

CHILD FUND NEWS

July 2025



ChildFund
Australia

**TOGETHER,
LET'S END
CHILD POVERTY**

CREATING LASTING CHANGE TOGETHER



Welcome to the July edition of ChildFund News, highlighting the incredible impact of your support on children worldwide.

Your support enabled our rapid crisis response in Myanmar, where ChildFund and partners quickly mobilised to help communities after two major earthquakes in late March.

This May, we celebrated 10 years of Pass It Back, ChildFund Rugby's global sports for development initiative.

This initiative uses rugby to drive positive social change, with over half its coaches and players being girls and young women who are actively challenging stereotypes on and off the field. This work shows how sport can be used for good – through engaging and

empowering children and young people.

Ahead, you'll discover even more highlights of your impact. Working side by side with local partners and supporters like you, we continue delivering meaningful programs and investing in the skills and leadership of young people, community members and local leaders. This keeps our programs community-driven and creates lasting positive change for children.

From everyone at ChildFund, thank you for helping us to create a world where every child can say: **"I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future."**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Sheehan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Margaret Sheehan
Chief Executive Officer



10 YEARS OF PASS IT BACK

Launched in 2015, Pass It Back has become a global movement for equity, opportunity, and leadership – using rugby as a powerful tool to drive meaningful change in underserved communities.

Initially piloted in five villages in northern Laos, Pass It Back emerged from a simple but bold idea: that sport, particularly rugby, can be a catalyst for social transformation.

Through a strategic partnership with World Rugby, ChildFund Rugby has mobilised \$21 million in support of this vision, expanding the initiative's reach and deepening its impact globally.

PASS IT BACK CONNECTS WITH COMMUNITIES FAR BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL REACH OF THE SPORT, DEMONSTRATING THE VALUES OF RUGBY THROUGH REAL, LASTING IMPACT.

IT'S A SMART, STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN THE LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL OF YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.” - Alan Gilpin, World Rugby Chief Executive

36

Countries with Pass It Back programs since 2015

82,709

Rugby & life skills sessions delivered

82,122

Player registrations

3,115

Coach accreditations (55% female)

YOUR SUPPORT IS HELPING MYANMAR RECOVER

On March 28, two powerful earthquakes struck central Myanmar, compounding an already severe humanitarian crisis.

The damage was immediate and widespread. Families were forced into makeshift shelters, schools closed and essential services like running water, sanitation and healthcare were severely disrupted.

Thanks to your generous support, ChildFund Myanmar, alongside local partners, quickly responded.

Donors like you contributed to:

- Delivering essential relief items, including food, clean water and hygiene kits.
- Providing emergency shelter including tents and sleeping bags for families who have lost their homes.
- Supporting psychosocial care for children to recover from the trauma they have experienced.

While this initial response made a real difference, millions of children and families remain at risk. Rebuilding and long-term recovery will take time and your continued support is crucial.

ChildFund Myanmar is now planning the next phase, including setting up temporary child-safe spaces, providing learning kits and helping children return to school, alongside ongoing emergency relief.

Thank you for being part of this collective effort. Your generosity is not only delivering immediate aid - it's laying the foundation for a safer, stronger future for children and families in Myanmar.



Community member in Myanmar supporting ChildFund Myanmar's earthquake recovery efforts.



A RECIPE FOR RESILIENCE: THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT



The severe economic crisis that gripped Sri Lanka until 2024 deeply impacted families like Gavesh's.

Born two years ago, Gavesh had a low birth weight and his mother, Shashikala, suffered from anaemia, affecting her breast milk production.

ChildFund's Community Response Hub, an emergency feeding program, provided crucial food aid for Shashikala's family.

As the national crisis eased, ChildFund shifted to long-

term solutions to combat malnutrition.

Shashikala was connected with a Lead Mother, a community mentor who provided guidance on nutritious, low-cost foods, sanitation and hygiene and positive parenting.

LEARNING FROM MY LEAD MOTHER ABOUT LOW-COST NUTRITIOUS FOODS FOR GAVESH HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL.

I'VE BEEN COOKING HIM LENTILS, CARROTS, BEANS, AND MORINGA.

Gavesh and his mother, Shashikala feeding their chickens at home.



LITTLE BY LITTLE, I'M INTRODUCING MORE PROTEIN, TOO – THINGS LIKE FISH AND EGGS.” - Shashikala

To further enhance nutrition and income, ChildFund distributed chicks to families in the Lead Mother program.

Shashikala's family now has a growing flock, ensuring Gavesh gets two eggs every day and allowing them to sell the surplus.

“It's a lot more exciting around here with so many chickens,” she says.

ChildFund continues to support community-led efforts for long-term nutrition. A recent matched giving opportunity through our Gifts for Good catalogue helped even more families start raising chickens, boosting their food security and their children's health.

Your support can help even more children get the nutrition they need.

Donate through our Gifts for Good catalogue via the QR code today.





THESE “ONE-STOP SHOP” CLINICS OFFER PREGNANCY CARE, SUPPORT FOR NEW MOTHERS, ROUTINE CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATIONS, GROWTH MONITORING, FAMILY PLANNING AND TB SCREENING.”

- Nusrat Jahan,
ChildFund
Australia’s
Health
Advisor



BRINGING HEALTH SERVICES TO REMOTE COMMUNITIES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea (PNG) faces significant healthcare challenges, including high rates of maternal and child mortality, widespread infectious diseases like tuberculosis, and low childhood immunisation rates.

We recently spoke with ChildFund Australia’s Health Advisor, Nusrat Jahan, to learn more about the critical role ChildFund trained Village Health Assistants (VHAs) play in helping families access healthcare services.

What is a Village Health Assistant?

A VHA is a trained community member who provides basic health services, delivers community health education and facilitates referrals to nearby health facilities. ChildFund, in partnership with local health authorities, mobilises and trains these individuals. With strong social and cultural ties, VHAs act as trusted intermediaries, extending healthcare access and ensuring essential health services reach communities that would otherwise go without.

What type of healthcare support do they provide?

Think of Village Health Assistants as a 'one-stop shop' for health in the village. Through mobile outreach clinics, we can bring essential healthcare directly to communities. These clinics provide pregnancy care, support for new mothers, routine childhood immunisations, growth monitoring, family planning and TB screening.

Another huge part of their role is providing health education. They have practical conversation with women about

breastfeeding, nutrition and child health in culturally safe spaces. VHAs also regularly refer pregnant women to health facilities for safe deliveries and assist with births when health facilities are unreachable.

I saw this firsthand during a recent trip to rural PNG. VHA Alice Lagani identified early TB symptoms in a pregnant woman and referred her to the health facility. Thanks to Alice's referral, she was screened, diagnosed and treated quickly – a powerful example of the life changing impact just one volunteer can have.



ChildFund-trained Village Health Assistant conducting a child health check in a remote village in PNG.

WATER FOR ALL

In northern Mozambique, 11-year-old Ana used to spend hours before dawn hauling water from the river.

The long, exhausting walk often made her too tired to focus in class or even miss school entirely.

“I WAS TOO TIRED TO FOCUS ON MY STUDIES. SOME DAYS, I COULDN’T GO TO SCHOOL AT ALL BECAUSE FETCHING WATER TOOK TOO MUCH TIME,” - Ana.

In Mozambique, only 55.7% of the population has access to safe, clean drinking water. Water scarcity forces children, especially girls, to spend hours collecting water instead of attending school, impacting their education, health and future.

ChildFund worked with local partners and community leaders to install a borehole.

Now, Ana has more time to spend on school, rest and playtime with friends. Her daily water routine? A short walk – less than ten minutes – to fill up her buckets at the tap.



“I DON’T WORRY ABOUT MISSING SCHOOL OR BEING TOO TIRED TO STUDY. NOW I CAN FOCUS AND I HAVE THE ENERGY TO LEARN,” - Ana.

At home, Ana’s family no longer ration water or worry about the next trip to the river.

With reliable, clean water at their doorstep, their daily life has become less about survival and more about possibility.



A BOND THAT LASTS

At ChildFund Australia, we are so fortunate to have supporters that have shown their unwavering generosity and care by including ChildFund in their Will.

It's a wonderful way to honour your commitment to children and families in vulnerable circumstances. Your generosity in making a gift in your Will speaks to the values you hold and the hope you have for a better future for children.

By leaving a gift in your Will you are creating lasting

change across generations. This isn't just a gift. It's a legacy of compassion and enduring impact.

If you would like to learn more about leaving a gift in your Will, please visit our website: childfund.org.au/gifts-in-wills

Scan the QR code to visit our gifts in Wills website





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Front cover: DiIukshi (9), attending a ChildFund-supported Child Resource Centre in Sri Lanka.

Back cover: Patricio (42), a father of nine, cuddles with his daughter, Felicia (2), outside their family home.

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ACFID
MEMBER



Acknowledgement of Country

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.