



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

ChildFund
Cambodia

ChildFund Cambodia is the representative office of ChildFund Australia- an independent international development organization that works to reduce poverty for children in developing communities.

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance a global network of 11 organisations which assist almost 36 million children and their families in over 70 countries. ChildFund Australia is a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manage the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

ChildFund Cambodia began working in Cambodia in 2007 and works in partnership to create community and systems change which enables vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights. Our works focus on child protection which builds resilience and community-based child protection mechanism, inclusive education and youth empowerment. ChildFund Cambodia is also working to strengthen the government's policy frameworks to improve early grade reading performance through technology intervention and improved school governance. Our works also aim to promote child online safety to ensure that children are safe in all settings.

ChildFund Cambodia implements its programs in partnership with national civil society organizations, and in collaboration with relevant ministries and government departments.

ChildFund Cambodia

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

I am delighted to present to you our 2024 key achievements as well as our learnings over the year.

ChildFund Cambodia is certainly proud to be delivering our program priorities primarily with and through partnership with NGOs, community-based organizations, and government institutions with a special focus on Education, Child Protection and Social Emotional Learning. We were intentional in ensuring that GEDSI is mainstreamed in all that we do. We put particular emphasis on strengthening the capacity of our partners, and empowering them to have strong ownership and the confidence to take the lead in decision making and responding to the need of the community. We humbly acknowledge that not all of our partners are at the same level in their resources and capacity but we are supporting them to the direction they aspire to be.

ChildFund's flagship program, Swipe Safe, which addressed the global issues related to child online safety, has been expanding its scope in the provinces and officially launched the training package on child online safety, in collaboration with our key government partners. The program is supporting young people in Phnom Penh city, Kratie, Prey Veng and Battambang provinces. Constructive and youth-led advocacy at national and sub-national levels contributed to the expansion of the evidence-led online safety program, and resulted in the endorsement by the Cambodian Government.

Our play-based learning education project continues to be highly recognized as a powerful approach that significantly contributes to child development. Evidence shows that this will build solid foundations for children's lifelong learning.

Community-based social workers whose capacity has been developed through our projects have been integrated into the commune council's mechanism. They are equipped with skills and ability to promote child welfare and child protection systems in their

communities. Their roles are crucial in addressing all forms of violence against children.

On behalf of ChildFund Cambodia I would like to thank all relevant government ministries, donors and all stakeholders for your continued collaboration and support. To deliver our mission to enable vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realize their rights, collective effort is required across the board. We are grateful for the meaningful partnership and collaboration we have received from the Cambodian government. We thank our sponsors and donors who believe and trust in us and our partners in delivering high quality programming that responds to the needs of the community.

Our achievement also thanks to the commitment and active engagement of the children, youth and communities in our target areas who have actively engaged and demonstrated a desire to get involved and make a contribution.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partner organizations who work tirelessly every day in the community to bring about change in the lives of children and youth in our project areas in Cambodia. I am inspired by ChildFund Cambodia staff who are highly committed and hard working in their day to day work. I am indebted to ChildFund Australia for their leadership, guidance and financial resources.

I look forward to our continued collaboration. Together we can contribute to a world without poverty where all children and young people can say "I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future."

HUN Boramey
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

OUR IMPACTS

PEOPLE REACHED



48,410

CHILDREN AND YOUTH REACHED



26,184

OUR PARTNERS



9

OUR PROJECTS



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Youth taking the lead on community issues

Khun, a 22-year-old from a rural community, never imagined he would be leading the charge for a cleaner, healthier future in his community. Forced to leave high school when he lost his parents and could no longer afford the costs, Khun had relied on irregular construction jobs that paid only 30,000 riels (approximately \$7) per day.

Through ChildFund Cambodia and the Cambodian Rural Development Team's (CRDT) Youth-led programs, Khun discovered a passion for community development. After attending trainings and armed with new skills in leadership, communication, and project management, Khun and his youth group are tackling issues head-on – from launching awareness campaigns on the environment to addressing the dangers of drugs and violence.

"Through the project, I strengthened many of my skills, such as financial management, how to promote and disseminate information in my community, effectively present ideas and collaborate with other young people," Khun said.

Khun, now a respected member of the commune council and elected member of the Public Defecation Ending Project, is playing an active role in shaping the future of his community.

"Many young people have gained job opportunities after participating the program. I had the opportunity to present my activities at district level meetings and I am proud to be a member of the commune council's sanitation and water project."

By providing life skills training, facilitating village mapping to identify community issues, and encouraging youth engagement in sub-national level discussions, ChildFund's 'Youth-led Development Program' fosters young people's leadership and problem-solving abilities. It also empowers young leaders to conduct training sessions and manage micro-commune projects, including financial planning and implementation.

This equips young people with the skills and confidence to actively participate in community development and create positive change.



5,5420

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH OUR SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROJECTS.

Creating inclusive classrooms for children with disability



ChildFund Cambodia is working closely with partner organisation, Wathnakpheap, local authorities and the education department to integrate play-based learning program in pre-schools in remote communities in Kratie Province. Community pre-schools often have poorly equipped classrooms and limited educational resources. In addition, many teachers lack the qualifications and training needed to effectively facilitate early childhood education programs. This gap is particularly evident in their limited understanding of diverse learning needs and their ability to create inclusive classrooms, especially for children with disabilities.

For children like Vichai, who was born with Leukocoria (a condition affecting a person's vision), classrooms were not set up to meet his learning needs. His mother, Kunthea frequently worried about his future especially his ability to learn and interact with other children.

"He was diagnosed with Leukocoria when he was five months before the COVID pandemic. I felt despair. I never expected to send him to school," Kunthea shared.

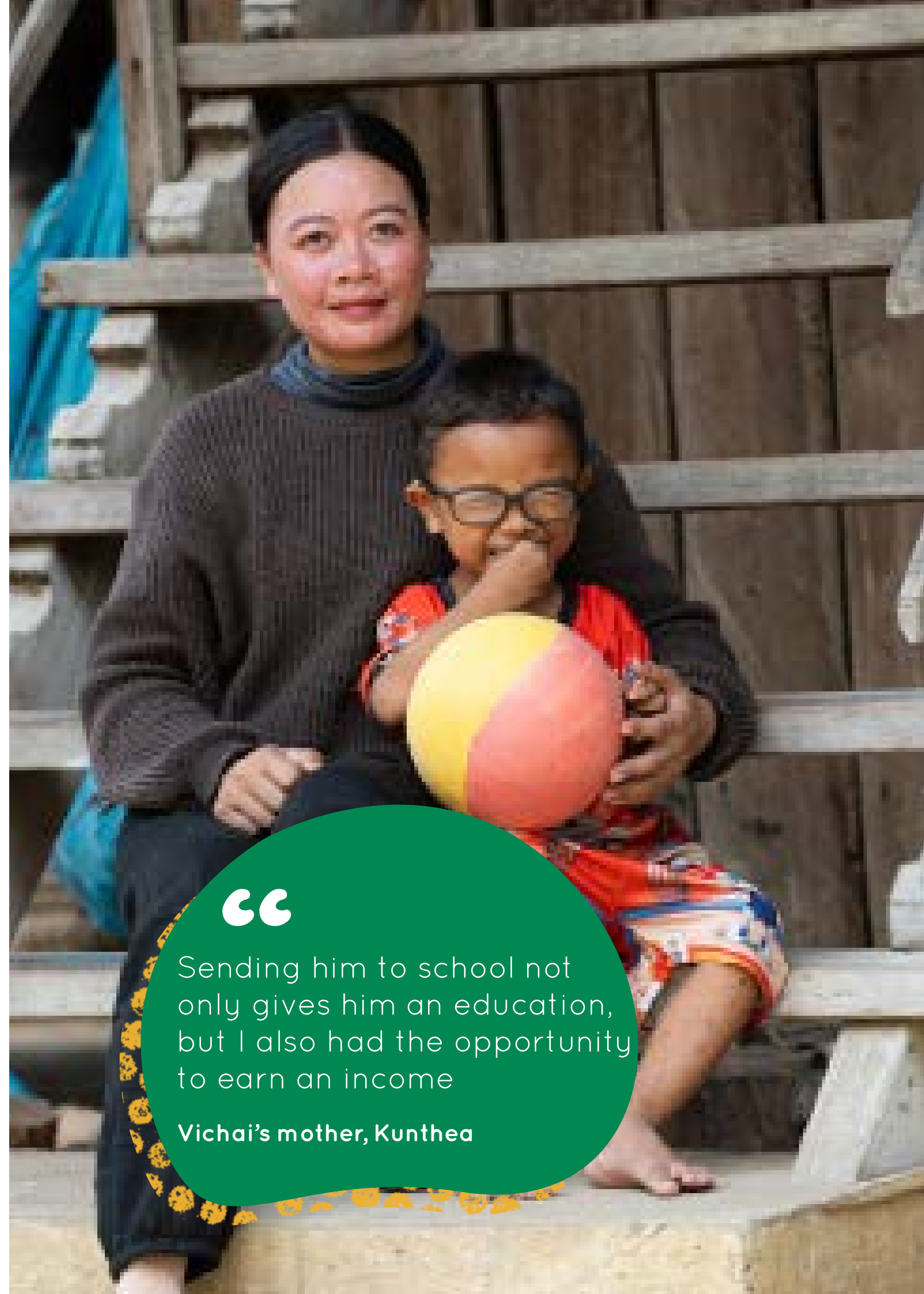
ChildFund Cambodia's 'Play to Learn' project supported Vichai to attend pre-school and access essential healthcare, including examinations and treatment for his Leukocoria. As a result, Kunthea received support from the provincial health department helping her to coordinate treatment at a children's hospital in Siem Reap.

At the school, Vichai's teacher, trained by the project, found creative ways to engage him in learning activities. "It was a joy to see Vichai attend class and learn," Kunthea shared.

This project is supporting every child to access a quality early childhood education, regardless of their ability. By providing trainings for community pre-school teachers, they can create supportive learning environments for children with disability, ensuring all children have the opportunity to learn and play. The project also supports the renovation and building of classrooms that promote play and inclusiveness, allowing all students to come together and feel valued.

25,707

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH
OUR EDUCATION PROJECTS.



“

Sending him to school not only gives him an education, but I also had the opportunity to earn an income

Vichai's mother, Kunthea

Improving school environments, improving learning

Poverty, a lack of basic infrastructure and limited government support makes it harder for rural communities to establish and maintain quality education facilities. For years, a remote school in Chhloung district, struggled to find the resources to improve their school environment and a lack of community engagement only further compounded the school's challenges.

"The school complex was surrounded by mud in the wet season and dust in the dry season making it challenging for students to attend class," shared the School's Director, "and with no fence, students could easily leave the premise putting themselves at risk of accidents on the main road."

Through ChildFund Cambodia's Easy to Learn Phase Two project, implement by our partner KAFDOC, the school director, teachers and community members participated in trainings on school improvement plans, management and the importance of collaboration between school staff, school management committee and children's council.

With support from ChildFund and a renewed sense of ownership, the community came together to contribute resources and labour to build a concrete fence around the school, creating a cleaner, more comfortable and safer learning space.

"I felt very excited when my school environment significantly improved," shared Sreynt, a 12-year-old student, "I can now play around with my friends."

The impact extends beyond physical improvements. Teachers embraced new, engaging teaching methodologies and parents have become active participants in their children's education. "We happy to see the positive outcomes at the school," shared two community members, "and we will continue to support the school in the future."

The 'Easy to Learn' project has had an enormous impact on the school, helping to improve learning outcomes, reduce dropout rates and engage the community.



Women take the lead in community preschool development

Savin, a 42-year-old woman from a remote community, knows firsthand the challenges women face. Limited access to education, domestic violence and household responsibility often curtails their opportunities. Savin herself had to leave school in ninth grade because she lacked the means to commute to school.

As a member of the Commune Council for Women and Children and a dedicated volunteer in her community, Savin was asked to participate in ChildFund Cambodia's 'Play to Learn for Child Development' program. The project improves access to quality education for pre-school and primary school children through collaboration with teachers, community members and local authorities to support school development, including access to resources. In addition, teachers are training in how to implement child-friendly learning practices in their classrooms.

"I used to think preschool was just about singing and dancing," Savin said. But through ChildFund's training, she gained valuable knowledge in early childhood development, gender equality, school health, and even financial literacy. She now actively engages with parents and the community, emphasising the importance of play-based learning for young children.

"We conducted quarterly meetings with teachers, parents and caregivers to highlight the benefits of play-based learning in preschool for student, especially when learning the alphabet and numeracy," said Savin.

New school buildings, learning materials, and playgrounds, provided by ChildFund, attracted more children to the preschool.

"The enrolment rate increased significantly," Savin said.

While ChildFund's program has created a positive learning environment for many children in Savin's community, countless others still lack access to quality education. A reality that Savin with ChildFund's support is working to change.





16,913

PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH OUR CHILD
PROTECTION PROJECTS.

Fostering a safe environment at home

For lots of reasons, many parents, particularly those living in remote communities, can struggle to create safe and positive home environments. In an isolated community in Battambang province, ChildFund Cambodia and our partner, OEC, are working with parents to promote positive parenting and eliminate violence in the home.

Before attending a ChildFund training on positive parenting techniques, Mao was often violent towards his family and contributed little to household tasks. The consequences of which on his children’s safety and wellbeing were enormous.

“When I realised that my son was speechless and uncommunicative with everyone, I felt disappointed because of my attitude,” he said.

ChildFund’s ‘Safe Community for Children’ project offers life-skills training to parents, focusing on non-violent conflict management and nurturing parenting

techniques. Home visits offer personalised support and guidance for parents, while collaboration with local authorities strengthens community-based protection mechanisms, ensuring children can grow up in safe and supportive environments.

A visit from the ChildFund team changed everything for Mao and his family. By learning how to resolve conflicts peacefully and communicate better with his children, their home became safer and more nurturing.

Sreyna, Mao’s wife, added, “When we joined the parents’ group and training, our home life improved. I even became a proactive participant and shared my experience of non-violent way of parenting, and common approaches to fostering a positive home for children to develop.”

The change was transformational for Mao and his family as one of his children shared, “I appreciate my family, and I want to see this happiness in our family forever.”

COLLABORATING TO
ACHIEVE CHANGE

Thank you to the following organisations and individuals whose generous support and assistance is vital to the work of ChildFund Cambodia:



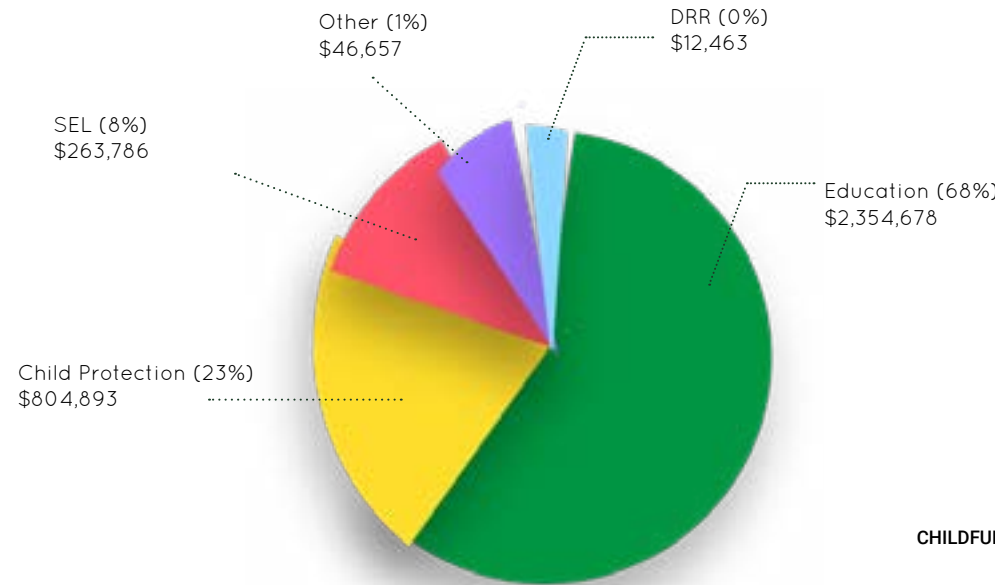
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Financial report for year ended 30 June 2024

REVENUE	FY 22-23 (USD)	FY 23-24 (USD)
Total income	3,833,012	4,247,335

EXPENDITURE	FY 22-23 (USD)	FY 23-24 (USD)
Total expenditure	4,850,987	4,636,886

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY 23-24 (USD)



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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