

ChildFund
Australia

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



ABOUT CHILD FUND AUSTRALIA

ChildFund Australia is an independent international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children and young people in developing communities.

ChildFund Australia directly manages and implements programs with a range of local partners in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and other Pacific nations, and manages projects delivered by partner organisations throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Our work is funded through community sponsorship, government grants as well as donations from individuals, trusts and foundations, and corporate organisations.

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 development and humanitarian organisations reaching nearly 36 million children and their family members in 70 countries.

ChildFund Australia is a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development, and fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program.



OUR VISION AND MISSION



At ChildFund Australia, our vision is a world without poverty where all children and young people can say: *"I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future."*

We partner to create community and systems change which enables vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights.

CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR	4
A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO	5
OUR GLOBAL IMPACT	6
LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS	8
PROGRAMS FOR TARGETED IMPACT	
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT	10
HEALTH	12
CHILD PROTECTION	14
EDUCATION	16
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING	18
IMPACT FOR CHILDREN IN THE PACIFIC	20
FIT FOR FUTURE	22
FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS	
SWIPE SAFE	24
SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT	26
MEASURING IMPACT	28
FINANCIAL SUMMARY	30
FINANCIALS	32
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	35
BOARD AND EXECUTIVE TEAM	36
THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY	38





A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In my third year as Chair of ChildFund Australia's Board, I have seen the resilience and hard work of our staff, local partners, and the communities we work with, continue to grow. We have made good progress in the first two years of ChildFund's 2022-25 strategic plan. We have been able to expand and develop key programs for more children and their families when and where they need it most. This year we reached almost 300,000 people directly through our health, child protection, education, social and emotional learning, and disaster risk management projects.

In 2023, we ramped up our emergency response efforts as the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance around the world reached record levels. Working with our ChildFund Alliance members, and local governments and organisations, we responded to several emergencies, including the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, a hunger crisis in Afghanistan, and a severe drought in Kenya. In total, we reached more than 26,000 people through our humanitarian and disaster risk management projects – a wonderful achievement that was only possible because of our partnerships on the ground and the support of our donors in Australia.

Child protection continues to be a fundamental part of ChildFund's work, particularly ending violence against children and women. For children facing conflict or disaster, we helped to provide safe spaces where they could play, learn, and access psychosocial support. We also continued our work with local governments, community leaders, schools, and families to improve child protection systems.

The 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is now in its eighth year of operation. The helpline for survivors of sexual, family and gender-based violence has become an exemplar for similar services in the Pacific. In 2023, ChildFund

supported staff and counsellors of Seif Ples, a crisis centre in the Solomon Islands, to learn from our counselling team in PNG.

In response to the rapid development of digital technology and connectivity in the Pacific, we further expanded Swipe Safe in the region, implementing through local partners in the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. Swipe Safe, which teaches children how to safely make the most of their online worlds, is now in five countries across Asia and the Pacific. We are very proud of this digital initiative.

Partnerships within our Sport for Development flagship program also continued to strengthen. In 2023, ChildFund Rugby was named the Principal Social Impact Partner of World Rugby. This appointment follows a successful, long-term partnership between ChildFund and World Rugby for Rugby World Cup 2019 in Japan, Rugby World Cup 2021 in New Zealand, and Rugby World Cup Sevens 2022 in South Africa. This significant achievement is due to the tireless work of the ChildFund team to advocate the impact of our work with sports partners around the world. I am so pleased to see the partnership with World Rugby become a long-term partnership for change. Together, through the power of sport, we can create more inclusive communities for children and young people, and support them with essential social and emotional skills and knowledge to realise their potential.

It has been a tremendous year of growth and expansion for many of our programs. A sincere thank you to all our supporters, and ChildFund's staff in Australia and overseas for their hard work and commitment to creating a world without poverty, where all children and young people can say: "I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future."

BELINDA LUCAS
CHAIR



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

It was a great year of change for our staff and local partners as we continued to implement ChildFund Australia's 2022-25 ambitious strategic plan. We ended our second year of the plan with positive outcomes for children and communities despite some challenges. As we shifted our focus to leveraging and expanding local partnerships, and diversifying our fundraising income streams, our teams in Australia and the countries we work in adapted quickly to new ways of working.

In 2022-23 we partnered with more than 100 local governments and civil society organisations, learning from, and building the capacity of staff and volunteers, on the ground and supporting the improvement of systems and processes. These local partnerships make our work for children possible and are critical for creating long-term, sustainable change in the communities we work with.

As geopolitical tensions increased around the world we reassessed our priorities for humanitarian response, working closely with ChildFund Alliance members to respond to a rising number of disasters and conflicts. While we extended our reach and impact to children in countries as far as Ukraine and Afghanistan, our teams also continued to share their skills and expertise closer to home, across the Pacific. ChildFund supported two child protection projects in the Solomon Islands and a disaster risk management project in Fiji through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership.

Through our advocacy work we strengthened our partnerships within the development sector, and relationships with key government ministers and stakeholders, to drive positive change for children in the Pacific. Providing advice on our policy priorities – child online safety, child poverty, and sexual and gender-based violence – opened opportunities to increase the visibility, reach, and impact of our programs. In early 2023, the Australian Minister for International Development Pat Conroy visited our health program in PNG.

ChildFund was also pivotal in improving the online safety codes in Australia, and advocating for the wellbeing and rights of children and young people to be considered in a new international development policy.

We are at the beginning of evolving our business model to deliver greater impact for children. Our fundraising team have been investigating alternate ways of giving and implementing new avenues to grow our donor base. It has been a period of change that has brought challenges, but also exciting opportunities. Increased investment in our philanthropy strategy will ensure we can better listen and respond to the needs of our supporters in the long-term.

We also collaborated with Sydney creative studio SIT2 to develop an interactive and educational online safety app for young people. The app features the online safety curriculum of Swipe Safe and is set to be released next year.

In this annual report, I am proud to share with you our achievements. At a time of significant change organisationally and across the international landscape, I am so grateful for the strong network of people who support ChildFund and care for children and young people. The dedication of our local partners, and the generosity of tens of thousands of supporters in Australia, enables us to continue to deliver programs for targeted impact for communities in need. Thank you.

MARGARET SHEEHAN
CEO

OUR REACH AND IMPACT

\$41.4 million
SPENT ON
PROGRAMS
GLOBALLY

Through donations and grants, ChildFund Australia funded \$41.4 million in programs for children, young people, and their families around the world. Programs included health, education, child protection, disaster risk reduction/emergency response, sport for development, and social and emotional learning.

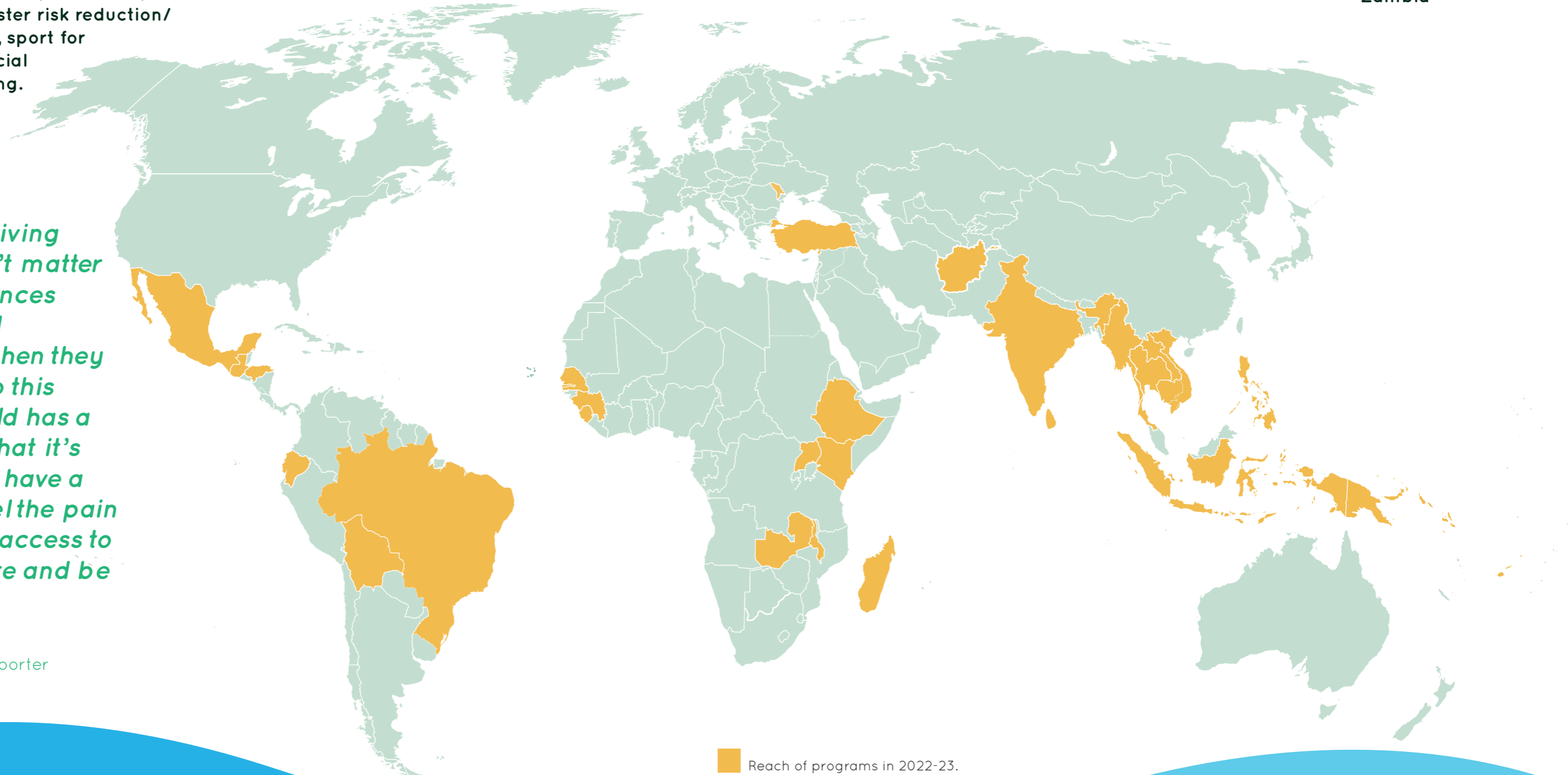


It's my way of giving back. It shouldn't matter what circumstances a child may find themselves in when they are brought into this world. Every child has a right to know what it's like to be loved, have a home, never feel the pain of hunger, have access to good health care and be cared for.

Maree, Tasmania,
ChildFund Australia supporter
for more than 30 years.

Funds supported a combination of programs managed and implemented by ChildFund Australia, our local partners and ChildFund Alliance members, reaching more than 33 countries including:

- Afghanistan
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Ecuador
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Honduras
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Laos
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mexico
- Moldova
- Myanmar
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Solomon Islands
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- The Philippines
- The Gambia
- Timor-Leste
- Türkiye
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Zambia



LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS



101
LOCAL
PARTNERS

ChildFund Australia continued to leverage and expand our existing partnerships, working with local organisations and governments to build their capacity and to learn from them.

We worked with 101 partners in 2022-23, including 66 civil society organisations, non-government organisations, and government authorities who directly implemented programs in communities. Other partners included international non-government organisations, sporting bodies, and organisations of people with disability.

Local Partner Profile: Community Association for Salvation and Environment

In rural and remote areas of northern Laos, many women have difficulty accessing maternal health, adequate nutrition, and access to routine immunisations. Unfortunately, these issues of access are all too common.

The Community Association for Salvation and Environment (CASE) is working in partnership with ChildFund in Laos to implement the Integrated Nutrition for Growth project to ensure that everyone in the community can access healthy food and maternal health services.

Tiet, a Project Officer at CASE, said: *"The goal of this program is to provide a supportive environment for our community members so they can overcome whatever obstacles they may face. We recruited village volunteers and trained them on social behaviour change communication, and they will be able to transfer the knowledge to people in their community."*

Volunteers were split into two groups. The first group educated the community about health and hygiene. The volunteers encouraged people to keep their living spaces clean, understand waste segregation, shared information on illnesses that may come with dirty environments, and educated the community about the importance of routine immunisations for their children.

The second group educated pregnant women about their nutritional needs, both during and after pregnancy. They encouraged new mothers to register for regular health check-ups at their local hospital and to give birth there, rather than at home. These volunteers provided long-term support to new mothers for 1,000 days after their birth to support them in raising healthy children.



Tiet has been working on this project for a year and has found that more people in the community are now more aware of nutrition and health during and after pregnancy. They have also become more engaged in making changes to better protect themselves and their families.

"The obvious result is that more pregnant women go to the hospital to have antenatal care and give birth there," Tiet said. *"The school lunch program has also changed a lot over the last year. In the past, children brought only plain rice to school for their lunch. But now after parents have been educated about health and nutrition, they prepare more nutritional food for their children. Children bring rice with meats, vegetable, and seasonal fruit to school for their lunch."*

In the future, Tiet wants to reach more communities that are facing similar maternal health issues and work with local partners to improve access to health care and nutrition information.

"The partnership with ChildFund in Laos has been a game-changer for our community," Tiet said. *"We're working for a better living and sustainable for our community by focusing on hygiene, environment, waste segregation, health, and nutrition. These are crucial issues that we have worked hard to address as a partnership with ChildFund."*

Community Association for Salvation and Environment is a community-based association that provides services to the public. They are dedicated to the wellbeing of children in their community and work with other organisations to provide resources and support for them.

PROGRAMS FOR TARGETED IMPACT

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

ChildFund Australia's disaster risk management work focuses on developing the adaptive capacities of young people, families and communities so they are more resilient to hazards, shocks and climate variability. In 2022-23, in partnership with local organisations and governments, we delivered seven disaster risk reduction / climate change adaptation projects. We responded to six emergencies, including the conflict in Ukraine and protracted drought in Kenya. In total, these 13 projects reached 26,111 direct participants across nine countries.

5,841
PEOPLE DIRECTLY REACHED IN MOLDOVA

Moldova

Millions of people – mostly women and children – fled Ukraine when Russia began its invasion in February 2022. In partnership with ChildFund Alliance member, WeWorld, we supported more than 5,000 refugee children and their family members in Moldova with food, shelter, medications, hygiene kits and warm clothes. We also helped to establish child friendly spaces for children to access critical psychosocial support.

3,144
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED

2,928
GIRLS & WOMEN REACHED



1,020
PEOPLE DIRECTLY REACHED IN AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, decades of conflict have led to one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. As of April 2023, 15 million children in Afghanistan – more than a third of the country's population – were in need of protection and humanitarian assistance.

623
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED

Food and basic services were limited. Infrastructure had collapsed and it was almost impossible for women to work or get an education. For single or widowed mothers, it was especially difficult to sufficiently provide for their children. We worked with ChildFund Alliance member, WeWorld, to provide families with emergency transfers of cash to buy food, medications, and other essentials.

682
GIRLS & WOMEN REACHED

Kenya

Pastoral communities in Turkana and Marsabit counties in Kenya faced the crippling impacts of the longest, and most severe and widespread drought in the country in a decade. More than 4 million people in Kenya were affected by the drought, which led to high levels of food scarcity. Many children and women became malnourished, and children left school to work or to find food and water to survive.

ChildFund Kenya with local partners, Nawiri Child Development Programme and Frontiers Children Development Organization, helped to provide school meals in early childhood development centres to keep children in school, and provided cash transfers to families to buy food and other essentials.

Water facilities, such as borehole systems, in communities were rehabilitated. Children under the age of five were screened for malnutrition, and those who needed treatment were placed on a supplementary feeding program that provided nutrient-dense meals. ChildFund and our local partners also helped to provide pastoral families with animal feed to sustain their herds.



Myanmar

Eighteen-year-old Ma Thein*, from Rakhine, was forced to live on one meal a day when Cyclone Mocha hit Myanmar in May.

The teen was one of more than a million people impacted by the disaster, one of the strongest cyclones – with winds up to 250km/h – to ever hit the country.

The cyclone killed nearly 150 people and devastated thousands of homes, schools, and businesses. Ma Thein's home in Rakhine state – which was already affected by ongoing conflict – was hit hardest.

Ma Thein was living with her sister and working as a casual labourer when the cyclone destroyed their home. Ma Thein and her sister found their expenses rapidly rising, having to pay for everyday living costs such as food, as well as for repairs, with little to no income.

In response to the impact of the Cyclone Mocha, ChildFund Myanmar and local partner, Ratana Metta Organization, have been supporting more than 1,600 households with emergency food and hygiene packages. Ma Thein and her sister received food supplies such as rice, beans, and oil, and some hygiene products such as towels, soaps, sanitary pads, tooth paste and tooth brushes.

"We can now save some money to repair our house, pay for health care, and pay off old debts," Ma Thein said. "I do not have enough words to say thank you."

*Name has been changed

PROGRAMS FOR TARGETED IMPACT

HEALTH



ChildFund Australia's health program aims to improve the health of children, young people and mothers. In 2022-23, some of the most successful health outcomes were achieved in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea, where initiatives focused on decentralised care, community engagement, and integrated approaches. Community health volunteers, outreach services, and the support of families and husbands, were also vital to improving maternal and child health.

Ana's battle to survive childhood malnutrition

In the mountainous countryside of eastern Timor-Leste, several hours from the country's capital Dili, there is a village that is extremely poor and so remote that families living there need to walk almost three hours just to reach the nearest health facility.

It is a world away for many people in Australia, but for Ana* and her family, it is home.

At only two years old, Ana (pictured above, wearing pink, with her family) has her whole life ahead of her. But Ana and her family live in a household of 17 people, who are together surviving on less than \$4 a week. Until recently, Ana's diet consisted of mostly porridge made from rice and water.

About 18 months ago, Ana experienced childhood malnutrition. She was extremely unwell and her life was at risk. A severe worm infection worsened Ana's condition. Her mother, Maria*, noticed that Ana was losing her appetite and that she had stomach pains and diarrhoea. Eventually, Ana stopped eating and began losing the already little energy and strength that she had.

Maria was extremely worried about Ana, and called on a community health volunteer in the village for help. "I was so afraid when I saw Ana didn't want to eat," Maria said.

The community health volunteer, trained through ChildFund Timor-Leste's health and nutrition program, immediately referred Ana to be treated for malnutrition. Ana received medication to treat her worm infection and was placed in a supplementary feeding program where she received nutrient-dense meals. Eventually, Ana became stronger and her health improved.

Apart from a small grocery store 10km away that sells basic supplies, there are no health or education facilities near Ana's community. Few families can afford their own vehicle, and public transport to the nearest health facility passes through the village only once a day.

Nearly 1 in 2 children, or 49 per cent, of children under the age of five in Timor-Leste are stunted - a condition caused by a form of malnutrition. Children like Ana are more likely to become malnourished because of poverty and a lack of access to health facilities and knowledge in their communities about good nutrition.

Through a ChildFund-supported cooking workshop, Maria learnt about the nutrition content of various local foods, and how to include some of these foods in Ana's diet. Today, Ana is healthier and no longer malnourished. At meal times, Maria incorporates vegetables such as moringa, a highly nutritious plant that she sometimes gets from neighbours or other members of her community, in the rice porridge she makes for Ana.

* Names have been changed to protect individuals' identities.

Keeping mothers and babies safe and healthy in Papua New Guinea

Poor access to healthcare facilities is severely affecting the wellbeing of rural communities in Papua New Guinea (PNG). To receive immunisation shots and medicine, or find a clinic to safely give birth, families must travel long distances in rough conditions - and even then, treatment is not guaranteed.

In rural communities, the risk of women dying in childbirth is four to eight times higher compared to urban areas. This is because healthcare facilities are few and far between, and deliveries continue to take place unsupervised or without a skilled birth attendant.

ChildFund Papua New Guinea is working in partnership with local health authorities to set up outreach services in rural communities where children can get health check-ups, treatment, referrals, and immunisations. ChildFund is also working with local partners to train community health volunteers to prevent maternal and child mortality and malnutrition, and improve vaccination rates.

Rosemary, from Central Province, has been a community health volunteer for six years. One of her focuses is supporting mothers to attend antenatal and postnatal care and making sure they give birth in a health clinic or hospital, rather than at home. "We do home visits to see the mothers and attend the clinics with them," she said. "We also support them with transport to and from the community."

Rosemary also helps to identify and treat cases of tuberculosis (TB), a preventable but widespread infectious disease in PNG that affects the lungs.

ChildFund Australia Board member, Michael Pain, visited PNG in February 2023. He said the outreach services and health volunteers were helping to improve the health and wellbeing of children and their families in remote areas. "Our volunteers make sure families understand the importance of attending health check-ups at the outreach service," he said.

Michael also attended the opening of a new TB clinic supported by ChildFund in a small community near PNG's capital of Port Moresby. He spoke about its impact on the community, and how the geography of the region posed a unique challenge for TB survivors.

"Previously, tuberculosis samples had to be driven two hours to Port Moresby to be tested, and then the results sent back," Michael said. "Things would happen very slowly because of the long distances and the impact of the weather. What ChildFund was able to do was create a dedicated TB space and also invest in a microscope and facilities."



HIGHLIGHTS

9

HEALTH PROJECTS ACROSS ASIA & PACIFIC

13,756

PEOPLE RECEIVED INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDING NUTRITION AND IMMUNISATIONS

12

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

588

MIDWIVES AND OTHER HEALTH WORKERS TRAINED

35,334

DIRECT PARTICIPANTS REACHED

257

IMPROVED WATER, SANITATION & HEALTH FACILITIES, INCLUDING TOILETS, HANDWASHING STATIONS, CLEAN WATER SYSTEMS

11,807

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED

19,357

GIRLS & WOMEN REACHED

PROGRAMS FOR TARGETED IMPACT

CHILD PROTECTION

ChildFund Australia's child protection program aims to strengthen the protective environments of children and young people to keep them safe from harm.

Projects are implemented across Cambodia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Interventions include strengthening formal and community-based child protection mechanisms, improving case management systems and referral pathways, and working with families to develop their child protection skills and knowledge.

We also supported national helplines in Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. In 2022-23, we also continued to expand our online safety flagship program, Swipe Safe, across Asia and the Pacific.

HIGHLIGHTS

18

CHILD PROTECTION PROJECTS ACROSS ASIA & PACIFIC

33,365

PEOPLE USED CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES SUPPORTED BY CHILDFUND, INCLUDING HELPLINE, REFERRAL SERVICES & COUNSELLING SERVICE

42

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

1,100

SOCIAL WORKERS, CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDERS WITH IMPROVED CAPACITY ON CHILD PROTECTION

113,431

DIRECT PARTICIPANTS

859

CHILD PROTECTION CASES REPORTED AND RESPONDED TO

64,694

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED

20

NUMBER OF TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS/CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR IMPROVED CASE MANAGEMENT

60,841

GIRLS & WOMEN REACHED



Youth in Vietnam join forces to stop abuse

Thi* is passionate about keeping children and young people in her village in Hoa Binh Province, in Vietnam, safe from violence. Unfortunately, physical abuse is commonly used as a method of punishment in her community.

"I have witnessed many acts of violence where I live," she said. "In the past, when I saw someone abusing children, I sometimes told my mother. Sometimes I didn't do anything, or I just ignored it."

ChildFund Vietnam worked with children and young people in Hoa Binh to help them learn about child protection risks and how they can stay safe from different types of abuse. In Thi's village, ChildFund is supporting a group of 30 young people to take charge and create positive change in their community.

The group gathers once a month to learn how to identify unsafe situations and different types of abuse, where to report or seek help when needed, and how to foster a supportive environment among young people in their village.

The group have developed creative skits to perform at school assemblies to share the knowledge they have learnt with their peers.

"I wanted to learn more about how to protect myself and how to share this knowledge in front of a crowd," Thi said. "After I joined the group, I realised that it's not just hitting that counts as child abuse."

The youth group is guided by social workers and child protection workers from their communities. Their meetings also provide an opportunity to report any cases of physical abuse that they have seen or heard about. When a report is made, a child protection worker will plan a home visit and work with the family to eliminate violence in the home.

* Names have been changed to protect individuals' identities.

Help a call away for families in Papua New Guinea

Elizabeth* is four years old but she already bears the painful scars of abuse that far too many people experience in life. She is from a poor community in Papua New Guinea, where domestic violence – mainly against women and children – is common in families and households. For months, Elizabeth, was physically abused by one of the people who should have loved her most – her father.

Elizabeth had been left in the care of her father when her mother needed to move far away for work.

It was about a year after Elizabeth had moved in with her father when her aunt, Maggie*, discovered the abuse. Elizabeth's father had sent images of the abuse to Elizabeth's mother, threatening to kill her and Elizabeth.

Maggie* was terrified for Elizabeth's life. She had learnt about the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain, a phone counselling service for survivors of violence that was established by ChildFund PNG in 2015.

Maggie called the helpline and shared her story and fears with the counsellor over the phone, who provided her with support and reported Elizabeth's case to police, and welfare and child protection services.

The counsellor helped Maggie access emergency funds so that Elizabeth could be removed from her father as soon as possible and move into a safe place with Maggie.

Today, Elizabeth is living with her mother again. Elizabeth's father has been charged, and Elizabeth and her mother have protection orders in place.

Maggie has been in touch with the helpline counsellors, providing them with updates on Elizabeth's wellbeing. She said Elizabeth and her mother were both safe and living at peace. All this would not have been possible, Maggie said, without the support of the counsellors and emergency funds that were secured through the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain service.

Reach of PNG 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain in 2022-23:

16,024
PEOPLE DIRECTLY REACHED

6,971
GIRLS & WOMEN REACHED

3,891
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED



PROGRAMS FOR TARGETED IMPACT

EDUCATION



ChildFund Australia is working with local partners and communities to improve access to and the quality of basic education and improve learning outcomes for children and young people. Our education projects in Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam focus on building the capacity of teachers and school leaders in child-friendly teaching strategies, developing education plans for children with disabilities, assisting in the transition of children from preschool to primary education, and improving learning for children from ethnic minority groups. Projects also help to improve school governance processes.

HIGHLIGHTS

21

EDUCATION PROJECTS ACROSS ASIA & PACIFIC

1,675

TEACHERS TRAINED TO IMPROVE LEARNING OUTCOMES OF STUDENTS

22

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

264

SCHOOLS SUPPORTED

62,944

DIRECT PARTICIPANTS

256

ADDITIONAL CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SCHOOL BECAUSE OF CHILDFUND ACTIVITIES

44,117

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED

94

SCHOOL FACILITIES BUILT OR UPGRADED, INCLUDING CLASSROOMS, LIBRARIES, TOILETS AND PLAYGROUNDS

21,707

GIRLS & WOMEN REACHED

1,195

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED

Making education accessible for all children

Brothers Bunna, 15, and Lina, 10 (pictured above), from Cambodia, look forward to going to school. But this wasn't always the case. Both have a hearing impairment and have struggled to access a quality education that offers specialised support.

"At my previous school I could not understand what the teacher was saying, but my new teacher has been tremendously encouraging," Bunna said.

The brothers are two of six children who attend one of the very few schools in Cambodia dedicated to teaching children with a hearing impairment. The school is run by the Cambodian Government. ChildFund Cambodia and local partners, Khmer NGO for Education and the Cambodian Disabled People's Organization, worked closely with Bunna and Lina's family and community to help get the brothers in the school.

The school is free so that any child can attend, no matter their socio-economic background.

Children living with a disability are among the most marginalised groups in Cambodia and across the world. Negative social attitudes towards disability in communities often lead to children missing out on an education. ChildFund

and local partners are changing discriminatory attitudes towards disabilities. Parents and community leaders are learning to overcome social stigma and advocate for the needs of their children, and teachers are learning to create safe, inclusive learning environments. ChildFund is also supporting children with disability aids and equipment.

"It was difficult starting at the new school at first but now that we have settled in, we are happier, and we're learning more," said Bunna, who has made a lot of new friends at the school. *"We get along great and support each other in class."*

Supporting girls to go to school in Zambia

In rural Zambia, schoolgirls would rather stay home than face the possibility a menstrual leak in the classroom or teasing by their classmates. It's an all-too-common experience for many adolescent girls across the country where menstruation is still a taboo topic. Many families living in poverty cannot afford adequate supplies of sanitary products, and are forced to manage as best they can with inadequate materials such as cloth, tissues, or toilet paper.

On a visit to a school in the Kafue District earlier this year, Sarah Hunt, ChildFund Australia Global Programs Director, observed how a lack of menstrual hygiene education and resources can lead to girls leaving school or risky behaviours.

"Some girls and young women were either doing cheap domestic labour on the weekends or after school to save a bit of money to buy menstrual hygiene products, or they're engaging in risky relationships with older men, who will buy the products for them," Sarah said.

Remaining in the dark or misinformed when it comes to menstruation can also lead to unhygienic practices that cause infection and other diseases. ChildFund Zambia and a local partner, Kafue Child Development Association, are working with schools to start the conversation for adolescent girls and their families, provide girls with menstrual hygiene products, and build proper waste disposal facilities.

Schools in the Kafue and Chilanga districts are providing girls with a safe space to share what they do and don't know about menstruation with their peers. At monthly meetings and trainings, girls can learn more about menstruation and best hygiene practices. They also receive sanitary pads and instructions on how to properly dispose of them.

A total of 1,211 children have so far been reached through the project. It is helping to empower adolescent girls to feel comfortable in their bodies and equipping them with the resources to identify and manage common physical and emotional period symptoms.



PROGRAMS FOR TARGETED IMPACT

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

ChildFund Australia is working with children and young people to develop social and emotional skills that enable them to learn, self regulate their behaviours and have positive relationships. Our social and emotional learning projects deliver life skills curricula, and gender equality and inclusion training, for children and young people. They also focus on increasing the number of young people participating in decision-making processes.

We are also working with local partners and government stakeholders to strengthen their capacity to support the wellbeing and participation of children and young people in their communities. In Indonesia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Vietnam, projects are also helping to prevent gender-based violence and promote non-violent conflict resolution.

HIGHLIGHTS

16

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROJECTS ACROSS ASIA & PACIFIC

15,105

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN COMMUNITY-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES INCLUDING CULTURAL EXCHANGE, VOLUNTEERING, MENTORING, AND INFLUENCING CHANGE

488

PEOPLE ACQUIRED SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SKILLS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN CLUBS, ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

23

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

19,785

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON A RANGE OF SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS INCLUDING PLANNING FOR FUTURE, RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS OR ENGAGING WITH OTHERS, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, DIGITAL MEDIA

90

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS THAT PROMOTED AND BUILT YOUTH LEADERSHIP, RESILIENCE AND PARTICIPATION

41,779

DIRECT PARTICIPANTS

35,105

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED

22,326

GIRLS & WOMEN REACHED



Riri, from the Philippines, who became a coach with the support of ChildFund Rugby.

“Being a coach is about more than just teaching rugby. It’s also about building relationships and helping people grow.”

Riri, Rugby Coach, the Philippines

Empowering and reconnecting children through sport

In Negros, an island in the Philippines, 12-year-old OV* is learning that rugby is for everyone, including gender non-conforming children like them. Although OV is one of the most energetic players in the community, they were hesitant to join at first.

“The new team in my area was for girls only,” OV said. “I wanted to join because I normally feel comfortable playing with my female friends. But, at the same time, I was scared that I might not get accepted to the team.”

The team of young rugby players (pictured top, right) were taking part in ChildFund Rugby’s Reconnect curriculum, which provides children and young people with opportunities to play sport and learn life skills in a safe and structured setting in times of uncertainty, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fortunately, some players saw OV watching them play and invited them over to sign up too. In the beginning, OV was surprised to learn that the Reconnect curriculum not only focused on sport but also on developing young people’s skills on how to manage day-to-day challenges and make informed decisions.

“There was a time when one of my coaches asked us about the difference between sex and gender, and about some of the challenges we all face because of our gender,” OV said.

The Reconnect sessions have since helped OV to be more open with their teammates and to embrace who they are. They realised that Reconnect, together with their coaches and the team, provide an inclusive and accepting environment. The friendship and support of their coaches and team has helped OV build their self-confidence, resulting in greater acceptance of themselves.

OV is proud that they did not let their fear prevent them from participating in Reconnect. They now want to become an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. They want to raise awareness about the challenges they face as a gender non-conforming individual who wants to participate in sport and promote understanding among people in their community.

ChildFund Rugby uses integrated rugby and life skills curricula to equip young people with the tools and knowledge they need to overcome challenges, inspire positive social change, and take active leadership roles within their communities.

*Name has been changed to protect individual’s identity.



Changing gender views to get more girls in school

Thirteen-year-old Songkarn lives in a remote village in Houaphanh Province, in northern Laos, and is part of the Lu Mien ethnic minority group. In her community, outdated and harmful views on gender have long prevented many girls from pursuing an education.

San, one father in the community, shared that gender inequalities were deeply rooted in their history and culture. “For Lu Mien people, especially for women, if guests are coming to the house, the wife must stand as a servant and cannot sit and eat together with her husband and guests,” he said. Women were expected to take on most of the domestic work, and their voice and participation in both private and public life carried less weight. Young girls were expected to stay home and help with family chores, while boys could go to school.

ChildFund in Laos and local partners worked with communities in Houaphanh to change harmful gender views, promote gender equality, and support girls to go to school. At Songkarn’s primary school, ChildFund helped to create dedicated groups for students to learn about how their gender and other identities impacted their place in society, to think critically about social issues around them, and to engage in discussions on gender and society in their families, schools, and communities. “I went to the gender club at my school, and I learnt that we are all the same; we are all humans,” Songkarn said.

ChildFund also helped to organise similar workshops for parents and youth-led community festivals promoting the value of educating girls. “After learning more about gender and how it impacts our community, we now strongly encourage all our children to attend school, regardless of gender,” San said. “I want both my sons and my daughters to feel free to attend school and choose their own path when they grow up.”

IMPACT FOR CHILDREN IN THE PACIFIC

ChildFund Australia is committed to engaging civil society organisations and governments to ensure that children and young people across the Pacific grow up safe, healthy and strong, and are prepared for their future as custodians of the Blue Pacific.

In 2022-23, we provided technical support for two child protection projects in the Solomon Islands and a disaster risk management project in Fiji through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership. We also continued to contribute to sector-wide advocacy for changes to policy and investment in the Pacific.

Empowering young people to stay safe online

More children and young people in the Solomon Islands – who make up about 59 per cent of the population – are online more than before. Since 2000, the number of internet users in the country has grown from 148,000 to more than 264,000 in 2023.

ChildFund worked with local partners in the Solomon Islands to educate and upskill parents and caregivers, young people, police, the government, and key service providers in online safety, child protection and children's rights.

Mother-of-four Azaria is taking part in ChildFund's online safety program Swipe Safe. She is one of more than a dozen Swipe Safe youth facilitators in the Solomon Islands who is teaching parents how to support their children to navigate the online world safely. *"I also talk with my nieces and nephews about the internet, how to use their time on the phone, and to think, is this good, or is this bad?"* Azaria said. *"I don't allow my 16-year-old daughter to use the internet without me. Sometimes she gets pressure from her friends. She has seen cyberbullying happen, which is a main problem for young people in the Solomon Islands."*

Sharing skills with counsellors

Similar to Papua New Guinea, two in three women in the Solomon Islands, between the ages of 15 and 49, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner. More than a third of these women experienced sexual abuse as a child.

The success of the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain service in PNG led to ChildFund supporting a similar crisis helpline, implemented by Seif Ples, in the Solomon Islands. This year, staff from Seif Ples travelled to PNG to learn from the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain team about how to improve their counselling services, and data collection and management.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ADVOCACY WORK

- ChildFund led child-focused INGOs to advocate for visibility of children and young people in the international development policy (released August 2023).
- ChildFund made significant contributions to improve online safety codes in Australia. This included the e-Safety Commissioner rejecting two out of eight codes in June because they lacked consideration for community and child safety. Codes were rejected based on lack of consideration for community and child safety.
- Held 37 meetings with Members of Parliament, advisors, departmental staff (Attorney General, DFAT and AFP Cyber Safety) and key Ambassadors.
- Minister for International Development visited ChildFund's health programs in PNG, and acknowledged ChildFund's work in a public event on tuberculosis.

Advocating for positive change in the Pacific

Through our advocacy work, we continued to provide targeted policy advice in three priority areas: child poverty, online safety, and sexual and gender-based violence. This policy work has resulted in increased visibility of our programs to key stakeholders and opened doors to further conversations in relation to scaling programs.

Working in partnership and through coalition-based activities, ChildFund Australia became a key contributing member of the Steering Committee for the Australian Child Rights Taskforce.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE



“

I see our donations as helping children to start on a path to a better future.

Vikki, ChildFund Australia long-term supporter



As the world in which we live changes, we, too, must evolve our way of working to deliver increased impact for children and young people. We are committed to creating new and innovative opportunities to engage our donors and partners. To deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people, we are adapting and modernising our regular giving program, increasing our opportunities for donors in gifts in Wills and philanthropy.

This year, we've also added new ways to share the impact of support with our community through the introduction of a regular newsletter and improvement in our social media channels. The commitment of our Australian community is key to our success and one we will never take for granted. We strive to maintain and earn our reputation as one of Australia's most trusted international development organisations.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Vikki and Chris' legacy of helping children

Vikki and Chris (pictured above), from Western Australia, were planning their wedding when a pamphlet from ChildFund Australia arrived in the mail, asking for support for children living in poverty.

Vikki and Chris responded, and that year they began a lifelong commitment to not only each other but to helping children. *"We thought that it would be a good way to start our marriage doing something good for someone else,"* Vikki says.

Seventeen years later, Vikki and Chris, who are still happily married, have turned their unwavering support for children into a legacy by writing a gift in their Will to ChildFund.

"We support a number of charities, but ChildFund is by far the one that gets most of our support because we feel that there are so many children that don't have

opportunities, and we want to make sure we can help change that," Vikki says.

"Chris and I don't have children, and our families all have enough money to support themselves, so we wanted to make sure that any money that we have when we pass away goes towards doing good. We feel that if it goes to ChildFund, it can help children to get an education, and help families with what they need to support their children in the long term."

Vikki works with a bus company, and Chris is a fitter machinist. Writing a gift in your Will to a charity is a worthwhile act that not only wealthy people can do, says Vikki.

"I would say that before leaving something to people who already have many possessions, think about people who are less fortunate," she says.

When Chris lost his job several years ago, things became tough for the couple, but they felt strongly about continuing their support for children. It was about setting priorities, says Vikki.

"We just feel that many children don't have the luxuries that we have; they are struggling just to get basic things like clean water."

Both Vikki and Chris were born in Kalgoorlie and enjoyed the freedom of playing among nature in the countryside, but they know for many children

in developing communities in similar rural areas, this is not the case.

"Chris and I both had fun childhoods," Vikki says. *"If a child needs to work when they're six or seven years old and they're not getting a childhood, and we feel we can help them, then we will."*

Vikki's mother passed away when she was nine years old, but she remembers her father was still able to take her and her siblings away on holidays. *"We never missed out on anything,"* she says. *"We were very fortunate in that way."*

Vikki and Chris have seen the positive impact their donations have had on the lives of children and their families. Vikki says: *"I see our donations as helping children to start on a path to a better future."*



FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

SWIPE SAFE

HIGHLIGHTS

24,867

PEOPLE DIRECTLY REACHED

20,970

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED

12,745

GIRLS & WOMEN REACHED

11,103

PEOPLE FROM ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS REACHED

145

PEOPLE LIVING WITH A DISABILITY REACHED

High-speed digital connectivity across the Pacific region is set to rapidly expand, with the upgrade of the submarine, fibre optic cable system networking key islands in the Pacific. This will provide children and young people with unprecedented opportunities, but also increases the real risk of harm, particularly given the current high rates of violence against children.

Through technology, young people may be targeted by scams, experience bullying, or be exposed to sexual, racist, or other inappropriate content. They may encounter these risks through their searches, via social media, video, gaming or chat and communication platforms. The fast pace of technological development means the way young people are engaging with technology, and the types of risks they face are also shifting and changing fast.

ChildFund Australia's Swipe Safe program is a tested hands-on training program that helps children safely navigate their online lives and supports parents and helping professionals to partner with them.

Since Swipe Safe was first developed in 2018 in Vietnam, where it was delivered to 12,000 children and 3,000 parents, the online safety program has expanded into five countries across Asia and the Pacific. ChildFund most recently began implementing Swipe Safe in Cambodia, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.



Launching in Timor-Leste

With just a swipe or a tap of a finger on an electronic device, children can open so many doors into the digital world. However, with plenty of possibilities, there are also many risks.

In August 2023, ChildFund Timor-Leste partnered with local youth organisation, Alumni Parlamentu Foinsae (APFTL), to implement Swipe Safe, a program that supports young people to gain the knowledge and skills needed to navigate their online worlds safely.

Seventeen-year-old Laura, from Lautem municipality, is one of thousands of young people in Timor-Leste learning how to swipe safe. She is particularly looking forward to learning how to stay safe on social media.

"I'm very excited to take part in the online safety training because it will provide us with more knowledge on how to use technology wisely, and how to protect ourselves from online risks," she said. "I want to use social media wisely and correctly."

Grilo, a school principal and a representative of the Ministry of Education in Lautem, said it was important for young people to access digital technologies safely to learn, develop, and connect. *"I encourage all students and young people to participate in the online safety training and use what they learn in their daily lives," he said.*



ChildFund Timor-Leste and APFTL are aiming to reach 5,000 young people and 1,000 parents in Lautem and Dili municipalities through the project. *"ChildFund Timor-Leste is very proud to be partnered with APFTL,"* said Erine Dijkstra, ChildFund Timor-Leste's Country Director. *"We have worked with 26 facilitators already to provide the online safety training."*

ChildFund is also working with the Timor-Leste Government's Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture, and the Ministry of Solidarity and Social Inclusion, to educate parents, guardians and schools to across the country about online safety.

"Together, we can help everyone to become good online citizens and to protect children online," Erine said.

SWIPE SAFE APP – COMING SOON!

ChildFund Australia has collaborated with leading creative studio SIT2 to develop the Swipe Safe app. Featuring an evidence-led online safety curriculum, the app is an interactive and innovative learning platform that helps young people understand the online world and how to use it in a way that keeps themselves and others safe.

It provides young people with essential skills and knowledge across a range of online safety topics, including cyberbullying, online grooming, scams, hacking, and more. ChildFund is set to launch the app in 2024.



FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT



ChildFund's Sport for Development partnerships provide children and young people with opportunities to play, learn and grow across a range of sports. Using integrated sport and life skills learning, young people from developing communities are equipped to overcome challenges, inspire positive social change, and to become leaders. They learn about teamwork and gender equality, and develop relationship and decision-making skills.

ChildFund Rugby named Principal Social Impact Partner of World Rugby

In 2023, ChildFund Rugby was named Social Impact Partner of World Rugby. Harnessing the power of rugby as a vehicle for positive social change – and Rugby World Cup 2023 as the stage to highlight the impactful work of the partnership – World Rugby and ChildFund Rugby aim to use the sport as a vital tool to change the lives of children and young people around the globe.

Since its inception in 2019, the partnership has raised more than AU\$2.5 million to support children in developing communities to learn how to become leaders, inspire positive change in the communities, and overcome key life challenges.

Margaret Sheehan, CEO of ChildFund Australia, thanked World Rugby for their ongoing commitment and was excited by the opportunity to continue to build on the impactful partnership. "With the support of World Rugby, we can put solidarity, integrity and respect into action via the great game and give youth a different vision for their future," she said.

Alan Gilpin, CEO of World Rugby, said: "Being a partner of ChildFund Rugby is both humbling and exhilarating as it is a project that makes real impact for those who need it most. We are proud to work alongside ChildFund Rugby and show the true power of sport and the power of rugby to unite the world in positive change."

"It's inspiring to see the rugby community making a real difference to lives across the globe and I am confident together with ChildFund Rugby, World Rugby will continue to create positive outcomes for vulnerable young people around the world."

Grassroots to global

ChildFund Rugby supported hundreds of women from unions around the world through Grassroots to Global. These women are creating a safe space for women in rugby to excel and is empowering young players to lead and grow through rugby.

Rugby superstar Ilona Maher becomes an Ambassador

American rugby union player Ilona Maher (pictured right) joined ChildFund Rugby in 2023 as its newest Ambassador. Ilona is an Olympian and a member of the USA Rugby team. Beyond the pitch, Ilona is an advocate for mental health and body positivity, empowering young people across the globe who look up to her as a role model. "It's been so fulfilling for me to be an Ambassador and align myself with an organisation like ChildFund Rugby that is dedicated to helping grow the game for everyone around the world," Ilona said.



Pass It Back Türkiye: rugby supports community recovery

In February 2023, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the southern and central parts of the Türkiye, affecting millions of people. Months after the powerful earthquake and even before its debris had been cleared out, the people of Adiyaman in southeastern Türkiye began to rebuild their lives.

Supporting the recovery of the community was the Türkiye Ragbi Federasyonu, which partnered with ChildFund Rugby to deliver Pass It Back, a curriculum that provides young people with rugby training alongside life skills learning such as how to build safe and supportive networks, and plan for the future. In consultation with the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Adiyaman was identified as a location where children would benefit from structured, play-based learning during the recovery phase of the earthquake.

Pass It Back in Türkiye finished its first season with 16 coaches and 381 players (pictured above, left) – half of whom were female. After 290 sessions in around three months, 77 per cent of players demonstrated improved learning connected to the development of building supportive networks during the recovery period.

Rugby long lunch

A fundraiser was held on 9 September 2022 in Sydney to celebrate the appointment of ChildFund as the Principal Charity of the Rugby World Cup 2021 and the achievements of ChildFund's Sports for Development program.

The event saw members of Australia's rugby network, including ChildFund Australia Ambassador and Wallaroo Emily Chancellor, and other like-minded supporters come together over lunch to support and advocate for girls and women's participation in sports. Other honorary guests included the Ambassador of Australia for Women and Girls, Christine Clarke, and ChildFund Ambassadors Annabelle Williams and Danielle Cormack.



MEASURING IMPACT

ChildFund Australia and our partners are focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for children, their families and the wider community. During 2022-23, data from our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework shows that together with our partners, ChildFund Australia directly reached 284,245 individuals, including 168,424 children, as well as 4,542 individuals with a disability.

Why ChildFund measures impact

ChildFund Australia's MEL Framework measures and evaluates the effectiveness of our work in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and other Pacific island nations. ChildFund Australia's MEL Framework generates credible evidence and learning about:

- if and how our projects contribute to change;
- the quality and effectiveness of our approaches;
- the reach and scale of our programs.

The MEL Framework enables the organisation to capture, analyse, and document this information, and improve the effectiveness of ChildFund Australia's projects and development approaches, to achieve better outcomes for people living in poverty.

How ChildFund measures impact

The MEL Framework articulates the types of information required by ChildFund and our partners to understand the extent to which activities bring results and enables learning to improve the effectiveness of our approaches. ChildFund Australia's Development Effectiveness Learning Process operates at both a country and organisational level. In countries where ChildFund Australia and partners implement programs, teams design their own projects, and develop and implement MEL Frameworks and plans tailored to those projects. Reflection workshops are also conducted in collaboration with local partners. At an organisational level, the MEL Framework supports structured learning and reporting, allowing ChildFund Australia to assess the effectiveness of its development approaches. This requires undertaking an in-depth analysis of projects from a strong evidence base, using the following information.

- **Headline reporting:** key data sets are reported each year.
- **Sectoral analysis:** learning papers examine how projects are achieving change, and what can be learned about the approaches used.
- **Organisational analysis and learning:** annual reflection and reporting processes are planned to generate discussion, learning and inform decision-making.

In 2022-23 ChildFund Australia and its local implementing partners undertook 21 internal and external evaluations across the Asia-Pacific, as well as in Afghanistan and Kenya, helping us and our partners better understand our impact.

LEARNING FROM OUR WORK

Achieving meaningful participation of children with disabilities

ChildFund Australia's latest organisational Learning Paper focused on how its programs can effectively integrate disability inclusion to ensure the meaningful participation of children with disabilities. The Learning Paper was based on five disability inclusion targeted projects, which have been implemented since 2017, including four education projects in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, and one livelihoods and food security project in Vietnam. It sought to understand the effectiveness of our current practices, strategies, and interventions to ensure inclusive project designs that enable the meaningful participation of children with disabilities.

In response to this line of inquiry, learning was centred around the following four key themes:

1. Adopting a community development approach through adaptive and consultative project designs.
2. Building partnership models for inclusion based on allyship and capacity sharing.
3. Matching systems strengthening with increasing social acceptance for disability identification.
4. Moving beyond representation to empowerment and meaningful participation.

These learning themes outlined implications to programming, with recommended actions focused on improving our understanding of and technical competencies in disability inclusion, strengthening the use of design, monitoring, and evaluation tools and analysis of data, and supporting activities that deliberately target people with disabilities through twin-track or targeted programming.

Recognising the importance of locally-led action, it was also recommended that our programs should establish stronger and more meaningful partnerships with, and invest in technical capacity development for, organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs). It was also recommended that we continue to actively promote stronger links between OPDs, civil society organisations, and government. These links should be complemented with ongoing education and community messaging to address attitudinal barriers, and consider strategies that support mobilisation and collective agency among people with disabilities and families, leveraging ChildFund's rich experience in community development.



Better outcomes for inclusive learning in Laos

In 2022-23, ChildFund Australia undertook an end-of-project evaluation of the Better Outcomes for Inclusive Learning (BOIL) project. This three-year project aimed to create inclusive, quality learning environments for girls and boys with different learning needs, including those with disabilities. The project was funded through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and delivered in partnership with the Aid for Children with Disability Association, a local organisation for people with disabilities in Lao PDR.

Recognising the continuing challenges of limited capacity to support inclusive education at the national, sub-national, and local levels, as well as the relatively new concept of 'inclusive education' at the community level across Lao PDR, the evaluation drew on some lessons learnt that can be applied to future interventions, such as:

- developing institutional capacity within the Ministry of Education and Sports, as well as Provincial and District Education offices;

- strengthening our focus on cluster villages and prioritising vulnerable villages in the project selection;
- collaborating with OPDs for integrating a referral system for rehabilitation services;
- empowering people with disability and caregivers of children with disability to self-advocate by establishing self-help groups with essential support from relevant stakeholders, and having some community disability role models to advocate for the rights of children with disabilities; and
- increasing the number of technical coaching visits, especially for the teachers who struggle to use inclusive education practices, as well as reinforce teachers' capacity in teaching students with different learning needs.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The FY23 financial results reflect the second year of ChildFund Australia's FY22 to FY25 strategic plan. The strategy is ambitious, with core objectives to pursue a greater localisation agenda across our program work, increase our presence and impact in the Pacific region and strive to diversify our funding base, ensuring that ChildFund is fit for the future.

In FY23 ChildFund Australia's total revenue decreased by 7% on the previous year, with a total comprehensive deficit of \$2.3m. The operating deficit for the year was in line with expectations and annual plan, as funds were drawn from restricted reserves across five of our country and regional programs in support of program activities. Net assets at the end of the year were \$19.7m.

In FY23, ChildFund Australia's total revenue was \$47.7m in comparison to \$51.4m in FY22. Revenue raised from the Australian public declined by 6% from the previous year. The reduction in monetary donations and gifts is a net result of reduced sponsorship income and income growth from our new regular giving campaign.

Grant funding decreased by 7% in comparison to FY22. Whilst funding from the Australian government increased marginally from prior year, grant funding from other Australian and overseas sources reduced. This reduction was most notable in our Papua New Guinea program where Covid response funding came to an end in FY22. ChildFund Alliance funding in support of our Vietnam and Cambodia operations also reduced due to planned sponsorship disaffiliations.

Other income reduced from the previous year due to the net impact of reduced sponsorship acquisition investment from ChildFund International and increased investment and interest income.

We would like to acknowledge the support of our ChildFund supporters and institutional funding partners whose trust and support allows ChildFund to continue to make a positive difference to children and communities in which we work.

How the money was spent

Program expenditure - which comprises funds sent to international programs, program support costs and educating the community about our work and its impact - totalled \$41.4m in FY23 representing a 2 per cent increase from the previous year. Program activities and related expenditure increased across five of our seven country and regional programs. This is indicative of programming activity resuming normal capacity following Covid. In contrast, program investment in our Papua New Guinea operation reduced from FY22 levels given significant institutional funding of our Covid response ending. Funds in support of ChildFund International country programs also reduced due to reduced sponsorship income flows.

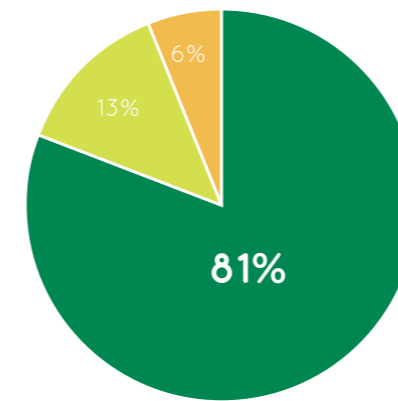
Program expenditure represented 81% of total expenditure by the organisation, a strong measure of the level of funds being directed by ChildFund Australia towards delivering results for vulnerable children and families.

Investment in fundraising of \$6.5m increased by 10 per cent from \$5.9m in FY22, primarily due to fundraising activities being unimpeded by Covid lockdown measures unlike FY22. Fundraising investment generated \$22.0m in public funds in FY23.

Accountability and administration expenses of \$3.1m have increased slightly from prior year and represent 6% of total expenditure. These costs are necessary to efficiently run the organisation and include staff costs for operation support teams such as supporter relations, finance, systems and technology support, and standard operating expenses such as audit fees, insurance and utilities.

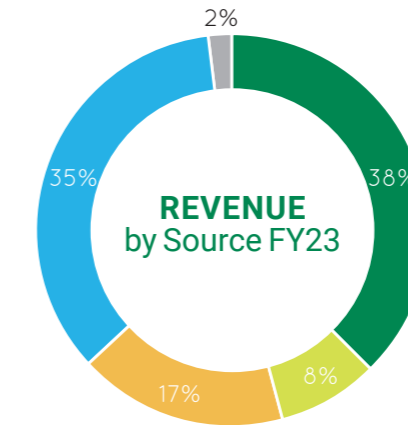
Net assets at the end of the year total \$19.7m, a reduction from FY22 due to the planned operating deficit in the year. Reserve levels are still strong and will continue to provide a strong foundation to support ChildFund's work into the future.

EXPENDITURE by Type FY23



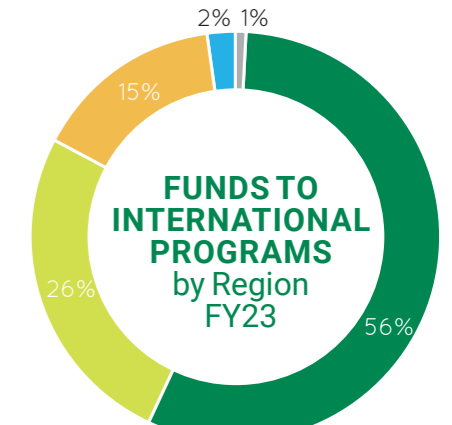
(% is a proportion of total expenditure)

- Program expenditure
- Fundraising investment
- Accountability and administration



(% is a proportion of total revenue)

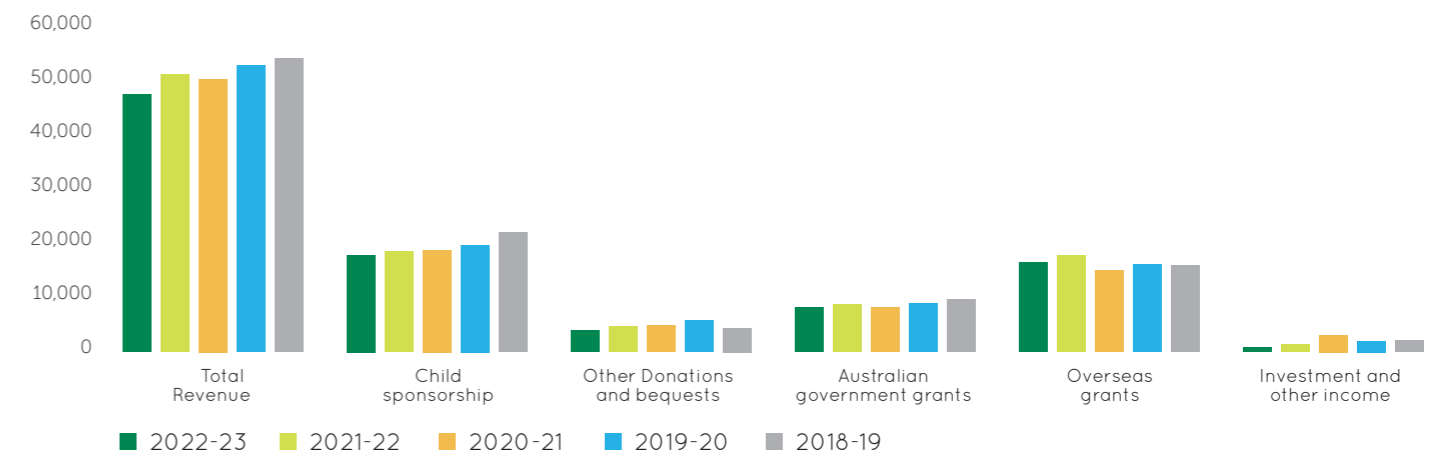
- Child sponsorship
- Other Donations and bequests
- Australian government grants
- Overseas grants
- Investment and other income



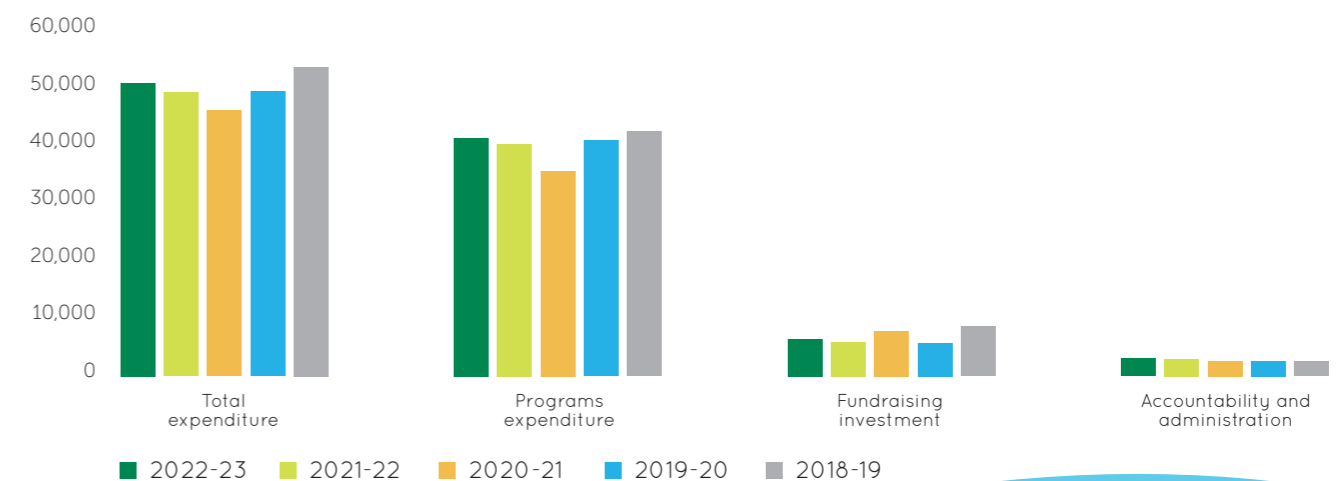
(% is a proportion of total funds to International Programs)

- Asia
- Pacific
- Africa
- South America
- East Europe

FIVE-YEAR REVENUE TREND by Source



FIVE-YEAR EXPENDITURE TREND by Type



CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue		
Monetary donations and gifts	21,868,496	23,059,336
Legacies and bequests	108,307	214,680
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	7,004,056	6,585,306
Other Australian	1,217,488	2,181,876
Overseas	16,642,116	17,888,640
	24,863,660	26,655,822
Investment income	787,428	354,132
Other income	122,032	1,119,173
Total revenue	47,749,923	51,403,143
Expenditure		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International programs		
Funds to international programs	38,617,206	38,417,221
Program support costs	2,135,170	1,571,483
	40,752,376	39,988,704
Community education	669,588	482,739
Fundraising costs		
Public	6,343,196	5,809,688
Government, multilateral and private	139,657	109,091
	6,482,853	5,918,779
Accountability and administration	3,122,272	2,963,933
Total expenditure	51,027,089	49,354,155
(Deficit)/Surplus of revenue over expenditure	(3,277,166)	2,048,988
Other comprehensive income		
Net change in fair value of equity investments	162,757	(377,085)
Foreign operations – foreign currency translation	782,131	953,892
Total comprehensive (deficit)/surplus for the year	(2,332,278)	2,625,795

During the year, the Group did not engage in any political or religious proselytisation programs, domestic projects, commercial activities, had no impairment of investments and did not include the value of non-monetary donations and gifts.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	12,224,975	11,451,224
Trade and other receivables	3,191,009	2,858,526
Investments – financial assets	6,345,455	13,095,225
Total current assets	21,761,439	27,404,975
Investments – financial assets	3,980,208	3,673,003
Property, plant, and equipment	861,141	926,852
Intangibles	573,399	800,632
Right-of-use assets	887,772	926,425
Total non-current assets	6,302,520	6,326,912
Total assets	28,063,959	33,731,887
Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	5,171,139	8,594,245
Provisions	1,194,685	1,272,681
Lease liabilities	455,906	345,374
Total current liabilities	6,821,730	10,212,300
Provisions	1,133,209	938,326
Lease liabilities	449,187	589,150
Total non-current liabilities	1,582,396	1,527,476
Total liabilities	8,404,126	11,739,776
Net assets	19,659,833	21,992,111
Equity		
Retained surplus	9,265,928	9,938,007
Bequest reserve	500,000	500,000
Fair-value reserve	737,030	574,273
Unrestricted reserves	10,502,958	11,012,280
Restricted reserves	9,156,875	10,979,831
Total Equity	19,659,833	21,992,111

The Summary Financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance Document available at www.acfid.asn.au. Copies of our audited financial statements can be downloaded from our website at www.childfund.org.au or can be requested via email to info@childfund.org.au, or by calling 1800 023 600.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Year ended 30 June 2023

	Retained Surplus \$	Bequest Reserve \$	Fair Value Reserve \$	Restricted Reserve \$	Total Equity \$
Balance as at 1 July 2021	8,082,113	500,000	951,358	9,832,845	19,366,316
Total comprehensive income for the period					
Surplus of revenue over expenditure	2,048,988	-	-	-	2,048,988
Other comprehensive income					
Net change in fair value of equity investments at FVOCI	-	-	(377,085)	-	(377,085)
Transfers to restricted funds	(193,094)	-	-	193,094	-
Foreign operations – foreign currency translation	-	-	-	953,892	953,892
Balance as at 30 June 2022	9,938,007	500,000	574,273	10,979,831	21,992,111
Balance as at 1 July 2022	9,938,007	500,000	574,273	10,979,831	21,992,111
Total comprehensive income for the period					
Deficit of revenue over expenditure	(3,277,166)	-	-	-	(3,277,166)
Other comprehensive income					
Net change in fair value of equity investments at FVOCI	-	-	162,757	-	162,757
Transfers to restricted funds	2,605,087	-	-	(2,605,087)	-
Foreign operations – foreign currency translation	-	-	-	782,131	782,131
Balance as at 30 June 2023	9,265,928	500,000	737,030	9,156,875	19,659,833



Level 38 Tower Three
300 Barangaroo Avenue
Sydney NSW 2000

PO Box H67
Australia Square
Sydney NSW 1215
Australia

ABN: 51 194 660 183
Telephone: +61 2 9335 7000
Facsimile: +61 2 9335 7001
DX: 1056 Sydney
www.kpmg.com.au

Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of ChildFund Australia

Report of the independent auditor on the summary financial statements of ChildFund Australia

Opinion

The Summary Annual Financial Statements of ChildFund Australia (the Group) are derived from the audited Annual Financial Statements of the Group as at and for the year ended 30 June 2023 (audited Annual Financial Statements).

In our opinion, the Summary Annual Financial Statements are a fair summary of the audited Annual Financial Statements of ChildFund Australia. The Summary Annual Financial Statements comprise:

- Consolidated Summary Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023
- Consolidated Summary Statement of comprehensive income and consolidated Summary Statement of changes in equity for the year then ended.

The Group consists of ChildFund Australia and the entities it controlled at the year-end or from time to time during the financial year.

Summary Annual Financial Statements

The Summary Annual Financial Statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards applied in the preparation of the audited Annual Financial Statements. Reading the Summary Annual Financial Statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited Annual Financial Statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Annual Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited Annual Financial Statements in our report dated 20 September 2023.

Responsibility of the Directors for the Summary Annual Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the Summary Annual Financial Statements.

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the Summary Annual Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the Summary Annual Financial Statements are a fair summary of the audited Annual Financial Statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

KPMG

Cameron Roan
Partner
Sydney
20 September 2023

KPMG, an Australian partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organisation of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved. The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organisation. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

BOARD AND EXECUTIVE TEAM



BELINDA LUCAS (Chair)
Belinda Lucas was appointed as Chair in November 2020. She has over 20 years of experience in international development. She is the co-founder and director of Learning4Development, a consulting practice that provides advisory services to international development organisations and programs. Belinda is a member of the Governance and Nominations Committee, Audit and Risk Committee and the Program Review Committee.



MICHAEL PAIN (Deputy Chair)
Michael Pain is an experienced director with For Purpose organisations, having been a director in this sector across multiple organisations for over 10 years. Michael worked for 25 years with Accenture in leadership roles across Australia and Asia Pacific. He was appointed as Deputy Chair in November 2020, and is the Chair of the Program Review Committee. He is also a member of the Communications and Marketing Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee.



DAVID SHORTLAND
David Shortland is a specialist governance advisor and communication counsel to boards and senior executives. He is Chair of the Governance and Nominations Committee. He is also a member of the Audit and Risk Committee. David is a director of the international board of ChildFund Alliance.



KOBUS EHLERS
Kobus Ehlers is an experienced leader in governance, risk and compliance with more than 20 years' experience working and leading teams in large multinational companies across a range of industries and markets including Australia, Africa and Asia. Kobus is Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.



LISA HRESC
Lisa Hresc is an experienced media, brand, and digital marketing strategist. Lisa has held executive leadership roles in brand, marketing and communications across media, broadcast and in the not-for-profit sector for over 20 years. She is a member of Australian Institute of Company Directors. Lisa is Chair of the Communications and Marketing Committee. She is also a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Governance and Nominations Committee.



LYNDSLEY RICE
Lyndsey Rice has over 15 years leadership experience gained across international markets and is the CEO of Children's Hospital Foundation. She is experienced in strategic planning, fundraising, marketing, philanthropy, digital transformation and leading highly effective teams. Lyndsey's career spans international development, social services, health, medical research and the arts. Lyndsey is a member of the Communications and Marketing Committee.



NANCY TCHOU
Nancy Tchou is a senior finance professional with over 17 years' experience in mergers and acquisitions, capital raisings, strategic reviews, stakeholder engagement, asset and fund management. She is an investment banker leading the superannuation and infrastructure fund efforts at a global investment bank. Nancy is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Communications and Marketing Committee.



SHANTANU PAUL
Shantanu Paul has over a decade of experience in social entrepreneurship and international development. He is the Director of the Catalyst Fund and Global Grantmaking Programs at Teach for All. Prior to this, he was the Managing Director of Leaders for Climate Action. Shantanu sat as a youth representative on the Board of Plan International Australia. Shantanu is a member of the Program Review Committee and the Governance and Nominations Committee.



TUREIA SAMPLE
Tureia Sample is an experienced lawyer and executive specialising in governance, corporate advisory and critical infrastructure projects particularly in the communications, health, energy and transport sectors. She is a partner at PwC, and previously held senior executive roles at SBS. She worked for law firm Allens. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Tureia is a member of the Program Review Committee.

EXECUTIVE TEAM



MARGARET SHEEHAN
Chief Executive Officer



ADRIAN GRAHAM
Deputy CEO, Operations



AMY LAMOINE
Global Programs Director – Australia-Pacific and Humanitarian Response



SARAH HUNT
Global Programs Director – Mekong and Grants



CORINNE HABEL
Chief Development Officer

The following Directors resigned during the financial year. We thank them sincerely for their exemplary service and commitment to ChildFund Australia.

MICAELA CRONIN
Appointed 13 March 2020
– resigned 28 October 2022

RICHARD MOORE
Appointed 25 November 2015
– resigned 30 November 2022

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

CHILDFUND ALLIANCE

ChildFund Deutschland
ChildFund International
ChildFund Japan
ChildFund Korea
ChildFund New Zealand
Barnfonden
Children Believe
Educo
Un Enfant par la Main
WeWorld

AMBASSADORS

Aimee Sutorius
Amy Sligar
Annabelle Williams
Danielle Cormack
Emily Chancellor
Honey Hireme-Smiler
Ilona Maher
Lauren Moore
Lynne McGranger
Mere Baker
Michael Rose
Ron Rutland

LOCAL PARTNERS

ASIA PACIFIC

Oceania Rugby

CAMBODIA

Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation (CDPO)
Cambodian Federation of Rugby
Children's Action for Development
Kampuchea Action to Promote Education Organization (KAPE)
Khmer Association for Development of Country-side Cambodia (KAFDOC)
Khmer NGO for Education (KHEN)
Komar Rik Reay Association
Life with Dignity
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports - Cambodia
Operations Enfants du Cambodge
Santi Sena Organisation
Teach For Cambodia
The Cambodia Rural Development Team
The Cambodian National Council for Children
Wathnakpheap
Women Organization for Modern Economy and Nursing (WOMEN)

FIJI

Cricket Fiji
Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)

INDONESIA

Yayasan Cita Masyarakat Madani (YACITA)
Yayasan Kesejahteraan Keluarga Soegijapranata - Semarang(YKKS)

LAOS

Aid for Children with Disability Association
Association for promotion good life of the children & youth
CASE - Community Association for Salvation and Environment (formerly APEDC)
Houaphanh Provincial Education and Sports Service

Lao PDR Ministry of Education and Sport
Lao Rugby Federation
Life Skills Development Association
Ministry of Health
National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children
Provincial Educational and Sport Services in Savannakhet province
Provincial Educational and Sport Services in Sayabouly province
Provincial Health Department
Sengsavang
Sopbao DESB
Vientiane Capital Commission for Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children
Vientiane Provincial Education and Sport Service
Xamneua District Health Office

MYANMAR

CFN - Child Development Association
Future Light
Hope for Shining Stars
Ratana Metta Organisation

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Central Provincial Health Authority - PNG
Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG)
District Courts
National Department of Education
National Department of Health
Northern Provincial Health Authority
Village Courts
YWCA of Papua New Guinea

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Family Support Centre (FSC) Solomon Islands
Plan Solomon Islands
Seif Ples

THE PHILIPPINES

Philippines Rugby Football Union

TIMOR-LESTE

Alola Foundation
Alumni Parlamentu Foinsa'e Timor-Leste (APFTL)
Ba Futuru
Belun
Fraterna
INFORDEPE (Nat'l Training Institute for Teachers and Educ Prof Timor-Leste)
Mary MacKillop Today
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Timor Leste
National Health Institute

VIETNAM

Action to the Community Development Institute (ACDC)
Association of People with Disability in Na Ri District
Bac Kan City People's Committee, Bac Kan province
Bac Kan Provincial People's Committee
Cao Bang City People's Committee, Cao Bang province
Cao Bang Provincial People's Committee
Department of Child Affairs
Department of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) of Hoa Binh Province
Department of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) of Kim Boi District
Hoa Binh City People's Committee
Hoa Binh Club Network CBO
Hoa Binh Provincial People's Committee
Kim Boi District People's Committee, Hoa Binh Province
Na Ri District People's Committee, Bac Kan Province
Ngan Son District People's Committee, Bac Kan Province
Quang Hoa District People's Committee, Cao Bang province
Quang Uyen District People's Committee, Cao Bang Province
Tan Lac District People's Committee, Hoa Binh Province
Thach An District People's Committee, Cao Bang Province
The Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Cao Bang)
Tra Linh District People's Committee, Cao Bang Province
Vietnam Association for Children's Rights (VACR)
Vietnam Ministry of Information and Communication

BECAUSE EVERY CHILD NEEDS A CHILDHOOD



ACFID
MEMBER



ChildFund Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

For more information, or to lodge a complaint, please contact ACFID on main@acfid.asn.au or email ChildFund Australia's Supporter Relations team on info@childfund.org.au

ACFID

Address: 14 Napier Close, Deakin ACT 2600

Phone: +612 6285 1816

Email: main@acfid.asn.au

Website: www.acfid.asn.au

ChildFund Australia is also a member of Accountable Now, a platform of international civil society organisations that strive to be transparent, responsive to stakeholders, and focused on delivering impact. As a member, ChildFund has signed 12 globally-agreed upon Accountability Commitments and will report annually to an Independent Review Panel on our economic, environmental and social performance according to the Accountable Now reporting standards.

ChildFund Australia

Address: 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Phone: 1800 023 600

Email: info@childfund.org.au

Website: www.childfund.org.au

ABN: 79 002 885 761



ChildFund Australia recognises the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Editor: Rita Mu

Designer: Minnie Milan

Photography: ChildFund staff and supporters

Printers: JA Wales

Front cover: Children from Houaphanh Province, Laos

© ChildFund Australia