

# ChildWorld



**SPECIAL EDITION:**  
**THE CHILDHOOD ISSUE**

**ChildFund**  
Australia



# POVERTY AND INEQUALITY CAN BE OVERCOME



In this special issue of ChildWorld, I am proud to share with you our new Childhood Campaign, which highlights the importance of

We aim to use the Childhood Campaign to highlight the challenges that so many children continue to face, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. On Page 3, you will meet Phhoung, a 13-year-old girl who is the sole carer for her siblings. In Cambodia, ChildFund is helping children like Phhoung avoid the dangers and vulnerability of child labour, and return to school.

The Childhood Campaign also underlines the vital role our supporters play in improving conditions for children. It is ChildFund supporters who exemplify the belief that every child needs a childhood, a childhood where children are nurtured, protected, encouraged and valued. Together, we – supporters, staff, volunteers, and community members with whom we partner – can enable children and young people to be safe and resilient in a difficult, fast-changing world.

In this edition of ChildWorld, I am also pleased to announce the launch of our new Global Community program. This initiative allows you to sponsor an entire community in the Asia-Pacific region, thereby helping to deliver vital projects

We want every child to be able to say: "I am safe. I am educated. I am heard. I have a future."

in areas such as education, water and sanitation, livelihoods, food security, healthcare and child protection.

Several great Global Community projects have already taken place, and I encourage you to turn to Page 7 to find out more about this unique and innovative program.

As the end of the financial year draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your ongoing generosity and commitment. We know that by working together, poverty and inequality can be overcome, and we won't be stopped in our collective efforts to give every child opportunity, hope and determination for the future. It is only with your support that we can make this possible. Thank you.

*Nigel Spence*

**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 11 organisations which assists more than 14 million children and families in 63 countries.

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# PHHOUNG'S STORY

In places like Cambodia, too many children endure a childhood scarred by poverty. Phhoung was only 10 years old when her parents migrated to the city to find work, leaving her with the weight of responsibility.

"I stopped going to school because there is no one to look after my siblings."

"Every day, I collect and sell three or four baskets of cow dung to buy food for us."



"I get up at 5.00am to cook, clean, and bathe my brother and sister."



"Since we live with only the three of us, I am afraid. My brother sleeps with a machete in case someone tries to kidnap us."

Fortunately for Phhoung, ChildFund Cambodia is now ensuring that she and her siblings have access to education and protection, and a chance to survive and thrive.

Together, we can give back a childhood: [www.childfund.org.au/appeal](http://www.childfund.org.au/appeal)



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## AROUND THE WORLD

Your generous support is helping to make  
the world a better place for children



### SRI LANKA

"I love going to school and I like studying," says 10-year-old Ajenthini (right). Across Sri Lanka, thousands of students now have access to quality education, thanks to ChildFund Sri Lanka's innovative programs. Their approach includes developing curriculums based on children's individual learning needs, training teachers in child-friendly learning methods, and constructing classroom ramps to ensure children with disability are not excluded from education.

### TIMOR-LESTE

Sixteen-year-old Dorateia is sponsored through ChildFund Timor-Leste. As part of her sponsorship, she has been taking part in a program which teaches young people about financial concepts and saving. Having made her own bamboo piggybank, Dorateia now has a place to keep her money safe for the future.



### ETHIOPIA

Access to clean water is an issue in many parts of Ethiopia, causing life-threatening diseases for children like five-year-old Medameth. ChildFund Ethiopia is helping to improve children's health by bringing safe water to rural communities through the construction of boreholes. Instead of walking two hours to collect river water that is unsafe to drink, Medameth's family now has clean water just five minutes from their home.



### LAOS

These young rugby fans are taking part in ChildFund's Pass It Back program, which promotes the right to play in communities with limited access to organised sport. Through an integrated rugby and development curriculum, more than 1,500 girls and boys in Laos and Vietnam are learning leadership and life skills, while having fun!

### ZAMBIA

ChildFund Zambia is working with local communities to prevent child marriage and keep girls in school. Patricia was just 15 when she was married to an abusive husband who forced her to leave school. After becoming aware of her situation, ChildFund worked with Patricia, her husband, and her family to help them understand the importance of education and that child marriage is against the law. "ChildFund rescued me from that marriage and now I'm back in school," says Patricia. "I'm free to be a child again."



### VIETNAM

In December 2015, almost 12,000 children across the world received handwritten Season's Greetings cards from their Australian sponsors, including best friends Ngoc and Van from Vietnam! Corresponding with your sponsored child is a wonderful way to get to know more about each other's lives and countries.



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## AFTER THE QUAKES: REBUILDING CLASSROOMS IN NEPAL

One year on,  
ChildFund in Nepal  
is ensuring children  
like nine-year-old  
Binisha can return  
to a safe and  
permanent learning  
environment

Children in Nepal are still recovering from the two massive earthquakes that struck the Himalayan nation last year, killing more than 8,700 people, destroying homes, schools and monuments, and triggering landslides across the country.

"I don't want to stay at my house alone because I am afraid the earthquake might hit us again," says nine-year-old Binisha, who lives with her family in a rural village in Sindhupalchowk District.



Sindhupalchowk District, where Binisha lives, was one of the hardest-hit areas in Nepal

Binisha's house partially collapsed during the 25 April earthquake – the worst Nepal has experienced in 80 years – and totally collapsed after the second earthquake on 12 May. While Binisha's family was lucky to avoid injury and harm, other families

in her village, where 80 per cent of the population lives in poverty, were not so fortunate. After losing their home, Binisha and her family were sheltered in a tent on local school grounds, before moving to a temporary makeshift house.

In addition to thousands of homes being ruined, more than 25,000 classrooms throughout Nepal were destroyed, and another 10,000 left in need of repair.

When schools officially reopened, almost one million children were unable to resume their education and return to a regular routine – an important process in helping children overcome the trauma they experience during a natural disaster.

This is why ChildFund in Nepal prioritised the construction of 60 Temporary Learning Spaces (120 classrooms) on 32 school sites across the worst-affected areas of Sindhupalchowk and Ramechhap Districts – enabling students to return to school within weeks.



ChildFund Australia would like to thank all of our supporters who contributed to the Nepal Earthquake Emergency Appeal. In total, an amazing \$510,913 was raised!

Built with local materials, the shelters are designed to provide a secure learning space that will last for up to two years. To combat severe winter weather conditions, ChildFund in Nepal has ensured that all classroom floors, walls and roofs are insulated to keep students warm.

ChildFund is now working in partnership with the Nepalese Government to plan and coordinate long-term recovery efforts around school reconstruction and renovation, so that children can eventually return to safe and permanent learning environments.

For children like Binisha, school is a place where they can feel safe, play with their friends and find some stress-relief, as well as continue their studies. When classes resumed at her local Temporary Learning Space, Binisha, who hopes to become a nurse, saw some light after dark times: "I was so happy and thought, I can study again!"

## GET TO KNOW OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

By harnessing the power of digital communications, you can now connect directly with communities in Laos, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea

Our new Global Community program is all about bringing our world closer together. Uniquely, it gives supporters the opportunity to sponsor an entire community in Laos, Myanmar or Papua New Guinea, and work in partnership with them to improve living standards and tackle poverty. It is also the first program in Australia where sponsors can communicate directly with sponsored communities.

Youth Ambassadors in each country have been trained on digital media, which means they can use video to talk about their own experiences and challenges. This allows

sponsors to see, hear about, and understand the distinctive cultures and environments of each individual community first-hand.

Sponsors also have the ability to share their knowledge by communicating with Youth Ambassadors online, enabling them to help bring small scale projects to life. Many fantastic projects are already active – from using solar power to supply electricity to families in Myanmar, to immunising children in Papua New Guinea's most remote areas, and, amazingly, 'catching fog' to address a major community concern in Nonghet, Laos.



Global Community Youth Ambassadors in PNG learning about digital media



Sponsors can communicate online with Youth Ambassadors in Myanmar

## SISTERS FUNDRAISE FOR A FARM



Aussie sisters Ayla and Mila have raised over \$1,000 for ChildFund Australia – smashing their fundraising target in under one week! By reaching out to their classmates, friends, and family, the girls have raised enough to purchase farm animals for a Zambian family. "They will be able to make food with the eggs and milk," says Ayla.

Would you like to fundraise to support children living in poverty? Find out how you can help at [www.childfund.org.au/fundraise-for-us](http://www.childfund.org.au/fundraise-for-us)

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### The Fog Catcher



Youth Ambassadors install a Fog Water Trap in Laos

'Catching fog' could soon solve one of the most serious problems for an entire community in northern Laos – limited access to water in the dry seasons. Thanks to an online collaboration between Global Community Youth Ambassadors, ChildFund supporters, and French organisation Electriciens sans frontières, an innovative technique of converting fog from the sky into safe drinking water has been developed.

Following online discussions, a consultant from Electriciens sans frontières visited Nonghet to teach Youth Ambassadors how to design and install a Fog Water Trap. Four prototypes built of mesh and wood were eventually set up, and, remarkably, on the first night the Fog Water Traps collected over 50 litres of pure fog water!

ChildFund Australia is now working with Youth Ambassadors in Nonghet to see how these prototypes can be scaled up to provide water for the whole community.

Learn more about

Global  
Community.

at [www.globalcommunity.org.au](http://www.globalcommunity.org.au)

PROJECT:  
HUMANITY

You can support children and their families in times of disaster by becoming a Project Humanity Partner: [www.childfund.org.au/project-humanity](http://www.childfund.org.au/project-humanity)





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