

ChildWorld 2017

ACCESS TO EDUCATION
IN MYANMAR

DANIELLE CORMACK
EXPLORES CAMBODIA

AFRICA FOOD CRISIS

BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD

ChildFund
Australia

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

With your commitment, empathy and support, we can continue to make a difference – one child, one family and one community at a time



The last 12 months have been a stark reminder that we are living in increasingly turbulent times. In many regions of the world, the risks to children's safety and wellbeing have never been greater.

In the Middle-East, the war which began in Syria over six years ago has resulted in mass displacement, significant loss of life, and enormous trauma and hardship to children and families. In Africa, the declaration of famine in South Sudan may soon be repeated in Somalia, Nigeria and Yemen, while large parts of neighbouring countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia also face extreme and life-threatening food shortages.

In our own region, families in Fiji, Nepal and Vanuatu are still in the slow process of rebuilding after catastrophic weather events; while in Papua New Guinea, the increasing incidence of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis presents a new threat to children, and family violence persists at epidemic levels.

There is no single remedy to these complex problems, and the global will to respond appears in short supply. The challenges can seem overwhelming. However, retreat from the challenges of global child poverty is not an option.

ChildFund supporters, staff, partners and the local communities with whom we work know that change is possible – and is underway. As Margaret Mead said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Huge progress has been made to reduce child poverty. In 2017, seven million fewer children will die from preventable illnesses than in 1990. Extreme poverty has halved, more children are in school than ever before, the eradication of polio and malaria is now in sight, and those infected with HIV no longer live with a death sentence.

Many initiatives, including local community development activities, are contributing to this change. In rural Cambodia, children's reading and numeracy scores are accelerating using child-friendly apps on school-provided tablets. In PNG, support is starting to

reach women and children impacted by violence. Youth leadership is flourishing in disadvantaged communities in Laos, while mobile phones now give rural farmers in Vietnam access to new markets which leads to higher household incomes.

We are living in a world of rapid innovation that creates new opportunities for change. But these technologies are only effective if implemented in partnership with local people and are powered by the generosity of supporters and donors.

To ChildFund Australia's supporters and donors – thank you! We face massive and complex global problems that cause great harm to children, but with your commitment, empathy and support, we can continue to make a difference – one child, one family and one community at a time.

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 9 million children and families in over 50 countries.

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ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN MYANMAR

Too many children in Myanmar are forced to leave school early to work, but you can help uphold their right to education

Ma Nwe was just nine years old, and had completed less than four years of primary education, when she left school to help her mother at home and look after her younger sisters.

At age 13, her father passed away which meant she was forced into work. She currently has a job in a factory that manufactures drinking flasks. Ma Nwe works seven days a week; and has just one day of rest per month.

Earning just A\$75 monthly, she gives the whole amount to her mother. Her boss also sometimes gives her a tip, which she keeps for her pocket money.

Ma Nwe says: "When I had to leave school, I was still young and I didn't feel much. But now, when I see others going to school, I feel sorry."

Today, Ma Nwe is a shy 17-year-old. She can read and write, she says, but sees limited prospects for her future employment. When she has any time to herself she likes to sew and, if she had the choice, would like to be a seamstress for a living.

High levels of poverty in Myanmar means one in four children do not complete their primary education. ChildFund is now supporting students in non-state schools – which deliver free education to children from disadvantaged communities – by building classrooms, training teachers and providing school lunches.

Global Community.

You can help children and youth in Myanmar reach their full potential:
www.globalcommunity.org.au

AROUND THE WORLD

Across the globe, children are benefitting from your amazing support



UGANDA

Access to clean water is helping children like nine-year-old Gloria and 10-year-old Helen stay healthy, strong and protected from life-threatening disease. A new well, constructed by ChildFund Uganda, means children don't have far to walk to collect safe water for their daily drinking and washing needs, and it's always a great place to hang out with friends!

INDIA

Eight-year-old Yash is one of more than 100,000 students in India who are receiving high quality books and learning materials as part of ChildFund India's 'Books, My Friends' program. By providing age appropriate books – in both the local language and English – the program is encouraging children to read for the first time, while also improving the literacy of older students.



LAOS

The Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, recently travelled to Laos where she met players and coaches from ChildFund Pass It Back. She was particularly impressed to find that more than half of those taking part in the rugby-based program are girls! The unique curriculum gives many young people from disadvantaged communities the opportunity to play sport for the first time, while also teaching them valuable life skills.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the world's most infectious diseases, but it is also curable and preventable. ChildFund Papua New Guinea has been working with children like 10-year-old Grace, who has been diagnosed with TB. Support includes training health workers, the stocking of first-aid kits and supplies in rural clinics, and helping healthcare staff transport medication to remote villages. Early diagnosis and treatment of TB is preventing lifelong disabilities, and saving lives.



VIETNAM

"I believe both those who can hear and those who are hearing impaired should know sign language so they can talk to each other," says 13-year-old Linh. Every weekend, she takes part in a ChildFund-supported sign language class in Vietnam, even though she has full hearing. Linh's motivation for learning this new language? So that she can talk with her hands, and help other children in her community better express themselves.



DANIELLE CORMACK explores Cambodia...

ChildFund Ambassador and actress Danielle Cormack has been a child sponsor for over a decade. During her recent visit to Cambodia, she travelled to remote communities to see how ChildFund's work is improving the lives of children and their families.

"Cambodia is still recovering from three decades of war, so child poverty is a big problem here – malnutrition, lack of education, water and sanitation," said Danielle.

While on her trip, Danielle saw improvements in children's health through a nutrition group for mums, quality education for children at rural schools, and youth securing a financial future through a savings group. These are just some of the projects being implemented in Cambodia, thanks to the contributions of child sponsors in Australia and around the world.

"It's been incredibly insightful to be on the ground and see first-hand the work ChildFund is doing. I really support ChildFund's ethos, which is about giving a hand up rather than a hand out."



Learning a traditional Khmer dance is not as easy as it looks



Danielle gets muddy during a tree planting session with students at a rural school



Sreymey and Sreymon show Danielle the colourful activities in their reading kits



Despite the language differences, Danielle had a chance to laugh and share stories

AFRICA FOOD CRISIS

Your generosity is saving lives in Kenya. Photojournalist Jake Lyell reports on the unfolding emergency and its impact on children and families



We are in Marsabit County, Kenya, where hunger is widespread and malnutrition, especially among young children, has risen to heartbreaking levels.

The landscape is dry and marked with nothing but volcanic boulders as far as the eye can see. Not a spot of green interrupts the expanse of stony wilderness. Only the occasional herd of camels or goats, or the carcasses left behind, remind us that we're still on Earth.

In this region, most families are pastoralists. Herds of livestock are their only source of sustenance and income – animals are used to barter for flour, oil, and other basics.

Unusually, we spot a kid goat on its lonesome – trailing its umbilical cord and covered in amniotic fluid. I pick up the goat and lay it on my lap as we drive on. I wonder, how can a person leave their most valuable commodity behind? Goats are like gold here.

We ask the herders we meet to take the baby goat. They shake their heads or wag their fingers. "It won't survive. It's not even worth cooking," they say.

We take the goat back to the Catholic mission where we are lodging, and the brothers agree to adopt it. It seems there may be hope for this kid after all.

As the week wears on we spend our time visiting families in rural villages for whom surviving the drought is a daily gauntlet. Sitting down inside her manyatta, a cloth and animal-skin-covered dwelling, 32-year-old Gumato (pictured) shares her struggle with me. Her husband and eldest son, who is 12 years old, have left the area with their surviving animals to seek out water. They've been gone for weeks.

Jillo, Gumato's 18-month-old daughter, wears a hand-me-down Sunday dress – dirty and tattered, as if it's the only outfit she has. She sits at her mother's breast, but her attempts to nurse are futile.

"I can't produce milk because we don't have enough food," Gumato confides.

Fortunately, ChildFund staff are doing everything they can in terms of providing food, water, and emergency support to children and communities here.

I have covered food crises in this region before, but this situation is beyond the worst I have seen. Global action is desperately needed. The terrible truth is that families here know all too well what prolonged drought and food shortages mean in reality – they know that many may not live to see the long-awaited arrival of the rains.



Jake Lyell is a photojournalist and visual storyteller who focuses on communicating the human experience

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