

SHARING THE SPIRIT

Girls outside Al Humaira Girls' School, North Darfur, Sudan

Silent emergencies

UNICEF: tireless devotion to helping children around the world.

When a humanitarian crisis occurs, such as the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami or the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake in China, it is heartening to witness the outpouring of generosity for those whose lives have been devastated.

But there are emergencies that continue long after the media spotlight has faded, and some that we simply never hear about. UNICEF calls them silent emergencies as they don't receive the attention or money they deserve.

In Darfur in Western Sudan, 2.7 million people have been displaced by a long and

bloody conflict, which has directly affected some 4.7 million people. In a region, where fighting has continued since 2004, nearly 700,000 young children have grown up knowing nothing but the conflict.

Children are also desperately in need in countries such as Somalia, Iraq and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where large-scale armed conflict has wreaked havoc and devastated the lives of countless innocent families.

UNICEF works in more than 150 countries and territories to ensure that the needs of these children and their families

are met. Funds go towards providing life-saving health services, adequate water and hygiene facilities, education, and protection from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Help UNICEF act quickly when a crisis occurs by supporting its Silent Emergencies Appeal. Your money will go into a pool of readily available funds for those who need aid the most. To make a donation to UNICEF's Silent Emergencies Appeal, visit www.unicef.org.au or donate to UNICEF by placing spare change – in any currency – in the envelope provided.

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SHEHZAD NOORANI

FLYING HIGH

Jumbo thrills on high

About 300 disabled and disadvantaged children were taken for the ride of their lives on November 14 on the annual Qantas and Rotary Club of Turrumurra Jumbo Joy Flight. They were joined by Qantas Ambassador and Olympic legend Catherine Freeman. "I thoroughly enjoyed my flight with the kids, they brought so much joy and excitement into the day," she said. "I feel very privileged to have been part of an event so typical of the Australian spirit of giving, thanks to the wonderful organisers, volunteers, staff and crew."

The flight gives children from some 50 schools and charities the chance to fly in a B747 jumbo aircraft. Nominated by children's organisations such as Barnardos, Cure Our Kids, Lifestart, Giant Steps and Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, the children are physically or intellectually disabled, suffer life-threatening illnesses, are homeless or come from backgrounds where holidays are impossible. Rotary organises the event with Qantas Pathfinders Auxiliary and collects donations to make the flight possible. The aircraft is provided by Qantas, airline staff volunteer their time, airport charges are waived by Sydney Airport and fuel is donated by Shell. Since 1973, the flights have given more than 11,000 children the opportunity to fly high with Qantas. This year marks the 36th annual flight.



Second Officer Christian Koncurat and one of the children