

IMPACT REPORT 2022

RESPONDING TO
HUMANITARIAN CRISES

MATERNAL HEALTH IN
UGANDA

COVID-19 RESPONSE
AROUND THE
WORLD

YOUR IMPACT IN 27
YEARS IN VIETNAM

SUPPORTER
SPOTLIGHT

TOGETHER, WE'RE OVERCOMING CRISES.

We've faced many challenges this year, but we have plenty of reasons to celebrate. None of this would be possible without supporters like you! Thank you.



Over the last year, COVID-19 has continued to be a disruptive force around the world. The effects of COVID-19 and mitigation measures have been particularly felt by children and young people and, for some, the impacts will be lifelong. The social and economic impacts of COVID-19 have seen decades of progress start to unravel. Thanks to ChildFund Australia's dedicated supporters like you, we have been able to continue to support children and young people living through this turbulent time.

It was a big year of change for ChildFund Australia as we launched our new ChildFund Strategic Plan 2022-25. The Strategic Plan is bold, ambitious, and challenging, but we believe it provides a strong path forward and allows us to continue our unwavering commitment to deliver impact for vulnerable children and families.

Although we are excited for the future, we know that there are significant challenges ahead. In 2021, an

estimated 193 million people were described as acutely food insecure. Hunger in Afghanistan has reached a critical level due to political instability and a devastating drought. We have provided an initial 180 families, including 1,000 children with access to vital ration and nutrition kits so that they can survive. The conflict in Ukraine and disrupted wheat supply is compounding this hunger.

In Ukraine, children and young people are witnessing and experiencing violence, being forced to flee their homes with their families. With so many being displaced, ChildFund is working with our Alliance partners, WeWorld in Italy and ChildFund Deutschland, to support child-friendly spaces in evacuation centres, provide young mothers with maternal healthcare, and support children by providing access to education and healthcare.

In Myanmar, conflict, political upheaval, and COVID-19 are all part of the challenges people face every day. These challenges have made it harder for children and young people to access an informal education. ChildFund launched four new programs in Myanmar, one of which is specifically aimed at getting children back in school in a safe, healthy way. Young people are stepping up and leading their communities through crisis; with many distributing much needed supplies and hygiene kits to families in need.

In exciting news, ChildFund has been appointed as the first ever principal

charity partner for the women's Rugby World Cup being held in New Zealand later this year. ChildFund Sport for Development is working with local rugby partners across Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malawi, South Africa and Fiji to provide opportunities for children and young people to learn new life skills so they are better equipped to overcome challenges, can inspire positive social change, and become active leaders in their communities.

We know that the year ahead will be challenging but with supporters like you, we will continue to do our best to create a world where all children and young people can say: I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future.

Thank you for your continued generosity to improve the lives of children and young people around the world. You can make a difference and you do make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Margaret Sheehan'.

Margaret Sheehan
CEO, ChildFund Australia

STAY CONNECTED





18 year old Nadia*

KENYA

At 18-years-old, Nadia* has already been through more trauma than most people would experience in a lifetime. Nadia was born in Kenya, where she lived with her family until she was seventeen.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, her parents lost their jobs and left their home to find work. Without a steady source of income, she knew she and her younger sister Nia* were at risk of being married for money that would support the rest of her family. As young brides, the sisters would be separated from their family and miss the opportunity to access an education.

Nadia and Nia ran away to a neighbouring country to live with their maternal grandmother. Although they were safer there, their grandmother couldn't afford to feed the two young women on her limited income. Nadia and Nia had to work odd jobs, scavenge for food, and sell firewood and fetch water for people so they could afford to feed themselves. Nadia and Nia only had time to attend school twice a week.

That's when the local chief, Jacob (pictured right), stepped in. "When I saw Nadia, I knew she had travelled from far away and was hungry."

Jacob is a Community-Based Child Protection Champion working with ChildFund's Jukumu Letu project. As a child protection champion, he helps reduce practices like child labour, physical abuse, and child marriage. Jacob holds

community meetings with around 1,200 people, to talk about child protection issues and organises door-to-door awareness campaigns.

Jacob is one of 13 chiefs in the area that work with ChildFund to bring awareness to community members on issues of child protection. "ChildFund's support has moved this place very far," he said. "They have helped young girls with school fees so they can graduate and become employed. Ideas, advocacy, and education, have together transformed the lives of girls in our area."

With support, Nadia and Nia can attend school full-time and have a stable, safe home life where they have food on the table and a supportive community.



RESPONDING TO CRISIS



Distributing aid in Moldova.

UKRAINE

Since the violent conflict began in Ukraine, almost 14 million people have had to leave their homes and 4 million people have fled into neighbouring countries.

ChildFund Alliance's member organisation, ChildFund Deutschland, have been working in Ukraine since 2004. This has meant they and fellow alliance member WeWorld acted swiftly to provide emergency services to children and their families.

Together, ChildFund and our alliance partners have resourced five partner organisations in Ukraine to deliver relief activities. These activities have aided in the distribution of food, medicine, and other basic household items to families in need. ChildFund has set up distribution centres across the country to share vital food, hygiene, and medical supplies.

Because of the growing conflict and dwindling supplies, many Ukrainians have been left with no choice but to leave their homes. In Moldova, 89% of Ukrainian refugees are women and children. Moldova is a small country

with just over four million people. They have welcomed 430,000 Ukrainian refugees since the crisis started.

ChildFund will continue to respond to the crisis by providing emergency housing and safe spaces for children and families fleeing the relentless conflict. Thank you for standing alongside children and young people facing these incredibly frightening circumstances.



Ukrainian refugees fleeing violence.

THE PHILIPPINES

On December 16, 2021, Typhoon Rai made landfall at the city of Surigao, in the north-eastern tip of Mindanao in the Philippines. The typhoon brought 195km per hour winds, torrential rainfall and caused widespread flooding and devastation.

To aid in the emergency response, ChildFund Philippines distributed food rations, set up temporary housing for families, and provided access to clean water and power. Working with local partners and authorities in the ten communities struck by the typhoon, your donations helped ensure that children had access to counselling services, learning kits, and child-friendly spaces while they were living in evacuation centres.



Volunteers distributing aid after Typhoon Rai.

AFGHANISTAN

In Afghanistan, decades of conflict, gender inequality, drought, and economic instability has led to a crippling food crisis for children and their families.

According to the United Nations World Food Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization nearly 9 million Afghans are at risk of starvation. Two million children are already malnourished.

In the remote villages of Herat Province, hunger is a daily burden for many children and young people.

Many families rely on a few dollars a week to buy basic foods such as bread, rice, or sugar. If they are lucky, they will be able to afford rice once a week.

ChildFund Alliance member, WeWorld, is one of the few international humanitarian organisations working in Afghanistan to respond to the food crisis.

WeWorld's National Coordinator in Afghanistan, Jailan, described the situation on the ground as "one of the worst emergencies" he had seen in the 12 years of working with humanitarian groups in the country.

"A lack of basic human and civil rights, and the impacts of poverty and drought have really broken people," he said.

"Families are desperate for food. Children are living in

extreme poverty and do not have even a third of the food that they should be eating a day."

Your support has allowed us to respond to the crisis in Afghanistan by providing emergency cash transfers to vulnerable families in Herat Province, specifically women-led households with children.



RESPONDING TO COVID-19

Thank you for continuing to support children and young people facing a global health crisis. In countries where there are low testing and vaccinations, and overwhelmed health care systems, you are helping to keep children and their families safe from COVID-19.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has faced three waves of COVID-19, with the Delta strain sweeping across the country and overwhelming the already fragile healthcare system.

Low testing rates combined with extremely low vaccination rates – less than 4 per cent of the eligible population is fully vaccinated – meant Delta put the healthcare system under significant stress.

ChildFund PNG was concerned that children and families would not be able to access the healthcare they need, especially in remote areas that already have limited facilities. We have worked, and continue to do so, with local partners to build the capacity of community health volunteers to respond to this health crisis.

With you behind us, ChildFund PNG is sharing information on vaccines, good hygiene practices, and social distancing. Your donations mobilised village volunteers and helped repurpose a tuberculosis medical centre to a COVID-19 test centre to identify, treat, and isolate cases of community transmission.



Youth volunteers in Myanmar.

INDONESIA

When the Delta strain of COVID-19 spread rapidly across Indonesia, alarmingly children were contracting the virus at higher rates than ever before.

ChildFund Indonesia worked with local partners to raise awareness about the virus and prevention methods, and distribute hygiene kits to vulnerable children and their families, and to prioritise the vaccination of children aged 12 and 17.

With your support, we distributed study kits to children like Arya (pictured right) so they could continue their education at home and support them to learn a new skill while they were in lockdown. Arya decided to learn to grow bean sprouts for her family. “I am grateful because everyone at home can enjoy healthy, clean, and nutritious bean sprouts,” she said.



MYANMAR

When the COVID-19 crisis hit Myanmar, ChildFund Myanmar adapted its projects to help protect communities and prevent the spread of the virus.

We worked with local partner organisation, Child Development Association, to distribute vital health information about infection prevention methods to individuals and families.

Kyi, a staff member from the Child Development Association, said: “I felt proud to be distributing pamphlets to the community so that the families, including children, could be protected from the virus. It was quite challenging as our project township was a COVID-19 hot spot in Yangon.”

Teachers were trained on COVID-19 and members of ChildFund’s youth groups helped raise awareness about the virus in their communities – handing out pamphlets and talking to their neighbours. With your valuable support, members of the youth groups also sewed face masks for families who couldn’t afford to buy them.

A photograph of a woman, Joyce, wearing a bright pink short-sleeved shirt and a matching pink headwrap. She is smiling and holding a young child, Rose, who is wearing a light blue and white patterned dress. They are standing in front of a wall made of reddish-brown bricks. The text "Thanks to supporters like you, we're improving maternal health care for women like Joyce!" is written in a white, handwritten-style font in the top left corner of the image.

Thanks to supporters like you, we're improving maternal health care for women like Joyce!

Joyce with her granddaughter, Rose.

UGANDA

The birth of a child should be a time of joy. But for the most vulnerable families around the world, it can be filled with fear and uncertainty. Joyce's* story shows how a lack of access to adequate maternal and child health care can be devastating for generations of women and children.

For Joyce and her family living in the remote Kalaki District, in east Uganda, it is about a six-hour walk to the nearest health centre. Joyce has had to make this dangerous journey many times – when her babies were sick, and when she was pregnant and in labour.

Joyce has experienced unimaginable heartbreak. She has lost two of her children during childbirth because she couldn't access basic maternal healthcare during her pregnancy or after birth.

The first child was a newborn. Joyce had walked close to six hours, fighting through labour pains and contractions, to her nearest health centre to give birth, only to find the facility closed due to a lack of staff and funding. Out of time and nowhere else to go, Joyce gave birth on the verandah.

Joyce then lost her daughter Grace, when she gave birth at home, hours from the nearest health centre. Grace passed away shortly after giving birth to her daughter, Rose.

With your support, ChildFund is training community health volunteers, equipping community outreach centres with the resources they need, and providing women with birthing kits so that they can give birth safely and access the right health care before and after the birth of their child. Thank you for your generosity!

SUPPORTER STORIES

MARGARET'S STORY

Margaret Moloney (pictured below) is well remembered by her family for being brilliant at many things, but what stands out more than anything else about Margaret, is her kindness and willingness to help those less fortunate than herself.

She was described as a most joyful person who loved nothing more than a good story, a funny joke and time out with family and friends.

"Margie had a rare gift for making and sustaining friendships and enjoyed a very large and diverse group of friends," said sister, Maureen. "Every single person who knew her says she was one very special lady."

Margaret's generosity and kindness shone through her support for ChildFund Australia's work. Over 27 years, Margaret helped ensure disadvantaged children around the world had access to healthcare, an education, and opportunities to reach their potential.

Today, Margaret's gift in her Will is helping to change the lives of children and their families in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Cambodia.

With her donation, bright and welcoming kindergartens in Cambodia are now giving kids the best chance in life.

Two health facilities in remote rural Papua New Guinea were built with the help of the Margaret Moloney Estate. These health facilities will ensure mothers and children in remote communities no longer need to travel for hours to seek routine and emergency medical care.

Margaret's generosity will also help provide equipment for the health facilities, and train health workers on safe delivery, caring for newborns, vaccine management and paediatric tuberculosis.



Kalo Aid Post in Rigo District.

TREKKING TASMANIA

In February 2022, six enthusiastic ChildFund supporters went on an adventure to discover the beauty of Tasmania's Tarkine rainforest – one of the world's oldest cool-temperate rainforests and home to over 60 rare or threatened species and endangered flora and fauna – all while raising funds to support our work.

During this seven-day trek, the team explored a region that holds immense spiritual significance, home to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Tarkiner people for over 40,000 years. They saw traces of their lives, seeing shell middens, hut depression sites, artifacts, and rock engravings.

Over the week, this inspiring group of fundraisers tackled nearly 50km of rainforest track and raised \$21,000 to support children and their families experiencing disadvantage in the countries where we work.

We are proud and grateful for the accomplishments of this group. Their fundraising efforts, impressive trekking skills, and passion will impact the lives of children around the world. What an amazing team!

ONE OF OUR YOUNGEST SUPPORTERS

Six-year-old William (pictured below) is a kind-hearted boy with a strong sense of justice, so when he watched a documentary about children in Africa having only two meals a day, he was determined to make things right.

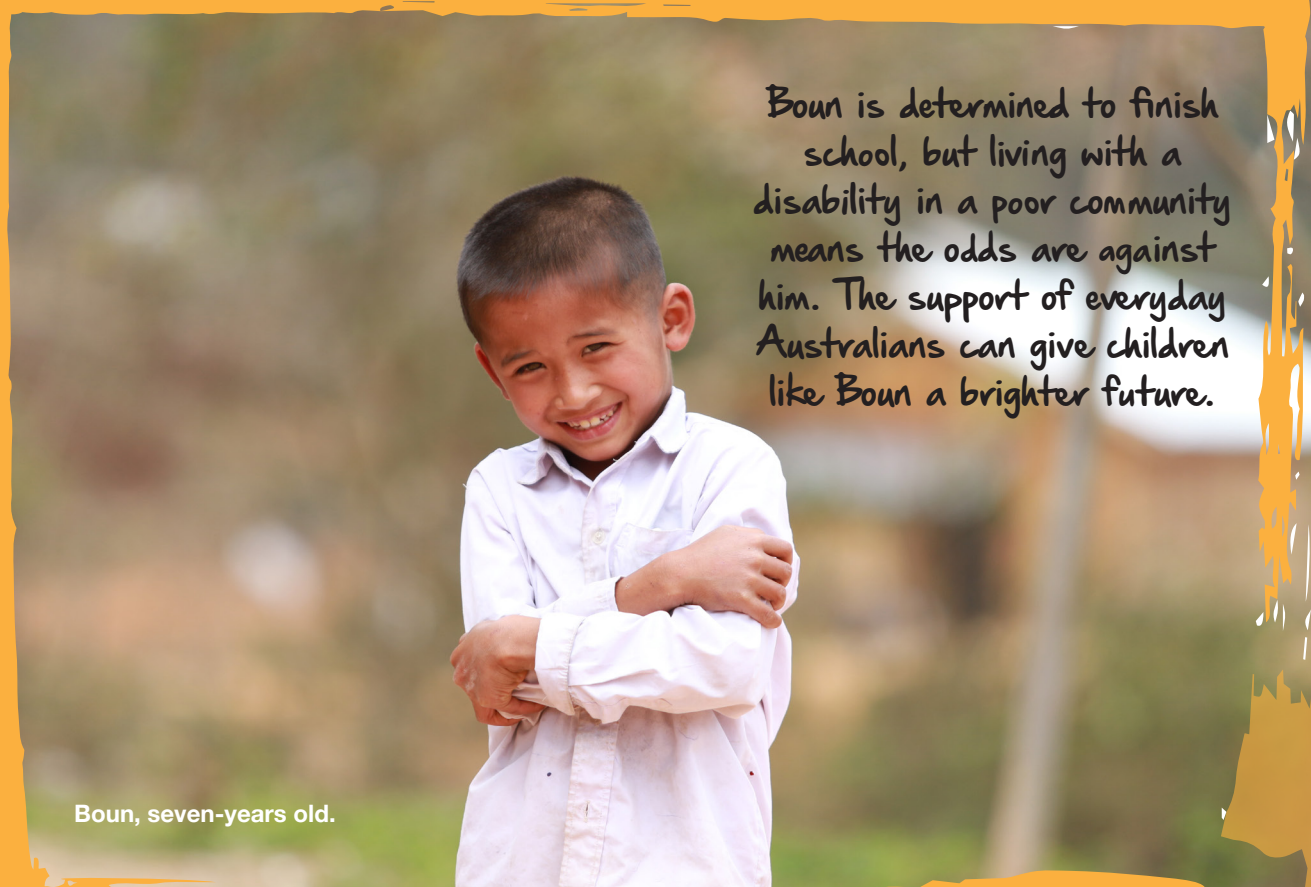
William and his mother Tara made more than 100 vanilla and chocolate cupcakes and William set up his cupcake stall in the front yard of the family home in Queensland. Tara advertised the cupcake stall fundraiser on their neighbourhood Facebook page and began taking orders of six cupcakes.

With the help of family, friends, and their community, William and Tara raised \$130. "We made more than I thought we would, and William was very excited," said Tara.

William used the money raised from the sale of the cupcakes to buy Gifts for Good catalogue items, including a dairy goat, chickens, and a mosquito net which will help keep children in developing countries healthy, fed and safe. This will support children to lead healthy, thriving lives. Thank you, William!



BOUN NOW HAS A CHANCE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Boun, seven-years old.

Boun is determined to finish school, but living with a disability in a poor community means the odds are against him. The support of everyday Australians can give children like Boun a brighter future.

LAOS

Seven-year-old Boun* (pictured above) lives in a small, remote community in Huaphanh Province in eastern Laos. Boun is in Grade 3 and loves school. His favourite subject is learning Lao, his second language. Boun lives with a physical and learning disability that means he needs extra support in the classroom and the help of his father or mother to travel to and from school.

But schools in his community lack the facilities and resources to help children with a disability excel in their studies, so they often get left behind their peers. Boun's teacher has had no formal training on how to adapt lessons for children with a disability so they can reach their full learning potential.

ChildFund and its local partners in Laos are working with schools like Boun's to create inclusive, safe learning environments for children with a disability.

With your support we are training teachers on how to prepare tailored lessons for children with a disability, providing specialised learning resources to schools, and

holding village festivals to raise awareness about children's rights to reduce stigma and discrimination against children living with a disability.

Boun is determined to graduate and he believes that he can achieve anything he sets his mind to, with an education.



Boun pictured at school.

SEEING THE IMPACT OF 27 YEARS IN VIETNAM



Children at meal time in Vietnam.

VIETNAM

Twenty-seven years ago, ChildFund began work in Vietnam, implementing child-focused development programs in the remote district of Ky Son, located in the country's mountainous northern region.

Working in partnership with just four communes, home to around 200 children and families struggling with high levels of deprivation, ChildFund Vietnam focused its efforts on improving access to basic – and essential – needs.

The earliest initiatives in these rural villages sought to reduce widespread child malnutrition, increase access to healthcare, safe water, and sanitation, generate new livelihood

opportunities for the low-income families, and improve the startlingly low school attendance rates.

Access to quality education has always been a pillar of ChildFund Vietnam's programming. In a region of significant ethnic diversity, and where few children speak Vietnamese at home, it is vital that children and young people be given the opportunity to learn, and to overcome potential language barriers which can prevent them from accessing opportunities in the future.

Creating child-friendly, supportive, and engaging learning environments was key. Our team successfully worked in partnership with education staff, local authorities, parents, and young people to achieve this.

Since those early days, ChildFund Vietnam has continued to help children and young people in the north of the country, and today works in 36 communes, in 12 districts, across three rural provinces – Hoa Binh, Cao Bang, Bac Kan – as well as the poorest urban Hanoi municipality.

Thanks to supporters like you, we have been able to grow and increase our impact in Vietnam, so that children and young people can have a safe and healthy childhood.



FIT FOR THE FUTURE

SWIPE SAFE

Every day, more than 175,000 children go online for the first time across the globe. While digital technology has of course changed how children learn, play, and grow, we all know that with that there are great risks. Internet Safety education is a positive opportunity for children to access education and social interactions safely.

We need communities and child protection systems that can respond to existing and emerging threats online. ChildFund Australia's work through our Swipe Safe program does just this. In the next phase, the curriculum will move entirely online.

The SwipeSafe program teaches children and young people how to be digital citizens. The curriculum develops the skills they need to make the most of the online world without putting themselves or others at risk of harm.



Children in Vietnam using the SwipeSafe app.

SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Every child loves to play. Through sport, children and young people can learn teamwork, relationship skills, gender equality and decision-making skills.

ChildFund Sport for Development has been working across Southeast Asia to come together to grow the social and emotional skills that will help them build their confidence to become community leaders.

Looking to the future, we will expand these programs to reach more children and young people in Africa and the Pacific. In partnership with local organisations, ChildFund Sport for Development programs work together with children and their communities to equip them with the life skills they need to be successful adults.

THE PACIFIC

Across the Pacific, our new Strategic Plan includes a strong commitment to growing our work to deliver child protection, health and Disaster Risk Reduction programming to have impact for children and young people, and their families, over the next three years. ChildFund Australia will work with young people, community leaders, civil society groups and governments to create awareness and preparedness for climate threats and shocks.

Looking to the future, we are committed to working with civil society groups and sub/national governments to ensure children and young people across the Pacific grow up safe (both on and offline), are healthy and strong, and ready to lead.



One young woman taking part in a Sport for Development program.



Mother and daughter pictured in Papua New Guinea.

Thank you for joining us on this journey!

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.



ChildFund Australia is fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program. 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.



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Designer: Marie Kent
Photography: Jake Lyell, Jocelyn Pederick, ChildFund staff and supporters
Print: JA Wales Printers
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*Names have been changed to protect individuals' identities

**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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