

ChildWorld

AUTUMN 2014

Rebuilding
lives in the
Philippines

Helping
to protect
children in
rural Laos

Why I'm riding for
children in Cambodia

Our trip-of-a-lifetime
winner in India

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ChildFund
Australia

Protecting children in rural Laos

Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Yet the legacy of war remains a constant and dangerous presence for many families in northern Laos. Unexploded ordnance, mostly in the form of cluster munitions, still cover vast areas of land, giving Laos the unenviable title of the most bombed country per capita in the world.

To date, around 20,000 people have been killed or injured since the war's end. Every year, there are another 300 casualties, 40 per cent of whom are children. Not only do these bombs threaten human life, they act as a significant obstacle to everyday progress. Land which remains uncleared cannot be used for farming, nor can it be used for the construction of schools or health centres. Water and sanitation systems are too dangerous to build in many areas, and play areas for children are non-existent.

It has been estimated that of the 80 million bombs left in the ground, only a fraction have been cleared. For villages in Nonghet District, one of the country's poorest regions, the lack of clearance activities means families are trapped in poverty. Currently, around 50 per cent of children here are chronically malnourished, and only two-thirds are likely to complete primary school. The quality of life for children will not change unless land can be made safe.

Unfortunately for Feh (pictured next page), new initiatives to speed up the clearance process will come too late. She has already lost two brothers and a sister to a cluster munition which the family disturbed while farming. Feh's parents were also injured, and another brother lost his sight due to shrapnel damage. She lives in fear that she may lose more members of her family.

While bomb clearance is a complex and time-consuming operation, ChildFund is committed to progressing this work; it is absolutely crucial to save lives and lift rural communities out of poverty. I urge you to join us in making villages in Nonghet fit for children.



Nigel Spence

Nigel Spence
CEO
ChildFund Australia



To find out more, ChildFund has created an interactive map on our website which highlights the most contaminated areas in Nonghet, and how you can help: www.childfund.org.au/appeal/laos

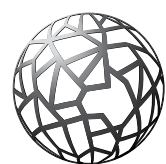
ChildFund Australia

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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Our Trip-of-a-Lifetime winner meets her sponsored child!

In 2012 we ran a competition called Trip of a Lifetime which offered one lucky sponsor the chance to win a trip to visit their sponsored child. Our winner was Lee-anne Bye, who has been sponsoring with ChildFund Australia for over two decades. This was her winning entry:

"I can't change the whole world, but I can change the world for one child... which can change a family, a community, or even a nation."

In November 2013, Lee-anne and her husband, Roxley, embarked on an adventure to India where they had the opportunity to meet 17-year-old Sarita, who they have been sponsoring since 2004.

Meeting Sarita and her family was unforgettable for both Lee-anne and Roxley. "It was such a wonderful experience to meet Sarita face-to-face after writing to

her for so long," says Lee-anne. "I got to see with my own eyes just how our sponsorship is helping her."

"I am really glad we have stuck at sponsorship over the years because after meeting Sarita, I have realised it is probably one of the most significant things we have ever done," added Roxley.

Stay tuned for Lee-anne's full story in our next issue of ChildWorld.



Help ChildFund clear bombs in Laos



of unexploded bombs left over from the Vietnam War before community development activities can begin.

ChildFund has launched an appeal urging Australians to help clear bombs and keep children safe in northern Laos, where ChildFund has been working since 2010.

In Nonghet district of Xieng Khouang, additional funding is needed to clear land

Villages in this district need schools, clean water and safe farming land but none of this is possible until the land is cleared.

"The bomb-removal effort in Laos is not only critical to saving lives but for lifting rural people out of poverty," says ChildFund Laos country director, Chris Mastaglio. "Many villages in Laos are contaminated by explosives, which affects the availability of land that can be used to grow food and make a living, or provide schools and safe play spaces for children."



For just \$24, you can clear 50 square metres of land for children and their families: www.childfund.org.au/appeal/laos

Advocating for child protection



Last month, the governments of Canada and Paraguay co-hosted six child-focused agencies, including ChildFund Alliance, at the United Nations headquarters in New York to discuss violence against children and ways to prevent it. The goal of the event was to ensure that child protection is a priority in the post-2015 Millennium Development Agenda. To add your voice to ChildFund's campaign, please sign our petition: www.childfundalliance.org

At a glance: field updates



ETHIOPIA

Early education for young children is vital for their development. ChildFund Ethiopia is supporting 23 early childhood development centres in rural areas so kids have the best start to life.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In the past year, ChildFund Papua New Guinea has supported the construction of more than 100 new household latrines in remote communities to improve sanitation facilities for children and their families.



SENEGAL

ChildFund-trained community health volunteers are conducting 10-session recovery and nutrition workshops for mothers and their babies in rural areas where access to healthcare is limited. The workshops also include growth monitoring and basic health care.



ECUADOR

ChildFund Ecuador's Family Formation program is helping parents to provide the best care for their children. As part of the project, many families have set up home-based gardens so kids like two-year-old Samira will have nutritious food.

Sweat turns into sweet for Margaret

Margaret Nyirongo is well respected in Chongwe district, a poor rural area of Zambia not far from the capital, Lusaka. Not only is she a dynamic businesswoman, this 25-year-old has become an inspiring role model to other young women as the founder of a girls' peer support group.

"I want to be a good example to other young people and my family," says Margaret, the eldest of seven children. "I want people to understand that sharing knowledge and skills can bring about desired change in our communities, and that selflessness is key."

Margaret knows first-hand the risks that girls face in rural Zambia. Forced to drop out of school early, then becoming pregnant and asked to leave home at 18, Margaret saw her opportunities slipping away.

It was at this point that a friend of Margaret's encouraged her to attend a youth meeting organised by ChildFund Zambia. The training on offer, including life skills, psychosocial support and village banking, helped the group members set goals, become more confident and teach others.

In 2010, Margaret was selected as one of 200 young people (mostly young women) from Chongwe and Luangwa districts to be trained in banana production and business management through the Australian Government-funded Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), managed by ChildFund Australia.

The goal of this three-year project was to establish sustainable livelihoods for the participants by 2013 and increase their incomes through improved production, marketing knowledge and access to markets.

"With that support my life changed a lot because I realised that I had the capacity to earn an income in a respectful manner," says Margaret. "Besides, I also learned that it pays to work hard and that when you sweat for your business, sweat turns into sweet!"

Today Margaret is not just leading the YEP group in Chongwe, but has set up her own banana plantation. She also keeps chickens and is running a grocery store built from the proceeds of the chicken sales.

Her knack for teaching and supporting others has also seen her in high demand with local schools, community groups and other organisations to assist with training children, youth and adults on issues such as HIV



prevention and awareness, and women's rights. This is something Margaret is incredibly proud of.

"I will always remain grateful to ChildFund for helping me rediscover my purpose and realise that despite my humble education background, I can still make it."

ChildFund's response to Super Typhoon Haiyan

On 8 November 2013, one of the most powerful typhoons ever to hit land tore across the Philippines. It killed 6,000 people, and thousands still remain missing. Over 1.1 million homes were destroyed or damaged.

ChildFund Philippines was one of the first organisations to provide emergency relief. In addition to providing food packs, clean water and non-food resources, ChildFund was the first organisation to establish Child-Centred Spaces in evacuation centres, providing safe and supervised areas for children after the storm.



ChildFund has delivered 32,275 food packs (each of which feeds five people for five days) and 9,771 essential non-food kits which include soap, sanitary items and cooking utensils.



We have opened 15 Child-Centred Spaces, 13 of which are still open and are providing children a safe place to gather, play and receive support from ChildFund-trained volunteers.



ChildFund helped the government by conducting child registration at our Child-Centred Spaces to identify any children who had been separated from their family, abandoned or orphaned.



Through our public appeal we have raised more than \$350,000 for children and their families affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan. Thank you for your generous support.



Rebuilding lives in the Philippines

By **Ninh Dao Ngoc**, Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator, ChildFund Vietnam

Ninh explains how ChildFund will be supporting children and families who have lost everything, as the recovery phase of our work begins.

I was deployed to the Philippines as part of ChildFund's emergency response team with colleagues from America, Guatemala, Senegal, Japan and Australia. Together we worked alongside our Filipino colleagues and more than 140 volunteers.

My role, along with three others, was to develop ChildFund's recovery strategy – the second stage of our response. This phase is long-term. ChildFund will be helping to rebuild the lives of families who have lost everything.

We are working on initial solutions to help people, like providing seeds to grow vegetables or small boats for fishing. We will also be providing vocational and job training for young people and parents, and helping to connect them with the business sector to support them to regain and develop their livelihoods.

Livelihoods recovery is very much related to the community and what suits them. Currently, there are thousands of people in the Philippines trying to fix and rebuild their damaged homes – we see this as an opportunity to generate an income, especially for young people, as this will be a very long process.

Children are going back to school but many schools, especially in Tacloban, are still damaged. Lots of

classrooms were destroyed so teachers are using makeshift learning spaces. To help kids return to school we are using our Child-Centred Spaces as temporary classrooms.

Once schools have been repaired we will be helping to restore the education system by providing equipment and learning materials for teachers and students.

Our Child-Centred Spaces are still very active. They are open on the weekend so children can receive some nutritious food and clean drinking water, and have a safe space to play and receive support from our trained volunteers.

Yet, our recovery phase is not just about responding to this disaster. It is also about helping communities to reduce their vulnerability to future disasters – which, in a country that on average is hit by 20 typhoons each year, is critical.

By educating children and their communities in the Philippines about risks and hazards, and helping them to prepare for future disasters, we hope to save lives, lessen suffering and reduce the impact on long-term development.



ChildFund will be working over the long term to help those affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan. Donate to our Cyclone Haiyan Appeal to support our recovery effort in the Philippines: www.childfund.org.au/appeal/cyclone-haiyan-appeal



Transforming a shed into a school

ChildFund Vietnam has supported the construction of seven new schools in the past year. Now children living in remote, mountainous areas have better opportunities for their future.

Vietnam has made impressive progress towards universal access to education for children. However, there are still vast improvements to be made for ethnic minority children living in remote areas.

In Hoa Binh province, children in Ong village only had access to a one-room school that was very run-down and considered unsafe. Ong satellite school's one classroom was shared by children of different ages and education levels.

When it rained, children who attended the school would get wet and the dirt floor would turn to mud. When it stormed the wind would shake the whole building, making it very difficult for children to concentrate on learning.

To improve the educational opportunities for children, ChildFund supported the construction of a new school. The school was funded by insurance company Hanwha

Life Vietnam in partnership with ChildFund Korea and ChildFund Vietnam.

Ong satellite school now consists of five classrooms, toilet blocks and playgrounds.

"Ong village is about four kilometres away from the commune centre where the primary school is located but due to difficult terrain and transportation, it is very difficult for children to walk to school every day," says Mrs Dinh Thi Hanh Quyen, Headmaster of Nam Phong primary school.

"For years, we have only had one degraded classroom and often we could hold only one combined class for children under eight years old. Thanks to this newly built school, we can now arrange a full option of classes for about 100 children in the village to attend in this new school year."

This is just one of seven schools that have been newly built in Vietnam over the past year, thanks to support from ChildFund sponsors and donors. ChildFund has also provided teacher training and learning materials to many other community primary and kindergarten schools.

More than 17,000 children in three provinces of Vietnam have benefitted from this support.



Before & after images of Ong satellite school



Update your details and help us carry on assisting children around the world!

If you have recently had a change of address or contact details, fill out this quick and easy form: www.childfund.org.au/webform/update-my-details

Our cow means we can now plan for the future

Last Christmas, ChildFund Australia supporters donated over \$290,000 worth of gifts for children, their families and communities in developing countries. Read how a gift Taufik's family received in 2011 is still giving today.

Taufik is a 14-year-old boy from Indonesia who is sponsored through ChildFund. He lives in Central Java with his parents – Rosidi, his father, and Sri Rahayu, his mother – and his sister, in a rented house. Their home has one bedroom, a living room and a bathroom. Although the house is modest in size, the family lives happily together.

Taufik's little family grew after they received a cow through ChildFund's Gifts for Good program (previously called Donations with a Difference). "I love my cow. I can play with him after school," says Taufik, who is in second grade in junior high school, with a smile. "My favourite part is to feed him with grass," he adds.

The family now has a new task every afternoon – to fetch grass from the nearest land. "I am teaching my children

how to be responsible with this activity," says Sri Rahayu. The children, especially Taufik, enjoy their new duty.

Taufik's parents both work as street sweepers, helping to keep their city clean. His mother also works as a ChildFund volunteer and believes that through ChildFund she has changed. She has gained confidence from the knowledge she has learned, including basic economics for mothers and how to generate extra income for her family.

"We are thankful for the cow and also the training to breed it that was given to us," she says. "Now I have several plans for our future because of our cow. Perhaps we will build a market stall, or perhaps a small food place – anything which will help us to get more money for the family."

Taufik's family is one of 120 families living in Central Java who together received more than 500 animals – cows, ducks and chickens. The families were also provided with training to take care of and breed the livestock, so in the future they can generate an income from their livestock – it really is the gift that keeps giving!



Looking for an alternative to chocolate eggs this easter? How about a gift that keeps on giving like chickens for a family in Laos so they will have nutritious eggs to eat and sell? Head to our website to pick your favourite gift from our Gifts for Good catalogue: www.childfund.org.au/gifts





The team meet some of the families who will be receiving goats through their fundraising. This little boy and his family are very excited!

In November 2013, 11 dedicated ChildFund Australia supporters set off on an unforgettable cycling journey around Sri Lanka. Together, they raised over \$40,000 to help families in north eastern Sri Lanka. The funds they raised will help give families a fresh start and an opportunity to earn a regular income as goat farmers.



Above left: The team visited three ChildFund-supported schools where they received very warm welcomes and had lots of fun playing games.

Above right: Our cyclists helped to provide 200 goats to families living in three impoverished communities in Sri Lanka.

Left: Over six days, the team cycled more than 400km around Sri Lanka, reaching a point of over 2,000 metres above sea level!



Brother-Sister Duo
Dave and Jen

Inset: Joshua and Zarah selling goodies to raise money for children in Cambodia



I'm taking on Cambodia for children



Mum-of-four Jenifer and her brother, David, are part of a small group who will be trekking amidst dense forests and exploring the world-famous Angkor temples by bicycle when they embark on ChildFund's Cambodia Water Challenge this October.

Jenifer and her husband have been ChildFund Australia supporters for the past 10 years. They sponsor three children – one of whom, Yaya from the Gambia, was just seven-years-old when Jen and her family first sponsored him. Now he is 17.

"I've always believed that we should try and help others out, in whatever way we can," says Jenifer. "I think that if we all just did something small then our world would be helped immensely."

Most would not consider the ChildFund Cambodia Water Challenge a 'small' undertaking, but it was this mentality that saw Jen and her brother, David, sign up for the challenge.

"It is going to be a great adventure!" she says. "I've signed up with my brother, who lives interstate so I don't get to see him very often, so I am really looking forward to taking on this challenge with him."

They will be part of a small group of Aussies who will travel to Cambodia this October for an once-in-a-lifetime experience where they will be helping to change the lives of hundreds of children living in rural Cambodia.

"We are raising money for children who don't have water in their schools," says Jenifer. "Could you imagine if schools in Australia didn't provide clean water to their students?"

With four kids under 10, Jen is one busy woman but lucky for her her two eldest children are carving out a reputation in their local community as the best fundraisers in town. Nine-year-old Joshua and his seven-year-old sister, Zahra, have already sold 30 chocolate boxes – equating to more than 1,400 Freddo frogs and Caramello koalas – in one month!

"They are working really hard. Every weekend they are out there with their dad selling these chocolates," she says. "People just don't want to say no to them – they are so cute!"

Jen recently bought her first ever bike and is enjoying her time on the saddle training for Cambodia where she will cycle over 180km in three days. "I've got a trailer so I just put the little ones in the back and off we go!"

"It is going to be really hard for me to leave my kids but I think the hardest things in life are the most rewarding," says Jen. "Life is too short for regrets, if you feel strongly about something I think you should go for it."



If you would like to join Jen and Dave on the ChildFund Cambodia Water Cycle, call Rachel on 1800 023 600 or email info@childfund.org.au



LOOKING FOR AN ADVENTURE WITH A DIFFERENCE?



CAMBODIA WATER CHALLENGE

Highlights

- Cycle and trek across magical Cambodia. Explore the fascinating Angkor temples by bicycle and trek amidst dense forests, waterfalls and local villages.
- Visit ChildFund projects and see exactly how your donations are helping vulnerable young children.
- Fundraise to help almost 1,000 young children access clean water and toilets at school.

Fast Facts

Dates: 29 October – 9 November 2014

Registration fee: \$770

Fundraising target: \$3,500

Travel cost: \$3,875 (can be fundraised)

Trip duration: 12 days

Challenge component:

3 days' cycling, 2 days' trekking

Challenge grade: 3/5 (Moderate)



www.childfund.org.au/challenge