

ChildWorld²⁰²⁰



PROTECTING
CHILDREN FROM
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

COVID-19 RESPONSE
AROUND THE WORLD

TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS
IN MYANMAR

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
IN LAOS

YOUR STORIES

ChildFund
Australia

BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD

STRONGER TOGETHER IN TIMES OF CRISIS

While the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated the year, there are many areas of our work that call for celebration. A huge thank you to all our supporters.



I never imagined in my first few months of being CEO that we would be faced with the huge task of responding to a global pandemic.

But that is exactly what we have done, as a team. With the incredible backing of more than 50,000 Australian supporters, we have been able to adapt and expand our projects to serve and protect some of the world's most vulnerable children during the COVID-19 crisis.

For children in poor communities, the collateral damage from COVID-19 is just as big a risk as the virus itself. The pandemic not only threatens their physical health and wellbeing, but the hard-fought development advances of the past 20 years.

In response, our programs are focused on five priority areas: preventing and containing the virus; helping young people to continue learning; keeping young people safe from violence and exploitation; ensuring children get the nutrition they need; and supporting young people to play an active role in the response.

While the COVID-19 pandemic dominates much of the current landscape, there are many areas of our work that call for celebration. Thank you to all our wonderful and loyal supporters who make these achievements possible.

This year, ChildFund Laos marks 10 years of operation. Working in the country's north, an area still impacted by high unexploded ordnance contamination, ChildFund's programs are helping communities to break the cycle of poverty.

In Papua New Guinea, our partnership with Libraries for All means children in some of the most remote communities are improving their literacy levels through access to a digital library of culturally relevant and age-appropriate books.

Young women in Cambodia are being supported by ChildFund to take an active role in Commune Councils.

These are local government bodies in Cambodia that have historically had very low levels of female representation. Now female leaders are helping to address gender inequality in their communities.

These achievements are a testament to the hard work and collaborative efforts of our staff and partners, and the dedication of our supporters.

I am proud to be part of and lead an organisation that is backed by a network of compassionate global citizens.

While we are living in times of great uncertainty, our vision and mission for the world's poorest children and communities remain the same; it is together that we can continue to ensure more children can say: "I am safe. I am educated. I am heard. I have a future."

Thank you to you all for your ongoing support; you are the backbone of all our work and make it possible to do what we do.

Margaret Sheehan
CEO, ChildFund Australia

ChildFund Australia is an independent international development organisation 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 assists almost 16 million children and families in over 60 countries.

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Photography: Jocelyn Pederick and ChildFund staff.

Print and distribution: JA Wales Printers

Front cover: Jenny, age 6, Papua New Guinea. **Photography:** Jocelyn Pederick

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PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASE



Children living in extreme poverty in Papua New Guinea, where the health system was already stretched beyond capacity before the COVID-19 pandemic began, are at a higher risk than ever before.

One-year-old Max has been sick for most of his short life. He has had a persistent cough for so long that his mother Esther cannot remember when it first started.

“He can’t get rid of the cough,” she says. “All I want is for my son to be better.”

Esther’s daughter, 11-year-old Ruth (pictured above with Max), is also sick and has missed school many times over the past year. She nurses a pair of swollen glands and like her younger brother cannot stop coughing.

Esther suspects her children have tuberculosis (TB), an infectious bacterial disease, which infected more than 37,000 people in Papua New Guinea in 2018. The country has one of the highest rates of TB in the world. Australia, a country with three times Papua New Guinea’s population, had just 1,700 cases of TB in 2018.

The family’s closest healthcare facility is 8km away from their home, but lacks adequate resources and equipment and does not have the technology to diagnose TB. The closest place Esther can get her children diagnosed is Port Moresby, a three-hour drive away.

To get her children treated Esther must pay for a bus to get to Port Moresby and find a place for her family to stay there for up to a week. This places a huge financial burden on the family, who rely on odd jobs and the sale of

coconuts for a living. Despite these challenges, Esther has made the trip to Port Moresby at least 10 times since Max was born. And she still does not have answers. She has vowed to continue making the journey until her children get better.

Olive Oa, ChildFund Papua New Guinea’s Health Programs Manager, says TB can be difficult to diagnose. “Children can really suffer before they are diagnosed,” she says. Olive’s son was not diagnosed for six months despite seeing several doctors.

Children living in poverty like Ruth and Max are extremely vulnerable to other infectious diseases such as COVID-19. The current pandemic can have a detrimental and long-term impact on these children who struggle to access basic healthcare.

Help protect children like Ruth and Max from infectious diseases and access the healthcare they need:

childfund.org.au/appeals/infectious-disease/

AROUND THE WORLD

Your support is helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in countries where testing is weak and expensive, and healthcare systems are already struggling. Thank you.

We are ramping up our programs in disease prevention, child protection and remote learning. This includes raising awareness about the importance of handwashing, distributing health information about the COVID-19 virus, increasing counsellors to work with children affected by violence during lockdown, providing home education tools and materials, and delivering soap and personal protective equipment to communities. Despite ongoing lockdowns and restrictions on movement, children have been able to access food, clean water and the education they need.



LAOS

While training sessions and rugby games have been suspended, ChildFund Pass It Back coaches are continuing to play leadership roles in their communities. Phonevimon (pictured above) has been helping to distribute information brochures on COVID-19, soap and handwash gels to children and their families.



CAMBODIA

More than 20,000 children and their families have received prevention kits from ChildFund Cambodia including soap, hand sanitiser, face masks and thermometers. Posters on good hygiene are also being distributed in communities.



UGANDA

Children like five-year-old Raheem (pictured left, and below with bars of soap) is one of the many children who have learnt how to properly wash their hands, and benefited from soap and clean water provided by ChildFund Uganda.



INDIA

Learning kits provided by ChildFund India are helping to ensure children can continue their education while schools are closed during lockdown.

Our supporters are also making a difference in so many other ways... Here are some highlights.

MYANMAR

ChildFund Myanmar is helping to improve the quality of education for disadvantaged children living in Yangon by building libraries, upgrading classrooms and training and upskilling teachers. Eleven-year-old Yadanar's favourite part about going to her new school, which is supported by ChildFund, is being able to read as many books as she wants for the first time. Yadanar (pictured right), who is in Grade 4, spends most of her free time in the school's library. "We didn't have a library in my old school," she says. "Being able to access a library was a new experience for me."



TIMOR-LESTE

More than \$100,000 was raised in our mothers and babies appeal earlier this year. Thank you! Your donations are helping to save the lives of mothers and babies in remote and rural communities around the world, including Timor-Leste. More mothers are now giving birth in health clinics and hospitals, rather than at home, in the presence of healthcare professionals. ChildFund-trained community health volunteers are also helping to monitor and treat child malnutrition and detect common childhood illnesses to ensure young children, like Anita's twin girls (pictured above), can grow up safe and strong.

KENYA

Swarms of desert locusts that have been wreaking havoc on tens of thousands of hectares of farmland and pastures in Kenya have left farming families struggling to feed their families and earn a living. With the help of ChildFund supporters, ChildFund Kenya is helping to distribute food and water to affected children like five-year-old Mary (pictured below in purple) and their families as well as water storage tanks and water purification tablets. Community members are also learning how to keep their children safe during the current locust plague, and farming families are learning about animal husbandry and disease prevention. ChildFund is also working with the government on how to manage the locust infestation, including the use of early warning detection systems to prevent future emergencies.



YOUR STORIES

SPONSORS' VISIT INSPIRES DONATION TO REMOTE SCHOOL IN VIETNAM

After meeting their sponsored child Yen in Vietnam last year, Russell and Ursula (pictured, right, with Yen) were inspired to donate to Yen's school. The school was in "good nick", but the computer room was lacking in resources, says Russell. "I think they had six or seven computers for a class in the entire school." After returning home to Australia, Russell and Ursula decided to donate eight computers. "For us it was a modest cost, but for the students it's a big advantage," Russell says. Up to four students would share a computer before Russell and Ursula's donation. "Thanks to the new computers, I have more opportunities to practise on the computer as I only need to share it with one of my classmates," Yen says.



A LIFE-LONG DEDICATION TO EDUCATION

Alison (pictured above) knows a thing or two about the importance of education for vulnerable children in rural communities. She has been a teacher for 36 years – mostly in rural settings in NSW, including at a school for children from low-socioeconomic backgrounds. She has been sponsoring children through ChildFund for 27 years. Education, says Alison, is "absolutely critical" for children, and organisations like ChildFund are important to helping ensure children in developing communities have access to an education and can finish school. "By educating children they have a greater capacity to ask questions, to think about their choices, and to make informed decisions," she says.

RECONNECTING AFTER 22 YEARS

When Queensland couple Elaine and Perry (pictured below) reconnected with their first sponsored child, Samuel, after more than two decades, Elaine welled-up upon learning that her support and advice over the years had changed the course of a life. "I sat there and read all the sponsor letters and had a tear in my eye and thought, he's listened to everything I've said," Elaine says. "Samuel always says to me, you taught me how important it is to learn." Today, Samuel (pictured, below left, with his family) is a husband and father, and runs his own business in Uganda. "You don't always know what happens after sponsorship," Elaine says. "That's OK, but it's nice to know if they do succeed. I'm so proud of him and what he's accomplished."



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN LAOS

This year
ChildFund marks
a decade of
working in Laos.

Thank you for your
support. You have
helped to improve:



children's **access to quality education** by training teachers, and building early childhood centres and primary schools;



healthcare for families by building or renovating healthcare facilities, and providing equipment and training healthcare staff on maternal and child health;



children's **access to clean water and sanitation facilities** by building toilets, water tanks and gravity-fed water systems;



families' **incomes and access to nutritious food** by providing livestock, gardening tools and seeds, and training on how to cultivate crops, rear livestock and establish household food gardens

... and so much more.

Thank you!

HOW YOU SUPPORT CHILDREN



CHILD AND COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP



GIFTS IN WILLS



GIFTS FOR GOOD



MAJOR GIFTS



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING



APPEALS

**BECAUSE
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