

ChildWorld

WINTER 2012

Bringing
water to
Ethiopia

The LNG project in
Papua New Guinea

Supporting the children
of Nonghet, Laos

www.childfund.org.au

ChildFund
Australia

Nigel Spence

This month, ChildFund Australia is launching a new program to assist village communities- an approach we believe is the first of its kind - the ChildFund Global Community.

Designed to help entire communities develop and move out of poverty, this program will operate in areas where ChildFund is currently unable to offer child sponsorship. But, like our child sponsorship program, Global Community will provide supporters with an opportunity to get to know and understand the children and families in communities targeted for ChildFund's support.

Our first Global Community will connect Australian supporters to 12 villages in Nonghet Province, Laos. At this stage our focus areas will be: enabling parents to provide food for their families through livelihood training; improving child and maternal health with healthcare support and education; and preventing waterborne disease through the provision of new water and sanitation systems.

Supporters joining our Global Community will have the unique opportunity to visit the communities in Laos twice a year - to join in H'mong New Year and Children's Day celebrations. This will be a personal and powerful learning experience for supporters and families in the communities being assisted. Please keep an eye on our



website for more information on how you can join this new initiative.

It is very exciting to begin the new financial year with a new program in place, knowing that more children and communities can be supported. On that note, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for the generosity shown by you, and all ChildFund supporters, during the last financial year. Your commitment has helped to save lives and give children a strong foundation on which to build their futures - free from poverty and hardship.

Nigel Spence

Nigel Spence
CEO
ChildFund Australia

ChildFund Australia

Working in partnership with children and their communities to create lasting and meaningful change by supporting long-term community development and promoting children's rights.

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ChildFund Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

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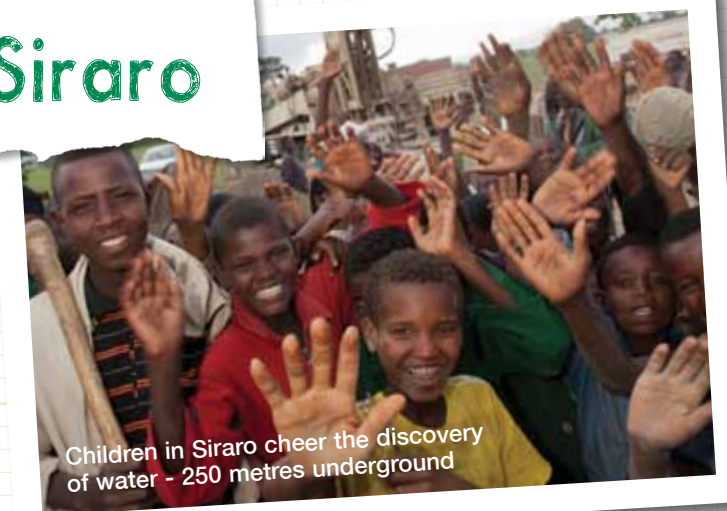
Bringing water to Siraro

Life is about to change for two villages in the drought-prone Siraro district of Ethiopia. They will soon have safe drinking water in their communities for the first time. Previously, children and families had to walk many miles to access the nearest water source - a dirty river, with inconsistent water levels. It made them sick but there was no alternative.

Now, in collaboration with local partners and government, ChildFund is drilling two boreholes (deep-water wells) - one in each village. There were cheers of joy from the community as the drill made its way deep into the earth, finally hitting water at 250 metres. The next phase of the project is now underway, including the construction of reservoirs, pipelines and water points.

The new wells will provide fresh water for more than 13,000 children, women and men. This will not only reduce the incidence of disease in the area but also the burden on women and girls, who are generally responsible for daily water collection. It is also expected to improve young girls' school attendance and performance, as they will spend less time in search of water and more time in class.

ChildFund is also supporting the construction of rainwater-harvesting cisterns for 30 young small-plot farmers, with training provided in water and agriculture management. In time, this should vastly improve their harvests as a large amount of water can be stored and used for irrigation.



Children in Siraro cheer the discovery of water - 250 metres underground

"Access to water is a key issue for children and families living in Siraro," says ChildFund Ethiopia program director Getachew Tesfaye. "These projects will improve some of the chronic problems in the area and even have the potential to rehabilitate the environment. We cannot control nature but we can help families protect themselves from the impact of recurring drought."

These water wells were funded through sponsorship contributions and donations from last year's Horn of Africa emergency appeal, including matched funding by the Australian Government's Dollar-for-Dollar Initiative. The water cisterns were funded through ChildFund Australia's 2009 appeal for Ethiopia.

Life through the lens

ChildFund Vietnam and district leaders in the province of Hoa Binh recently launched the Photo-voice exhibition: Life through the Lens of Children.

The exhibition featured almost 200 photographs taken by children in ChildFund-supported Youth Journalist clubs. The images represent a variety of themes, including children's dreams, their daily lives, as well as risks and safety issues in their home environments.

ChildFund's PhotoVoice exhibition gives children an opportunity to highlight issues of importance to them - each image is accompanied by the 'voice' of the photographer, explaining the subject in more detail.



A photo by the Thu Phong Commune youth journalist club, entitled: Let's do it together!

Van Anh, a grade-8 girl in Cao Phong district, said: "The photovoice idea is so amazing! Participating in this activity, I feel very happy because I have had chances to raise my voice and gained more photography skills."



A child stands outside the Hides 4 Gas Conditioning Plant site

ChildFund Australia joined other aid organisations to launch a joint research paper – *The Community Good* – which examines the impact of the Liquefied Natural Gas Project (LNGP) in the Hela region of Papua New Guinea.

Opening the Parliament House event, the Honourable Richard Marles MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said: “The report highlights what is going well in Hela, in particular the growth in business and employment opportunities, better access to health and education, and a reduction in serious crime.

“It also examines where improvements can be made. For example, the need for greater transparency to resolve landowner issues, the challenges of sharing the benefits, responding to demographic changes to communities and managing the impact of sudden cash windfalls.”

Growing new incomes in Zambia

ChildFund’s Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) in Zambia, which began in 2010, is continuing to go from strength to strength.

Following training in goat breeding, banana production techniques, contract negotiation, bookkeeping, organisational operations and organic fertiliser production, young people in Chongwe, Chisobe and Chitope are now generating their own sustainable income from a variety of agricultural pursuits.

Most recently, ChildFund has drilled new boreholes in order to provide a more constant source of irrigation for the farms, with tanks installed at each site.

Some of these young farmers, now members of the farmers’ cooperative union, have been able to negotiate contracts with buyers and marketers for their produce, and establish joint bank accounts in order to invest their

Impact of the LNG project in Papua New Guinea

The LNGP will extract natural gas from the Hela region in the Highlands, condition and send it to the coast for liquefaction before exporting the gas to overseas markets. The initial construction phase of the LNGP began in 2010, with its completion expected in 2014.

The report finds that, although the project has boosted the local economy through employment, the project is fuelling community tensions because of inadequate community awareness-raising about the project, and a belief that the process of landowner identification is flawed.

There is also community concern about how project benefits will be shared. At the same time, the report notes the potential for resolution through constructive stakeholder dialogue.

ChildFund Australia’s international programs director Mark McPeak said this report is an important reminder that while large-scale resource-extraction projects could deliver economic development benefits, it was vital that they also resulted in enduring improvements to human well-being.

To download *The Community Good*, visit www.childfund.org.au/news/latest



The Chongwe YEP group outside the new water tank, irrigating their banana farm

profits for future activities.

David, a YEP participant, explains the impact of the project so far: “Life was really difficult for me. I depended on subsistence farming for a living, but due to lack of proper farming implements, my yields were very poor.

“After joining this program, my life has changed. I have been equipped with knowledge about farming that I could never have had a chance to acquire on my own.”

Supporting the children of Nonghet

Leng is 12 years old, and lives in Nonghet Province – one of the poorest regions in Laos. Situated close to the Vietnam border, the main road of this province was a major supply route during the Vietnam war, and as such a strategic military target.

Today the extremely high level of unexploded ordnance (UXO), mainly in the form of cluster bombs, means that not only are lives at risk, but daily life for communities in this region is a constant struggle.

Children are particularly vulnerable. During the dry months local springs dry up and children, who are usually responsible for collecting their family’s water, must walk further afield through uncleared land. Caring for livestock also puts children at risk, when forced to take the animals to roam in search of fresh pasture.

Leng says: “In my free time, I will find firewood, bail water and harvest the grasses for the cow. I know the bomb and the bullet. I feel so frightened when I see them. If there are no bombs in my village, I will be so happy.”

The lack of safe drinking water also has a detrimental impact on child health. Country director Chris Mastaglio explains: “Diarrhoea is one of the most widely reported illnesses in the communities. It’s something that both children and parents are very fearful of because it can very easily get serious and result in death, particularly for younger children.”

Most families in this province depend heavily on agriculture. However their inability to develop new plots for farming or grazing animals, as a result of UXO contamination, means that food is often in short supply.

Nutrition levels among children in Nonghet are often poor.

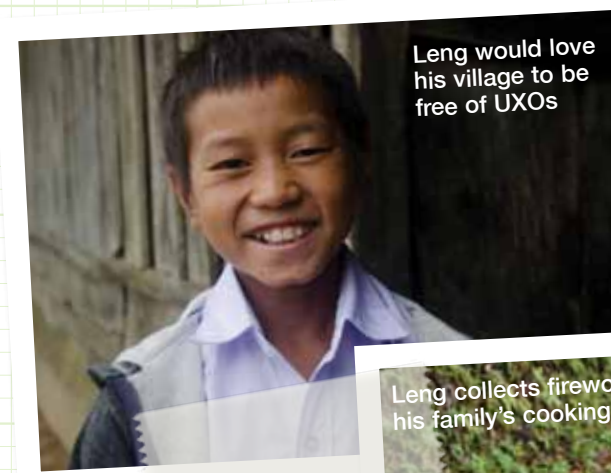
ChildFund has been working in Laos for two years, and is the only child-focused aid organisation based in Nonghet. In order to raise funds for this vital work, ChildFund has launched the Children of Nonghet appeal, focused on giving 12 communities support in the areas of livelihoods and food security, water and sanitation, and education.

This program will include providing agricultural training, and distributing livestock to households and schools. New water tanks and toilets will be installed in 11 villages and 10 schools, while teachers and children will benefit from health and hygiene education.

Six existing primary schools will be repaired, and an additional five primary schools will be built, to enable children to receive an education in their own village rather than travel distances away. Leng is already enjoying the benefits of a new primary school, built by ChildFund in 2011. The construction phase began with a bomb clearance operation taking four months – during that time almost 200 pieces of UXO were found.

So not only does Leng have a new classroom, but space in which to play. With the added bonus of new playground equipment, Leng says: “In this new school, I like the swing, roundabout and desks. I also like to play football, running, dancing and jumping in joy!”

To watch ChildFund’s Children of Nonghet video, or make a donation, please visit www.childfund.org.au/act/donate



Leng would love his village to be free of UXOs

Leng collects firewood for his family's cooking needs



Leng with his younger brother and sister, and friend

Francis sits on his bed, covered with a new insecticide-treated net

Time for Francis to sleep soundly

According to the Ugandan Government's Ministry of Health, malaria is responsible for more deaths in the country than HIV, and its victims are usually children under the age of five and pregnant women. More than one-third of hospital admissions in Uganda can also be linked to malaria infection.

Reducing infection rates is simple and cost-effective – long-lasting, insecticide-treated bednets, at an average cost of \$10 each, can reduce the incidence of malaria by as much as 60%, particularly as mosquitos are most active during dusk and dawn when children are sleeping. However, with so many rural Ugandan families relying on subsistence agriculture, and often surviving on less than a dollar a day, bednets are a luxury item.

ChildFund Uganda, in partnership with district health departments, conducted a bednet distribution campaign, with over 13,000 pregnant women and almost 170,000 children under five provided with a bednet and training on malaria prevention.

Francis, below, was one of those recipients. Aged five



Since receiving a bednet, Francis has been lucky to escape malaria infection



Francis is happy to help his mum doing chores around the house!

Connecting children in Vietnam to Aussie kids

Truong with the year 6 boys from Balgowlah North

Truong Pham Van is a ChildFund Connect facilitator, linking children in Vietnam with their peers in Australia. After a recent trip to Sydney, Truong shares his impressions of visiting an Australian school for the first time

What does a school in Australia look like? This was the question on my mind before I came to Australia. As my visit to Balgowlah North Public School drew closer, I was still a little nervous because I did not yet have my answer.

It was a really nice sunny day when we visited Balgowlah North. Our team was warmly welcomed by the teachers and students. I knew this was not out of the ordinary because Australians are friendly and a warm greeting is normal.

When I entered the classroom I was very impressed. The students had prepared a lot of nice things to welcome us. They decorated their classroom with lots of Vietnamese things that made me feel like I was in my country. On the board, I saw the sentence "Chao Mung Truong". That is "Welcome Truong" in my language. It made me very happy.

I did a presentation on culture in Vietnam and got asked a lot of questions by the students. I also realised that the children in Australia have great knowledge about Vietnam and the world in general. After that, I had the chance to observe a class in action. I learned many excellent things from the teachers and staff to apply in my home country.

The most special part of the visit for me was that I got to play some games with the children. I taught them the 'towel dropping' game that Vietnamese children usually play. Then the children taught me netball, a typical sport played in Australian schools.

Now I am a lot clearer on the answer to my question about what an Australian school looks like. The students in Australia are really friendly, active and clever, and they are educated in a good environment.

It was a really good experience for me. Thanks to all the teachers and students at Balgowlah North Public School. I hope to come back and see you again.



Truong finds out he's a natural at netball!

ChildFund Connect is a global education program for children in their last years of primary school in Australia and developing countries. The program's aim is to provide children around the world with an opportunity to connect and learn from each other. You can find out more at www.childfundconnect.org

Sharing the joy

Our supporter relations team often get asked why gift money is pooled for children in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.

Development programs in these countries are directly managed by ChildFund Australia. A shared approach to gift money has been deliberately adopted in order to eliminate the inequality and divisiveness caused by the traditional approach where some children receive gifts and others don't.

By pooling your gift contributions, we can ensure that every child within a community receives a gift – whether sponsored or not! ChildFund Australia will allocate the total sum to fund group activities or purchase items that children urgently need.

For instance, gift money may be used to run special Children's Days, and other festivals for kids involving games, sports, or cultural activities. Alternatively, community members work in partnership with ChildFund to identify items that will most benefit children – in recent years, we have supplied warm winter jackets, school bags, health and hygiene kits, school uniforms or educational materials.

Gift policies for countries do vary – if you would like to find out more about the policy for the country where your sponsored child lives, please call our supporter relations team on 1800 023 600.

Sponsor quote

"For us, sponsoring a child has been, and still is, an emotional journey – sometimes frustrating – but always heart-warming!"

Lyn, New South Wales

A Vietnamese preschooler wears her new winter jacket, funded through pooled gift money, and enjoys her morning milk, one of the products in our Donations with a Difference catalogue!

Social media: safety first

In this digital age, so much personal communication between friends and family now takes place online, with social media sites making instant messaging a reality for many Australians.

This also means that it has now become possible for sponsors and sponsored children (or their families) to establish contact through online platforms. It sounds great in practice, but it is also a technological development that we feel poses a huge danger – to both you and children living in ChildFund-supported communities.

Social messaging sites aren't always the safest of environments in which to communicate. For children in particular, the dangers are heightened, as ChildFund is unable to monitor online communications. Social media can leave children vulnerable to:

- contact from someone who claims to be their sponsor, but who actually has no relationship with ChildFund or the child;
- communications, content and images which are inappropriate for a child to read or view, have not been checked by ChildFund staff, and which may offend the cultural, religious or ethnic sensibilities of the child.

For sponsors, there are also risks when using social networking sites, as they can leave you vulnerable to criminal or unlawful activities by people acting under an alias. For example, an individual who knows your sponsored child may create a false name using that child's identity, and attempt to defraud or threaten you as the sponsor of that child.

For these reasons, all communication between sponsors and children must go via ChildFund without exception. We take the protection of our children and supporters very seriously. But please continue sending postcards and letters to your sponsored child – and if you are on facebook, 'like' the ChildFund Australia page and join in the conversation!

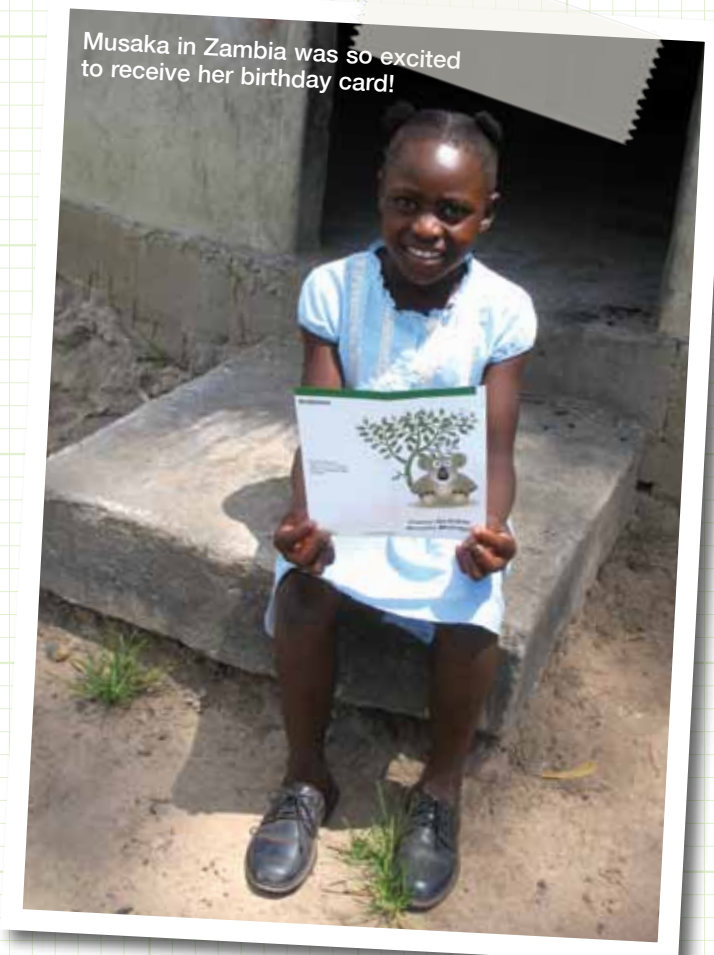
Happy birthday

Did you know that over 1,000 birthday cards are sent to sponsored children in ChildFund-supported communities every month? And around 12,500 Season's Greetings cards are sent every year.

Sending cards to your sponsored child is not only a great way for you to show your sponsored child that you are thinking of them, but also a wonderful way for you to share stories and learn about each other's festivities and cultures.

Children in ChildFund-supported communities are always telling our staff how much they love to receive letters and cards from their sponsors. They are also a wonderful way to keep in touch and can be kept by children forever.

Musaka in Zambia was so excited to receive her birthday card!



Win the trip of a lifetime!

How you would like the opportunity to meet your sponsored child face-to-face, as well as their family, friends and whole community? ChildFund Australia is offering the opportunity to win a journey you will never forget – find out more soon!



Support at school and beyond

A work trip to Cambodia has inspired Geraldine Davis and her family to give their own personal support to children in Svay Rieng

Last year, our family travelled to Cambodia to attend the opening of a new school in Kamraeng village. I was representing my employer Seven Consulting, which had donated funds to build the school, and was fortunate to be given the opportunity to take my whole family.

We were all extremely excited – but I was also a little bit nervous as to how my children, aged seven, four and 20 months would cope! But after lining up for our shots, collecting our malaria tablets and filling our bags with donated sports equipment, it was time to begin our adventure.

Kamraeng is located in Svay Rieng province, on Cambodia's eastern border with Vietnam. The roads become increasingly worse during the four-hour drive, to the extent that for the last hour you need a four-wheel drive to navigate the potholed dirt track. Svay Rieng is one of the poorest provinces in Cambodia, and a significant focus area for ChildFund.

The existing village school was in very poor condition, to the extent that when it rained (and it rains every day for a good part of the year!) children would have to be sent home from school. Most of the community are rice farmers, but small land-holdings means that many families struggle to make a living, generating only one crop a year.

I'll never forget the experience of arriving at the school for the opening – our family was accompanied by the ChildFund Cambodia team and government representatives, and we were met by the teachers, the Quality Assurance Committee, an honour guard of all 250 pupils and the community! Everyone was clapping and cheering, having waited patiently for our arrival.

After the speeches and a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the community hosted a wonderful celebration lunch and we had the opportunity to meet and talk to those people who had worked in partnership with ChildFund to ensure that the new school was well built and able to meet the needs of its pupils.

While in Svay Rieng, we also visited some of ChildFund's youth development projects, which are focused on creating employment opportunities for young people.

One local project manufactures latrines. Here, young people who had taken part in ChildFund-supported vocational training are now able to build concrete latrines, which are sold to ChildFund and other villages. Given the huge shortage of proper water and sanitation facilities in rural Cambodia, this business provides a sustainable income for the young people, while also giving ChildFund much needed access to new loos!

Projects like this are very much a partnership – while ChildFund provided the initial funding, the local community donated the land. We were very impressed to see that ChildFund's work doesn't stop when children finish school, but is also focused on creating employment opportunities.

In fact, we were so inspired that upon returning home our family decided to sponsor a Cambodian child. It's now our dream to return to Svay Rieng, visit our sponsor child and see how the school is progressing!



Geraldine cuts the ribbon at the opening ceremony

The team at Seven Consulting are very proud to have been able to make a difference to children in Kamraeng. To see more photos from Geraldine's trip, visit www.sevenconsulting.com

A lifetime achievement

On 15 April, three of our most energetic supporters ran the Paris Marathon for children in Timor-Leste. Tom Vujevic (NSW), Terry Phillis (NSW) and Hayley Jackson (Vic) formed Team ChildFund.

In the months leading up to race day, our runners were training almost daily and (in their 'spare' time!) they were planning events in their local areas to collect donations for healthcare in Timor-Leste.

This fantastic trio managed to raise an incredible \$27,536! This will provide healthcare training for over 160 community volunteers who will be responsible for raising awareness in their own communities on issues such as immunisation, disease prevention and hygiene.

Thank you Tom, Terry and Hayley for your passion for making a difference and supporting kids in Timor-Leste.

Terry, Tom and Hayley represent ChildFund in Paris

Walk for PNG

The team at ChildFund Australia are going to walk the City2Surf this year, and we'd love you to join us! The 14km walk from Hyde Park to Bondi Beach will be in support of immunisations for children in Papua New Guinea.

PNG is Australia's nearest neighbour yet, due to high levels of poverty, health conditions are poor. The communities where we work are so remote they have little access to basic healthcare and children miss out on essential and life-saving vaccinations.

We'd love every member of our ChildFund City2Surf team to raise \$200 each – this will immunise over 50 children!

Get involved today - find out more at www.childfund.org.au/act/walkforPNG

Loos for Laos! We have just three places left on our cycle adventure in Laos and Cambodia, departing 24 November 2012. Join the adventure and you'll be part of a small group who'll fundraise to cover the cost of your travel and raise much-needed funds to support the communities you meet in northern Laos. To find out more, visit www.childfund.org.au/act/LaosWaterCycle



The ChildFund trio raised almost \$30k for children and their community in Timor-Leste



Help ChildFund deliver life-saving vaccines to children in PNG

You can help children living in extreme poverty



**Every day, poverty kills more than 22,000 children under the age of five.
Help change this sad statistic.**

Please include a gift in your will to ChildFund Australia. Together, we can support children, their families and communities on the path to self-sufficiency.

**Ask our Wills Officer for more information, call 1800 023 600
or email info@childfund.org.au**

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