

CHILDWORLD

SUMMER 2009

Emergencies in the Asia-Pacific



Photo: Reuters/Erik de Castro, courtesy www.alertnet.org

Philippines typhoon and Indonesia earthquake
20th anniversary of the Convention on Child Rights
Cycle Cambodia Challenge raises over \$60,000

www.childfund.org.au

ChildFund
Australia



FROM THE CEO

Nigel Spence

Dear ChildFund supporters,

On 20 November 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) became the first legally binding international treaty to affirm human rights for all children. Twenty years on it is clear that progress has been made but massive effort is still needed if all children are to enjoy their rights and reach their full potential.

The Convention marked an historic change by asserting that all children have fundamental human rights, including rights to an identity, education, health care, protection from abuse, freedom to play and an adequate standard of living.

The Convention also puts obligations on duty-bearers, particularly governments, to improve conditions for children and this has been influential in shaping legislation, policy and services. The movement for universal primary education, initiatives to reduce child mortality, stronger child protection systems and laws to prevent child labour are some of the progressive changes that have occurred.

Children's rights are of central importance in ChildFund's work. Realisation of the right to clean water, education, food, protection and basic health care is a key driver of all projects. Our approach also supports children to actively participate in the design and implementation of programs.

While progress has been made, it is obvious that many children continue to experience violation of their rights due to poverty, war, injustice, abuse and the disproportionate impact of natural disasters. They require even greater support over the next 20 years.



A child sleeps on a floor in a temporary shelter after the earthquake in Indonesia

Children at risk in natural disasters

Update on the emergencies in the Philippines and Indonesia

Families in Indonesia are reeling after the earthquake that hit West Sumatra. More than 700 people have been reported dead and a further 2400 hospitalised, and over 80 per cent of the local structures including schools, hospitals, local buildings and shops have been destroyed.

ChildFund Indonesia, an affiliate of ChildFund Australia, is working with the local government to run Child Centred Spaces in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. "Our priority is to provide the needed psychosocial support to children who always bear the brunt of major disasters like this," says Sharon Thangadurai, national director for ChildFund Indonesia.

In the Philippines, where nearly two million people have been affected by flooding caused by Typhoon Ketsana (known locally as Ondoy), ChildFund Philippines, partner organisation of ChildFund Australia, is providing urgent support to affected communities.

Families in Metro Manila have returned to their homes and started to repair the damage. In Southern Luzon, where the impact is more severe, ChildFund is working with local government officials and partners to meet the basic needs of more than 18,650 people.

Dennis O'Brien, national director for ChildFund Philippines, says: "The damage will be manageable, however, our vulnerability is that the typhoon season is still with us."

In disasters like this it is children who typically suffer the greatest hardship and children's rights are often overlooked or violated. Children may become orphaned, displaced or separated. Their education is disrupted. Children's rights to protection also require extra attention in crowded IDP camps.

ChildFund approaches these emergencies with a focus on the needs of children and youth. Our program interventions are responsive to these needs and seek to minimise harm, reduce risk and promote recovery.

If you would like to contribute to this important effort, please visit www.childfund.org.au/act/donate/payment

Exercising their right to be heard

Children in Vietnam take their messages to the government

In the lead-up to the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ChildFund Vietnam has partnered with UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan, World Vision and the Vietnamese Government to host a four-day National Children's Forum, where 126 child representatives spoke on behalf of children from all walks of life.

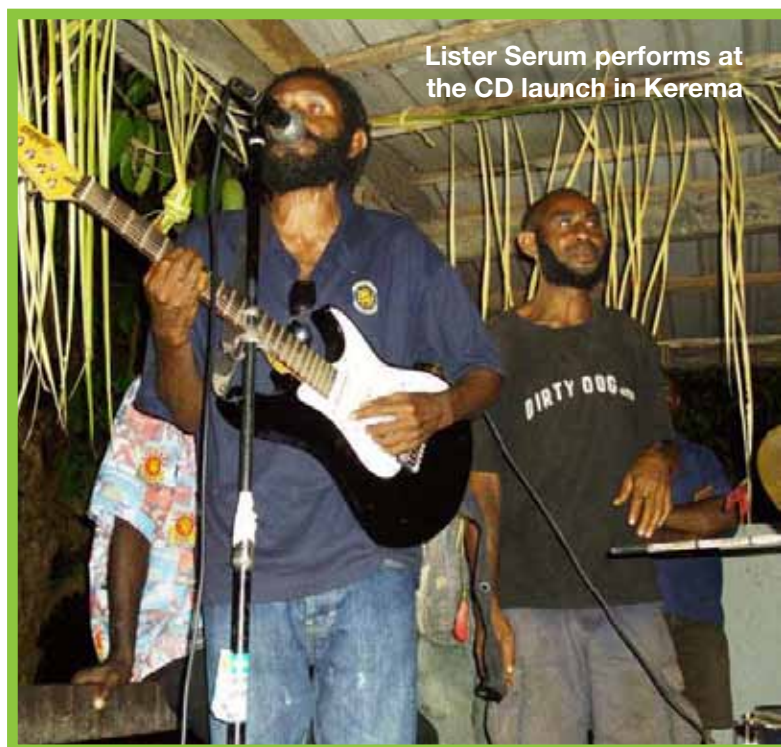
Vietnam's Vice-President Ngyuyen Thi Doan attended, along with other government representatives. Open talks and discussions were held and the children submitted proposals on issues as varied as child protection, nutrition, capacity building for teachers, upgrading health clinics, raising environmental awareness and supporting children in special circumstances.

One group was particularly worried about the shortage of water and sanitation facilities for disabled students at schools and asked if special facilities could be built for them. "They (disabled children) have the right to come," said the group. "We should build these facilities not only at schools but at public places as well."

At the end of the forum, Vice-President Doan said: "All children in the world have equal rights and it hurts me to see that a big gap of children live among our nation and other areas." She assured participants that all their messages would be considered and acted upon.



Children present their proposals to government officials at the forum



Lister Serum performs at the CD launch in Kerema

Reaching youth through music

Youth in PNG have recorded an awareness-raising CD

ChildFund PNG has taken a new approach to raising awareness of HIV and AIDS with the recording of a CD. Titled *Youths in Focus – Stap Wantaim Mi (Stay with Me)*, the CD is comprised of songs sung mainly in English, Tok Pisin and Tok Ples by youth from ChildFund program areas in Kerema and Hood Lagoon.

Youth and HIV project officer Stella Kombul says: "The songs not only talk about AIDS awareness. They are also about violence against women and children, and gender equality. The youths are very creative and it's great to be able to engage them in music recording for awareness."

The CD was launched in Kerema to a crowd of more than 1000 people, with ChildFund enlisting popular local artists Lister Serum, Charles Assyahfoe and Ted Ilau to attract young people to the event.

Representatives from ChildFund and other organisations also took the opportunity to talk to the crowd about HIV and AIDS, and the different kinds of support services they offer for youths.

Stella says: "Most young people love music so through this project, they not only have songs to listen to but also are more informed on the dangers of HIV and AIDS."

ChildFund around the globe



Sierra Leone

ChildFund Australia's partner organisation in Sierra Leone has established a new mobile health clinic, giving children and mothers access to life-saving medical treatment and medication.

With little to no pre- or postnatal care and a reliance on untrained birth attendants, childbirth historically has been dangerous for both mother and baby. Aisatou recalls the pain of losing two babies because she couldn't get the care she needed at her local health centre.

Soon after her second child was buried, trained healthcare providers affiliated with ChildFund began visiting Aisatou's village with a mobile clinic, providing nutrition education, check-ups with trained healthcare providers, safe and sanitary birthing conditions and food supplements for both mothers and their children.

"I got some medication and later became pregnant again," Aisatou says. "I [had] no fear that I [would] lose the baby. I gave birth to this child and have not fallen sick because of the good health education, care and food supply that I received from the nurse."

For Aisatou, and many other women like her, access to health clinics is saving lives and helping ensure their children get a better start in life.



Brazil

In Brazil, where nearly a third of the population lives in poverty, the ChildFund-supported Family Agricultural School in the Jequitinhonha Valley of Minas Gerais is making a difference by educating children in their own communities.

The school spans 112 acres of land, enabling hands-on, experiential learning. The children study maths, science, health, literature, Portuguese and penmanship. They also study agriculture and animal husbandry.

The three-year curriculum operates on a rotating basis, accommodating three classes of 30 students each per year. One group of students attends school for a week, then they go home for two weeks and the next group of students rotates in.

During their two weeks at home, students put their skills to work in the field, simultaneously teaching their families the agricultural techniques they have learned.

The Family Agricultural School's unique approach to learning not only provides a priceless education, but an opportunity for children and youth to earn a living from their own land.

Pacifico, a student at the school, says: "I found out that it is better to earn my living in my own community, and I try to pass this experience to my friends and family."



Philippines

ChildFund Australia's affiliate organisation in the Philippines has implemented an adolescent reproductive health (ARH) program in Roxas City to help stem the increase in young people falling pregnant and being infected with sexually transmitted diseases.

The program trained youth in eight *barangays* (communities) and nine schools to become peer educators in ARH. They went on to conduct sessions in and out of school on a range of health and life skills topics.

The peer educators also came up with the idea of using drama and role plays to help break the taboo around sex. They established their own theatre group, which has put on two plays tackling the issues of risky behaviour and teenage pregnancy.

In addition, the program has strengthened the provision of guidance counselling at school through the establishment of youth-friendly corners.

Parents have also received training and support to help them better understand ARH issues and become more involved in educating and providing guidance to their children.

Schools in the area are now in the process of integrating ARH into the curriculum.

ChildFund Alliance works where aid is able to flow, implementing community development programs in 57 countries. ChildFund Australia thanks its supporters and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).



East Timor

ChildFund Timor Leste, an affiliate of ChildFund Australia, has installed water pipelines and wells in a number of rural communities, providing access to safe water.

In Haleco village, a woman used to trek 30-45 minutes to fetch a bucket of water for household use. Today the same woman can walk just a few metres to access safe water.

In Baulale Orun and Fohoria villages, the only access to clean water was spring water from the mountains. Children would have to walk for over 2km to access that water and often sustained injuries while climbing or descending the mountain.

ChildFund collaborated with the community to find solutions to these problems. The community provided labour for the projects, while ChildFund provided the financial and material resources. This joint effort has brought immediate benefits to children and their families.

Children who used to spend their time fetching water now have time to read their books and do better in school. The incidence of diarrhoeal diseases has also been reduced.

One grateful mother thanked the sponsors whose money helped fund these projects. "Our children are better off with their support," she says.



Cambodia

ChildFund Cambodia has been awarded two Certificates of Appreciation and gold medals by the Cambodian Government for its work in building and equipping two schools with student and teacher resources, playgrounds and a kindergarten.

The awards were given out by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports during the recent handover ceremony of the two schools – Hun Sen Svay Pha-em primary school in Svay Ang commune and Ro Ka primary school in Ang Ta Sou commune – funded by a donor through ChildFund Japan.

Business support services coordinator Ong Chaing Bun says: "We gave one gold medal and one certificate to ChildFund Japan to give to the family of the donor. The other two will be mounted and displayed in our office in Phnom Penh."

This brings ChildFund Cambodia's awards tally to three, with the organisation receiving its first certificate and gold medal in April for the construction of five classrooms at Ang Russei primary school in Svay Thum commune, and the provision of materials, equipment and bicycles.

Work has now begun on the Chouk Meas primary school, funded by ChildFund Australia donors and supporters.



Zambia

A renowned education expert reviewing the Active Teaching and Learning Approaches in Schools (ATLAS) program for ChildFund Zambia, partner organisation of ChildFund Australia, has found that pupils seem more highly motivated and more often "on task".

Professor Warwick Elley, who is conducting a progress report on the impact of ATLAS in three schools in the Mumbwa program area, says: "There was more fun and laughter in some classes, but some are still rather 'teacher-centred'."

Professor Elley also found the program is getting a positive response from teachers, who are learning new teaching techniques and seeing improvements in the way students participate in class.

The education expert says it is too early to tell whether there will be a substantial improvement in pupils' academic achievement as a result of the ATLAS program. However, from his observations so far, he is expecting some important gains.

"Certainly the teachers think that their pupils are learning more this year. The fact that more pupils are judged to be "on task" and that teachers are using a greater variety of methods of group work and motivation are all good signs of progress," he notes.

TWO TALES

How do the childhoods of two four-year-old boys from East Timor and Australia compare?



Joanzinho from Manatuto

Home town

Joanzinho: A small village located close to a very large river in the district of Manatuto.

Xavier: Inner city suburb of Perth, close to shops, cafes, the river and public transport.

Daily diet

Joanzinho: Three meals a day – hulled rice, flattened corn, Cancun and mustards.

Xavier: Three main meals plus snacks. Cereal or toast, sandwiches, hot dinner of meat and vegies, fruit, biscuits, cheese, yoghurt.

Family residence

Joanzinho: Consists of three rooms made from cement with half-concrete brick, palm branches and thatched zinc roof. No water system or toilet in the house. Kitchen and toilet made by using local materials such as palm leaves and coconut leaves.

Xavier: Brick, three-bedroom house with a grass area out the front and a courtyard out the back.

Number of animals

Joanzinho: More than 10 goats, and chickens.

Xavier: None, but might get a cat or dog for his birthday.

Occupation of parents

Joanzinho: Mum takes care of the house, looks after Joanzinho and his three siblings and helps Dad in the rice field and vegetable garden. Dad is a farmer and goat herdsman.

Xavier: Mum is a part-time nurse and looks after Xavier and his brother on her days off. Dad is a crane operator and a director in an export company.

Daily routine

Joanzinho: Breakfast, play with friends, lunch at midday, rest in the

afternoon, more playing with friends, shower, then watch children's programs on TV in the evening because electricity is only available at night time.

Xavier: Breakfast, park to play, home for lunch, afternoon nap, shopping with Mum, few cartoons and general play time, dinner, bath, quiet play, bed at 7.30pm, two books for bedtime.

Health and wellbeing

Joanzinho: Weighs 13.5kg. Immunised against measles, tetanus, and pustular skin eruptions. The nearest doctor is about an hour's walk away.

Xavier: Weighs 16kg. Immunised against hepatitis B, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, MMR and meningococcal. The nearest doctor is a few minutes' drive away.

Education

Joanzinho: Will start pre-school this year. The nearest school is an hour away on foot.

Xavier: Goes to pre-school at child care two days a week. The nearest school is a few minutes by car.

Favourite toy

Joanzinho: Car toys made of wood.

Xavier: Cars! Especially Lightning McQueen cars.

Favourite saying

Joanzinho: Calling Mum and Dad.

Xavier: "You're a boonoo!"

Future aspirations

Joanzinho: Football player.

Xavier: Policeman.



Xavier from Perth

Elyshia leading the pack!



CYCLE CAMBODIA

The verdict is in: our first cycling adventure in Cambodia was the trip of a lifetime!

When ChildFund put the call out for people to take part in our first-ever Cycle Cambodia Challenge, we soon had 14 brave participants signed up. Over the next few months, they worked tirelessly to raise money and get their fitness levels up – and before long, it was time to get on the plane!

The group landed in Phnom Penh where they spent the night, before travelling by bus to Svay Rieng. Here they visited the Chouk Meas school where the money from their fundraising activities is being used to construct a new building. The group got to see with their own eyes the dilapidated school buildings that would be replaced, and even watched the first bricks being laid!

“Everyone was moved and it was a real privilege to see,” says Victorian participant Peter Musson.

They also spent time playing and talking with children at their children’s clubs and visited a fish farm run by a local youth group.

The next day saw the team embark on their first day of cycling. Spirits were high but mingled with nervous anticipation as they set off from Svay Rieng to Prey Veng – a daunting 96km! Over six days, the group continued on through rural villages and lush green countryside, notching up 320km in total.

“Riding with other members made the challenge fun and distracted from the distance,” says NSW participant Elyshia Rodrigues.

The trip gave the team a unique insight into daily life in Cambodia. They witnessed poverty first-hand, which was often confronting, but only strengthened their resolve to continue to help children in need. It was also inspiring to see the progress that had been made by ChildFund Cambodia in just 18 months of operation.

“The highlight was definitely the ChildFund project visit and high-fiving scores of Cambodian children on the side of the road as we cycled through remote provinces,” says Victorian participant Bobbie Andronikos. “I will always remember the wonderful people I met. It made me believe that I can make a difference.”

Thank you and congratulations to our wonderful Cycle Cambodia Challenge team: Bobbie, Jake, Adrian, Kristen, Warren, Zita, David, Turia, Adam, Kaaren, Tom, Elyshia, Peter and Will, who not only made the trip incredibly fun but raised more than \$60,000 for the Chouk Meas primary school – and to Belinda and Jackie, our tour leaders, who made this inaugural event such a resounding success.



Meeting the youth group at their fish farm



Bobbie listening to a boy read at children’s club



Jake laying bricks at the new school



The participants take a well-deserved break at the famous Angkor Wat temple complex.

“I had the time of my life!” says Bobbie (centre). “A very rewarding experience shared with a wonderful group of people.”

NEWS IN BRIEF



Brand new gift catalogue!

Thanks to the overwhelming response last year, ChildFund Australia is soon to launch the brand new edition of our Donations with a Difference gift catalogue.

The catalogue features a great range of gift ideas that will intrigue and delight your friends and family, as well as help children and communities in need. From baby chickens to sewing machines, carpentry tools to wells or even a buffalo, there is something fun for everyone!

We will send your funds overseas so our ChildFund partners can deliver your gift that will help children and families living in desperate poverty. In return, we'll send you a card for your gift recipient telling them about the poverty-fighting gift you have donated on their behalf.

The brand new gift catalogue will be available in November. Don't forget to keep checking our website (www.childfund.org.au) for updates!

Through Children's Eyes

ChildFund Australia's Through Children's Eyes exhibition is currently on show at Parliament House in Canberra. The exhibition, which comprises photos taken by children in PNG and rural Australia, is on display in the Presiding Officers' Exhibition Area. It is open to the public from 9am to 5pm, seven days a week, until 12 November 2009.

Consider leaving a bequest

Your bequest will help open doors to many children and families who currently suffer from extreme poverty.

As all our programs aim to create sustainable change, your bequest can change lives for years to come. It could be used to build a well that provides for an entire community or offer training for teachers or medical staff who will be able to service the community well into the future.

Please leave a bequest to ChildFund Australia. With your help, we can improve living conditions for some of the world's most in need children. For a simple guide on bequests, request our Wills Guide on 1800 023 600 or visit www.childfund.org.au/act/bequest.

If you have already left a bequest to ChildFund Australia, we would be grateful if you could let us know to provide us with the opportunity to thank you personally and plan for the future.

Fundraising is fun!

Fundraising in your community is easy and rewarding. Your network of family, friends and colleagues can help you make a huge difference to the lives of many children.

At your school or work, you could hold a stall at lunch (eg a sausage sizzle or cake stall) or dedicate a mufti day to children who live in poverty – imagine how much money you can generate if everyone donates a gold coin! High school student Jack Hughes organised his own fun run for ChildFund and successfully raised \$680 by asking participants to make a donation.

If you'd prefer to do something independently, we suggest joining an organised event such as a fun run where you can collect donations online or celebrate your next birthday by requesting donations instead of gifts. Hayley and Stephen White raised a fantastic \$2500 in online sponsorship for their Kokoda Trek Challenge.

Thank you to all of our Community Fundraisers. If you would also like to get involved, visit www.childfund.org.au/act/event or call 1800 023 600 to get started today!



ChildFund Australia

Working in partnership with children and their communities to create lasting and meaningful change by supporting long-term community development and promoting children's rights.

Level 8, 162 Goulburn Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010
P: 1800 023 600
E: info@childfund.org.au
W: www.childfund.org.au



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, please contact ACFID:
(02) 6285 1816 | main@acfid.asn.au | www.acfid.asn.au