to empower them as they make their mark on the world.

Thank you from everyone at Save the Children.

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AND THAT'S NOT ALL



We're launching a brand new project 'Side by Side' to help you become even more involved in the day-to-day lives of the children you support. Find out more on page 12.

CONTRIBUTORS



Ahmad works with us in Syria helping children inside the conflict zone



David works with us in Scotland at our Edinburgh shop



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UGANDA The foster children learning to have fun again **Page 8**



PHILIPPINES Helping children back into education and protecting them from crisis **Page 4**

Every child shouldn't just survive, but thrive and go on to change the world. Find out the different ways to fight for children every day at: savethechildren.org.uk/children-now-2018

ON OUR MAP:

THE PHILIPPINES

Children can grow up too fast in the Philippines. Over one third live below the poverty line and many face the catastrophic effects of natural disasters. But with your support, each generation is becoming more empowered to change their world for the better.

Nine-year-old Samsia* and her family fled their home in Marawi city, Mindanao, in 2017 after fierce fighting erupted between government forces and armed fighters. Her brother was killed by rebels and she was separated from her mother. Not long after, Typhoon Tembin struck Mindanao, causing flash floods and forcing Samsia to flee again.

She now lives with her uncles in a traditional Filipino 'nipa' hut on the mountain so her family will be safe from future floods.

Samsia is one of many children still affected by the typhoon. So far we've reached 45,000 children and thanks to your support, handed out 5,500 back-to-school kits containing crucial supplies such as pens, paper, notebooks and art materials.

"I love to write in school", says Samsia. "I like writing what my teacher writes on the blackboard. I'm in Grade 2 now. The bags and school supplies from Save the Children are very useful in my studies."

She adds: "When I grow up I want to be a 'Ma'am' (a teacher). I want to teach small children. They need to learn. They need teachers."

Samsia told us she's determined to continue her education and she dreams of being a teacher. Thanks to supporters like you, children like Samsia now have the tools to pursue their dreams.



How you're helping

Children like Samsia (above) love their back-to-school kits, filled with pens, pencils, a sharpener, exercise books, rulers and a portable chalkboard; for a £12 donation, it's a child's education in a bag.

THEN AND NOW



1982 Save the Children started our first programme on Guimaras Island in western Visayas with health, education, and livelihood projects that benefited over 3,000 children.



**“SA AKONG PAGTUBO
GUSTO KONG
MAHIMONG
MAGTUTUDLO”**

**“When I grow up I want to be a teacher”
- Samsia, nine (Language: Cebuano)**

Children await the distribution of back-to-school kits at Munai Central School in Lanao del Norte. Photo credit: LJ Pasion / Save the Children.



2013 In response to **Typhoon Haiyan**, we supported 800,000 children and adults with essential life-saving aid, recovery and rehabilitation.



2018 We're still on the **ground**, determined to make sure children have access to education and healthcare and most of all, a chance to grow up and fulfil their potential.

“I HAVE TO DRIVE VERY FAST.”

When Phostine collapsed in labour, she needed urgent medical help to save her life and that of her unborn baby. Luckily, Godwin Simiyu was on hand.

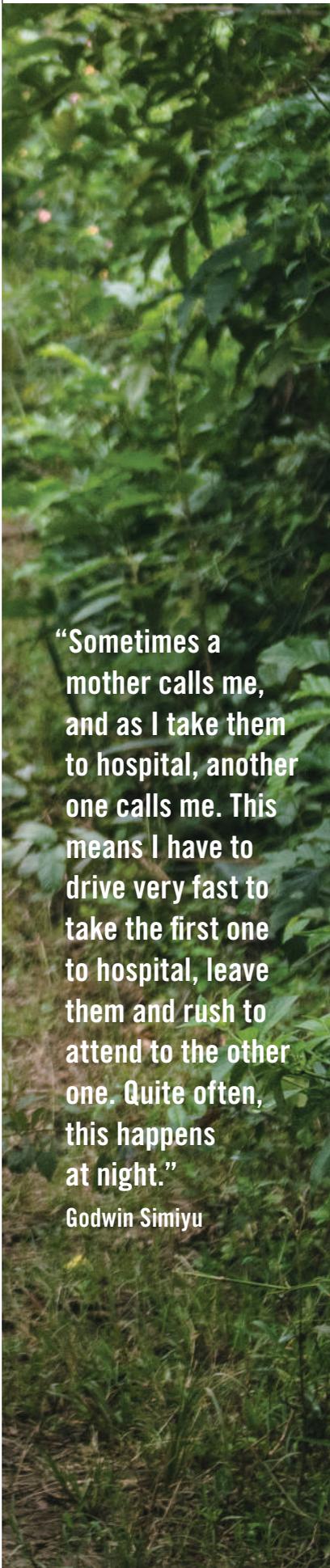
Godwin is one of a growing number of boda boda drivers who we've trained to take pregnant women to hospital on their motorbikes.

Even though Phostine was barely conscious, Godwin was able to get her to their nearest hospital in Bumula, western Kenya. After a difficult delivery, she gave birth to Mophat, a healthy boy.

With support from UK Aid, we helped set up the boda boda ambulance scheme to reduce the rates of infant and maternal mortality. The bikes are ready for emergencies as well as planned appointments.

Godwin, a 34-year-old father of three, is proud to be a boda boda driver who helps the women in his local area. He says his own family is more secure thanks to his job. “This project has boosted me financially. Feeding my family has become easy and we are all very happy.”

Baldwin Masika Wacwa, riding his motorbike. He was selected by the local community as the one to run the boda boda ambulance, and is on call day or night for emergencies.



“Sometimes a mother calls me, and as I take them to hospital, another one calls me. This means I have to drive very fast to take the first one to hospital, leave them and rush to attend to the other one. Quite often, this happens at night.”

Godwin Simiyu



“If it was not for the ambulance getting me to the hospital in time, I don’t think I would have survived the delivery.”

Phostine Wafula

BODA BODA BY NUMBERS



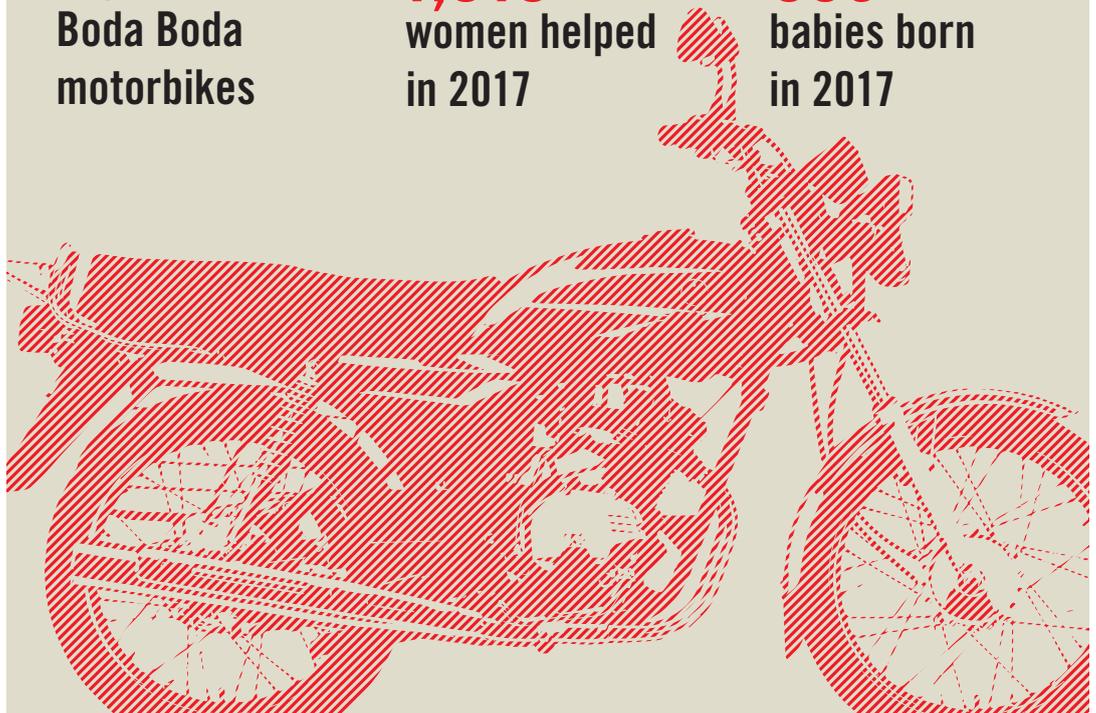
23
Boda Boda
motorbikes



1,010
women helped
in 2017



669
babies born
in 2017



Find out about more of our innovative programmes by visiting:
savethechildren.org.uk/children-now-2018



SUPER-MUM

FRANCINE* AND HER 19 CHILDREN

Francine, 41, could be the hardest-working mother in the world. Every day, she cares for 19 children who share her three-room home in the Rwamwanja refugee settlement in Uganda.

Francine was living in a village in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) when fighting erupted. Robbers broke into her home and killed her brother and sister-in-law. Francine decided to take her five children to safety in Uganda. It took three days to reach the border on foot.

Once they had reached safety, it seemed natural to Francine to reach out and help others. “When you belong to a family you have

someone who can care for you,” she explains. “Someone who can guide you if you go wrong. But those children who don’t have families, they just behave the way they want to because they don’t have anyone who can correct them.”

She began fostering orphaned children and now has 14 foster kids, who have become part of her original family. “The children are happy staying with me. You can’t know this one is mine

In Uganda, we have provided 197,812 children with a healthy start in life.

and the other isn’t, if I hadn’t told you.”

Nyotte*, 11, one of her fostered children, adds: “When I remember the moment I lost contact with my parents, it brings me stress. What makes me happy is when I am here, Francine ▶



treats me like the people in my village used to.”

We have supported Francine by helping her to enrol some of the children in school. We’ve also provided soap, clothing, shoes, books and pens for the family, and offered counselling to the children who were left traumatised by the conflict.

Like all mothers, Francine worries about what lies ahead for her children. She wants

them to “have a good life. And for them to sleep in a good house and have a good education. And then they can take care of their future life.”

Her motivation is simple: “I just feel joy on my part ... and I can’t refuse, I can’t say no to anyone.”

Sister act: Nyotte, above, enjoys hair-braiding

Band of brothers: Francine’s children love to play together



Uganda now hosts one million refugees - more than any other country in Africa. Refugees here have the right to a primary education, to own property and to work.

But the journey to safety is far from easy. Hunger is the biggest issue facing children fleeing the DRC. More than half fall sick and a quarter of children are assaulted by armed groups as they flee.

Doctors are also warning of a growing polio crisis which is following on from an outbreak of Ebola. Johnson Byamukama, our Emergency Response Director in Uganda, says: “The conflict in the DRC is one of the world’s forgotten crises. We see child refugees arriving every day in desperate need. Every one has a horrific story to tell, including of rape, parents being killed or witnessing extreme violence.”

In Uganda, we have:

Protected
32,601
children from harm

Supported
66,643
children in times of crisis

Provided
197,812
children with a healthy start in life

Given
2,146
children vital nourishment



What we're doing

We're working in six refugee camps across Uganda. Our Emergency Health Unit has supported refugees through reproductive healthcare and vaccinations for children. Outside of the camps, we're working with local communities expanding our education work so that more children can get back to school.

Safe and sound

We've set up 30 safe spaces where children can play, learn, share their experiences and access counselling.

Letting children be themselves

Life as a young refugee can spell the end of childhood, so we make sure young children get help with reading and writing, art therapy, plus

emotional and social support. But we don't just provide teachers and psychological care - we bring books, footballs and climbing frames to the refugee camps.

Back to school

One of our priorities is to get refugee children back into education. Thanks to our generous supporters we're able to do this through

our Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP), designed to help children who have dropped out of school get back to class and complete their primary education.



13.3m

Children reached directly through our work

4.7m

People in East Africa helped through drought

367k

Rohingya children given healthcare, food and support in Bangladesh

Last year by numbers

Last year, this is what we were able to achieve together:

121

Humanitarian responses in 60 countries

537k

Yemeni children supported in the face of war, hunger and disease



Figures taken from our annual report, which you can find on our website.



*Names have been changed to protect identity



Photo credit: Jonathan Hyams / Save the Children



Photo credit: Nour Wajid / Save the Children

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD SIRAJ IS A SYRIAN REFUGEE LIVING IN THE BEKAA VALLEY, LEBANON.

His life is at a crossroads: will he be able to stay in education – or must he start adult life, working as a farm labourer to support his family?

Siraj and his sister Noor, 15, work in the fields every day for six hours before going to school. It's a situation no child should be in.

But you can help change the lives of children like Siraj by signing up to Side by Side, our new project which will follow Siraj's journey for the next six months. He will be documenting his life through photographs like these which supporters will be able to see.

For just £15 a month, you can support Siraj and other child refugees like him all over the world to overcome their horrific experiences, get back in the classroom, and simply be children again.

Find out more at:
savethechildren.org.uk/side-by-side

ONE YEAR ON:

CRISIS AT COX'S BAZAR

Twelve months ago, violence, chaos and persecution in Myanmar's Rakhine State caused hundreds of thousands of children to seek refuge in Bangladesh. Many of the children who escaped, experienced or witnessed unthinkable atrocities and have been left in desperate need of emotional support.

It's estimated that more than 900,000 Rohingya refugees, half of them children, are living in overcrowded refugee camps in the district of Cox's Bazar in south east Bangladesh. Many families arrived here in a state of shock, carrying only the clothes on their backs.

But thanks to the incredible response of supporters like you, our teams were already on the ground scaling up our response within days of Rohingya refugees first arriving in the camps. Since the crisis began, we've been working round the clock to provide shelter, health and nutrition care, food and emotional support to children and families escaping the violence.

The harsh reality is that the overcrowded and fragile settlements have been badly affected by recent monsoons and flooding. The refugees are in constant danger from new threats as a result.

"We remain deeply concerned about the potential for a health disaster in the camps, which is heightened by the arrival of the monsoon," says Claire Eldred, our Health Adviser in Cox's Bazar. "Any outbreak of diseases in these fragile conditions and cramped spaces, arising from the inevitable contact between people and contaminated water, could spread quickly and would be potentially catastrophic. Young children are particularly vulnerable to respiratory tract infections



Photo credit: Hanna Adcock / Save the Children

like bronchitis and pneumonia, and dehydration caused by diarrhoea."

This crisis is far from over. But together, with the help of our supporters, we will continue to do everything we can to help the children and families affected.

Rohingya refugee Somuda*, four, waits at a transit camp shortly after arriving in Bangladesh

Many families arrive with only the clothes on their backs.

*Names have been changed to protect identity

HOW CAN I HELP?

There are more than 100 Save the Children shops throughout the UK raising vital funds for our work. Volunteers like David are integral to the success of our shops, helping with everything from window displays to finance.

How long have you volunteered with us?

Three and a half years. I've taken on lots of new challenges during that time, starting in the Edinburgh office and moving on to work in our Morningside and Nicolson Street shops.

What would you say to someone who was thinking about volunteering for us?

Enjoy yourself and make the most of opportunities to raise the profile of Save the Children.

What part of our work affects you the most?

When you see children separated from parents one way or another, that separation is abominable. It really upsets me. It is important children are helped to stay with their families.

What sort of things do you like to see brought into the shop?

We get all sorts – from musical instruments to unusual ornaments! I keep my eyes out for football memorabilia. I'll collect anything to do with football.

What's the best thing about your role?

The feeling that I'm using my time productively.

Tell us a bit about yourself

I am very shy but have managed to overcome this with help from my colleagues. Now I love talking to customers. It's nice to share my knowledge of how our donations help children.

What do you do?

My background is in retail and I enjoy being on the till and customer service. Charity shop work is quite dynamic. I like talking to people.

What is your favourite memory?

When three of the Heart of Midlothian footballers visited the Nicolson Street shop in Edinburgh. Hearts are in a partnership with Save the Children.

If you were the Prime Minister or a world leader for the day, what would you do?

I would initiate a procedure whereby Members of Parliament were required to do one week's volunteering per year and report to their constituents what they propose to do to encourage the population at large to join the voluntary sector.

**Find out about volunteering here:
savethechildren.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteer**

David Nicholson, 66, volunteers in our Edinburgh shop. He says, "I love talking to customers."



A BOY LIKE ME



Frasier Cox, ten, and his first book. He says, “Humans share a special link. We are all the same.”

Since the start of the Syrian refugee crisis, we have reached more than 2.5 million children, providing healthcare, food, water and sanitation, and other vital services.

“Frasier’s story is incredibly touching and thought provoking.”

Claudia Winkleman

We’re very proud of one of our youngest supporters, ten-year-old Frasier Cox. Frasier is from Brighton, and has won the Book People’s Bedtime Story competition for his story *There’s a Boy Just Like Me*.

Frasier’s story has now been turned into a picture book with illustrations by Alison Brown and published by Little Tiger. The book is available from thebookpeople.co.uk and 35 per cent of the price of every book sold will go to support our work.

There’s a Boy Just Like Me tells the story of an imaginary friendship between a boy from the UK and a refugee - and the fun they could have together climbing trees, eating sweets and watching

television. The boys compare their hair and even their missing teeth.

Written in rhyming verse, the story describes the boys’ dreams from playing professional football to becoming explorers.

It’s a great reminder that despite our different lives, languages and cultures, we are more alike than we sometimes think.

Frasier’s story wowed the judging panel. Head Judge Claudia Winkleman said: “It’s absolutely remarkable that a young boy has written such a thoughtful story.” We couldn’t agree more.

There’s A Boy Just Like Me is available to buy from thebookpeople.co.uk for £4.99

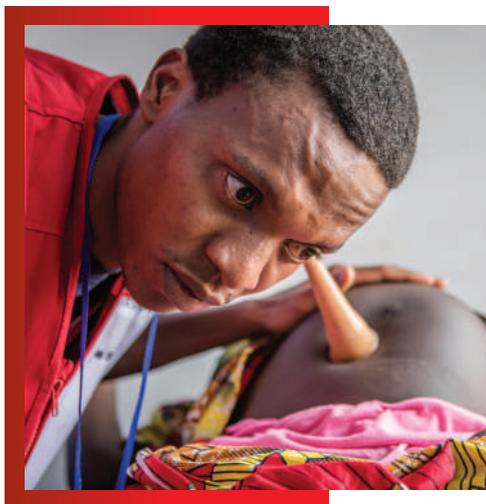


“I’m very well and so is the baby... now I can’t stop feeling happy!”

- Oliva

“Being a midwife is to be wise and to have more knowledge about women.”

- Diogene



Hear hear: Diogene listens to the heartbeat of Oliva’s baby while she’s in labour

Staff Profile

Name: Diogene

Age: 30

Occupation: Midwife

MEET DIOGENE – THE MALE MIDWIFE

Being a midwife is not just a job to 30-year-old Diogene, who works at a maternity ward that our teams built and equipped in Mahama Refugee Camp, Rwanda.

Diogene calls it a vocation: “If you conduct and deliver and you hear the baby cry, you have delivered a person. “If you are monitoring the mother and you detect a problem and refer her for help, you feel proud.”

As he talks, he examines Oliva, one of more than 50,000 Burundian refugees who’ve fled across the border to escape escalating conflict and instability back home. “You can ask this mum what she feels like to be helped by a male midwife,” he laughs.

Oliva explains she was a victim of the war in 1993, where her parents were tragically killed. Fearful that the violence

would continue, she escaped the country with her children so that they didn’t experience the same horrors that she did. “I’m very well and so is the baby... now I can’t stop feeling happy! It’s a boy,” says Oliva.

Male midwifery is a growing trend in this part of Africa. In Diogene’s maternity ward, there are four female midwives and three males. “Even our teacher at the hospital was male,” he says.

Thanks to support like yours, we’re training lots more midwives across west Africa as part of our drive to dramatically reduce the number of child, newborn and maternal deaths.

REAL LIFE:

MY LIFE IN THE HONEY SLUMS

Chattu* is 13. He lives in Kolkata, India, with his three brothers and one sister. His father, Jamal*, works collecting and selling honey.

Life in the honey slums

The Madhu Basti (or honey slum) community is one of the poorest in India. Families here live just a couple of metres away from Kolkata's busy railway lines. The community shares just one hand pump for drinking water and there are no toilets.

Poverty is the key reason that many of the community's children drop out of school and miss out on the education they deserve. Families survive by collecting and selling honey. Children also try to make an income offering Pepsi or orange-flavoured ice lollies for one rupee (1p) each to commuters.

It's a dangerous life for children who join their parents on honey gathering ventures. The honey is collected not only in the city but in the sunderbans, the low-lying

jungle areas home to the Bengal tiger. Extracting it from the hives is risky, too; children often get stung in their eyes – and hospitals are a long way away.

Typically, families sell the honey for Rs. 100 (£1)/per kg. On any given month, families like Chattu's make around Rs. 3000 (£30). Children have no choice but to work. Education here is considered a luxury.

By Chattu, 13

I wake up at 6am and wash. I wash my clothes and eat paratha. Then I go to school.

After, I come back to the house and sleep. I wake up at 4pm and wash. Then I sell ice-pops and sometimes I sell honey for 60-200 rupees (60p to £2). I have to go to the temple, on the other side of the railway tracks, to fetch

“I will pass my exams and teach my father and brothers, and I will become a doctor.”

- Chattu



water. Carrying the water makes my head hurt.

There is no doctor nearby so if someone is sick they have to go to Bartala, which is four or five hours away. It hurts when you get stung by a bee. Sometimes I apply onion to the skin. Our eyes get swollen, so we have to get medicine from Bartala.

I like to study in the bus.

I learn English Hindi and Hindi. I study from the books in the bus. I like to read, I like to write and I like colouring. I draw toys, goats and houses. I like the AC [air conditioner] in the bus.

I will sell honey and I will study. I will pass my exams and teach my father and brothers, and I will become a doctor. I will teach all the children.

How you're helping Chattu and his friends

With the support of Aviva, we've been running mobile learning centres on buses that have been visiting the slum communities in Kolkata for seven years. These buses are stacked with books, pictures and games for the children to enjoy.

In that time, we've reached 4,000 street children.

The most important feature of our buses is that they're equipped with high quality learning materials to get children reading and writing. We also encourage children to enrol in school or begin vocational skill training so that they have the opportunity to decide their own futures.

Every £10 you donate could help a child get back to school

Your £10 could pay for paper, pens and other supplies to children like Chattu. Thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to reach 842,000 children through our education programmes last year. We're more determined than ever to get more children in the classroom.

1



Honey collectors seek out hives in the city and the Sunderbans, jungle areas home to Bengal tigers.

2



They use kerosene-soaked rags to burn the hives.

HOW THE HONEY IS COLLECTED

3



Bees leave the hive, stupefied by the smoke. Honey is harvested by hand.

5



Honey collectors and their families sell the honey along the railway tracks for 60-200 Rupees.

4



Sleepy bees still sting collectors at times. The worst stings are to the eye and mean a long trip to the nearest hospital.



“It hurts when you get stung by a bee. Sometimes I apply onion to the skin.”

- Chattu

To learn more about transformational programmes we're running thanks to the help of supporters like you, visit: savethechildren.org.uk/children-now-2018



FROM THE FIELD

Ahmad was born and raised in Damascus, and now works tirelessly for children with our humanitarian team.

What did you do before the war in Syria?

I used to work as a tour guide but with the beginning of the unrest, foreigners were evacuated and every aspect of normal life was suspended. It became obvious that the next phase would be armed conflict. I had to pick a side, and my choice was the aid workers' side. I didn't appreciate at the time how this choice would reshape my entire life for good.

How long did you work in the conflict there?

Seven years - since the beginning. Seven years of unremitting horror, fear, and neglect. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives, millions have lost the means to survive, and over half of the population have been forced from their homes. My country has become hell on earth.

How have Syria's children been affected?

They've paid the heaviest price for this nightmare: they've been attacked in their homes, schools, playgrounds and hospitals. This war has left children dead, maimed, or living with wounds that will haunt them for the rest of their lives. I have met children standing on the rubble of what used to be their schools, in collective shelters on the frontline, and in the middle of the sea hoping to be rescued from the waves.

How are you helping them?

Our job in Syria is getting harder: it's not just about saving children's lives, it's also protecting them from losing hope. War, violence and fear can't become their only reality. We need to remind children - or in the case of the generation who have only known war, introduce them to the fact - that one day they will look at the sky and enjoy the beauty of it rather than fear where the next airplane will strike. One day they will go to the park to play and have fun, not to bury a loved one.

“By supporting one school, you can put a smile on hundreds of faces.”

What can we do?

I've seen how a simple gesture can make a difference to children's lives. By supporting one school, you can put a smile on hundreds of faces; by supporting a clinic you can give hope back to thousands of desperate mothers who thought it was the end for their children. Any act of kindness in this land - even if it might seem like a humble contribution - could mean the difference between life and death.

NOW JOIN IN!

There are so many new opportunities to help our work: you can go for a run or tackle an obstacle course. There is the now legendary Christmas Jumper Day when supporters, staff and celebrities across the UK dig out their loudest knitwear to make Christmas the most wonderful time of the year for children around the world. Why not join in with one of these events?

FESTIVE FEVER

Join our team and thousands of Santas running past some of the capital's most famous sights raising funds for more than 1,000 different charities. Now in its ninth year, we promise a festive fun-filled day out and a free Santa costume.

02/12/18



LONDON
SANTA
RUN

More information:
londonsantarun.co.uk

30 years of
changing lives

01/11/18

WILL
AID

WHERE THERE'S A WILL

You can write your will with the help of a local participating solicitor in exchange for a voluntary charitable donation. Your gift could transform the lives of so many children around the world.

More information: willaid.org.uk

TAKE A CHALLENGE

Taking part in a 10-mile muddy obstacle course is a great way to challenge yourself. As part of our team, you'll have access to our exclusive online realbuzz training platform, including training guides, an injury hotline and route planners to help you every step of the way. Plus, a Save the Children technical running vest. And you can become a member of our Team Save the Children Facebook group to chat to other participants and share stories and pictures.

DATES TO
SUIT



TOUGH
MUDDER

More information:
toughmudder.co.uk

14/12/18

CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY

BEST DRESSED FOR XMAS

It may seem woolly far away, but it's never too early to sign up for the most festive fundraiser of the year! On Christmas Jumper Day, millions of people up and down the country will be donning their favourite Christmas knitwear and donating to save children's lives. Sign up for your free fundraising pack and inspire your workplace, local school or a group of family and friends.

More information: christmasjumperday.org

If you're inspired by what we're achieving together and would like to further support our work, you can use the enclosed form to make a donation or call our supporter care team on 0207 012 6400.



Save the Children

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savethechildren.org.uk

Photo credit: Hanna Adcock / Save the Children

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Patron: Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal; Chief Executive: Kevin Watkins