

**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**  
2019 – 2020

ChildFund Papua New Guinea is registered as a local NGO under the Papua New Guinea Association Incorporation Act, working to reduce poverty for children in developing communities. ChildFund Papua New Guinea was established by ChildFund Australia, which is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 member organisations which assists almost 16 million children and their families in over 60 countries.

ChildFund began work in Papua New Guinea in 1994 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.

Most projects are implemented in the Central Province and National Capital District with a focus on maternal and child health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, child protection and family and sexual violence. ChildFund PNG also prioritises climate change and disaster preparedness. In 2015, ChildFund PNG established the country's first ever Family and Sexual Violence Counselling Helpline, which operates in Port Moresby and provides national coverage for children and families impacted by violence.

### **ChildFund Papua New Guinea**

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**Front cover:** Ruth, age 11, from Papua New Guinea.



It is impossible to talk about this year without focusing on COVID-19. The virus and its reverberations are a significant risk for children in Papua New Guinea. The pandemic not only threatens their physical

health and wellbeing, but also the hard-fought development advances we have made since our work started in Papua New Guinea in 1994.

The close connections we have built with communities since that time, and the skills and experience we have fostered, have allowed us to meet the changing needs of children and their communities.

This has included training frontline health workers, providing vital protective equipment such as masks and gloves, and producing easily understood printed materials about how to stop the spread of COVID-19.

As new information became available, our health team undertook telephone training with village-based health volunteers to ensure people in remote communities were armed with the most up-to-date information.

Where it was safe, our health team continued to travel to communities to assist with outreach clinics and provide hygiene demonstrations and equipment to build handwashing stations.

As well as helping to stop the spread of the virus, our work has ensured that children were protected from the collateral damage of the pandemic.

The 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain, which was launched in 2015 as a service to assist survivors of family violence, was once again able to shift and adapt to the needs of families in Papua New Guinea.

The helpline has remained operational throughout the pandemic, providing an essential counselling and referral service at a time when cases of family violence were expected to increase due to restrictions on movement and loss of livelihoods. The team have also been in constant communication with the National Department of Health hotlines to co-ordinate referrals and verify information on COVID-19.

This year has brought significant challenges, but we have never lost focus on our mission. Our aspiration is for more children in Papua New Guinea to be able to say: "I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future."

The work we undertake is never without its challenges – including the remote nature of many communities, the lack of basic health and education infrastructure, and the more than 800 languages spoken in the country – but we know how important this work is.

With the energy and dedication of our staff, and the ongoing commitment of our many donors, we can ensure more children experience a childhood in which they are safe, nurtured and given access to opportunity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Thorold". The signature is stylized and fluid.

**Bridgette Thorold**  
Country Director  
ChildFund Papua New Guinea



We want every child with whom we work to be able to say:

**I AM SAFE**

## COVID-19 response: Expanded helpline and extra counsellors

ChildFund Papua New Guinea (PNG) has expanded its free national helpline 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain (715-08000).

The helpline is a confidential phone counselling service that was established in 2015 by ChildFund Australia in partnership with CIMC-Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC), in response to PNG's endemic levels of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

In 2019, helpline staff responded to more than 23,000 calls.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, additional counsellors and information officers have been recruited and trained, allowing the service to operate across two shifts → 7am to 3pm and 11am to 7pm – with plans to expand the hours until later at night.

This will ensure the helpline has the capacity to respond to a rise in SGBV incidents, spurred by lockdown measures and increased economic uncertainty within families and communities.

The expanded services will give the helpline a broader role and wider reach: not only will it be providing counselling for those experiencing domestic violence, but also vital health advice around COVID-19 and referring callers to national health services where necessary.

The helpline also now offers additional support to children and adolescents experiencing prolonged distress, in recognition of the secondary impacts that the pandemic may have on their psychological wellbeing.



**I AM EDUCATED**

## Working together to improve primary education

Schools in Papua New Guinea, particularly those in remote and regional areas, often lack the governance and resources needed for children to have access to a quality education.

ChildFund Papua New Guinea and partners Library For All and the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council are helping to change this, by working with primary schools in Central Province to develop child-friendly learning environments. This includes providing schools with learning materials such as age- and culturally-appropriate books, and literacy and numeracy kits.

Teachers are also being trained on how to conduct engaging lessons, and are mentored on topics such as gender, social inclusion, child protection, and classroom management to improve children's reading.

ChildFund is also helping members of school boards of management and teachers, parents and caregivers to work together to develop and track three-year strategic plans and School Learning Improvement Plans.

As part of its COVID-19 response activities, ChildFund is also helping to keep children healthy by distributing hygiene kits and handwashing stations in schools.



Children learning numeracy.

# I CONTRIBUTE

## Empowered peer educators inspiring positive change in communities

The high rates of family violence in Papua New Guinea, and the peer pressure that many youth face at school and in their communities, can have detrimental impacts on a young person's health and wellbeing.

ChildFund Papua New Guinea is partnering with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) to empower young people and equip them with the knowledge and tools they need to help them form healthy relationships, build their confidence, think critically, and address and seek help around gender, violence and sexual health issues.

In schools, teachers are being trained to implement and deliver sessions covering topics such as healthy relationships, family planning, alcohol, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health.

ChildFund and YWCA are also training out-of-school youth to become "peer educators" so they can share information about these topics in their communities.

When COVID-19 hit PNG in early 2020, ChildFund supported peer educators to raise awareness of the disease in their communities (pictured below). Peer educators took part in mentoring sessions and were provided with information materials on COVID-19 to distribute to families.



Peer educators teaching children and youth about COVID-19.

# I HAVE A FUTURE

## Outreach clinics and volunteers making healthcare more accessible

Many of the communities in which ChildFund works in Papua New Guinea are in remote and rural areas. Health services are scarce, and those that do exist are understaffed and have limited resources and equipment.

ChildFund Papua New Guinea is helping to improve access to healthcare for children and families living in these communities by establishing integrated community health outreach services (pictured right).

These mobile clinics offer a place where children and their families can get health check-ups, immunisations, referrals, diagnoses, and seek medical advice and treatment.

ChildFund is also helping to train and build a strong network of volunteers who help provide important health services and information in these difficult to reach villages.

These grassroots health volunteers were instrumental in early preparations for the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly around raising community awareness about the new virus.

When it was safe to travel to communities to run outreach clinics again, ChildFund staff were able to distribute printed information to promote initiatives to stop the spread of COVID-19.

ChildFund also helped by providing clean water solutions such as Tippy Taps, which were established in many communities to promote handwashing, and distributed personal protective equipment to rural health workers, including masks and gloves.



A ChildFund outreach clinic in Central Province provides essential health services to hard-to-reach families.



ChildFund has joined the Pikinini Defenders Alliance, a network of organisations committed to stopping violence against children in PNG.

## I AM SAFE

### ChildFund joins alliance to protect children

ChildFund Papua New Guinea has joined other child-focused aid agencies to form an alliance aimed at increasing the protections available to vulnerable children and young people.

The Pikinini Defenders Alliance, launched in September 2019, is a network of organisations committed to mobilising support, advocating, and raising awareness to stop violence against children in Papua New Guinea.

It is calling on the Government to commit to greater and more sustainable investments to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children in Papua New Guinea, including 300 new child protection officers to boost the country's under-resourced child protection workforce.

It is estimated that 75% of children and young people in Papua New Guinea experience violence during their childhood.

Evidence shows that children who are victims of abuse, or who have witnessed violence, often suffer serious impacts, which can have devastating consequences on their physical, social and emotional health and development.

The Pikinini Defenders Alliance has acknowledged initiatives by the Government to end violence against

children, including the passage of the 2015 Lukautim Pikinini Act. It is hoped the Act will result in significant improvements to the protection and promotion of the rights of all children in PNG.

At the launch of the Act, the Papua New Guinean Government committed to the recruitment, training and deployment of 300 new child protection officers and volunteers.

The Alliance states: "Every little Papua New Guinean has the right to a life without violence.

"It is time to make child protection our first priority. Children in PNG need more Pikinini Defenders."

Members of the Pikinini Defenders Alliance, including ChildFund, will continue to work with government stakeholders, communities, young people and children towards a PNG that is free of violence against children.

The Pikinini Defenders Alliance members include Cheshire Disability Services PNG, ChildFund, Equal Playing Field, PNG Council of Churches, PNG Tribal Foundation, Save the Children, UNICEF, and World Vision.

# COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

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



• Australian Volunteers International - PNG • Bilum Books • Canberra University • Central Provincial Administration • Central Provincial Health Authority • Cheshire Disability Services (PNG) • Clough Foundation • Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC) • Department of Justice and Attorney General • Digicel • Digicel Foundation • Disabled Peoples Association (DPA) • District Administration of Rigo, Kairuku-Hiki, Abau • DHL • East New Britain Provincial Administration • East New Britain Provincial FSVAC • Equal Playing Fields • FHI360 • Fresh Produce Development Agency • Gerehu Hospital • Library For All • National Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC) • National Agriculture Research Institute • National Department for Community Development and Religion • National Department of Agriculture and Livestock • National Department of Education • National Department of Health • National Research Institute (NRI) • NCD Health • Plan International • PNG Counsellors Association • PNG Education Institute • St John Ambulance • St Theresa's BMU • The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) • UNFPA • UNICEF • University of Auckland • University of Goroka Social Work Department • University of PNG Social Work Department • UN Women • Volunteer Services Abroad New Zealand - PNG • Women's Plans Foundation • World Health Organisation • World Vision PNG

ChildFund Papua New Guinea would also like to thank our Ward Councillors, Community Development Committee Members, Village Health Volunteers, Human Rights Defenders, children, youth and their communities for their support.

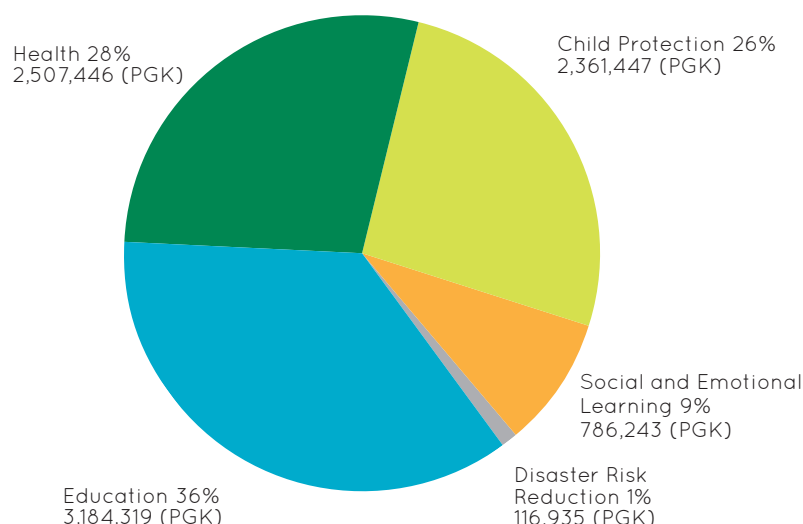
# FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2020

REVENUE	FY1920 (PGK)	FY1819 (PGK)
Donation	2,606,718	2,615,489
Grants	7,923,599	9,359,366
Other income	115,630	58,701
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>10,645,947</b>	<b>12,033,556</b>

EXPENDITURE	FY1920 (PGK)	FY1819 (PGK)
Program and projects	8,956,390	10,908,330
Program support	1,048,219	832,485
Accountability and administration	654,669	289,027
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>10,659,278</b>	<b>12,029,842</b>

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE  
FY1920 (PGK)



**BECAUSE  
EVERY CHILD  
NEEDS A  
CHILDHOOD**

[www.childfund.org.au](http://www.childfund.org.au)