

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE GREATER IMPACT FOR CHILDREN IN THE PACIFIC

Every child deserves the best start in life, but sadly children in the Pacific don't always have access to the basics like clean water and sanitation facilities. For children under five, water and sanitation-related diseases are one of the leading causes of death across the Pacific. Without access to safe water and toilets, the lives of thousands of children are at risk. Small size, fragility, natural vulnerability, and limited resources all contribute to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) challenges. Access to clean water, basic toilets, and good hygiene practices not only keeps children thriving but also gives them a healthier start in life. Kiribati has one of the highest rates of under-five mortality in the Pacific region and this is mainly due to diarrheal disease, largely caused by inadequate access to clean water, appropriate sanitation, and good hygiene practices.

Only 47.8% of the population has access to basic sanitation and 28% still practice open defecation. In the Solomon Islands, only half of the schools have toilets. Of these, facilities are frequently broken or unreliable. Less than half of the schools have safe drinking water. In Vanuatu, 30% of schools have safe drinking water and 25% have hand-washing facilities. Children are getting sick, missing out on school, and falling behind or dropping out altogether. COVID-19 has caused widespread disruption to children's health and wellbeing. Now, it's more important than ever that UNICEF helps deliver clean water to children in the Pacific, as well as helping them to adopt safe sanitation and hygiene practices.

HEALTH + NUTRITION NEEDS

In close collaboration with partners, UNICEF develops programmes in health and nutrition, child protection, adolescence, education, water and sanitation, early childhood development, and emergency preparedness. Its programming principles ensure that the organization delivers results that are at scale, innovative, evidence-based, expert-led, and technology-savvy. UNICEF Aotearoa New Zealand is working with Pacific communities, partner governments, and civil society to tackle some of the biggest issues for children in the Pacific. UNICEF is focusing on improving water and sanitation, early childhood education and care, child protection (positive parenting). With your help, we can do so much more to support all children to realise their rights and aspirations. These are sustainable, long-term solutions to the problems facing each of these communities and will foster long-term resilience in the Pacific for generations to come. In partnership with relevant ministries, non-governmental organizations, communities, and children, UNICEF:

- Provides communities in Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu with improved access to basic drinking water and sanitation installations that are functional, sustainable, and resilient, including in schools and health facilities.
- Supports nations in strengthening institutional frameworks for equitable and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
- Supports parents, caregivers, and children in Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu with increased knowledge of the risks of poor water, sanitation, and hygiene practices (open defecation, use of unsafe water, and lack of hand-washing facilities), increased knowledge of menstruation and safe hygiene management, and the skills to adopt safe sanitation and good hygiene practices.



MORE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES WILL MEAN KIDS ARE HEALTHIER AND MORE RESILIENT.



For more information on how your organization can show support, please contact:

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