



CHILDFUND'S SUPPORTER MAG SUMMER 2014

CHILDWORLD

**SMALL VOICES, BIG
DREAMS: A GLOBAL
SURVEY OF CHILDREN**

**EBOLA SURVIVOR
TURNED CARER**

**VETH RIDES INTO
THE FUTURE**

Improvements for children

In the past 25 years huge improvements have been made for children but with your support more can be done

Twenty five years ago the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was approved by the United Nations General Assembly. Almost every country on earth has ratified the Convention, making it the most widely supported human rights treaty in history.

In 2014, the evidence is strong that children, globally, now have far better life chances and opportunities. When compared to the baseline data of 1990, children today are much more likely to survive the hazardous early years, with far fewer children dying before they reach the age of five. Children born today are half as likely to be part of a family in extreme poverty, and more likely to have access to clean water, better nutrition, and free education.

It is difficult to say how much of this is due to the CRC, but it is clear that it did set in motion global and national plans of action that were later revived in the Millennium Development Goals and the World Fit for Children Plan of 2002.

These plans required Governments to regularly report on their progress in advancing children's rights, and have undoubtedly helped to drive improvements for children.

Unfortunately, current data also paints a picture of goals unmet and of unfairness – where a child's place of birth, gender and ethnic status heavily affect their life opportunities. Progress for children around the world is unequal. Wars and armed conflict are having devastating impacts.

According to ChildFund Alliance's 2014 Small Voices, Big Dreams report (see p8), one-third of the world's children do not feel that their rights to protection are being upheld. In Africa, 28 per cent of children say they are rarely or never protected from undertaking harmful work. Only 11 per cent of children globally say they are free to share their opinion, and have it taken seriously by adults.

The survey also finds only 14 per cent of Australian children say young people in our country are always protected from physical or psychological harm, with respondents mentioning issues such as bullying, child abuse and lack of proper family care.

On the 25th anniversary of children's rights, we should be encouraged that the Convention has made such a positive difference for children, while recognising that violations of children's



rights continue – globally and locally.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your support towards a world where all children are protected and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

On behalf of the Board and staff at ChildFund Australia, I wish you a happy and safe festive period, enjoyed with family and friends.

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.

Address: Level 8, 162 Goulburn Street,
Surry Hills NSW 2010
Phone: 1800 023 600
Email: info@childfund.org.au
Website: www.childfund.org.au



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

Editor: Ashleigh Yardy
Designer: Sally Woodward-Hawes
Photography: Jocelyn Pederick,
Tom Greenwood and ChildFund staff
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Front cover: 12-year-old Faith from Kenya was one of more than 6,000 children who took part in this year's Small Voices, Big Dreams survey.

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



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Charity of the Year

A public vote lands ChildFund Australia the winner's trophy at this year's JustGiving Asia Pacific Awards



Nigel receiving the award from Nikki Kinloch, says: "We were overwhelmed by the response we had from supporters who got behind our nomination – people who have been with us for 10, 20, even 30 years! To everyone who supports ChildFund Australia and who voted for us to win this award, we say a huge thank you."

ChildFund Australia has been awarded Australian Charity of the Year at the 2014 JustGiving Awards, recognising the organisation's work in partnering with local communities to improve the lives of millions of children and their families in developing countries.

The inaugural JustGiving Asia Pacific Awards – now in their fifth year in the United Kingdom – recognise and celebrate the phenomenal achievements of Australian fundraisers and charity groups in the previous 12 months.

Nikki Kinloch, Australia's country director at JustGiving, says: "We're extremely excited to award ChildFund Australia Charity of the Year. The results of the public vote are a testament to the inspirational work that they're doing to deliver life-changing programs for children in the world's poorest communities."

Here are just some of the Facebook comments you left that made us smile: "Proud to support this charity - it's been 8 years now and we've watched our sponsor child grow into a healthy and happy young man."

"I have been with ChildFund for over 30 years. I appreciate the work they do and how they achieve their goals cost effectively."

"I took my young girls to Honduras to meet our sponsor child and see first-hand what ChildFund are doing. It was one of the best and most emotional things we have ever done."

Thank you to everyone who voted for ChildFund Australia. We are so proud to have thousands of supporters who share our passion to make the world a better place for children!

DANIELLE CORMACK: OUR NEW AMBASSADOR!

ChildFund Australia is excited to announce award-winning actor Danielle Cormack as our newest Ambassador. Danielle has been sponsoring Akullu, a young woman in Uganda, for almost 10 years, and says "it's been wonderful to see her grow and develop into a young woman through her letters and photos".



Follow Danielle on twitter at @daniellecormack

CHILDFUND CONNECT PRESENTS THE DREAMS FILM FESTIVAL

750 children from Australia, Brazil, Laos, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Vietnam have taken part in the ChildFund Connect international film festival. From premonitions to morality tales to the downright funny, children created more than 100 films on the theme of dreams, to share with their peers around the world.



Watch the short films at www.childfundconnect.org

COUNTING THE COST OF CHILD VIOLENCE

A new report from the Overseas Development Institute, commissioned by ChildFund Alliance as part of its global child protection campaign, estimates that the cost of physical, psychological and sexual violence against children is costing governments globally up to \$7 trillion per annum.



Read the full report at www.childfund.org.au/odireport

Riding into a better future

The gift of a bicycle means this young girl from rural Cambodia can now reach her dreams!



Veth loves her new bicycle and the freedom it provides her

In many rural communities in developing countries, children have to travel long distances to attend their nearest primary school. This is often done on foot, with children walking for many kilometres, usually from a very young age.

Not only is this exhausting on a daily basis, but for unsupervised children it can be dangerous too. This is a worrying reality for parents, who must risk the safety of their children in order to give them access to an education. In some instances, the distance which must be travelled between home and school makes it impossible for children to attend at all.

For 14-year-old Veth in Cambodia, getting to school was very difficult. Her home in a rural village is extremely



Veth is all packed and ready to ride to school!

isolated, situated many kilometres from the main road. The track to and from school is long, uneven and dangerous, particularly for a young girl to travel.

Fortunately, in December 2013 Veth was the very happy recipient of a bicycle, purchased by a generous Australian through our Gifts for Good catalogue. Veth says: "Before I received this bike, I had to walk or pay to ride a Tuk-Tuk to school."

FORTUNATELY, IN DECEMBER 2013 VETH WAS THE VERY HAPPY RECIPIENT OF A BICYCLE, PURCHASED BY A GENEROUS AUSTRALIAN THROUGH OUR GIFTS FOR GOOD CATALOGUE

"It is very far, but also it can be dangerous on the road. Sometimes I would get cut by thorns. I would sometimes see snakes on the road. And very often I would arrive at school very dirty, dusty or muddy, especially when it was raining," says Veth.

Veth's dream is to become a teacher. She knows that the best way to achieve her dream is by going to school and getting a good education. "The thing I am most afraid of is not being able to go to school. I love school," she says. "Now I have this bicycle it helps me to get to school faster and I can travel safely."

Not only does Veth's new bike offer a faster and safer journey to school, but she has also put it to good use in other ways. She explains: "I sometimes ride the bike to collect water, wash clothes and also I've used it to carry rice and rice seedlings to the rice field. It is very useful."

For Veth, the gift of a bike has been life-changing: "I love riding the bicycle because it is fun. It makes me feel happy and it is good for exercise!"

Thank you to our generous Aussie supporters who together have provided more than 14,000 gifts over the past year which are making a difference in the lives of children, like young Veth, and their families all around the world.

REAL GIFTS THAT CHANGE LIVES

Bikes can be purchased for children like Veth from ChildFund Australia's newest Gifts for Good catalogue. From water filters and vegetable seeds, to scholarships and birthing kits, Gifts for Good offers a huge array of gifts from just \$14 that will make a positive

difference to the lives of children and families living in poverty in communities where ChildFund works. Once you have chosen your gift, we will send you a great gift card to give to your family and friends!



Choose your favourite gift at www.childfund.org.au/gifts



Ebola survivor turned carer

After only narrowly surviving Ebola herself, this mother turned her attention to the children orphaned by the disease

Twenty-three-year-old mother-of-one, Decontee lives in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. She was studying a management degree at business college while her fiancé and father of her child, Peter was studying abroad in Ghana.

In August Peter returned home for a short visit to see Decontee and their son. It was during this time that both he and Decontee contracted Ebola from Peter's sick aunt.

One month later, and after spending three weeks in an Ebola treatment centre, Decontee is the only survivor. Her five-year old son, who tested negative, is glad to have his mum back. But his father was not so fortunate, losing his life while undergoing treatment. Peter's aunt's four children have also died. So it is not surprising that Decontee's father now calls her 'Decontee the resurrected'.

Billy Abimbilla, ChildFund national director for Liberia and Sierra Leone, says: "Many people, including children, are dying. Some parts of Sierra Leone are under quarantine. There is a dusk to dawn curfew in Monrovia. Prices of basic household supplies like rice and oil are high. People are moving around in fear of being infected."

Decontee's immediate family, while lucky not to have contracted the illness, have suffered in other ways.

"In my absence, away from my mother and family, my people were stigmatised. No one would go around there," Decontee says. "They found it difficult to buy food because everyone said their money was infected. My five-year-old son could not play with his friends because they were afraid he could spread the virus."

The discrimination Decontee's family

suffered prompted her to use her immunity from the disease to help others.

"I don't want what happened to my family to happen to anyone else," says Decontee. "It is difficult for these children orphaned by Ebola. Their parents came down with the virus, nobody wants them. As survivors we have an understanding of how to work with them."

"THEIR PARENTS CAME DOWN WITH THE VIRUS, NOBODY WANTS THEM. AS SURVIVORS WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO WORK WITH THEM"

She is now one of the volunteers at Liberia's first Interim Care Centre for Ebola orphans, established by ChildFund Liberia in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

"I can take good care of them because I'm no longer vulnerable to the disease," she says. "As long as the kids are there, I will continue to work with them."

Besides carers, like Decontee, there are also nurses, social workers and mental health workers on hand at the centre to assist the children.

Thank you to those who have already donated to ChildFund Australia's Ebola Emergency Appeal. Your generous support is helping to provide children who have lost everything with housing and meals, health monitoring, basic education and trauma support.



Decontee at the ChildFund Interim Care Centre in Liberia's capital Monrovia

EBOLA EMERGENCY APPEAL

With the number of children orphaned by Ebola growing, your support is needed so ChildFund Liberia and Sierra Leone can open more Interim Care Centres. Each centre will provide food, shelter, care, support and protection for children for a quarantine

period of 21 days. Children at the centres will be closely monitored for symptoms and immediately transferred to receive treatment if needed.



Your support is urgently needed. You can make a donation at www.childfund.org.au/appeal/ebola





CHILDFUND AUSTRALIA SUPPORTED **137 NEW COMMUNITIES** IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



260,017
PEOPLE WORLDWIDE SIGNED CHILDFUND'S FREE FROM VIOLENCE PETITION



\$38.9 MILLION

SENT OVERSEAS BY CHILDFUND AUSTRALIA TO ASSIST CHILDREN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES IN **27 COUNTRIES**



6,499 CHILDREN, AGED 10-12, FROM **47 COUNTRIES** PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL **SMALL VOICES, BIG DREAMS SURVEY**

VIETNAM:
THREE NEW SCHOOLS

CONSTRUCTED AND
ANOTHER FOUR
PROVIDED WITH
RESOURCES



ZAMBIA:
10,000 CAREGIVERS
TOOK PART IN
CHILD RIGHTS AND
CHILD PROTECTION
WORKSHOPS



INDIA:
CHILD FUND INDIA
SUPPORTED
MORE THAN 700
YOUTH CLUBS



UGANDA:
42,600 CHILDREN WERE VACCINATED



KENYA:
16,101 PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED IN
A DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION PROJECT

CAMBODIA:
216 SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS
FROM 22 SCHOOLS
BENEFITED FROM
TRAINING



PHILIPPINES: **37,529 FOOD PACKS**
AND **10,400 ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD KITS** WERE PROVIDED FOR
FAMILIES AFFECTED BY TYPHOON HAIYAN

SRI LANKA:
425 PEOPLE
WERE PROVIDED
WITH LIVELIHOODS
TRAINING AND
EQUIPMENT



TIMOR-LESTE:
OVER 3,300 CHILDREN
ATTENDED
76 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES



HONDURAS:
141,585 CHILDREN
FROM
45 COMMUNITIES
BENEFITED FROM
PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED
BY CHILD FUND HONDURAS



GUINEA:
20,345 PEOPLE
FROM **33 COMMUNITIES**
WERE REACHED BY
EBOLA EDUCATION
SESSIONS



PAPUA NEW GUINEA:
10 WATER SYSTEMS WERE
CONSTRUCTED TO
PROVIDE ACCESS TO
CLEAN WATER FOR
TWO RURAL VILLAGES



LAOS: **FOUR GENERAL HEALTH CENTRES**, AND **A NEW MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE**, WERE CONSTRUCTED



An opportunity for children to have their say

**What do child rights mean to children around the world?
ChildFund Alliance finds out**

Over 6,000 children took part in the fifth annual ChildFund Alliance Small Voices, Big Dreams survey, one of the most comprehensive polls of children's views in the world.

This year, to mark the 25th anniversary of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child, children aged 10 to 12 years from 44 countries across the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia were asked to share their views on child rights.

The results provide an incredible insight into which issues are most important for young people around the world. They also highlight areas where more work is needed to ensure that children's rights are being upheld. When asked which rights for children are not being upheld in their country,

the top response from children surveyed in developing countries was access to school and time to study (29 per cent), which was cited by only four per cent of children in developed countries.

However, children in both developed and developing countries are equally concerned about their rights to protection, with one in three children surveyed saying these rights are denied to children in their country.

The responses of Aussie children highlight their compassion and their awareness of social issues. Nigel Spence, CEO of ChildFund Australia says: "Many of the Australian children referred to unfair treatment of other children, including children in detention, Aboriginal children and homeless children."

When asked if there were any rights not being upheld, one-third of children were confident in saying that there are no rights being ignored in Australia, compared to only six per cent of children in developing countries.

As leaders of their country, most Australian children say they would improve education and learning and provide technology, which was a global trend for children. This Australian response was closely followed by a desire to change social and political problems or policies.



You can watch this year's Small Voices, Big Dreams film and download the complete survey results at www.smallvoicesbigdreams.org

Highlights from Australia

What do child rights mean to you?	Australia	All countries	Developing countries	Developed countries
Access to school and quality education	31%	32%	40%	20%
Making my own choices and decisions	18%	9%	5%	15%
Being treated with respect and without discrimination	17%	9%	6%	13%
Protection from violence	17%	12%	13%	10%
Which rights for children are NOT being upheld in your country?				
There are no rights which aren't being upheld	27%	11%	6%	19%
Being treated with love, respect and without discrimination	9%	5%	5%	5%
Protection from abuse, violence and murder	7%	15%	15%	15%
The right to family, proper care or support	7%	3%	3%	3%
If you were the leader of your country, what would you do to improve the lives of children?				
Improve education and learning and provide technology	29%	39%	51%	20%
Change social/political problems or policies	25%	14%	12%	17%
Provide safety and security	19%	24%	22%	28%



AUSTRALIA

Bree (pictured with her brother), is 10 and lives in Australia. She says: "In Australia, children are treated well."



ECUADOR

Daniela is aged 11 and lives in Ecuador. Here, 23% of children surveyed say that children are not being treated with love, respect and without discrimination.



TOGO

Igore lives in Togo and is 10 years old. Almost half of children surveyed (48%) say the right to attend school and have time for study is not being met.



LAOS

10-year-old Janny lives in Laos. She says: "Some families force their kids to work in the field; even during school time they don't allow their kids to attend school."



VIETNAM

Dien, 10, is from Vietnam where children surveyed are more likely to say that children are not protected from trafficking (11%) than children in other countries.



MALI

12-year-old Rokia lives in Mali where just 5% of children say children are always protected from harmful work.

Haiyan: one year on

This teen is making a big difference to the lives of children in her community who were affected by Typhoon Haiyan

Kenna is volunteering at a ChildFund Philippines Child-Centre Space on the weekends



Fourteen-year-old Kenna vividly remembers the night she was forced to leave her home to flee the typhoon that would change her young life.

She and her family were among the 16 million Filipinos affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan, when it ripped across parts of the Philippines, killing more than 6,000 people, with many others still missing, and damaging over one million homes.

Kenna is now back in school enjoying the 10th grade. Yet for her, and millions of others in the Visayas region, the catastrophic events of 8 November 2013 remain fresh in her memories. She is just glad she can now help other children who went through the same experience as her.

In the months after Haiyan, Kenna attended a ChildFund Philippines Child-Centred Space (CCS) in her community, which had been set up to provide a safe place for children affected by the disaster. It was here that she learned to process her fears and emotions from that terrifying night.

Altogether, ChildFund Philippines set up 22 Child-Centred Spaces in typhoon-affected communities where children could gather, play and receive trauma support.

ALTOGETHER, CHILDFUND PHILIPPINES SET UP 22 CHILD-CENTRED SPACES IN TYPHOON-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES WHERE CHILDREN COULD GATHER, PLAY AND RECEIVE TRAUMA SUPPORT

When school resumed this year, the spaces were used as temporary classrooms to substitute for school buildings that were destroyed or damaged by the typhoon.

The CCS are still very active today. They are open on the weekend when children are off school, providing nutritious food and safe drinking water, and giving children a safe place to play and receive support from trained volunteers. Kenna is now one of those volunteers.

“Each day of the weekend, I get about 60 to 100 children attending a single CCS,” Kenna says. “Such numbers can get unruly sometimes, especially among the younger kids, but you just need lots of patience.”

After receiving support herself at her local CCS, Kenna was determined to extend the same support to other children her age and younger.

She trained with ChildFund Philippines to learn the science behind the games and other activities that are run at the CCS. Kenna and her peers also learned about child protection, particularly in the context of a post-emergency situation, where circumstances remain difficult as people are still recovering and infrastructure is being repaired.

Asked how much longer she will volunteer, Kenna is resolute in her answer: “As long as I’m still needed.”

ChildFund Australia would like to thank our Project Humanity partners, The Charitable Foundation and everyone who donated to support our relief and recovery work in the Philippines.

Your support means that ChildFund Philippines and its local partners will continue to help restore livelihoods, strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms and provide disaster risk management and emergency response training for communities for the next 3-5 years.



Remembering our mum

Kylie helped her mother leave a life-changing gift that will help generations of Cambodian children for years to come

When Kylie from NSW found out her beloved mother, Sandra, was diagnosed with terminal cancer in early 2014 she was determined to ensure her legacy lives on.

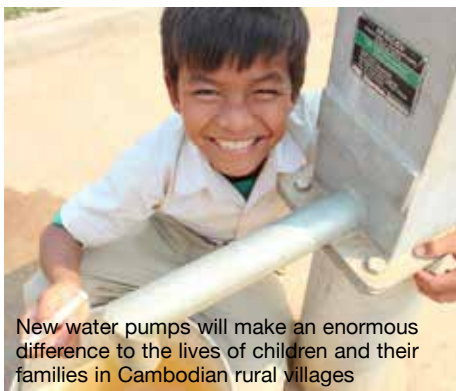
"After Mum found out she was dying of cancer, we didn't have much time with her," Kylie says. "Between her becoming unwell and passing away it was a matter of months."

Kylie spoke to her mum early on about what she wanted. Sandra was adamant that she didn't want a formal funeral where all her grandkids would come and cry. Kylie made all the arrangements but one thing bothered her: "I said to Mum that the kids would really want to visit something or somewhere that reminded them of you."

So Sandra decided to raise funds to provide clean water for a small rural community in Cambodia. With this in mind, Kylie, her father Ken and brother Ben asked family and friends to donate towards the construction of a water pump in lieu of sending flowers.

"My mum was an incredibly giving person so this was the perfect way to honour her memory," she says.

Kylie and her family's in-memoriam fundraising became really important to them in the days after Sandra's passing. "It was something she wanted so desperately so it was healing for me



New water pumps will make an enormous difference to the lives of children and their families in Cambodian rural villages

and my family to reach our fundraising goal."

"MY MUM WAS AN INCREDIBLY GIVING PERSON SO THIS WAS THE PERFECT WAY TO HONOUR HER MEMORY"

They raised over \$2,680 – enough to fund the construction of five water pumps in Cambodia. "We are still sad for Mum but look what we have created in her memory."

Once the water pumps are constructed, Kylie and her family plan to visit the communities to see firsthand how this gift is helping others.

"The kids are really excited to go to Cambodia," says Kylie. "This has helped them to see beyond their own grief and understand how to turn something negative into something that can benefit others."



CONQUER KILIMANJARO

Fancy watching the sun rise over the East Africa plains as you stand at the summit of the world's highest freestanding mountain? Then join ChildFund's Kilimanjaro Challenge, and provide clean, life-saving water to an entire village in Ethiopia at the same time!



More info at www.childfund.org.au/fundraising/kilimanjaro-challenge

SCHOOLS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Does your school want to help children living in developing countries while giving their students a fun, rewarding and educational experience? Then join our Schools for Social Justice Network!



Register today at www.childfund.org.au/fundraising/schools-social-justice



SUMMITTING FOR CHILDREN!

In July father-of-one Matt conquered Russia's Mt Elbrus, one of the world's most deadly peaks, all to raise money to support ChildFund Laos' bomb clearance project in remote communities. Together with fellow climber Nik, the pair raised almost \$4,000 to help clear land in Laos.



Learn more about how you can help at www.childfund.org.au/fundraise-for-us

MEET YOUR SPONSORED CHILD

"We both get a big smile on our faces when we think of Benjamin, his family and the whole experience. I think about them every day." ChildFund sponsors, Di and John loved meeting their sponsored child, 14-year-old Benjamin this year – you will too!



To find out more email us at info@childfund.org.au

JOIN THE CHILDFUND FAMILY!

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS YOU CAN MAKE
LIFE BETTER FOR CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD



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FOR GOOD



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LASTING GIFT



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