

# CHILDWORLD

CHILDFUND'S SUPPORTER MAG

WINTER 2015

Thank you for your  
support this year!



FROM SPONSORED CHILD  
TO HELPING OTHERS,  
RAPHAEL TELLS HIS STORY

CHILDFUND VIETNAM  
CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

RESPONDING TO  
EMERGENCIES

ChildFund  
Australia



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

More than two months have passed since a catastrophic earthquake struck Nepal. That day, while Australians commemorated Anzac Day, there was massive loss of life in Nepal and thousands of families were left without food, water and shelter. The initial devastation was followed by more quakes, leaving an already vulnerable population in turmoil.

The impact of this humanitarian emergency is staggering. It is the deadliest disaster ever to hit Nepal – a country already considered one of the poorest in Asia, where child mortality remains high and the majority of the population survives on less than \$2 a day. It will be many, many months before even a semblance of normality returns to family life for those affected.

There has been a generous and compassionate outpouring of support from around the world. To date, ChildFund Australia has seen over \$450,000 donated to help provide emergency assistance for children and families in Nepal who have lost homes, schools and loved ones.

This is the second major humanitarian relief effort launched by ChildFund in recent months following the response, still ongoing, to the devastation caused

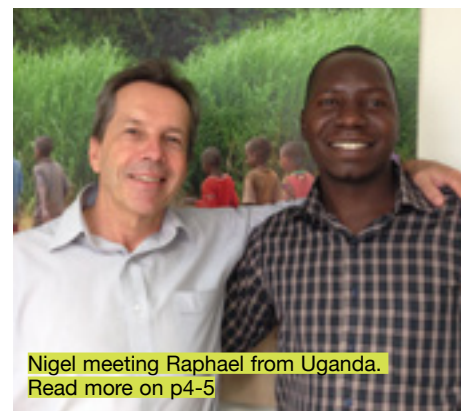
by Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu in March. We are also finalising the first phases of our assistance for children orphaned by Ebola in West Africa. You can read more about ChildFund's emergency response work in the past year on p8-9.

As the financial year draws to a close, ChildFund reviews and reports on the results achieved. There are so many examples of transformative change for children facing extreme disadvantage, often achieved through simple interventions.

A community well in Cambodia not only provides safe water, but means children no longer miss school to fetch water. Trained health volunteers in Papua New Guinea can monitor the wellbeing of pregnant mothers, and advise them on early childhood health and nutrition. Credit and savings schemes give families in remote parts of Vietnam the opportunity to increase household income, and youth participation in disaster preparedness in the Philippines is reducing the impact of the cyclones that strike each year.

With your commitment and support, ChildFund will continue making a real and positive difference to the lives of children living in poverty. We will also strive to build greater resilience

With your support, improvements have been made for children all over the world in the past year



Nigel meeting Raphael from Uganda. Read more on p4-5

for children and communities, so that they are better equipped to cope when disasters strike.

I sincerely thank you for your support of the world's children through ChildFund, both your long-term assistance and generosity in times of crisis.

Nigel Spence  
CEO  
ChildFund Australia

ChildFund Australia is an independent and non-religious international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in the developing world. ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 12 organisations which assists more than 15 million children and families in 58 countries.

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**Front cover:** ChildFund former sponsored child Raphael from Uganda with his wife and three sons at their home in Gulu District. Read his story on page 4-5.



ChildFund Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).

we're for  
Australian Aid

### STAY CONNECTED!

We would love you to join us online and stay up to date with our latest news. You can sign up to our blog at [www.childfund.org.au/blog](http://www.childfund.org.au/blog)



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/childfundau (NEW!)

## BUILDING LEADERS THROUGH SPORT

ChildFund's new regional Pass It Back program is helping to build the next generation of leaders in Asia



Lao Khang training children in her local community in Nonghet District

To mark this year's International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, ChildFund Australia launched the Pass It Back program. Created in partnership with the Asian Rugby Football Union and Women Win, this innovative program uses sport to build the leadership and life skills of young people, enabling them to overcome challenges in their lives and 'pass it back' to others in their communities.

Pass it Back has already begun in Laos and Vietnam, and will be rolled out to a total of 11 countries in Asia. ChildFund Laos country director, Chris Mastaglio says: "Sport brings people

together. It can build knowledge, skills and attitudes that are transferable into everyday life." In addition, the program will also promote the right to play in countries which have little access to organised recreation for children.

Lao Khang, a young woman from Nonghet district, one of the poorest regions in Laos, dropped out of school when she was just 13 to help support her family. After enrolling in ChildFund Laos' sports for development program, she found her passion and has never looked back!

Today, Lao's extraordinary determination and commitment has



Australian Ambassador to Laos, John Williams passes it back at the launch of this innovative new program

seen her represent the Lao Women's National Rugby team. She now also works for the Lao Rugby Federation, advocating on the benefits of sport for girls in remote, rural communities.

The Australian government is lending its support to Pass it Back. Speaking at the launch in Laos, Australian Ambassador John Williams expressed his pride: "Australia is a country that loves its sport and, along with our long-term commitment to supporting development in Laos, we are very excited to see sport used to build young people's capacities to contribute to development across the region."

### CHILDREN IN DETENTION

ChildFund Australia has joined the Refugee Council and over 100 Australian organisations in calling for a moratorium on refugee transfers to offshore detention centres, until the government implements the Moss Report recommendations. Two independent investigations have found that the centres fail to provide adequate safety and security, particularly for women and children.



Read more about why ChildFund has signed on: [www.childfund.org.au/childrenindetention](http://www.childfund.org.au/childrenindetention)

### LIBERIA DECLARED EBOLA-FREE

On Saturday 9 May, the World Health Organisation declared the outbreak of Ebola in Liberia officially over, after the country reached 42 days since the burial of the last confirmed case of the deadly disease. Liberia suffered the highest number of deaths of any country affected by the outbreak, with over 4,800 Liberians dying of Ebola since March 2014. The country has now entered a three-month period of heightened vigilance.

Turn to page 9 to read how your support is making a difference for children affected by Ebola.

### FREE FROM VIOLENCE

ChildFund has welcomed the inclusion of specific targets to prevent violence and exploitation of children in the draft Sustainable Development Goals. We would like to thank the 320,000 people who signed our Free From Violence petition, and hope to see these goals become a reality when the United Nations General Assembly meets in September.



It's not too late to add your name: [www.freefromviolence.org](http://www.freefromviolence.org)





Raphael with his wife, Beatrice, who is a teacher and their three sons, Jonathan, 8, Arron 6 and Emmanuel, 4

**Inset:** 13-year-old Raphael living in the camp at the height of the civil war in 1996

## RAPHAEL: I WAS A SPONSORED CHILD

Raphael from northern Uganda was sponsored by students from a Sydney school when he was 12. Today, he is a grown man and ready to pass on the support he received. This is his story.

Life was simply so challenging before I was sponsored. I am one of 15 children. My father made just \$50 a month to support us so it was very hard for my family to secure school fees for us all. It was compounded by the war we had for 23 years. When I was introduced to ChildFund it was a turning point in my life.

When I was a child we were dispersed from home to live in a camp due to the civil war. Outside it was unsafe but it was also not safe inside the camp as the enemy would sometimes come in and raid for food, to kill or steal children.

I lived with my family in a makeshift home in the camp from the late 1990s until 2006. When we moved to the camp the focus moved from education to security. During this time children were detached from schools. We could not put on lights to study at night time because the enemy would find you.

I was sponsored at 12 years old when I was in grade six. The biggest benefit of being a sponsored child for me was school fees. I didn't have to worry about school fees anymore. Instead I could concentrate on my studies.

*"Sponsorship pulled me from nowhere to being able to have a good life in Uganda. It was like a bridge; if that bridge had not been there I would not have been able to get to the other side."*

Even as a child I knew that education was most important, because if I am educated, all the rest will come. Before my last year of primary school, me and a friend spoke to the ChildFund officer and said we wanted to be transferred to a better school. He assisted us with the application. Our parents didn't come with us and the school was afraid we wouldn't be able to pay our fees. We told them, "It's okay, we are with ChildFund" and it was okay. I turned out to be one of their best students.

### RAPHAEL'S FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

*Raphael was accepted into one of the top high schools in his district. He then went on to complete an undergraduate degree, and he has recently finished postgraduate studies. He now works as a logistics officer for a Dutch aid agency.*

ChildFund was my launch pad. If I

was not sponsored I think I would be a peasant farmer, which is one of the popular livelihoods in Uganda, or doing casual work.

Sponsorship may not translate to your success and career. It translates into the environment and the resources you need to succeed. After that it is our responsibility to make the most of the opportunity. For me, I think it's the beginning of a very bright future. I've spent most of my time so far at school. It is now going upwards from here.

I am now married with three boys. My children will go to the best schools in the district but I don't want to have any more children because I want to be able to support other children and make an impact in their lives.

*"My goal for my life is to ensure people succeed through me."*

I am now part of the ChildFund Alumni Association. We are a group of 300 successful former sponsored children who are reaching out to the next generation of Ugandan children. We are teachers, university lecturers, social workers, lawyers and I am in procurement and transport.



### RAPHAEL MEETS HIS AUSSIE SPONSOR

*After reconnecting with Michael Coorey, a former teacher who organised Raphael's sponsorship on behalf of his students, Raphael made the long journey from Uganda to Sydney to meet him in person.*

When the time came to meet Michael it was something that cannot be described, it could just be felt. It was very special. It was a moment in life that nobody can imagine to be true. It is a very good feeling for someone who has been sponsored through ChildFund for this to happen.

When I first started to think about a means of conveying my heartfelt thanks to my sponsors, the first thing that came into my thoughts was to name my last born in memory of him. That is why my four-year-old son is called Emmanuel Coorey.

*"To actually meet Michael in person was unexpected but definitely a dream come true!"*

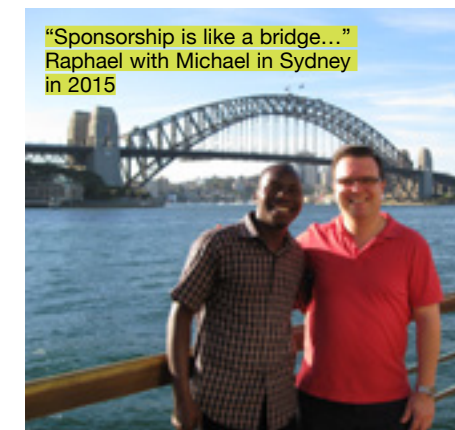
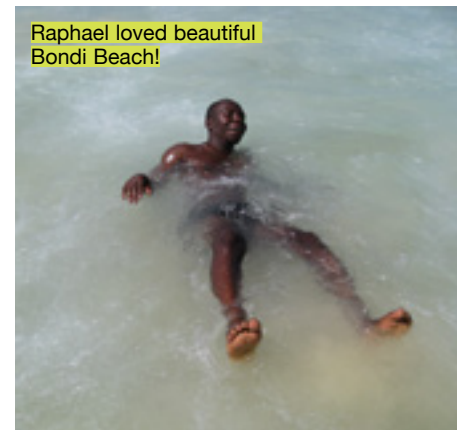
Coming to Sydney was such a special time for me. I also went to the school that sponsored me to meet their students. Speaking to them was a very big achievement for me. Interestingly, teachers that were also involved in my sponsorship were still there, and they were wonderful to meet. It was great that they too could see the impact they have had on me.



*"I want to send a message to you that what you are doing is very important to changing the lives of people all around the world!"*



Raphael loved beautiful Bondi Beach!



"Sponsorship is like a bridge..." Raphael with Michael in Sydney in 2015



Raphael at Sydney's Opera House

### MICHAEL SEES THE IMPACT OF SPONSORSHIP:

I organised the sponsorship on behalf of 60 students. I collected about \$0.50 from each of them every month. I kept emphasising the fact that our small contribution would only change our world a little but it could change Raphael's life in a big way, and now I've seen that in person!

Sponsorship is having a bigger impact than most people, I think, can ever imagine. It is not just a transaction. It's a long-term commitment to improving a child's life. There is a real person with a real life at the other end.

*"It's just like a stone dropped into a lake and there's a ripple effect. Sponsorship was the stone for Raphael but the ripple effect continues and I don't think it's ever going to stop now."*





## FROM SMALL THINGS, BIG THINGS GROW...

**Starting with 220 children in 8 villages, ChildFund Vietnam now helps almost 34,000 children in 488 villages!**

ChildFund has been working in Vietnam since 1995 and began community development programs in just one district, in one province. Today, ChildFund works in seven districts across three northern provinces – Bac Kan, Cao Bang and Hoa Binh – where the majority of people are from ethnic minority groups, often the most vulnerable or marginalised sections of the population.

### WHERE DID IT ALL START?

Ky Son district is the first area where ChildFund Vietnam began implementing child sponsorship. Ky Son is located in Hoa Binh, a mountainous rural province in northern Vietnam.

When ChildFund began work in four communes in this district, poverty rates were high and there was a critical need for water and sanitation facilities. Preschools and primary schools were in poor condition and the quality of healthcare was very low, resulting in high infant mortality and malnutrition rates for children.

### WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

A recent evaluation of our work in these four communes in Ky Son district found that ChildFund's community development programs have contributed to poverty reduction, increased incomes and improved living conditions for children and their families over the past 20 years. This data shows just how different life is in these communes today.



**POVERTY RATE HAS FALLEN FROM 30% TO LESS THAN 5%**



**100% OF CHILDREN NOW COMPLETE PRIMARY EDUCATION**



**100% OF CHILDREN ARE DELIVERED BY A SKILLED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL**



**% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH SAFE WATER HAS RISEN FROM 26% TO 77%**



**% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH A HYGIENIC TOILET HAS RISEN FROM 16% TO 74%**

## CHILD FUND VIETNAM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



ChildFund Vietnam is improving access to quality education for thousands of children



Tien and her three-year-old son Tu getting a check-up at a newly refurbished health centre

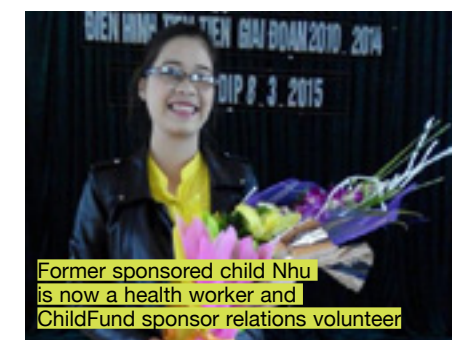
### THINGS HAVE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER

ChildFund Vietnam's Education Project Coordinator, Ms Ha, says:

"My childhood memories are of houses with thatched roofs and mud walls, muddy and rough roads. Then children couldn't afford to go to school. Families had to worry about every meal and sick people didn't get proper treatment. Now things have changed for the better. We have better housing and improved roads. Children now can all go to school. Poverty is reduced. People have better access to health care services."



Ms Ha has been with ChildFund Vietnam since day one!



Former sponsored child Nhu is now a health worker and ChildFund sponsor relations volunteer

### FROM SPONSORED CHILD TO HELPING OTHERS

Nhu was sponsored by an Australian, Brendan, when she was 13. She says:

"I was born into a poor family. Life was difficult and the local economy was weak. Thanks to my sponsor, I received a good education and had the will to strive for success in my study and my work. They made me what I am today. With ChildFund's support, I was able to study in spacious schools with better facilities. The roads to school were reconstructed and became cleaner and safer and we had clean water installed."

### HOW IS CHILD FUND VIETNAM MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

#### ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION



NEW EQUIPPED CLASSROOMS



TRAINING TEACHERS



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILS



PLAY EQUIPMENT AND SCHOOL LEARNING MATERIALS



CLEAN WATER AND HYGIENE FACILITIES FOR SCHOOLS



NEW UNIFORMS AND SCHOOLS BOOKS FOR STUDENTS

#### CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION



NEW PLAYGROUNDS AND CULTURAL CENTRES



DISABILITY INCLUSIVE EQUIPMENT



CHILD CLUBS



CHILD RIGHTS AND PROTECTION WORKSHOPS

#### BUILDING STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



NEW EQUIPPED HEALTH CENTRES



GROWTH MONITORING FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5



TRAINING HEALTH WORKERS



SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING TO REDUCE MALNUTRITION



REPRODUCTIVE AND MATERNAL HEALTHCARE



NEW CLEAN WATER SYSTEMS



HOUSEHOLD SANITATION FACILITIES



MICROLOANS TO START NEW BUSINESSES



VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUTH



NEW IRRIGATION CANALS FOR FARMERS



COMMUNITY AWARENESS WORKSHOPS



WARM CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN



# WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE, CHILD FUND IS THERE

## NEPAL'S DEADLIEST DISASTER

### WHAT HAPPENED?

On 25 April a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated Nepal. Just two weeks later a second quake measuring 7.3 further flattened communities. More than 8,600 people lost their lives and over 16,000 were injured. Half a million homes have been destroyed with another 270,000 damaged leaving thousands of children and families living in makeshift tent camps in urgent need of food and water.

### THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT:

#### Providing emergency food

Within a week of the first quake hitting Nepal, ChildFund was the first organisation to deliver urgently needed food supplies to children and families in four remote villages in Sindhupalchok, one of the worst hit districts. To date, over 110,800kg of essential food items have been provided to 3,179 families, benefitting more than 12,000 people.

#### Establishing child-centred spaces

ChildFund has set up 21 child-centred spaces (CCS) – safe refuges where children can play, learn and receive trauma support. The CCSs are giving children in Sindhupalchok (like Sanju pictured) access to the care and support they need to begin to recover from this disaster.

#### Creating temporary learning shelters

With over 45,000 classrooms either destroyed or damaged, ChildFund is helping the Department of Education to ensure children can return to their studies as soon as possible by setting up 41 temporary learning shelters in Sindhupalchok and another 27 shelters in Ramechhap district.

Thanks to your support, ChildFund has responded to emergencies all over the world in the past year, helping children and families in their time of need

*Sanju, 11, from Nepal says: "I'm just feeling hurt right now because people close to me were killed in the earthquake. There were three friends I know who died. One of them was my cousin, her name was Anesca. She was a very good friend."*



Your donation is urgently needed to continue providing emergency assistance for children and families affected by these two powerful earthquakes. Please donate now: [www.childfund.org.au/appeal](http://www.childfund.org.au/appeal)

## HELPING CHILDREN RECOVER FROM EBOLA

### WHAT HAPPENED?

On 23 March 2014, WHO officially declared an Ebola outbreak in Guinea. Neighbouring countries Sierra Leone and Liberia followed closely behind. The deadly virus has now claimed more than 11,000 lives and an estimated 16,600 children have lost one or both parents, or their primary giver. Thankfully on 9 May, Liberia was declared Ebola-free (see p3) but Sierra Leone and Guinea continue their fight.

### THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT:

ChildFund's response has been focused on the care and support of children orphaned by Ebola through the establishment of Interim Care Centres (ICC) in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Children are provided with food, shelter, medical care and psychosocial support for the 21-day quarantine period. In this time, social workers try to reunite children with relatives or alternative families.

Working in partnership with the governments of all three countries, ChildFund in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea is also helping to reopen schools by distributing cleaning agents to decontaminate classrooms and supplying hand-washing stations and hygiene kits. ChildFund is also providing schools with new equipment and learning materials, and children with school kits including uniforms, since many were burnt to prevent the spread of the disease.



Lydia with her three-year-old daughter Luisa at her destroyed preschool that will be rebuilt

## REBUILDING SCHOOLS IN VANUATU

### WHAT HAPPENED?

One of the strongest cyclones ever to hit the South Pacific struck Vanuatu on 13 March 2015. Cyclone Pam, a category five cyclone, affected more than 170,000 people in Vanuatu, destroyed homes and contaminated water supplies.

### THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT:

ChildFund Australia, in partnership with Live & Learn Vanuatu, is currently supporting the reconstruction of two kindergartens that were completely destroyed on the outskirts of Port Vila. The schools are being constructed using the latest cyclone-resistant kindergarten designs and will include rainwater systems and toilets so that children have access to safe water and sanitation. Both centres will also be wheelchair-accessible.

ChildFund together with Live & Learn will also be supporting families of the preschool children to rebuild their livelihoods, providing chickens and poultry management training, and seedlings for home gardens.



Children who were cared for at a Liberia interim care centre are thankful for the support provided

### THE PHILIPPINES

ChildFund was one of the first aid agencies on the ground providing emergency relief after Super Typhoon Haiyan ripped through the central Philippines, killing 6,340 in November 2013. ChildFund Philippines continues to support those affected to rebuild their lives. Getting children back to school has been a priority for ChildFund by rebuilding schools and preschools and providing temporary learning shelters and education kits. As part of ChildFund's long-term recovery strategy, we are also helping to restore livelihoods, strengthening local child protection mechanisms and providing emergency response training for communities.

### SRI LANKA

In December 2014 over one million people across 22 districts in Sri Lanka were affected by flooding, high winds and landslides. In collaboration with the government, ChildFund responded in four districts providing food, water, bedding, health kits, learning materials and established Child-Centred Spaces to provide trauma support for more than 2,500 children.

### MYANMAR

In April 2015 fire ripped through remote Dawei District in Myanmar, causing widespread damage to the area. Hundreds of people were left without shelter and in urgent need of food and water. In partnership with other aid agencies, ChildFund Myanmar is providing emergency relief for families affected and education kits to ensure children can return to their studies.

GUINEA  
SIERRA LEONE  
LIBERIA

NEPAL

MYANMAR

SRI LANKA

PHILLIPINES

VANUATU



# AROUND THE WORLD...

## INDIA

These children are participating in ChildFund India's new campaign to encourage kids to go beyond the textbook and discover a love of reading and learning. Over the next three years ChildFund aims to reach nearly 115,000 students in 14 states across India.



ChildFund Ecuador runs regular nutrition workshops in remote villages where health posts can be many hours walk away. Parents learn how to prevent malnutrition and keep their children healthy using sustainable locally-sourced food. In the last financial year, 1,450 families participated in these workshops.



## ECUADOR

# WITH CHILDFUND!

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea has one of the highest rates of child mortality in the Asia-Pacific region. ChildFund PNG is helping to ensure babies and infants receive critical medical care. Last year, over 2,000 young children in remote communities were immunised and dozens of health workers and village health volunteers were trained.



## UGANDA

Thirteen year-old sponsored child Faith, from Uganda, has big dreams for the future. She wants to be a civil engineer and professor of mathematics. Faith understands how important education is for children to reach their goals: "I would encourage all parents to educate their children. Children are the future of the world. They are the future presidents!" ChildFund Uganda has supported Faith's mother in setting up her own small business, which now provides an income to cover her children's school fees.



## ETHIOPIA

Eleven year-old Dereje from Ethiopia, who has been sponsored for the past six years, says: "I am very glad to receive these cards from my sponsor." In the last year, more than 12,000 children in 24 countries across the world received cards from their Australian sponsors.



## TIMOR-LESTE



Five-year-old Zeneza attends one of the 76 early childhood development centres supported by ChildFund Timor-Leste across the country. In the past year alone, two new preschool buildings were constructed, 22 were improved and provided with new learning materials and 117 teachers received training.



# OUR CHILDFUND FAMILY

We are inspired every day by all of the amazing Australians who are part of ChildFund's family. Thank you for your support!



## Meeting Tayech in Ethiopia

Alicia from Sydney is one of our 43,270 Australian child sponsors. Last year she took her connection with 11-year-old Tayech one step further by meeting her in person when she travelled to Ethiopia.

Alicia says: "I'll never forget seeing her for the first time; this little face in the crowd. She just ran over and gave me a big hug. She's a really amazing little girl; she's so confident and so smart. She wants to be a doctor when she grows up. I'm really proud to be her sponsor."



You can meet your sponsored child, too:  
[www.childfund.org.au/sponsor-visit](http://www.childfund.org.au/sponsor-visit)

## Australia gets behind ChildFund's Big Ask



ChildFund's Big Ask, Australia's biggest trivia challenge to fight global child poverty, took place between April-May this year. From kids getting involved at school, to workplace functions and fabulously themed pub trivia nights, hundreds of Aussies came together to help raise funds for children's education in some of the world's poorest communities.

The team at Umm.. Communications in Sydney held "the trivia night to end all trivia nights", raising over \$3,700! Thank you to all of our trivia buffs who together raised more than \$25,000 for kids in need.



Do you love trivia? Get involved now:  
[www.childfundsbigask.org.au](http://www.childfundsbigask.org.au)

## Lennon walks so other children can ride

Every day Aussies come up with great new ways to fundraise to help children, this includes kids themselves! Meet six-year-old Lennon. For the entire school term, he walked 3.8km home from school once a week to raise money to provide children overseas with bikes so they can get to school more easily.

It takes him over an hour to walk home but he says: "I know there are kids in other countries that have to walk for longer and aren't as safe as I am with my mum walking with me." Lennon has raised enough to provide 30 bikes, and counting!



Join Lennon and raise money your way!  
[www.childfund.org.au/fundraise](http://www.childfund.org.au/fundraise)

## Let's not be strangers. Keep in touch!



/childfundaustalia



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/childfundau (NEW!)



## Getting tough for kids doing it tougher

Marisa from Sydney has joined Team ChildFund to take on Tough Mudder in 2015, all to raise funds to provide food for orphaned children in Ethiopia for a whole year. Marisa says: "Tough Mudder is a fun way to challenge myself while also helping children.

As a mother, I just feel so happy that my fundraising will feed at least five kids for a year who really need the support."



It's not too late for you to join Team ChildFund and get tough: [www.childfund.org.au/fundraising/tough-mudder](http://www.childfund.org.au/fundraising/tough-mudder)