HopeNest

Healing The Wounds Of War

Annual Report

2025 – 2026



HopeNest

AT A GLANCE

HopeNest is an Australian-founded humanitarian charity **supporting children and families affected by war**, displacement and severe disadvantage.

We operate on the ground in **Gaza, Egypt and the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, backed by a central team in Australia.

We care for the whole child, not just their immediate needs. Along with humanitarian relief, nutrition support and medical care, we provide psychological help and keep families together to help children in some of the world's worst conflicts.





Where We work





Gaza, Palestine

Humanitarian relief, child psychological and psychosocial support, Little Lights, nutrition support, WishNest and medical evacuation advocacy.



Egypt

Medical assistance, patient and family support, accommodation and equine-assisted therapeutic support.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Psychological and psychosocial support, child wellbeing activities and practical assistance.

Australia

Governance, fundraising, advocacy, community engagement and organisational support.





GAZA

PALESTINE

Our dedicated team in Gaza provides humanitarian relief, child psychological and psychosocial care, and medical evacuation advocacy, while our Little Lights program delivers sustained nutritional and essential material support to malnourished infants and children.

4

team members delivering psychological and psychosocial support.

5

team members delivering Little Lights program nutrition support.

Little Lights

A HopeNest Initiative



EASTERN DRC

Our dedicated team in eastern DRC delivers psychological and psychosocial support, child wellbeing activities and practical assistance.

5

team members delivering psychological and psychosocial support.



EGYPT

AN INTEGRATED TEAM

Supporting medical pathways for Palestinian children in Egypt.



AUSTRALIA

Supported by our Australian Board and volunteer network.





Beyond survival, children need to feel *safe* again.

GAZA, PALESTINE

FY 2025–26

1,334

INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN SUPPORTED

9 NEW PROGRAMS IN OUR FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION

Spanning humanitarian relief, nutrition support, psychological and psychosocial therapies, medical evacuations and treatment access.



GAZA, PALESTINE



GOMA, EASTERN DRC

FY 2025-26

Healing & Wellbeing

Through safe spaces, play, creativity and connection, we help children process trauma, rebuild confidence and rediscover their joy — because every child deserves to feel seen, safe and hopeful again.



29

Psychological and psychosocial group workshops

ACROSS GAZA AND GOMA



The WishNest

28

Wishes fulfilled for 28 children

THROUGH THE WISHNEST PROJECT

From a warm jacket to a long-awaited toy, WishNest brings moments of joy, dignity and hope to children living through the unthinkable.



9

Children received equine-assisted therapeutic support

Gentle, powerful and deeply healing, time with horses helps children build confidence, emotional regulation and a renewed sense of trust.

FY 2025-26

Little Lights

A HopeNest Initiative

NUTRITION. CARE. BRIGHTER TOMORROWS.

Through Little Lights, we provide life-saving nutrition and essential supplies to vulnerable infants and young children in Gaza — giving them the nourishment they need to grow, thrive and reach their full potential.



28

CHILDREN RECOVERED FROM MALNUTRITION

Twenty-eight children who were suffering from severe malnutrition are now on the path to health, strength and a brighter future.

119

children supported through Little Lights

278

Little Lights nutrition-support distributions

~1,300

boxes of infant and specialised formula/milk

260

double packs of nappies

1,475

MEALS PROVIDED

alongside child wellbeing programs in Gaza and Goma.

Hot and nutritious meals help children and families meet their immediate needs, while also supporting their mental health, learning and overall wellbeing.



FY 2025-26

Humanitarian Relief

In response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, we provided emergency water, food and essential supplies to vulnerable families, helping them meet their most basic needs and maintain dignity during a devastating time.



10,000 LITRES

OF EMERGENCY WATER DISTRIBUTED IN **GAZA**

160+

FAMILIES

reached with emergency water in Gaza.

50+

FAMILIES

received food and essential humanitarian aid in Gaza.



Clean water, food and essential supplies save lives, help families meet their immediate needs and provide critical support during ongoing displacement and uncertainty.

FY 2025-26

Medical Access & Evacuation

We support children with critical medical needs by facilitating evacuations, arranging essential medical care and standing alongside families throughout their journey to safety and treatment.



15 CHILDREN MEDICALLY EVACUATED

We help facilitate the safe evacuation of children with serious medical needs to access life-saving care outside of Gaza.



27

CHILDREN SUPPORTED WITHIN EVACUATION FAMILY UNITS INCLUDING SIBLINGS AND ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN.

We recognise that children are rarely evacuated alone. We provide support to siblings and accompanying family members as part of the evacuation process.

8

CHILDREN RECEIVED HOPENEST-ARRANGED OR FUNDED MEDICAL SUPPORT IN EGYPT.

We help cover the costs of essential medical treatment for children in Egypt, providing access to specialist care that is not available in Gaza.



Founder's Foreword

Tatiana Salazar

HopeNest began with two little girls.

I first met Hanan and Mesk when they were just three and two years old, at a time when their world had completely changed. Having lost their mother and survived severe injuries, they and their family were suddenly facing a future of grief, displacement, and medical uncertainty. When I looked at them I saw two children the same age as my own youngest daughters and just knew I needed to help. But what began as a simple promise to help one family then became a larger mission.

As I met with humanitarian organisations in Gaza I saw the critical gaps in how we deliver aid to injured children. Physical wounds were being treated, but psychological trauma went unseen. Medical evacuations saved lives but also separated children from the attachments they needed most. Essential needs like food, shelter, healthcare, and emotional support were treated as separate problems, when in the life of a child they are deeply interconnected.

By early 2025, the vision for HopeNest became crystal clear: *what if we responded to the child, not just the crisis?* That question has guided everything that followed.



Founder's Foreword



Tatiana Salazar

During our first year as a registered charity, HopeNest has grown from a deeply personal response to two young sisters into an international network of local professionals, volunteers, supporters and collaborators. Together, we have already supported more than 1,300 children across Gaza, Egypt and the Congo.

But I never want HopeNest to become an organisation that sees its work primarily through numbers. Behind every statistic in this report is an individual child – whether they are learning that it is safe to speak about their fears, recovering from severe malnutrition, or receiving medical treatment without losing the care and stability of family. Behind every number in this report is a child in Gaza or Egypt or the Congo drawing, dancing and laughing, reclaiming their childhood in places otherwise marred by violence and conflict.

Our first year has also taught us humility, reminding us that humanitarian work is complex and that we cannot fill every gap (and nor should we). HopeNest's mission is therefore to continually ask where children are being left behind, and whether HopeNest can meaningfully step in to help.

My deepest gratitude goes to our local teams who continue this work under extraordinarily difficult circumstances, as well as to our volunteers, Board, collaborators, and partners. Finally, I want to thank every person who has trusted HopeNest with a donation, an introduction, an idea, or an act of support – your belief in us makes this work possible.

Most of all, I remain grateful to the children and families who allow us into their lives. Hanan and Mesk may have been the beginning of HopeNest, but today its nest holds many more children.

HopeNest Founder and Managing Director,

Tatiana Salazar

A child's needs do not end when the immediate danger passes.

Neither should our *care.*

GAZA, PALESTINE

GAZA, PALESTINE

A Childhood in *Crisis*



For children in Gaza, the consequences of war extend far beyond immediate survival. Malnutrition, disrupted education, displacement and psychological trauma threaten their health, development and future.

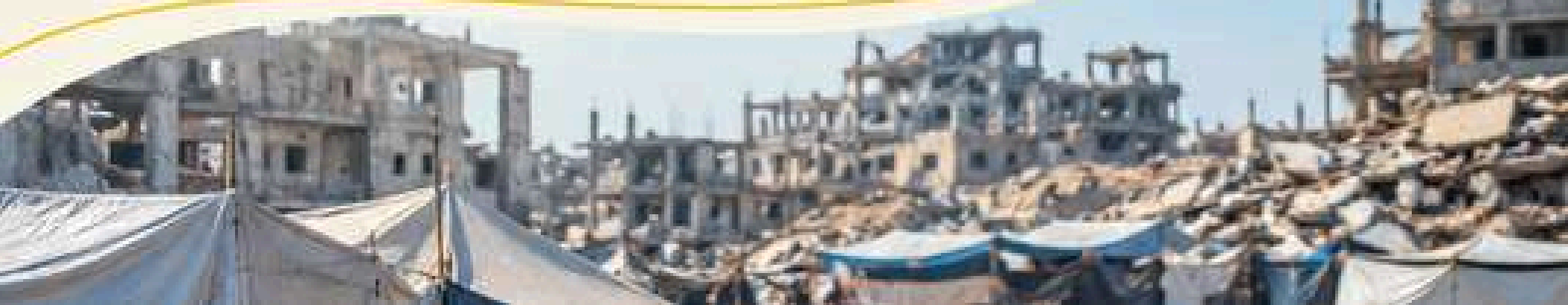
1 million+
children need protection and mental health or psychosocial support.
OCHA, JUNE 2026

320,000
children under five were at risk of acute malnutrition in 2025.
UNICEF, 2025

637,000
school-aged children lacked access to formal education in 2025.
UNICEF, 2025

58,000+
children had lost one or both parents.
UNICEF, DECEMBER 2025, VIA OCHA

Behind every child HopeNest reaches are countless others still waiting for safety, nourishment, emotional support and the chance to experience *childhood again*.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO

A Generation at *Risk*



In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, prolonged conflict, displacement, hunger and disrupted education are placing extraordinary pressure on children and families. The consequences extend beyond physical survival, threatening children's emotional wellbeing, relationships and future opportunities.

4 million
children are internally displaced across the DRC.
UNICEF, 2026 APPEAL

1.7 million
children are affected by severe wasting across the DRC.
UNICEF, 2026 APPEAL

4 million
children are in need of protection services across the DRC.
UNICEF, 2026 APPEAL

2.37 million
children are affected by school damage or the use of learning sites as shelters in 2025.
UNICEF, 2025 YEAR-END REPORT

In communities where conflict and displacement have become part of everyday life,
children need more than emergency assistance.



Our impact is real.

The unmet need is immense.

Every child HopeNest supports represents a meaningful step towards recovery. But our ability to reach more children, sustain long-term care and expand into underserved communities depends on continued philanthropic investment.

With greater support, we can reach further, respond earlier and stay alongside children for longer.



What we do

War rarely creates just one single problem for a child. Physical injuries often happen alongside the trauma of being forced from home, and severe hunger goes hand-in-hand with emotional distress. Even life-saving medical care can lead to traumatic separation from loved ones and long-term recovery can easily be derailed by unstable housing, missed schooling or a lack of psychological support.



Our unique approach

HopeNest has pioneered a unique model of long-term, family-centric care for war-affected children - bringing together medical evacuation advocacy, trauma recovery, family preservation, rehabilitation pathways and ongoing practical support within one continuum of care.

As the first Australian-founded agency to take this approach for children in conflict zones, we are proving that holistic care is not just possible, but essential.





We focus on the impacts of trauma

HopeNest recognises that the invisible wounds of war require just as much urgent attention as physical injuries, which is why our teams work hard to restore a child's broken sense of safety and give them the tools to process and heal.



We meet a range of needs

Because every child is different, we tailor our involvement to fit each situation and each community. This ranges from delivering trauma and mental health support and proper nutrition to providing medical advocacy, stable housing, physical rehabilitation, and whatever practical support is needed to keep families together.



Our Vision

A world where every child affected by war has the opportunity not only to survive, but to heal, belong and build a hopeful future.

Our Mission

HopeNest supports children and families affected by war through trauma-informed psychological care, humanitarian aid, nutrition support and medical pathways, working alongside local teams and trusted partners to restore safety, dignity, connection and hope.



Our Values

Dignity
Every child deserves to be seen as a whole person, never simply as a victim, diagnosis or statistic.

Wholeness
Physical health, psychological wellbeing, nutrition, family relationships, safety and belonging are interconnected.

Connection
Whenever possible, we seek to preserve the relationships children depend upon for security and recovery.

Local Leadership
Sustainable humanitarian work depends on the knowledge, relationships and leadership of people within the communities we serve.

Hope
Even in extreme circumstances, children need more than survival. They need opportunities for joy, connection, healing and a future.

Strategic Priorities



1. Offer a different model of care

HopeNest has established a model capable of responding to the interconnected needs of children injured by war (psychological, medical, nutritional, practical and relational).

2. Build local teams to deliver it

We continue to build local relationships with psychologists, healthcare professionals and wider humanitarian networks to turn this model into frontline support programs.

3. Create an organisation to sustain it

HopeNest has robust governance, formal charity registration, strict safeguarding policies, and transparent financial accountability to grow our programs responsibly.

4. Advocate for change

We actively lend our voice to advocacy efforts, playing our part to dismantle the systemic barriers that prevent children affected by humanitarian crises in conflict zones from accessing vital safety, medical treatment or family-centric care.





Our Global Impact

Gaza

Supporting the whole child in extraordinary circumstances

During the past year, our frontline teams in Gaza operated in an extraordinarily challenging environment, facing constant insecurity, repeated displacements, and severe restrictions on their movement. Compounding these daily dangers were critical shortages of food and essential medical supplies, alongside severely damaged communications infrastructure that is making even basic coordination a monumental task.







Psychological and Psychosocial Support

Through our group psychological and psychosocial programs, HopeNest delivered on the ground workshops to Palestinian children, providing them with safe creative outlets like drawing, storytelling, and sensory activities to start to process their experiences. These sessions directly addressed the deep trauma, grief, fear, and stress caused by the conflict, while teaching vital skills in emotional regulation, resilience, interpersonal trust, and practical grounding.



Creating a safe space is not about pretending the danger outside has disappeared.

It is about giving a child somewhere, even briefly, where their emotions can be held.

During the year in Gaza

We provided:

18

specialised workshops

reaching

990

children

4

children with complex needs

intensive therapeutic support

990

meals




Food,
shelter and
safety give
children the
foundation
to be children
again.
GAZA PALESTINE

GAZA

The WishNest PROJECT

Restoring moments of childhood

Believing that humanitarian care should offer more than just survival, we launched WishNest to fulfil the individual wishes of **28 children** who attend our workshops. Whether receiving toys, new clothing, fresh food or personal items, each child experienced a moment of the simple joy of childhood and a sense of comfort and dignity, with this small initiative successfully extending our reach to **12 new children** outside of our workshop network.

This work stands as a powerful reminder that while aid must protect life, it must also protect the spirit, reminding vulnerable children in Gaza of their inherent right to just be kids.





28

children's wishes fulfilled

12

new children reached outside our workshops

Emergency Humanitarian Relief



HopeNest responded to urgent practical needs. During the past year:

50

families

received food and essential humanitarian aid.

10,000

litres

of emergency water were distributed reaching more than **160 families**.

6

families

received shelters.



GAZA

Echoes of hope in the silence

By Sujood
Lead Child Psychologist

"During one of my field visits to an educational school, a young girl sitting alone in her wheelchair away from the morning assembly caught my attention, wrapped in a clear sense of introversion and fear. I sat beside her and we struck up a gentle conversation, until she softly confided her simple wish: "I wish I could join them in the activities".

Without hesitation, I invited her sister and two of her friends. Despite the loud music in the courtyard, we created our own quiet sanctuary and played together inside the classroom. The defining moment came when she expressed a brave desire to take part in a group activity with the other children – a single step that marked a profound turning point in her behaviour.

Upon speaking with her family, who were remarkably understanding and cooperative, I learned that at three years old, she had contracted spinal meningitis, which deprived her of the ability to move and walk. Despite these immense challenges, her parents continue to closely follow up on her condition, dedicating themselves to her physical therapy sessions while holding onto even the smallest glimmer of hope that she might one day walk again.

To honour her heartfelt dream, we included her wish in our "Make a Wish for a Little Child" initiative. We organised a large event for the entire school, bringing in clowns and distributing treats to celebrate her wish coming true.

This experience touched me deeply on a personal level; seeing how her illness and reliance on a wheelchair could not diminish her capacity to dream or hold onto beautiful hope truly humbled me, as did the unwavering devotion of her family. It reinforced the weight of my responsibility and the vital importance of my role as a psychological support for these children."



Sujood Al-Gharbawi
Lead Coordinator &
Psychologist (Gaza)





"We do not simply offer children hope; we draw our own hope and motivation from them to keep giving.

Sujood Al-Gharbawi
Personal Reflection


No child
should have to
fight hunger
while trying to
survive a war.
GAZA, PALESTINE

GAZA

Little Lights
A HopeNest Initiative

From Malnutrition to Recovery



Little Lights became a HopeNest initiative in March 2026.

Since then, we have supported:

119
individual children affected by malnutrition in **Gaza**

28
children to recover from malnutrition

69
children in ongoing malnutrition support



278
nutrition-support distributions

1,300
boxes of infant and specialised formula/milk

260
double packs of nappies



Beyond nutrition

Our Little Lights program quickly demonstrated the power of our whole-child philosophy, proving that malnutrition is often just the visible entry point into a family's deeper vulnerabilities.

Little Lights provided tailored household and medical aid — including **55 mosquito nets, essential bedding, cooking cylinders, nebulisers, clothing, and even emergency tents** — while keeping children on nutrition support until they maintain healthy physical measurements over consecutive months, ensuring their fragile recovery isn't suddenly reversed by illness, extreme heat, or ongoing food insecurity.

GAZA

Little Lights

A HopeNest Initiative

Watching Sham Take Her First Steps

By the Little Lights Team



Olivia and Nikki
Little Lights Program Coordinators

"We want to bring to light the story of a beautiful little girl by the name of Sham who lives in Gaza.

We found out about Sham when she was in a very critical condition. There was serious famine in Gaza, with the blockade on aid and commercial goods. The cost of a single can of milk reached US$70.

We did not believe Sham would survive when we first received her picture, as she had severe malnutrition. We got her number from another group that couldn't afford to continue supporting her and we took over the case. Every month, from the day we got her details, we delivered milk and diapers, eventually supplementing this support with nutritious food.

Over the months, we saw her improve bit by bit – slowly gaining weight and watching the line move up on the MUAC band.

It was really in the last few months that we saw the most dramatic improvement in her health, and she finally measured green on the MUAC after over a year of support. We began physiotherapy because she had not developed motor skills normally due to being severely malnourished at such a young age.

Recently, her mother described the joy of seeing her daughter stand and walk on her own: "She wasn't taking her first steps, she was only crawling and couldn't walk. And now, thank God, after the physiotherapy sessions, she has started to walk and I am very happy about that."

To us, baby Sham is the reason we started this work and continue this work every day, even when we're exhausted or feeling emotionally depleted from being directly connected to such tragedy and heartbreak.

We are ordinary people, just mums and dads, who had a vision to help children. When we started this campaign, we thought if we could save one life through our support, it would be worth it.

We wish our project didn't need to exist and that all children everywhere had everything they needed to thrive and enjoy their lives. But knowing we can provide ongoing support to help children recover from malnutrition really feels like a blessing and an honour."





When we started this campaign, we thought if we could save one life through our support, it would be worth it.

Little Lights Team (Olivia and Nikki)
Personal Reflection

Saving a child's life should never mean losing the family that makes life feel *safe.*



RAFAH BORDER CROSSING

GAZA

Medical Evacuations

Saving a life without losing the family around it



When a child survives because they receive life-saving medical care, preserving the relationships that make them feel safe must also be part of their recovery.

While evacuation authorisations are the responsibility of relevant governmental and humanitarian authorities, HopeNest plays a vital coordinating role. We are identifying cases, assembling medical documentation, advocating through international channels and supporting families both while they wait and after arrival as children navigate long-term medical treatment and rehabilitation pathways.

15 **children** supported through medical evacuations

12 **siblings** supported from those children's families



Egypt

From Evacuation to Recovery

Crossing a border does not instantly erase a crisis, which is why our Egypt hub serves as a critical transition space where Palestinian children can heal from injury, loss, and displacement while reconnecting with confidence, movement, and joy.

Families that arrive in Egypt often face months of ongoing medical treatment in an unfamiliar country, so HopeNest steps in to manage the overwhelming logistics of housing, transport, food, medication, and healthcare navigation.

Over the past year, our specialised hub supported **8 child patients** with critical medical funding and provided comprehensive accommodation and practical aid to **3 family units.**

By investing in deep relationships with local healthcare professionals and working directly within the Egyptian medical system, we successfully turned complex administrative pathways into immediate, life-changing support for families when they needed it most.

8
child patients
supported with critical medical funding.

3
family units
provided comprehensive accommodation and practical aid in Egypt.

EGYPT

The Children I Will Never Forget

By Dr Ahmed



Dr Ahmed Ashraf
Lead Coordinator (Egypt)

"Given where I live, I was never accustomed to the reality of wars and war injuries. However, when the Gaza war first began and children from Gaza started arriving in Egypt, I met young children for the first time with permanent, life-altering injuries.

That encounter transformed me from someone who never let things affect them into the saddest person in the world.

The mere thought that these girls would have to carry these injuries for the rest of their lives – and that every time they look at their bodies as they grow older, they will feel distressed – refused to leave my mind.

At the same time, I witnessed a level of patience and faith in them that I had never seen before. I will never forget the moment they arrived at the hospital, and the sheer disbelief I felt seeing them.

This experience taught me that as long as I have the capacity to help others – especially children – I must do everything in my power to do so. It also taught me that we must draw the world's attention to advocating for innocent children who bear no fault in these wars."



> **As long as we have the capacity to help others – especially children – we must do everything in our power to do so.**

Dr Ahmed & Dr Karim
Personal Reflection

EGYPT

Equine Therapy

Healing through connection, confidence and joy

HopeNest facilitated six equine-assisted therapeutic sessions and workshops for nine children, creating a safe, engaging environment where young people affected by trauma and displacement could reconnect with trust, emotional expression, and the simple joys of childhood.

This innovative program complements essential medical and psychological care, part of a continuous healing journey rather than a single intervention.

9
children supported

6
equine-assisted sessions and workshops

Improved emotional expression, confidence and connection








The heart
of this model
is a simple
principle:
We respond
to the child,
not just
the crisis.
EASTERN DRC

Congo

Local People. Lasting Impact.





HopeNest is the only Australian-founded humanitarian organisation delivering a locally led psychological and psychosocial support program for conflict-affected children in eastern DRC.

We believe that lasting impact is built from within, which is why HopeNest's programs are entirely led by expert staff who are an active part of the communities they serve. By placing local knowledge, relationships, and professional expertise at the very heart of our operations in DRC, we are fostering local solutions that understand the daily realities of the children we care for.

Our expansion into Goma and Nyiragongo in January 2026 marked a critical milestone for HopeNest, bringing our whole-child care model to an area facing an overwhelming humanitarian crisis. The region is uniquely burdened by overlapping emergencies, as a collapsing local economy and brutal territorial conflicts leave hundreds of thousands of people displaced and destitute. Compounding this human crisis is the geographical danger of living near an active volcano, meaning the children we serve are navigating both the trauma of active warfare and sudden eruptions.





DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Our Reach



Our frontline work in DRC:

11
therapeutic workshops delivered

485
meals served

175
individual children reached over **515 sessions.**

By combining mental health care with creative activities like drawing and dance, these workshops enabled us to provide regular meals and additional essentials such as mattresses, bedding, extra food, and games to their caregivers.

A crucial element of this work involves screening mothers and children to map out the deep connections between household poverty and youth malnutrition, giving our team insights needed to plan and deliver whole-family support.

Our staff see immediate, visible changes as once-isolated children begin to open up, share their feelings and often approach our psychologist for individual support, confirming that the simple act of playing, dancing, and drawing can offer a bridge to emotional safety.



GOMA, DRC

The Smile That Stayed With Me

By Jem - Psychologist, Goma

“Among the moments I have experienced with the children through HopeNest, there is one that remains particularly close to my heart.

During one of our psychosocial activities, I noticed a child who was very quiet and participated very little at the beginning. I did not want to force the child to speak, because I believe that a child must first feel safe before being able to express themselves.

We started with games, drawings, and a few simple activities. Little by little, the child came closer to the group and started participating at their own pace.

At one point, I saw a smile on the child's face. It may have been a small detail to someone else, but for me, it was an important moment.

This experience reminded me that our work is not only about listening to children when they talk about their difficulties. Sometimes, allowing them to play, laugh, draw, and simply feel safe is already a form of support.

These are the kinds of small moments that make me want to continue this work with children even more.”



Jem Iragi
Lead Psychologist
(Eastern DRC)



> **Sometimes, allowing them to play, laugh, draw, and simply feel safe is already a form of support.**

Jem Iragi
Personal Reflection



Not every wound of war can be *seen.*

Some are carried quietly, long after the fighting stops.

GAZA, PALESTINE

Australia

Establishing our Australian headquarters as a secure hub for governance, fundraising, and advocacy is one of our key achievements. This solid organisational backbone gives us the essential resources and structural accountability we need to sustainably expand our reach to help even more children.



Advocacy



Michael Regan MP
(NSW Parliament Community Recognition)

Family preservation is not an optional addition to medical care but a core part of how we care for a war-injured child.

HopeNest's work with individual families revealed a broader structural challenge: securing specialist medical treatment for Palestinian children can become significantly more difficult when preserving the child's family unit is seen as integral to their wellbeing and recovery.

For Hanan and Mesk, HopeNest pursued medical, legal, humanitarian and advocacy pathways seeking long-term treatment and safety for both girls alongside their family. This included engagement across medical and community networks, pro-bono legal assistance, settlement planning and discussions with Australian elected representatives.

We also advocated more broadly for humanitarian pathways that recognise the particular needs of war-injured Palestinian children and the importance of attachment, family continuity and trauma-informed recovery.

Community engagement



HopeNest developed relationships with Australian community organisations to strengthen advocacy, raise community awareness, and provide practical support for children and families affected by conflict. Our community engagement included collaborations with the Northern Beaches Committee for Palestine and its Gaza Nippers Project.

Organisational infrastructure

During the year, HopeNest also strengthened the organisational foundations required for sustainable humanitarian work.

- Charity registration and governance development
- Strengthening financial and reporting systems
- Obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient status
- Developing program monitoring and safeguarding processes
- Building international delivery relationships
- Expanding the community supporting HopeNest's work



Connecting with our teams

In April 2026, HopeNest managing director Tatiana Salazar and board member Natalie Williams travelled to DRC to meet the local Goma-based team, visit participating organisations and see the program's work first-hand.

The visit provided an opportunity to review the first months of delivery, better understand conditions facing children and local organisations, and consider how HopeNest could develop its work responsibly and sustainably.

Being physically present on the ground reinforced to HopeNest's Australian leaders that local programs should be shaped through relationships, listening and direct understanding of the communities in which we work.



Partners & Collaborators



HopeNest's work is made possible through relationships with organisations, professionals and communities who contribute medical, therapeutic, educational, humanitarian or community connections to enable us to respond to needs.

Program Partners

Wings for Hope

Supporting specialised medical treatment, rehabilitation and prosthetic care pathways for children.

Behman Hospital

Providing equine-assisted therapeutic support for children in Egypt.

Education & Community Collaboration

Palestine Aid Education Centre

Connecting children and families in Egypt with education opportunities.

SED, Mabadiiliko and Neema

Local organisations supporting HopeNest's psychosocial and child wellbeing programs in Goma.

ACER Congo

Supporting the extension of psychosocial activities to children in the Rusayo / Nyiragongo area.

Institutional & Humanitarian Relationships

World Health Organization (WHO)

Working relationship supporting medical evacuation pathways for children from Gaza.

Egyptian Ministry of Health

Supporting access to and coordination with medical treatment pathways in Egypt.

Australian Community & Professional Network

HopeNest works alongside Australian community organisations, legal and other professionals who support our advocacy and pathways for children and families. Some of these include:



Governance

CHILDREN.
FAMILIES.
STRONGER
TOMORROWS.

Strong governance enables HopeNest to deliver safe, ethical and effective programs, while building a sustainable foundation to help more children.

Our Board



Tatiana Salazar

FOUNDER, MANAGING DIRECTOR & SECRETARY

Psychotherapist, humanitarian advocate and founder of HopeNest.



Max Schneider

DIRECTOR

Mental-health and counselling professional with experience across child, adolescent and trauma-informed practice.



Natalie Williams

DIRECTOR

Policy, legal, advocacy and communications experience supporting robust governance and public advocacy.

Governance approach

HopeNest's Board oversees major decisions, while day-to-day operations are led by the Managing Director. We are building robust governance arrangements and this approach is based on these principles:

Accountability

Program activities and significant expenditure are overseen through formal approval, monitoring and reporting processes.

Safeguarding

Workers and volunteers understand and comply with HopeNest's child safeguarding expectations.

Risk Management

Local teams retain authority to pivot where security conditions make delivery unsafe.

Ethical Storytelling

Transparency is balanced with the dignity of the children and families represented.

Financial Stewardship

Program expenditure is supported through financial record-keeping, reporting and Australian auditing support.

Transparency

Donors should clearly understand how programs are delivered and their donations are used.


The children we have reached are why we began.
The children still waiting are why we must continue.

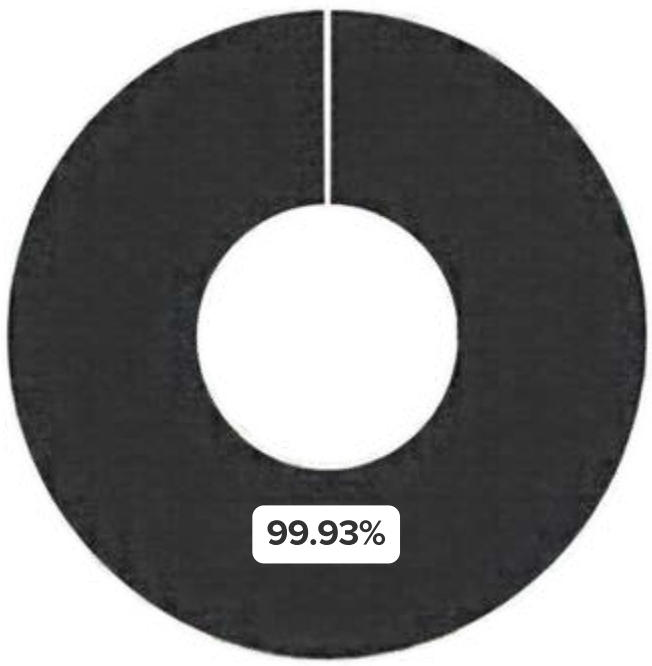
Financial Overview

HopeNest's first ACNC reporting period ran from 25 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 and used cash accounting. The figures below are taken directly from HopeNest's submitted 2026 Annual Information Statement.



Revenue

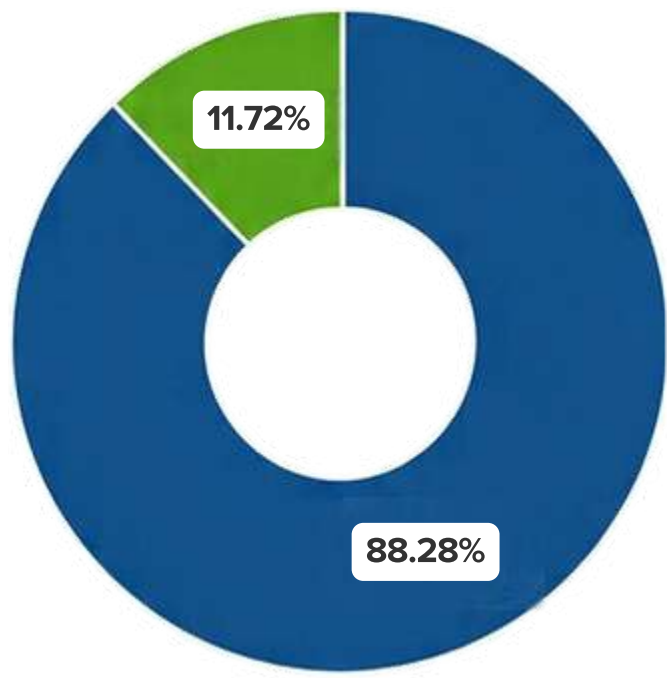
Total revenue: $302,558.00



- Revenue from Government
- Other Revenue
- Revenue from Donations and Bequests
- Revenue from Goods or Services
- Revenue from Investments

Expenses

Total expenses: $145,329.00



- Grants and donations made for use in Australia
- Grants and donations made for use outside Australia
- Interest expenses
- All other expenses
- Employee expenses

Assets

HopeNest's assets at year-end consisted of cash held in its Australian bank accounts for charitable programs and operations.

Liabilities

The charity had no outstanding liabilities at 30 June 2026.

Surplus exists in the context of a young humanitarian organisation building the financial capacity required to continue and expand its charitable work.

Funding sources

Virtually all operating revenue came from the generosity of donors:

Donations and bequests
$302,359

Investment income
$199

No government revenue was received during the reporting period.



Our unique commitment to donors

100% of public donations are directed to HopeNest's charitable programs.

Our Australian administrative and organisational operating costs are funded separately, allowing community donations to support the delivery of humanitarian programs for children and families affected by war.

This includes the local psychologists, facilitators, coordinators and field personnel who deliver HopeNest's programs in conflict-affected communities.

HopeNest believes people living and working in these environments should be fairly compensated for the work they undertake.

We do not expect people living and working within conflict-affected communities to volunteer their labour to HopeNest.

For more information refer to the ACNC annual report: https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities/899cd798-3e70-f011-b4cd-5045bdc48fdc/profile

Looking Ahead

FY2026-27

HopeNest's first year was about establishing the model, building trusted pathways and creating the organisational foundations required to deliver the work responsibly.



NEXT YEAR WE PLAN TO:

1. Deepen holistic, child-centred care

We will continue delivering programs that respond to the interconnected realities of war — psychological trauma, malnutrition, medical needs, displacement, family instability and interrupted childhood.

We will trial new programs in DRC including a Little Lights nutrition support pilot for malnourished children and mothers, and a family finding and home-based care pilot for displaced children who have lost parents.



2. Strengthen our operations

We will improve safeguarding, monitoring and evaluation, ethical storytelling, financial oversight, program documentation and governance to ensure organisational maturity keeps pace with program growth.

3. Build partnerships, funding and influence

We will build more philanthropic, medical, humanitarian and community relationships capable of expanding children's access to care while building a stronger and more diversified funding base.



Support us



THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO SUPPORT HOPENEST'S WORK.

Donate

Help fund humanitarian, psychological, nutritional and medical support for children and families affected by war.

Partner

If your organisation, foundation, healthcare service or community shares our commitment to child-centred humanitarian care, we would welcome a conversation.

Volunteer

Contribute professional expertise, practical skills or time to help strengthen the organisation behind our programs.

Fundraise

Bring your community together, create a fundraiser and introduce HopeNest to people who may be able to help.

Advocate

Help keep Palestinian and Congolese children visible. Write to your local government member and ask for a meeting to share their needs and what we are doing to help.

Share

Tell someone about our work. Visit www.hopenest.org and share our social media posts from Instagram or Facebook @hopenest.ngo

Donate

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUPPORT HOPENEST'S WORK



HopeNest

Healing The Wounds Of War

HOPENEST LTD

Australian Registered Charity
Public Benevolent Institution
Deductible Gift Recipient

ABN 49 689 380 505

Website:
hopenestngo.org

Email:
admin@hopenestngo.org



Because surviving war

should not be the end of a child's story.