# Terms of Reference for Review and Future recommendations of ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand’s Pacific Engagement Strategy 2016-2025

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## **1. Organisational context**

ChildFund is an independent and non‐religious international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in developing communities. We work in partnership with children and their communities to create lasting change by supporting long‐term community development, responding to humanitarian emergencies and promoting children’s rights. We want every child to be able to say: “I am safe. I am educated. I am heard. I can make a difference. I have a future.”

ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand implement programs with a range of local partners in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Timor‐Leste, Vietnam, Kiribati and Pacific Island nations of implementation (Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Nauru) and manages projects delivered by partner organisations throughout Asia, Africa and the Americas. Our work is funded through child and community sponsorship, government grants as well as donations from individuals, trusts and foundations, and corporate organisations.

ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand are members of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 organisations which assists more than 14 million children and their families in over 60 countries. ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand are registered charities, accredited members of the Australian Council for International Development/ NZ Council for International Development, and fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which manages the Australian Government’s overseas aid program, and the New Zealand Aid Programme.

ChildFund in the Pacific

ChildFund Australia’s programming has not required the establishment of a ChildFund Australia office in the Pacific Island region to support its regional programming (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Naru, Vanuatu). Both organisations’ preferred approach is to support existing capacities within the Pacific, and add value to local organisations already doing high quality work. This support includes the provision of technical support and training, financial support and coordinating the better integration of cross-cutting issues into programming. ChildFund Australia has a Country Office in PNG (est. 1994) and ChildFund New Zealand established an office in Kiribati in 2016. Both of these Country Offices focus on country level programming.

ChildFund endeavours to minimise the amount of time and resources taken from the partner organisations by facilitating coordinating and planning responsibilities. ChildFund ensures its support to local organisations is built on localisation principles and strengthens their work for the children of the Pacific and their communities.

## **2. Background**

In alignment with the ChildFund Australia Strategic Plan 2015 -2020, ChildFund Australia has focused its efforts on expanding operations in the Pacific. The Pacific is seen as a logical expansion for ChildFund Australia’s work due to the region’s close proximity to Australia, high rates of need and opportunities for donor funded interventions, especially DFAT.

In alignment with ChildFund New Zealand’s Strategic Plan 2017-2027, ChildFund New Zealand is also interested in extending its work in the Pacific. New Zealanders have a strong Pacific identity and interconnectedness with their Pacific neighbours. Having identified the significant development needs there, and supported by the New Zealand Government’s commitment to align 60% of their aid budget to the Pacific, ChildFund New Zealand has spent the past four years planning and rolling out a gradual expansion.

ChildFund Australia has a Pacific Strategy Action Plan outlining current projects (Appendix one) that reflects its current programming focus on Child Protection, DRR, resilience and youth participation ( including Sport for Development). The plan highlights projects being implemented across the region with both new and existing partners and across a variety of donors, including the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP), UNICEF and ANCP (DFAT). These projects offer possible foundations for ChildFund Australia’s future work in the Pacific, which is now expanding to cover additional countries and a broader range of sectors. The Plan makes reference to ChildFund New Zealand as a partner and includes the work occurring in Kiribati. While ChildFund New Zealand provided some input to the Pacific Strategy Action Plan, they also have their own strategic view of future Pacific engagement.

The current Pacific Action Plan considers how, where and with whom ChildFund Australia could progress its work in the Pacific. Several bodies of research carried out over the past four years by ChildFund New Zealand have also recommended direction and partners.

Additional background information could be found in Annexes.

## **3. Objectives and Scope of Consultancy**

The Executive Teams at ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand are seeking to revisit the Pacific Action Plan and other relevant documents with a view to making recommendation for future courses of action for both ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand, including exploring the possibility of operating/and or implementing one ChildFund Pacific Program in the coming years 2019-2025. ChildFund Australia (acting for both organisations) is therefore seeking to engage a consultant to review the current Pacific Action Plan and provide a series of recommendations for ChildFund’s future engagement in the Pacific. This will include possible scenarios for ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand.

Using the current ChildFund Pacific *Action Plan* as the starting point for future engagement, the Consultant should address the following objectives for this work:

* Consider feasibility of ChildFund strategically operating as one unified voice/function in the Pacific and if so what possible operating model to achieve this.
* Consider alignment between ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand’s strategic priorities with current Pacific Government/regional priorities including legal and policy frameworks and government action plans for investments.
* Identify opportunities for ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand to align with major donor priority and directions (DFAT ad MFAT)
* Consider Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) donor strategic objectives in order to grow opportunities around localisation of approach across Pacific organisations.  In particular, the upcoming AHP PPF funding stream.
* Recommend criteria to enable prioritisation of countries in the Pacific  (excluding PNG)
* Provide specific recommendations for future engagement in: key sectoral areas especially but not limited to child protection, DRR, resilience and youth participation
* Explore/identify partners through which ChildFund Australia/ChildFund New Zealand could engage most effectively in the Pacific from 2019-2025 with particular consideration given to the relationship with Plan Australia, Plan International and UNICEF Pacific.
* Identify significant future opportunities for program funding including regular grants and possible grants opportunities in the pipeline.
* Provide advice on advantages and limitations of a new ChildFund office to be established in Fiji or other location.   Ensure issues of shared space, permanent presence, safety, stability, cost[[1]](#footnote-2) and access are considered.

The Consultant will utilise a desk review and key informant interviews for information gathering and should work closely with the contract manager during the course of work. There is an option for the Consultant to propose one visit to the Pacific to explore partnerships, undertake further research and/or attend appropriate network meeting, as appropriate. This visit should be justified in the Expression of Interest and proposal.

## **4. Indicative Timetable**

*Note that this is subject to negotiation with the Consultant*

| **Indicative dates** | **Outputs and Activities** | **Number of Days** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 Jan 2019 | * Submission of Expression of Interest | 0 |
| 7-11 Jan | * Screening, interviews, reference check | 0 |
| 14-16 Jan | * Contract * Discussion of work plan with the Consultant * Gathering of relevant ChildFund Australia/New Zealand documents * Setting up interviews with relevant staff | .5 day |
| 17- 28 Jan | * Document review * Strategic Plan (ChildFund Australia/New Zealand) * Sector Program Approaches * Relevant reports on initial stakeholders’ mapping conducted by ChildFund * Project documents including project design, reports and evaluation * Research on potential partners and donors * Research on Plan Australia/International’s programs in the Pacific * Interviews with relevant ChildFund Australia/New Zealand managers and staff * Drafting of documents as per objectives | 8 days |
| 29-Jan – 8 Feb | * ChildFund Australia/New Zealand to review the draft report | 0 |
| 11 Feb | * ChildFund Australia to send consolidated feedback | 0 |
| 12-15 Feb | * Finalise and submit report not later than 15 Feb | 1.5 days |
| 20 Feb | * Acceptance/sign-off of final report (date maybe extended based on the quality of submitted report) |  |
| **Total number of days** | | **10 days** |

## **6. Management and Reporting Arrangements**

The Consultant will report to ChildFund Australia **International Program Director.**  All reports must be written in English and provided in an electronic format (Microsoft Word).

## **7. Confidentiality**

All discussions and documents relating to this ToR will be treated as confidential by the parties.

## **8. Child Safeguarding**

The successful applicant will be required to comply with ChildFund Australia’s Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and to sign a Code of Conduct. The consultant will also have in place an Australian Federal Policy Criminal Background Check or equivalent, e.g. Working with Children Check.

## **9. Counter-Terrorism**

ChildFund Australia acknowledges its obligation under the Australian laws relating to counter-terrorism. In order to meet its obligation, the consultant’s name will be reviewed against Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and National Security Australia lists at the onset of any financial relationship.

## **10. Insurance**

The successful applicant will be required to have in place insurance arrangements appropriate to provision of the requirement in this TOR including (without limitation) travel insurance.

## **11. Acknowledgment and Disclaimer**

ChildFund, its Board and staff make no express or implied representation or warranty as to the currency, reliability or completeness of the information contained in this ToR. Nothing in this ToR should be construed to give rise to any contractual obligations or rights, expressed or implied, by the issue of this ToR or the submission of Expression of Interest in response to it. No contract would be created until a formal written contract is executed between ChildFund and a selected consultant.

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### **Selection Criteria for Consultant**

ChildFund Australia is seeking a consultant with knowledge and experience in international development in the Pacific, preferably in countries of focus (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati and Vanuatu) partnership brokering and strategic planning. The Consultant must be available for distance and face-to-face meetings, as necessary.

The Expression of Interest should include resume, referees, proposal containing competence for the required work, professional fee, approaches/methodologies and timeline based on the Terms of Reference. Submit CV and proposal on **1 January 2019** to Lauren Caleo at [lcaleo@childfund.org.au](mailto:lcaleo@childfund.org.au)

## **Annex 1: ChildFund Australia/New Zealand Programs in the Pacific**

### **ChildFund Australia’s Focus Areas**

Child Protection: ChildFund Australia’s flagship child protection initiative in the Pacific has been the Pacific Child Protection project. This project attempts to address the barrier of limited professional capacity in the area of child protection in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with an intensive training program in core child protection concepts and skills. This training is complemented by the provision of seed funding for additional ‘mini projects’ that will provide participants with the opportunities to activate knowledge and skills gained in the training course. The success of this project has already attracted the attention of a number of key Pacific stakeholders, including UNICEF Pacific and the Fiji Department of Social Welfare, who have requested ChildFund Australia implement additional child protection projects in the region. ChildFund New Zealand has previously provided a small amount of funding to ChildFund Australia to contribute to this response.

Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency Response (DRR/ER): ChildFund Australia will continue to respond to significant-scale emergencies in the Pacific as the need arises and as resources allow. However, the ChildFund Australia’s recent successful application to the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP), submitted with Plan International Australia, now means that it has access to additional funds to support DRR and ER activities across the Pacific. AHP funds have already been allocated to work in Fiji, Timor Leste and PNG to help build the capacity Provincial Government DRR planning, enable capacity of first responders at the district level, coordination of LGBT sensitisation training at the district level and to develop training materials focused on Child Protection in Emergencies. Opportunities also exist to expand this work to other Pacific countries in future years, particularly in the areas of climate change adaptation.

ChildFund Australia will continue to pursue new partnerships with local organisations across the region who are able to effectively respond to emergencies on the ground, and work to mainstream disaster risk reduction into existing development projects in order to reduce children’s vulnerability to changing climate conditions. This will require a strategic approach to localisation that meets objectives of DFAT and international donors as reflected in the Grand Bargain. ChildFund New Zealand has often supported ChildFund Australia’s fundraising efforts by channelling small amounts of funding through Australia, rather than establishing new contracts and relationships itself.

Resilience: ChildFund Australia will continue to leverage its Sport for Development expertise as an approach to strengthening children’s resilience in the Pacific. In particular, the ChildFund Pass It Back program, which combines high-quality sport provision with structured life-skills curriculum with clear development outcomes, has drawn considerable interest in the Pacific region. The opportunity to extend ChildFund Australia Sport for Development work in the Pacific recently arose through a formal engagement with Oceania Rugby and Rugby Australia. In collaboration with these regional sporting bodies and UN Women, ChildFund Australia is currently designing a Sport for Development pilot project for Oceania Rugby to implement through their National Governing Bodies in the Pacific[[2]](#footnote-3).

Other potential opportunities in the resilience sector include a proposal from Lifeline Fiji to implement a project working in schools to build children’s help seeking behaviour and empower parents and teachers to strengthen support to their children.

Education: Although no education focused projects have yet been developed for the ChildFund Australia in the Pacific, opportunities have been identified. Initial scoping suggests that there is a perceived need for child protection support within the education sectors of all four identified Pacific countries. This could include capacity building for staff and/or support for the development of child protection legislation and policies. Such activities would align with ChildFund Australia’s Child Friendly Schools model.

### **ChildFund New Zealand’s Focus Areas**

Resilience and youth:

Childfund New Zealand has identified a particular niche in working with the growing youth population and problems associated with unemployment, disillusionment and a clash of values between traditional/modern generational attitudes. A healthy and peaceful Pacific relies on youth today feeling a sense of purpose and worth. This focus aligns well with the interests of MFAT.

ChildFund are developing programming in this space. These are early days, but include a focus on social and emotional wellbeing programmes (counselling, life-skills education, peer-support networks and awareness raising) and continuing education for early school leavers/out of work youth (most notably through the relationship with the Kiribati Institute of Technology in Kiribati and the building of a Youth Learning Centre, to be completed by Dec 2019).

Family Strengthening

Talk to parents in Kiribati, and their main issue is how to provide for their families on a very small budget, ensuring they can furnish life’s necessities (potable water, nutritious food, good sanitation). In many cases, this is a behaviour change rather than an access issue. Statistics related to family violence suggest the need for additional behaviour change interventions on this issue. While part of the strategy includes group workshops and cascaded training, these are not wholly successful in bringing about behaviour change. ChildFund’s approach in Kiribati, which aligns with their Road Map approach (working in dedicated programme areas in their sponsorship programmes in Asia and Africa) has been to trial a ‘Navigation Chart’ approach. This means identifying a discrete geographic area of 420 households in Betio and working household-by-household on targeted interventions through Household Plans. ChildFund works closely with the Kiribati Local Government Association, whose role is to support the country’s 23 Island Councils. A shared staff member ensures that opportunities for collaboration, learning and strengthening are maximised to multiply the impact of the work in one council area, to others.

### **Geographical focus**

ChildFund Australia has until recently focused its Pacific work in four key countries—Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Kiribati[[3]](#footnote-4) and recently adding Nauru. These countries were selected due to their levels of need, opportunities for partnership, strategic importance and geographic accessibility. Each of these countries is regularly ranked among the world’s most vulnerable from a child protection perspective. ChildFund New Zealand has reached similar conclusions but focuses on PNG, Solomon Islands and Kiribati.

Fiji: Given its importance as a regional hub, and the relative maturity of local Community Based Organisations, Fiji has been a fertile source of new partnerships for ChildFund Australia. ChildFund Australia is working in partnership with government at multiple levels in Fiji. Using AHP funds, ChildFund Australia is working at the community and district level to strengthen disaster risk reduction and emergency response capacity. New relationships formed through the Pacific Child Protection project have also borne fruit, with Fiji’s Department of Social Welfare contracting ChildFund Australia to deliver training to support their staff’s child protection capacities.

Other project proposals from local partners involved in the Pacific Child Protection project also seek to upgrade their staff’s child protection and child development skills and knowledge using their new learnings. The aforementioned partnership with Oceania Rugby and Australia Rugby will also be implemented in Fiji.

ChildFund New Zealand has conducted a ‘light’ exploration of Fiji (see document 4: Stage 3 Pacific Research) but has not taken this further, and has only supported projects through ChildFund Australia.

Vanuatu: ChildFund Australia’s first intervention in Vanuatu was via a partnership with Live & Learn in Vanuatu to design and implement a series of projects in response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, focusing on education infrastructure, livelihoods and DRR. Six local organisations from Vanuatu subsequently participated in the Pacific Child Protection project, and have now partnered with ChildFund Australia to develop the child protection response capabilities of their own staff, as well as provincial community child protection workers from the government and churches.

ChildFund New Zealand has an interest in Vanuatu (it being one of the top four countries recommended in which ChildFund operate in previous studies). Previously, their only involvement has been to support ChildFund Australia’s Cyclone Pam response. Due to the crowded NGO space in Vanuatu, ChildFund New Zealand is most likely to continue to keep its involvement as a partner to ChildFund Australia’s work in child protection and humanitarian response.

Solomon Islands: ChildFund Australia first commenced programming in Solomon Islands through the provision of funding and technical support to Live & Learn Solomon Islands’ Red Cardim Violens project. While this project partnership has now concluded, ChildFund Australia has increased its activities in Solomon Islands through the involvement of six local organisations in the Pacific Child Protection project. These local organisations have now designed two projects aimed at continuing the development of their own staff’s child protection capacities and adapt intake forms and process for counselling services to ensure they are child-focused and collect essential information for case planning.

ChildFund New Zealand is in the final stages of preparing an application to support a NZ Government-funded refurbishment of the Honiara Youth Hub, run by Honiara City Council. The proposal focuses on developing a programme of support for youth (see NZ Consolidated Research) and the establishment of a social and emotional learning programme and counselling support. Honiara City Council would be the key partners in this project, but other local service providers such as Empower Pacific will be incorporated into the project. ChildFund New Zealand is preparing this proposal for submission to MFAT in February and has already secured NZ Post support for the concept.

ChildFund New Zealand has also committed $15,000 to support the NZ Police Youth Niu Future youth leadership programme in Solomon Islands, channelling funding through the Honiara Youth Council.

Kiribati: ChildFund New Zealand opened a national office in Kiribati in October 2016 to implement a large MFAT (US$1.2m) grant over four years working with Municipalities.

Given ChildFund Australia’s strong working relationship with ChildFund New Zealand, the establishment of ChildFund Kiribati provided an entry point for ChildFund Australia to commence work in the country. This initial work took the form of participation by Kiribati government representatives in ChildFund Australia’s Pacific Child Protection project. Follow up micro projects will consist of child protection training for parents and children under the auspices of the Kiribati Social Welfare Department. Other opportunities for partnership have been identified in Kiribati, including support to the justice sector on child protection implementation and the extension of child protection capacity development to the outer islands beyond Tarawa.

ChildFund New Zealand has committed to retaining support for Kiribati until at least 2022 and is actively seeking grants to expand its work there. It has been turned down for grants previously because of lack of technical capacity and connections (in a WASH project), and because of its newly-formed status and not being able to produce an audit (the first audit was conducted for FY18).

PNG: PNG is omitted from this research, but is considered a vital part of the Pacific. Both ChildFund organisations have significant investments in projects in PNG, and this is likely to continue.

### **Key partners**

ChildFund Australia has successfully established many effective partnerships with organisations capable of implementing project activities in the Pacific. This was made possible by a series of extensive scoping and engagement visits by relevant ChildFund Australia personnel. The success of new projects in the Pacific has also proven useful in identifying new local partners, and assessing their capacities and strengths. ChildFund New Zealand has similarly scoped partnerships (explored significantly in NZ consolidated Research documents). Key partner are the Kiribati Local Government Association in Kiribati, Kiribati Institute of Technology, and a developing relationship with the Honiara City Council. The following list is from the perspective of ChildFund Australia.

ChildFund New Zealand: ChildFund New Zealand shares ChildFund Australia’s mission, vision and values—as well as its interest in increased engagement in the Pacific. ChildFund New Zealand and ChildFund Australia have indicated a desire to partner in complementary work in the Pacific in countries where both organisations already have a presence, such as the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati. In April 2016, a Collaboration Agreement for the Pacific Region was signed between the two organisations, aiming to, “strengthen co-operation between the two organisations to achieve positive development outcomes and provide humanitarian relief for children and communities in the Pacific Region”. Lead responsibility for programming in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu was assigned to ChildFund Australia, and responsibility for Kiribati to ChildFund New Zealand, with the remaining countries subject to negotiation. The Collaboration Agreement also had amongst its goals the creation of a new form of partnership where governance and operational responsibilities are jointly shared and exercised by the two organisations. However, the nature and parameters of the opportunities for partnership will need to be established to maximise shared resources and minimise the risk of duplication and/or conflict.

ChildFund New Zealand’s establishment of a national office in Kiribati has already provided a useful entry point for ChildFund Australia programming in the child protection space. As there is mutual benefit for ChildFund Australia and ChildFund Kiribati working in partnership and establishing relationships with key service providers, this can partnership is expected to remain strong. ChildFund New Zealand is currently scoping how it might work with youth in the Pacific, including how it might incorporate ChildFund Australia’s approach on programming with the potential to attract New Zealand government funding.

Plan International Australia: As partners under DFAT’s Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) program, ChildFund Australia and Plan International Australia have already begun working cooperatively in the Pacific in the area of DRR/ER. This cooperation is expected to deepen as the AHP partnership rolls out, with greater harmonisation of programs and processes in the Pacific. Opportunities may also exist to leverage the expertise and contacts of other members of the Plan-led AHP consortium.

Oceania Rugby/Rugby Australia: ChildFund Australia recently signed a contract to design a sport and life-skills program for Oceania Rugby/Rugby Australia. While this is largely a service delivery contract, it is hoped that this initial entrée into sport for development in the Pacific can be leveraged into future work across the region in this space through Oceania Rugby and their affiliates.

Local Pacific Child Protection partners: The Pacific Child Protection project provided ChildFund Australia with the opportunity to identify and support a number of local organisations working in the child protection space across the region. This includes government, community and faith-based organisations in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati. The Pacific Child Protection project has now reached its second phase, where these local organisations are being supported (financially and technically) to design and implement mini projects in their own countries to apply the learnings from the Pacific Child Protection project. As these partners mature, ChildFund Australia can expect to continue to engage with them and work with them on more ambitious programming.

Live & Learn: Live and Learn is a network of local organisations in the Asia-Pacific, with offices in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Fiji. The organisation’s key strengths lie in the sectors of environmental management, environmental education, disaster preparedness and response, and water, sanitation and hygiene. Live & Learn have expressed an interest in partnering with ChildFund Australia on future projects in the Pacific, however this will still need some discussion before any action is taken.

**Funding opportunities**

As anticipated, funding opportunities for ChildFund Australia project activities in the Pacific have largely been found through the aid programs of the region’s two largest countries—Australia and New Zealand.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) has retained the Pacific as a region of funding priority. DFAT will provide an estimated $166.4 million in FY17-18 to the Pacific through its Pacific Regional Program, in addition $14 million provided from the Gender Equality Fund for regional and multi-country activities under Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development. DFAT’s key priorities in the region are economic growth, climate change adaptation and DRR, regional governance and women’s empowerment.

At present, DFAT is funding ChildFund Australia programming through the ANCP and Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) funding mechanisms. The AHP is DFAT’s new mechanism to coordinate the Australian Government’s funding of emergency response activities. Childfund Australia is a member of an AHP consortium consisting of four International NGO partners including:  Plan International Australia, International Medical Corps, ActionAid and Christian Blind Mission Australia. The consortium will have access to a share of the AUD 44 million that has been provided by DFAT to fund DRM and DRR activities across the Pacific. ChildFund Australia has already secured AHP funds to implement project activities in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Fiji.

New Zealand Government’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT): is also a major donor in the Pacific having committed $1 billion to the region over the next five years. MFAT works with a range of partners in the Pacific including government, INGOs, the private sector and multilaterals on its key priority areas in the Pacific. A new funding mechanism is being developed in the Pacific loosely-based on Irish Aid’s approach, meaning ChildFund New Zealand will have to pitch its programme to receive bulk funding (which could include ChildFund Australia or its relationship with other agencies). Only 9 or 10 agencies will be eligible for this fund, which will have a high entry bar with greater emphasis on performance and impact. The funds will be guaranteed over 4-5 years, and MFAT is stressing the ‘adaptability’ of the fund. Details won’t be known till Feb 2019, with three agencies at a time being invited to apply each quarter to end 2019. ChildFund New Zealand could be key to accessing MFAT funds for ChildFund projects in the Pacific, however funding opportunities must closely fit the governments strategic and country priorities[[4]](#footnote-5). In Solomon Islands: Helping put greater pressure on government to deliver services; social cohesion of women and youth; disaster preparedness. In Vanuatu: strengthening public sector; community safety and access to justice; community policing; strengthening democratic systems; access to basic services; strengthening tourism; improving women and youth decision-making and leadership. Kiribati: Health and education; stabilising population; NCDs; transformation. Fiji: police force; social resilience; Gender Based Violence; Equal rights; climate resilience; empowerment of women and youth.

Fundraising: As in previous years, certain disasters in the Pacific will see ChildFund Australia respond with a fundraising campaign, in order to help fund its emergency responses. This was the case with ChildFund Australia’s emergency response activities in Vanuatu and Fiji. However, such funding is difficult to predict and/or plan for given the unexpected nature of disasters. ChildFund New Zealand has also demonstrated a willingness to pool raised funds where appropriate to maximise impact. Our teams have also begun, where possible, to share fundraising collateral.

New funding sources: ChildFund Australia has had several recent successes securing funding from new sources for its work in the Pacific. Successful project models are now being implemented through a service delivery model to external parties. For example, Oceania Rugby/Rugby Australia’s recent contracting of ChildFund Australia to design a sport for development pilot project based on the Pass It Back model. ChildFund Australia’s child protection activities have also been particularly successful in securing external funding, with national governments (Fiji Department of Social Work) and multilateral organisations (UNICEF) both seeking to fund ChildFund Australia to undertake child protection work in the Pacific. In both cases, ChildFund Australia’s demonstrated success with existing initiatives provided the evidence base for external organisations to fund new work in the Pacific.

ChildFund Australia’s capacity to support communities address the rising threat of climate change also provides a new avenue for funding, with the Global Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Fund now making available significant amounts of global funding for climate change adaptation. It is hoped that ChildFund Australia’s work – particularly in Papua New Guinea – will enable it to compete for some of these funds.

## **Annex 2: ChildFund Australia Pacific Projects**

### **Current Projects**

Pacific Child Protection Project

*Child Protection Training*

The training component of this project attempts to address the barrier of limited professional capacity in the area of child protection in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with an intensive training program in core child protection concepts and skills. ChildFund aimed to design a project that complements the existing work being done in child protection rather than interfere with it. For that reason, the project concentrates only on building in-depth technical capacity of a range of actors working in Child Protection. It is simply about improving the skills and knowledge – in significant depth – of selected duty-bearers and service providers working in Child Protection.

*Mini Projects*

This training is complemented by the provision of seed funding for additional ‘mini projects’ that will provide frontline service providers in the Pacific with the opportunities to activate the knowledge and skills gained in the training course. Funds have been provided to groups made up of the various participants in the training, as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Project purpose | Project partners |
| Vanuatu | Extending child protection response capabilities to provincial community CP workers from government, VWC and churches. | Vanuatu Women’s Centre |
| Vanuatu Council of Churches |
| Justice Dept. (Children’s Desk) |
| Vanuatu | Training staff of three Vanuatu organisations in the skills needed to assess risks to children and basic skills to respond. | World Vision Vanuatu |
| Oxfam Vanuatu |
| Vanuatu Disabled Persons Org |
| Fiji | Develop and support the use of standardized child-focused tools and processes | Dept. Social Welfare |
| Salvation army |
|  |  | Empower Pacific |
| Fiji | Upgrade staff skills and knowledge using learning gained in the 2017 course by participants on CP and child development | Homes of Hope |
| Lifeline |
| Fiji | Upgrade staff skills and knowledge using learning gained in the 2017 course by participants on CP and child development | FENC |
| Fiji | Upgrade staff skills and knowledge using learning gained in the 2017 course by participants on CP and child development | FWCC |
| Solomon Islands | Provide training in child protection skills and processes for all staff within CCC, Seif Ples and Social Welfare Division | Live & Learn |
| Seif Ples |
| CCC |
| SWD |
| Solomon Islands | Develop or adapt intake forms and process for FSC and EP to ensure they are child-focused and collect essential information for case planning. | Family Support Centre |
| Empower Pacific |
| Kiribati | Training for Child Protection Professionals. | CCC |
| KUC |
| AAFR |
| LDS |
| Kiribati | Training for Parents and Children | Social Welfare Department |

AHP Bridging Project

During the transition period before the new AHP process is established a series of ‘bridging’ projects were funded by DFAT. These projects are intended to make use of ChildFund Australia’s existing organisational expertise, with a particular application within the Pacific region.

*Child Protection in Emergencies Training*

ChildFund Australia has been funded to write a three-day training course on Child Protection in Emergencies, to be piloted at the District level in Fiji in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare. The project will first work with relevant Fiji actors to identify the appropriate province to trial to the training, which will then be co-delivered by ChildFund Australia and its partners.

*Capacity Building of District Level First Responders*

ChildFund Australia will be supporting the development of Fiji’s first responders’ technical capacity at the district level. This will include improving coordination with national government and delivering training to the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS). ChildFund Australia will coordinate targeted trainings on Psychological First Aid and LGBT sensitisation for the staff of local Fiji NGO Empower, which offers counselling and social work support across the country. The LGBT sensitisation will be undertaken by the Rainbow Pride Foundation, a new local partner that advocates on behalf of the LGBT community in Fiji.

Fiji Department of Social Welfare - Social Work Training (PC01-002)

The Department of Social Welfare Fiji approached ChildFund Australia to support training, coaching and mentoring specifically for Departmental Social Welfare Officers. Fiji has an established national system for the provision of social services which has incorporated the role of child protection through designating Social Welfare Officers stationed around the country. The Department has identified that Social Welfare Officers need support to further develop capacity in child protection knowledge and practical service skills to be able to meet their mandate for the provision of child protection services. Some key areas of identified capacity need include holistic child focused assessment, foundational child protection knowledge, skills in assessment, court recommendations and reporting, and communication with children of all ages.

The overall goal of this project is to strengthen the Fiji national child protection response through intensive, tailored, and targeted training to the Department of Social Welfare to improve outcomes for children. ChildFund Australia will assess Department of Social Welfare needs and carefully tailor training that improves staff knowledge and skills in child protection practice. Support will also be provided to the Department to establish and strengthen internal structures to support ongoing good practice in child protection. The project will be implemented in two phases, an initial exposure and assessment phase needed to identify needs and tailor training and mentoring to the Fijian context, and a second phase of providing supervision, mentoring and support within the existing structures of the Department of Social Welfare to ensure integration of skills into practice.

Oceania Rugby/Rugby Australia - Pacific Island Rugby & Life-skills Program

ChildFund Australia has been contracted by Oceania Rugby to develop content for and support a pilot program to deliver rugby and life skills curriculum in the Pacific. This project uses the principles and model developed by the Pass It Back team, but will be a standalone project implemented by Oceania Rugby and its affiliates. The project will include a coach life skills training course fit for purpose in the Pacific that includes tag rugby activities, with a view towards changing social norms, attitudes and behaviours that contribute to ending violence against women and girls.

### **Project Opportunities**

The work undertaken in the scoping and implementation of ChildFund Australia’s existing project activities has allowed the identification of several other project and partnership opportunities. While these opportunities are at various levels of design and have yet to secure funding, they provide an indication of the possible future direction of ChildFund Australia’s work in the Pacific.

UNICEF Pacific

In response to a mutual identification of need for institutional capacity strengthening in child protection and based on discussion about potential partnership UNICEF Pacific have approached ChildFund Australia to support the support the training, coaching, and mentoring of mandated government staff across Nauru, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Fiji.

This proposed project aims to change practice through the improvement of staff knowledge and capacity in child protection with support to integrate this knowledge into daily practice; as well as improve the system through increasing staff knowledge and capacity in child protection, and establish internal structures for support to ongoing good practice in child protection.

The project will be implemented in two phases, with phase one being the development and rollout of tailored and contextualized training and coaching package that addresses capacity, and phase two being the provision of supervision, mentoring and support within the existing structures of target governments to ensure integration of skills into practice.

Kiribati: Support to Justice Sector on Child Protection Implementation

ChildFund Australia has also identified the opportunity to partner with relevant stakeholders in the Kiribati justice sector regarding child protection implementation. At present, the majority of all legal cases in Kiribati are heard by nine magistrates on Tarawa and twelve lay-magistrates on the 24 outer islands. Additionally, there is also a High Court Judge, and two High Court Commissioners. Although these magistrates have received some specialised training, only three magistrates have a full law degree.

The proposed project would develop and deliver child protection training in a suitable format, building on intensive training with other key child protection actors conducted over the course of 2016. With this improved capacity in the sector, it can be expected that more cases will come before the courts. Good child protection case management requires coordinated holistic responses that engage support services and work with families as well as pursue perpetrators (not only interpret the law). Training would therefore target Magistrates, the Attorney General’s Office and Police (in necessarily separate activities to maintain judiciary independence).

Lifeline Fiji – Children’s Pilot Project

Fiji has one of the highest suicide rates in the world, a fact attributed to several factors including substance abuse, emotional distress and social pressures. This has a particular impact on Fiji’s youth, with suicide among the three leading causes of death in the 15-29 years old group. This project proposed by Lifeline Fiji would attempt to address a number of risk factors among Fiji’s youth, including the absence of help seeking behaviours, lack of coping mechanisms to changing situations, absence of support systems and lack of awareness regarding what support systems are available

The project activities would include participatory research on help-seeking behaviour in children, basic awareness raising on emotional well-being and help seeking behaviour for children, conducting child development, communication skills and service providers awareness training for parents, and the delivery of signs and symptoms awareness on suicide and emotional wellbeing training for teachers.

Youth Programming in the Pacific

More than half of the Pacific population is under the age of 25 years old. This youth bulge is projected to grow further over the coming decades and poses some of the most significant risks and opportunities for the development of the region. Intervention in the youth space is therefore likely to play an important role in ChildFund’s ongoing work in the region.

ChildFund New Zealand is a potential partner for ChildFund Australia in this regard, given their shared interest in the Pacific and the youth-related sectors of resilience, Gender Based Violence, education and maternal & child health. ChildFund New Zealand has recently commissioned an external report on youth development in the Pacific, focussing on Fiji and the Solomon Islands. This report recommended the adoption of an approach that supports effective programming already taking place in the Pacific, which could include cooperation with ChildFund Australia and its established partners in the region.

## **Annex 3: Opportunities and Risks of Next Phase of ChildFund Australia-New Zealand Co-operation in the Pacific**

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| **OPPORTUNITY/RISK** | **COMMENT** |
| Potential for one consolidated programme focussed on child protection, DRR and Emergency Response, Resilience and Education | Allows ChildFund to present as a focussed, coordinated organisation with a strong area of expertise.  Leads to ChildFund being the ‘brand leader’ in child protection in the Pacific, attracting funding from providers who support this area of work.  ChildFund Australia’s approach does not currently align with grant fundraising opportunities for ChildFund New Zealand. |
| Potential for complementary programmes that expand reputation and reach | ‘ChildFund’ has wider sectoral reach leading to broad impact in a country.  If ChildFund New Zealand focuses on youth, ChildFund Australia’s work could be integral to the approach (e.g. educated youth; youth as parents; youth as advocates; youth-led DRR).  Poor project delivery by one Alliance member impacts on the other Alliance member (reputational damage).  May require different local partners to effectively deliver. |
| Creation of Pacific ‘person on the ground’ for ChildFund | Potentially one person - a ChildFund Pacific Strategic Relationship Manager(?) - situated in the Pacific (Fiji?), working out of a local partner organisation. This person could be charged with relationship and capacity building for local partners. |
| Ability to pool staff and resources across Alliance members, e.g. could share country management | Requires strong knowledge and compliance to each Alliance member’s way of working/ approach/reporting requirements, etc. |
| Potential to share stories and results as ‘ChildFund’; shared M&E – able to claim impact across each other’s work | Cost-sharing for M&E/communications work.  More varied stories to tell donors and supporters.  Show greater impact across a region, leading to greater interest from grant funders. |
| Shared local partners | Provides more resources and technical support to local partner, promoting localisation.  Confusion dealing with two Alliance members (essentially, two different funders) |

1. Consideration of likely funding investment required from both ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Oceania Rugby and Australia Rugby have requested public announcement of this agreement be deferred until the project is finalised. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. While DFAT also considers Timor-Leste and PNG Pacific countries, they are not considered part of ChildFund Australia’s Pacific Strategy Action Plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. This is a summary of relevant strategic interests presented by MFAT at a recent NGO forum. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)