Save the Children
2020 HIGHLIGHTS
MAKING AN IMPACT FOR CHILDREN
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# THE IMPACT OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP

The coronavirus pandemic has changed everything. As the world's leading expert on childhood, Save the Children is mobilizing like never before to keep children healthy, learning and safe during this unprecedented global crisis. You strengthen our capacity to reach vulnerable girls and boys in the U.S. and worldwide. To do whatever it takes for them in innovative ways. To extend our lifeline to those in the greatest need.

Together, we are building back better, helping children emerge stronger. Shared on these pages are some of the ways your support protects a generation from COVID-19 and advances ongoing initiatives critical to children's well-being. **Thank you for driving our determination to tackle this challenge of a lifetime.**

**"COVID-19 challenges us to think boldly, work nimbly and pilot new initiatives. Your generosity and trust inspire and enable us to do exactly that – transforming children's lives and the future we share."**

**– Janti Soeripto, President and CEO of Save the Children**

*With gratitude for your support from Shwe in Myanmar.*

*Photo: Save the Children*

# Every Day: A Healthy Start

## Saving Newborn Lives – A 20-Year Legacy of Progress

A sea change in child survival began in 2000. Save the Children received a $50 million award from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to establish our flagship newborn health program – the Saving Newborn Lives (SNL) initiative. This year, SNL celebrates two decades of progress in reducing neonatal mortality through proven and cost-effective interventions, ranging from improved quality of prenatal care to initiating breastfeeding at birth. Leading this massive worldwide effort, Save the Children helped reduce newborn deaths by over 40% since 2000, saving 1.5 million babies each year.

This remarkable story was made possible by additional generous support from key partners such as USAID, Johnson & Johnson and individual donors like you. SNL and Save the Children have worked in more than 30 countries to advance newborn health, including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi and Nepal – often as the leading partner to help develop national strategies and policies and conduct research on innovations.

SNL's unfinished agenda includes doing more to adapt our work for poor and underserved mothers and babies, as well as families caught in humanitarian emergencies or affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

*The first month of a child's life – the neonatal, or newborn period – carries the highest risk of death. It is also the most dangerous period for the mother. In Zimbabwe, Juliet* and 1-month-old Maita* have reached this critical milestone.*

*Approximately 21,600 pregnant women and 8,800 babies have benefited from the Clean Clinic Approach in Guatemala.*

## Making Clinics Cleaner and Safer

Hospitals and health facilities should be safe places. Too often – around 46 million times annually – a patient acquires an infection while being treated. Many are new mothers and babies. Newborns in developing countries are infected up to 20 times more often than those in developed countries.

We could prevent most infections if facilities were cleaner, water was safer, and health workers followed good prevention and control strategies. That's why we've developed the Clean Clinic Approach. We begin with clean, safe water – increasing its availability in facilities – and emphasizing the importance of handwashing and effective cleaning in daily routines.

Thanks to donors like you, we've implemented the Clean Clinic Approach in 47 facilities and counting, including 11 hospitals in rural Guatemala, where infections account for about 20% of newborn deaths. We've helped these facilities lower the risk of infections, use fewer resources to treat them and drive down expenses, making hospitals cleaner, safer places for mothers and babies.

**Name changed for protection*

# Every Day: The Opportunity to Learn

## Keeping Kids Nourished and Learning in the U.S.

Across rural America, Save the Children helps more children get ready for kindergarten than any other nonprofit. We've extended our reach still farther in 2020 to meet the growing needs of vulnerable children affected by school closures due to COVID-19.

The education that many children missed when schools were closed and when summer enrichment programs were canceled may be the biggest impact COVID-19 has on them. Our staff are working tirelessly to help girls and boys catch up. Before the new school year began, we provided learning materials to over 50,000 kids. Now that school's back in session, we've adapted our math and reading programs to help kids build these important skills whether schools are operating on remote, hybrid or normal schedules.

It's equally important to give infants and toddlers opportunities to learn. That's why our local early childhood coordinators, who normally visit families at home monthly, continue to provide remote guidance, tips and activities to help mothers and fathers stimulate their children's development.

We also pivoted quickly to address an alarming rise in hunger among children who depend on school districts for nutritious breakfasts, lunches and even dinners, supporting delivery of 9 million meals through the end of August. Recognizing a far greater need than ever before, we leveraged our decades of global expertise in cash-transfer programming that bolsters family purchasing power. We piloted these programs in Kentucky and California's Central Valley with a view to making them a permanent part of our work here in the United States.

Photo: Luther Owens

*Your support helped bring books to 9-year-old Da'riana, shown here reading with her mom, in rural South Carolina.*

Photo: Save the Children

*In Syria, 9-year-old Tala* benefits from virtual learning made possible by our Save the Children partners.*

## Saving Education Around the World

Over 1.5 billion children had their education disrupted in 2020 by COVID-19. The majority are still out of school, and millions of girls and boys may never go back – tragedies with lifelong consequences. At no time have we put more emphasis on children's education and making sure schools are safe, welcoming places for all. It's one of the most important steps to undo the damage the pandemic has done.

Save Our Education is our global initiative to help children, families and communities overcome barriers to learning and getting back to school. Our teams in every country where we work continue to support remote learning. As some schools reopen, we are prioritizing "back-to-school" campaigns, helping families made poorer by COVID-19 afford school fees, supporting teachers, and making sure schools have clean water and latrines. With your support, our accelerated learning programs will help kids make up for lost time. The future for a generation of children is at stake.

*Name changed for protection

# Every Day: Protection from Harm

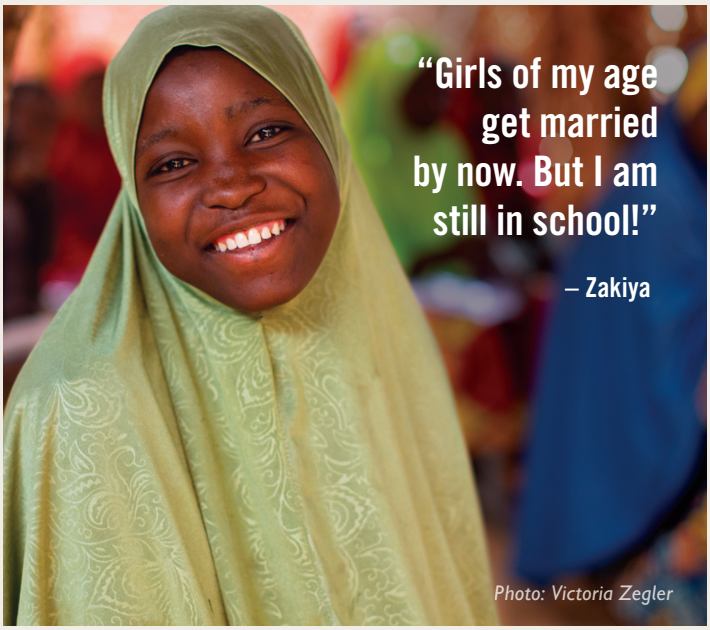
## Alleviating Hunger via Cash Transfers in Ethiopia

When Zenebech's husband became ill with tuberculosis, the Ethiopian family spent their savings on his treatment. To help sustain her growing family, Zenebech found work through a group that provides jobs for unemployed women. But when the pandemic hit, all work shut down. Zenebech, pregnant at the time, had nowhere to turn, thrusting the family into profound food insecurity and potential homelessness.

Thanks to donors like you, we were able to intervene, providing Zenebech and her family the assistance they need to survive. We included the family in our cash-transfer programming and are helping increase their access to food. Providing cash is a means to support people in meeting their critical needs – investing in both their livelihood and in their children's future.

Save the Children is a global leader in cash transfers, one of the best evidence-based anti-poverty tools available. Last year, we distributed $79 million in cash transfers to help meet the complex needs of families in fragile places around the world, combat food insecurity and keep children safely in their homes.

*During hard times, cash transfers empower mothers like Zenebech* to purchase food and other essentials.*




*As the leading advocate for U.S. investment in girls' leadership, we're determined to see that girls like Zakiya aren't robbed of their childhoods – or their dreams.*

## Investing in Girls' Potential

To look at the smiling face of 14-year-old Zakiya is to see a teenager full of promise. But for too many girls in Zakiya's native Niger and around the world, early marriage means that promise will never be fulfilled. It means they'll drop out of school, face increased risk of violence and have children before they're emotionally or physically ready.

Each year, some 12 million girls marry before they turn 18. By 2030, it's estimated 150 million girls will have lost their childhoods to this all-too-common practice. COVID-19 will likely increase that number as families look for ways to cut costs – including pulling girls from school and forcing them to marry.

With the support of donors like you, we're taking innovative steps in our continuing fight for the lives and futures of these young women. In Niger, for example, we're working with girls and women to end child marriage, but we're also engaging men – including fathers, religious officials and other male power brokers – to become leaders in the battle.

**Name changed for protection*

# In Times of Crisis: Readiness. Relief. Recovery.

## Spotlight: Heroes for Children

For families in crisis – whether related to poverty, conflict, displacement or natural disaster – accessing health care is a monumental challenge. Add a global pandemic to their struggles and health services can become completely out of reach. Save the Children's humanitarian health experts play a vital role in our ability to adapt to a world upended by COVID-19. Meet two physicians working tirelessly, along with key partners on the ground, to keep those we serve connected to lifesaving care, no matter the conditions.

### Dr. Elia Martinez – Latin America

Our health teams across Latin America look to Dr. Elia Martinez, an obstetrician gynecologist, for up-to-date pandemic guidance. She has extensive experience delivering humanitarian health care in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Colombia. Since April, she has been leading our Emergency Health Unit's COVID-19 response in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the disease has affected millions of people.

**"We know so little about COVID and it's changing every day. Each day I'm looking at how we should adapt our strategy and our response. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, we're supporting governments with personal protective equipment (PPE) for their health workers and with trainings."**

### Dr. Masar Khalid – Yemen

In Yemen, one of the most difficult places in the world to be a child, Save the Children Health & Nutrition Officer Dr. Masar Khalid works in clinics that treat diseases like malaria and dengue. Heavy rains in April led to a significant spike in mosquito-borne illness. Shortly thereafter, the first case of COVID-19 was reported in the country.

In a nation where basics like clean water can be difficult to come by, Dr. Khalid, her colleagues and the patients they treat rely on your generosity. You help provide protective equipment and cleaning supplies so clinics can make sure staff and those they care for remain as safe as possible.

**"We are a strong and resilient people, and this gives us the strength to carry on in these dark times."**

# Our Financials 2019

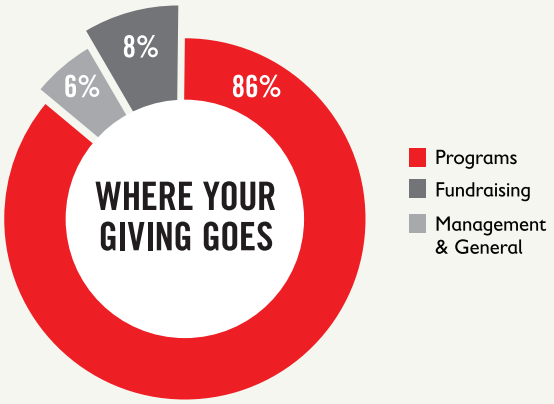
Together with our generous donors and partners, we changed the lives of more than 144 million children, including 328,000 here in America.

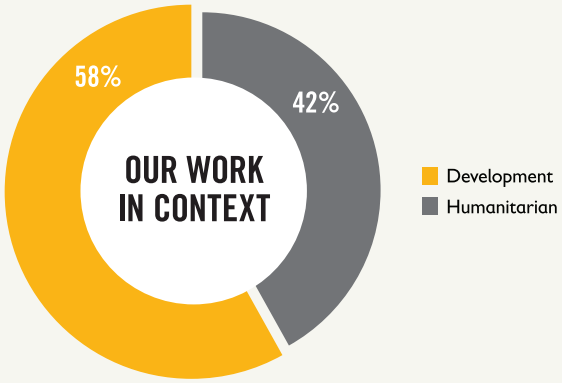
In 2019, Save the Children continued to maintain a strong financial foundation with $835.9 million in operating revenue.

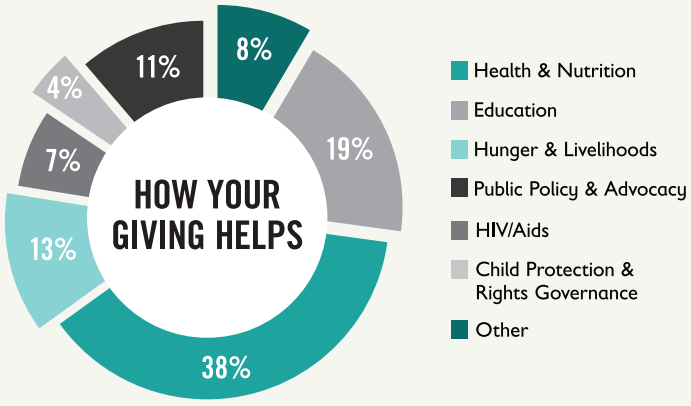
*Kids like 8-year-old Brantley in Tennessee benefit from our school-age learning programs that you help make possible.*

Photo: Victoria Zegler

## Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019



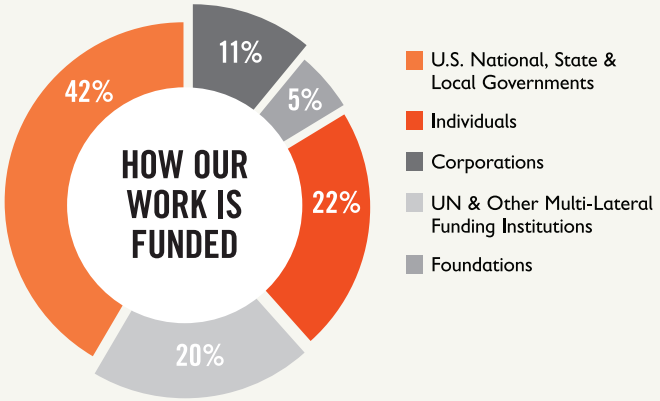



Photo: Tom Nicholson

**This page:** Thanks to donors like you, our child-friendly space in Beirut, Lebanon, became a refuge for Hala,* age 7, following the deadly port explosion in August.

**On the cover:** After escaping Myanmar, 10-year-old Amir* is on the path to recovery in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Photo: Sonali Chakma

*Names changed for protection

Save the Children®

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