

MEDAIR | news



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There's Water,
There's Life**

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**Good News
for a Change**

When I look at state of the world, I see many challenges, but also progress and hope for the future.

There are serious crises to face, including COVID-19, climate change, and conflicts, yet the scale of progress over recent decades has been breathtaking. There are so many positive developments in living conditions to celebrate, especially in the vulnerable countries where Medair works.

Even in the past year, there are still many things to celebrate. Effective COVID vaccines were developed at a record-setting pace, solar and wind energy are now cheaper than fossil fuels, Africa was declared free of wild polio, and new partnerships and alliances were formed to help support people in need through the pandemic.

We have reasons to rejoice even in the face of uncertainty and risk, thanks in no small part to the generous support of people like you, whose gifts have driven change and brought emergency health responses to people in need around the globe.

So let's savour the good news, and roll up our sleeves with optimism for the work that lies ahead.



David Verboom
Medair CEO



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In conflict-affected Yemen, schoolchildren enjoy a fun day of learning about good hand-washing practices with activity books, a musical performance, and a puppet show.

Programme Funders

Afghanistan: Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, Swiss Solidarity, World Food Programme (WFP), Domenica Pfenniger Foundation (Switzerland), Lottery Fund of Canton Zurich (Switzerland), French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs - Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS).

Bangladesh: International Organization for Migration (IOM), WFP, UNICEF, Swiss Solidarity, Tearfund New Zealand, All We Can (UK).

Jordan: EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, German Foreign Federal Office, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Sandoz Foundation.

Madagascar: EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, UNICEF, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Operation Smile, Plateforme Humanitaire du Secteur Privé de Madagascar (PSHP), Start Network, Rotary Club Saint-Denis Bourbon.

South Sudan: EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UK Aid, Swiss Solidarity, Integral/Slovak Aid, Central Emergency Response Fund, IOM.

Yemen: Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, Swiss Solidarity, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Interaction, Transform Aid International.

Sources

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Cover Photo: In South Sudan, women from the community join the Medair team in carrying vaccination materials through the floodwaters (story p.6).

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Where There's Water, There's Life



© Medair/Sue O'Connor

John Lual pushes down on the handle of the water pump in the early hours of the day, filling the second of his four jerry cans. "At the old borehole there was often a long queue," he says. "Here the queue is short because the water comes so fast; I can leave my home knowing there will be water."

As John is finishing, three young women arrive, each carrying two jerry cans. They talk and laugh, taking turns working the hand pump. "We come together every day," says Aluel. "It's not far to walk, so we take our time. This is very good water, the taste is good."



© Medair/Sue O'Connor

When Medair began working in the community of Longrukec, South Sudan, things began to change. Thanks to your support, children began receiving treatment for malnutrition, pregnant women received care before and after giving birth, and people received vaccinations for common diseases. Perhaps the biggest change of all was the new borehole.

Longrukec's water borehole was complex because of the depth. "Two years ago, a drilling company drilled to 37 metres, but there was no water," says John Kiir, Medair Water and Sanitation Construction Officer. "We chose this spot with the community and drilled to 56 metres. The water is clean, and because of the depth, it will be full even during the dry season."

"You came to us when we had nothing in our hands to give," says Marco Deng, one of the chiefs in Longrukec.

Global Progress in Safe Drinking Water



Over 1.5 billion people have gained life-changing access to safe drinking water since 2000.

"We thank God because of Medair and all you have done here. When we have things to discuss you always come to talk with us. Together we are doing things that we are not able to do by ourselves."

"Since we have water, more people are coming for the clinic. Agriculture has started. This is making a big impact, and people are moving to Longrukec to be closer to the borehole. You will see this will be a big village because of the water."

Good News for a Change

The world has experienced massive improvements in health and living conditions over the past 30 years. Yes, there are major challenges on the horizon, but progress is possible when you work directly with the people who need support.

Global Maternal Deaths

↓ **45%**
since 1990

Vaccine-Preventable Child Deaths

↓ **67%**
since 1990

Global Child Mortality Rate

↓ **59%**
since 1990

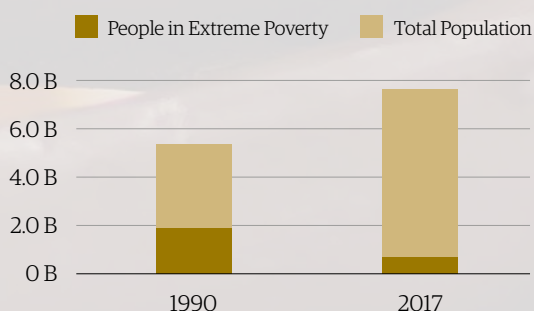


Did you know?

Thirty years ago, 1 in 11 children died before age 5.
Today it has improved to 1 in 27.

People Living in Extreme Poverty*

↓ **64%**
since 1990



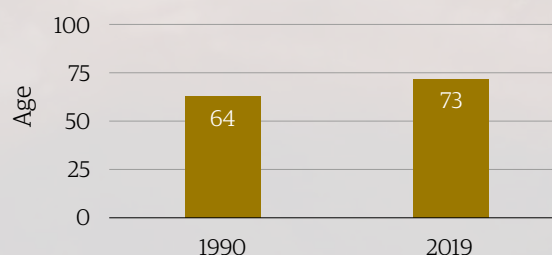
Did you know?

1 in 3 people lived in extreme poverty just 30 years ago.

**Less than \$1.90/day, adjusted for price differences over time/region.*

Global Life Expectancy

↑ **9 years**
since 1990



Did you know?

In 1900, the average global life expectancy was just 32 years old.



Your gifts directly contribute to reducing child and maternal mortality, preventing diseases, and improving access to water and sanitation.

SANITATION INNOVATION

A British Medical Journal poll said that sanitation was the greatest medical advance of the last 150 years. However, digging a latrine achieves nothing unless people use it. Who wants to use a latrine filled with swarms of flies and bad odours? It's not only unpleasant to use but also a health risk.

© Medair/Bethany Williams



Mandated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and working with the private sector, our water and sanitation experts have researched existing options and made design improvements to make the latrines cleaner and more user-friendly. By improving the self-closing seals on hygienic plastic latrine slabs, less than a cup of water is needed to remove the waste and the automatic seal keeps out flies and odours. UNHCR is now testing this innovative design in Zambia, South Sudan, and Nigeria.

EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING

A baby who is exclusively breastfed is 14 times less likely to die in the first six months than a child who is not exclusively breastfed.

© Medair/Diana Gorter



In the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh, women face an uphill battle to exclusively breastfeed their babies: lack of space and privacy, lack of time due to the need to constantly work, and challenges from cultural modesty norms. Medair sends female teams of breastfeeding counsellors and nurses to support new mothers at home and at clinics with food, soap, and private counselling sessions. Our nutrition centres have private spaces for breastfeeding, as well as female-only spaces where women can receive support.

HEALTHIER LIVING

In Madagascar, your support helps encourage people to adopt better hygiene and nutrition practices.

© Medair/Chrystelle Rakotomavo



"Communities are happy to have Medair in their district. They believe in our work. Our beneficiaries really want to change and adopt the good practices we are teaching them and consequently, to improve their living conditions."

- Voafidiny Velosoa, Medair Madagascar



Protecting Children from Disease

DATE

November 2020

EMERGENCY

Life-threatening measles outbreak in a remote flooded area of South Sudan. Measles is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths in infants.

MISSION

Travel to Pibor by helicopter. Use boats or wade through the floodwaters and thick mud to reach remote villages and vaccinate more than 22,000 children. Protect people from the killer disease.

© Medair/Diana Gorter

Through floodwaters, our boat travels 30 minutes to bring a vaccination team to one of the remote, isolated villages outside Pibor town.

As the team sets up under a large tree, ensuring enough space for COVID-19 distancing measures, mothers bring out their children and form a line in the tree's shade.

Nyandit has brought two of her daughters, Akudo and Warawol. When it's their turn to receive the vaccine injection, they don't make a sound. We smile because of their little acts of bravery.

Like so many people here, Nyandit and her family have been deeply affected by recent violence, including the theft of

their livestock and severe flooding that has destroyed crops. Food is extremely scarce. If the measles outbreak spread in their village, it would be devastating for the children.

"The place we are living in is very far from others," said Nyandit. "There is no health facility. When a child gets sick, they just get sick. We treat them with herbs.

"We heard about the measles. I am very happy for the vaccine because it can help my children. This is protection. If you had not done this, the suffering could have been too much."

"I don't want to think of what would have happened if measles had spread in Nyandit's village. What would have been her options for medical care, being surrounded by floodwaters?"

- **Diana Gorter**, Medair Emergency Response Team

Thank you!

Your gifts made it possible to protect over 22,300 children like Akudo and Warawol from disease. With your support, our experienced emergency health teams will be standing by to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to people living in remote and vulnerable communities.

Your gift of

\$80

vaccinates 25 children in remote locations against deadly disease.

Good News from Jordan

© Medair/Tamara Elkouz

The importance of **mental health and psychosocial support** during COVID-19 cannot be underestimated. People are experiencing unprecedented stress and anxiety, especially during lockdowns.

In Jordan, Alaa (shown right) and our mental health team reached out to people by phone, giving them a safe place to talk about their problems and express their feelings freely in group sessions.

"That phone call was the highlight of my week," said Jomana, a Syrian refugee living in Jordan. "I eagerly waited for it to hear the familiar voices of my friends and talk about the situation that we were in because of COVID. It was comforting for me to hear that I was not alone in the things I felt!"



© Medair/Tamara Elkouz



"Medair's **cash and case management** project is a great combination of helping people with hard assistance through monthly cash, but also 'soft' assistance.

"Case management officers visit households on a regular basis to

check in with them, listen to what's going on in their families, and provide practical advice of available services or lifestyle changes that could help them. This project gives quality time and a listening ear to each vulnerable household served, and the difference is truly remarkable."

- **Margie Davis**,
Deputy Country Director

"Being able to help people, and seeing hope in their eyes, means the world to me. I have always dreamed of this job, it is a passion for me, especially when it comes to children. I love working with kids! I always play with them, draw with them, I even sometimes sing with them! They are the joy in people's lives, they are our hope in a bright future."

- **Deema Abdallah**, Medair Senior Protection Officer

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A mother holds her son as he is screened for malnutrition in remote Central Highlands, Afghanistan.

© Medair/Jonathan Kyle

Thank you!

When you heard about all the families affected by the global hunger crisis, you reached out to say, 'How can I help?' Your incredible outpouring of gifts to Medair surpassed our end-of-year fundraising goals! Your gifts are being used right now to help save the lives of malnourished children.

"I have been coming here with my children for three months now. They were very sick [diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition]. Thanks to the help we are receiving at the clinic, and the good advice we are given, my children are getting better.

"I have also learned many things. For example, the importance of breastfeeding, that for the first 6 months of my child's life, I should breastfeed him exclusively, with no other food.

"With COVID-19, volunteers have reminded us of the importance of maintaining hygiene and to clean our homes well. They showed me how to measure my child's arm with the [MUAC] tape. They explained very well what the different colours on the tape mean. When my son was first measured, he started at the end of yellow on the tape - he was almost 'red!' Now he is very close to green. He is receiving one packet of Plumpy' Sup every day. The volunteers have also been sharing good messages on the importance of giving nutritious food to our children."

- **Saara**, 25, a Rohingya refugee at a Medair nutrition clinic in Kutupalong Camp, Bangladesh

"When I go to my village, I'll give them this message: That my child is alive. If their children are sick, they should take them to the Stabilisation Centre. For me, when I came, I thought my child would die. But now he's alive. I was worried about him and now I feel joy."

- **Kochk and her son Thithock**, age 1, who was treated at Medair's Stabilisation Clinic, which serves severely malnourished children with medical complications.

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Your actions change the world.
Give today at medair.org/donate.