



ANNUAL
REPORT
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ABOUT CHILD FUND AUSTRALIA

ChildFund Australia is an independent international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in developing communities. We partner to create community and systems change which enables vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights.

Our vision is a world without poverty where all children and young people can say: "I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future."

ChildFund Australia directly manages and implements programs with a range of local partners in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, and other Pacific nations, 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 is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 12 organisations which assists almost 23 million children and their families in 70 countries. ChildFund Australia is a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development, and fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

OUR VISION & MISSION

At ChildFund Australia, our vision is a world without poverty where all children and young people can say: "I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future."

We partner to create community and systems change which enables vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights.



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As I look back over this last year, I reflect on how challenging it has been for so many people and so many communities. Almost all of us have lived through extended lockdowns, separations from loved ones due to travel restrictions, remote work and learning, and uncertainty about the future. Many have also been impacted by job losses, business closures, and deferred dreams.

These impacts are only amplified in the communities around the world where ChildFund Australia works – where so many beautiful families were already working hard to secure livelihoods, send their children to school, contribute to their local communities and overcome poverty. For these families, COVID-19 has taken an extremely heavy toll. Many families have been unable to work or have lost jobs, which has placed many children at a higher risk of leaving school early and finding work instead to support their families. Extended absences from school are particularly risky for girls, who often face pressure to marry early or seek exploitative work.

I am so proud of ChildFund for stepping up at this critical time and doing everything we can to respond to the changing and exacerbated needs of the communities we work with. Our Country Directors and in-country teams across the Asia-Pacific region have made commendable efforts over the past year, continuing to push forward amid uncertainty and extended lockdowns, remaining committed to supporting children and families and securing their futures. Our priorities included ensuring children and their families were protected and had access to food and clean water, healthcare, education, and opportunities during this difficult and uncertain time.

Supporting schools and communities to develop safe and supportive learning environments remains a high priority for ChildFund. As COVID-19 lockdowns and other restrictions moved classrooms online, ChildFund worked with local partners to adapt education programs to help ensure the most vulnerable students who do not have access to the internet could continue their education remotely. In Timor-Leste educational packs with learning materials were distributed to young children and families.

As the rate of family violence increased due to lockdowns and income stress, ChildFund expanded its protection

work in high-risk countries such as Papua New Guinea (PNG). Extra counsellors were trained for the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain, PNG's national helpline, and service hours were extended to meet greater demands during the COVID-19 crisis. ChildFund also continued tackling the ending of violence against children through strategic advocacy at a global level as an active member of the global ChildFund Alliance. We remain deeply committed to achieving Millennium Development Goal 16.2 to end all forms of violence against children.

I'd like to congratulate ChildFund Australia's CEO, Margaret Sheehan, for her extraordinary leadership through this challenging time, and the entire team at ChildFund Australia for their ongoing hard work and dedication to the organisation's mission and vision. Their passion for this work is truly extraordinary and they have managed to work in uncertain times with professionalism, creativity, adaptability, humility and kindness. This work ethic will serve us well into the future. In Australia and overseas, we've also taken extra steps to foster wellbeing in our workplaces and to better support our teams at all times, especially during the pandemic.

Ultimately, however, our ability to adapt and expand our work, and continue to reach vulnerable children and young people around the world during the unprecedented times of the past year, has only been possible because of strong partnerships with local governments and civil society organisations on the ground, and the incredible support of thousands of donors.

Thank you to you – our supporters, donors and partners – for your belief in our mission and your generous support as we all work together to ensure more children and young people can say: "I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Belinda Lucas'.

Belinda Lucas
Chair



ChildFund faced an unprecedented year of COVID-19 challenges, both in Australia and in the countries we work. The pandemic brought about serious program challenges and plunged many communities we support into crisis. Despite this, it has been deeply reassuring to witness the resilience and continued commitment of our Board, staff, local partners, and Australian supporters.

In a time where our program staff have been unable to travel, our local partners have been the champions driving and delivering progress and programs in their communities.

The past year has forced us to be flexible, agile, and problem solve like never before. COVID-19 has required us to work with more creativity and trust. We have strengthened partnerships with civil society organisations and local governments on the ground by sharing skills and re-directing resources. Local partnerships are key to achieving better outcomes for children and families and this more localised approach to working will serve us well into the future.

A priority focus over the last year has been to ensure the immediate needs of vulnerable communities were met. Efforts ensured that children and their families had access to essentials such as food, protection, and healthcare. With the help of our local partners, we campaigned for equal access to the COVID-19 vaccine, health information and dispelled vaccine myths.

Across the world millions of children have been locked out of schools. ChildFund worked with local partners to ensure children continued learning at home and in community spaces – especially for those children most at risk of not returning to school and with no access to technology. Education activities ensured that children continued learning while out of school. In Vietnam, teachers underwent training sessions to improve their use of the internet to better reach their students.

From Africa to Asia, we continued our work in building and developing holistic, protective, and sustainable environments which protect children from violence and provide the opportunities for young people to reach their full potential. This has included protecting children from school exclusion, family violence, online exploitation, early marriage, child labour, and from discrimination and exclusion because of disability or gender.

In Laos and Vietnam, our flagship program ChildFund Sport for Development adapted their face-to-face program to online learning and launched the Reconnect Program. This COVID-19 early recovery rugby and life skills curriculum helped reconnect thousands of coaches, children and young people and developed resilience skills throughout the lockdowns.

With more people confined at home, and schools moving online, ChildFund's online safety work gained greater relevance.

In early 2021, the United Nations Children's Committee recognised that rights of young people apply online as well as offline. ChildFund has been an early adopter in children's online safety with the development of our Swipe Safe Curriculum project. First implemented in Vietnam in 2017, it is now being rolled out in the Solomon Islands, Cambodia, and Myanmar. While technology is changing the face of learning, COVID-19 has been a stark reminder that the poorest children are denied access to technology and bridging the digital divide remains a top priority.

It has been an incredibly difficult year for our staff, local partners, and the communities with whom we work in Myanmar. The military coup at the start of 2021 has created an environment of significant instability, distress and fear for children and families. While we have continued to support our local partners in Myanmar during this time, the operating context remains extremely challenging. The steadfast support from the ChildFund community has been more valued than ever, and we remain committed to tackling the rights violation of children and young people.

Thank you for the tremendous generosity of individual donors, businesses, trusts and foundations for your unwavering support. This has allowed us to adapt, be more flexible and overcome the many challenges we faced to still deliver the best possible outcomes we could for children. Because of our work together, more children around the world can now say: "I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Sheehan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Margaret Sheehan
Chief Executive Officer

COVID-19 response

After 18 months of living with COVID-19, ChildFund Australia and the ChildFund Alliance continued to adapt and expand their programs to protect children, their families and communities from the spread of the virus.

In collaboration with local partners, ChildFund has worked to ensure equal access to vaccines and mitigate the serious secondary consequences of the health crisis including loss of employment, food insecurity, school closures and rising levels of family violence.

ChildFund's COVID-19 response has focused on five key areas:

- stop COVID-19 from infecting children and communities;
- support children to continue learning;
- keep children safe from harm;
- ensure children get the food they need; and
- support young people to play an active role in the response.

The 12 members of the ChildFund Alliance, including ChildFund Australia, have implemented projects in 70 countries to help keep children and families safe.

This map is a snapshot of global COVID-19 response activities.

ChildFund Zambia and its local partners equipped more than 100 health centres across the country with personal protective equipment (PPE) materials like soap, sanitiser, masks, and thermometers.



ZAMBIA

ChildFund Kenya distributed 20,000 face masks to children and thousands more face masks to other community members including parents, caregivers and community health volunteers.



KENYA

ChildFund Vietnam has trained hundreds of teachers across the Cao Bang and Bac Kan Provinces on improved use of the internet so that they could teach children online and they could continue to study through the pandemic.



VIETNAM

LAOS



ChildFund Laos has partnered with the Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation to implement immunisation events and encourage widespread take-up of the vaccine.

In Myanmar, ChildFund distributed hundreds of packages with food and other basic hygiene items while maintaining social distancing.



MYANMAR

I AM SAFE



Reina pictured with her two children, Gustavia and Maria.

The Convention of the Rights (CRC) of the Child demands that every child has the right to live in a safe and nurturing environment, and to be free from all forms of violence. We support communities to build protective environments for children, and provide emergency assistance during times of crisis.

We want every child that we reach to be able to say: "I am safe."

Child safety online

ChildFund Vietnam has expanded the National Child Helpline service and built a digital platform that can be accessed at any time.

App 111 aims to provide children and communities with a more accessible way to anonymously report any child protection issues in their community.

The app also facilitates a range of support services for children and young people at risk of child abuse, exploitation, and neglect, and can connect families with counselling services.

In partnership with Microsoft Vietnam, ChildFund worked together with the Department of Child Affairs to develop App 111, a mobile reporting app that people can access at any time to report child protection issues and relieve some of the pressure on the helpline.

The app hosts an online digital library with a variety of resources where people can learn more about child protection and safeguarding in their community. It is also accessible to those who experience blindness or deafness.

Hurricanes in Guatemala

In November 2020, Hurricane Eta and Hurricane Iota devastated Central America, compounding the ongoing hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Guatemala, the storms caused mudslides and flooding that destroyed roads and houses, created major health risks including food insecurity and lack of clean drinking water, and caused injuries and deaths.

ChildFund Guatemala worked with its local partners to deliver immediate relief by providing food and shelter. After the immediate threat passed, they continued to support children and families in the recovery process.

Reina and her two children, Gustavia and Maria (pictured above), were displaced after the two disasters. Their family home was damaged by high winds. ChildFund provided the family with basic essentials in the immediate aftermath of the disasters, including food and hygiene items.

"ChildFund helped us a lot because they delivered food to us," Reina said. "We had no income and no money to buy food. Things opened up for a bit, but right now we're having another lockdown emergency, so we don't know what will happen."

During periods of school closures, ChildFund has ensured children can continue learning by offering educational and resources online and via community broadcasting channels.

Drought in Kenya

When the seasonal rains failed in late 2020, it resulted in extreme drought in parts of Kenya, affecting more than 4 million people. Marsabit County was one of the hardest hit areas and thousands of children faced food scarcity and malnutrition.

When the rains did not come, rural communities were forced to travel further to get water. As crops died, families began selling the belongings they had, so they could put food on the table. Scarcity drove prices out of reach and, as competition for resources grew more intense, violence increased.

In Marsabit, ChildFund Kenya distributed clean water and food items to families, including rice, beans, and cooking oil. Working in partnership with local schools, free lunches were made available to students, so they had enough energy to learn.

ChildFund also established clinics to identify children and family members suffering from malnutrition and other illnesses related to hunger or drinking dirty water. Long-term treatment plans were put in place for the most vulnerable.

With drought conditions occurring with greater frequency and severity, ChildFund is working with farmers to plant drought-resistant crops and build solar-powered water pumps that will allow communities to farm even in dry conditions.

Helpline in Papua New Guinea

As COVID-19 spread, lockdowns and other measures instituted to prevent the spread of the virus resulted in an increase in sexual and gender-based (SGBV) violence in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

In response, ChildFund implemented an urgent expansion of its 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain, a tele-counselling service providing support to people experiencing SGBV in PNG.

Established five years ago in response to PNG's endemic levels of family violence, the national helpline offers callers assistance in a variety of areas, including crisis counselling, safety planning, suicide intervention and referrals to support services.

Additional counsellors and information officers were recruited and trained, allowing the service to expand its hours later into the night. This ensured the helpline had the capacity to respond to a rise in SGBV incidents, spurred by movement restrictions and increased economic uncertainty within families.

The helpline now offers additional support to children and adolescents experiencing prolonged distress, in recognition of the secondary impacts that the pandemic may have on their psychological wellbeing.



Cyclone Iota emergency response.

ChildFund Australia joins Emergency Action Alliance

When a major disaster hits countries with limited capacity to respond, the Emergency Action Alliance (EAA) brings together the knowledge, expertise, and resources of 16 of Australia's leading humanitarian charities.

ChildFund has collaborated with the EAA to develop a unique process that allows international NGOs to best respond and deliver aid during an emergency. This has allowed us to rapidly scale up operations on the ground and help more people.

I AM EDUCATED



The CRC demands that every child has the right to quality education and an inclusive, well-resourced learning environment.

We implement education projects where children are supported to learn essential skills in literacy and numeracy, while also being given opportunities to develop competencies in areas such as leadership, creative thinking, environmental awareness and digital literacy to equip them for their future.

We want every child that we reach to be able to say: "I am educated."

Outdoor classroom in Cambodia during COVID-19.

Helping girls return to school after COVID-19

In Cambodia, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant schools have been closed for most of the year. This was devastating for girls like Rosany trying to access an education. Living in a remote village and limited internet access meant that she was unable to follow online classes.

Rosany has always enjoyed school, but now faces the risk of falling behind and never finishing her education. Girls from low-income families in Cambodia, who live in remote or rural locations, are already vulnerable to leaving school early.

ChildFund Cambodia is working with provincial and national governments, local partners, girls, women, educators, and community leaders to improve teaching standards and ensure schools meet the needs of their students. Workshops with parents, community members and local leaders ensure everyone understands the importance of girls' education.

ChildFund has partnered with communities to implement Back to School campaigns where the most vulnerable girls have been identified, and initiatives undertaken to ensure they return to the classroom when schools reopen.

Nanju, aged 5,
Timor-Leste.



Preschools in Timor-Leste

As the school year began in Timor-Leste, a group of young children in a remote village were arriving at a new preschool. Children washed their hands with soapy water before classroom activities began to keep the coronavirus at bay.

The school was established by the community with the help of ChildFund Timor-Leste, which provided training and materials. Inside, collections of books suitable for children between the ages of three and five sit on a shelf, alongside other learning materials and educational toys.

Before the preschool was built, children in the village walked 3km to the nearest preschool, which was in the city. The long walk on a steep and rocky road discouraged many families from enrolling their children.

For five-year-old Nanju (pictured left), starting school has been a long-time coming. He is a curious and enthusiastic child, said his father Celestiano, and has been eagerly learning the alphabet at home while schools were closed during the COVID-19 lockdown.

"Nanju is very active," Celestiano said. "At home he was learning his ABCs and colouring-in. He is so happy now that the school is finally open."

Education in Myanmar

There has been a significant impact on children's education in Myanmar due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing political instability. Schools have been mostly closed since the country first reported cases in March 2020.

The ongoing shutdown will impact the children in Myanmar, especially the most vulnerable children, such as children from low-income families, children living with disability, and those living in remote and rural areas.

Children also face higher protection risks while schools are closed because they can no longer access essential school equipment and services such as water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, health services, protection referrals for gender-based violence and abuse, and specialised services for children with disabilities.

Over the past year, initiatives have been rolled out to help children in both urban and rural areas continue their education through platforms such as TV and online learning systems. In the urban slums of Yangon, ChildFund's non-formal literacy and numeracy classes for out-of-school children have continued to operate over the past year, although at a smaller scale.

While schools remain closed, local communities are finding ways to safely provide continued education at home and also to prepare appropriate mechanisms in place for future emergencies.

Digital Library in Laos

A digital library with hundreds of storybooks is helping children from an ethnic minority group in Laos stay engaged in school and learn to read and write in their national language.

Primary school students like eight-year-old Ari in a remote village in Huaphanh Province, in northeast Laos, have long faced challenges reading and writing Lao, a second language for many of them, because of the lack of teaching and learning resources at their school.

Primary school teacher Toui said he has seen children of this ethnic minority group progress "very slowly" when it comes to reading, writing, and speaking Laos' national language.

Toui said the introduction of the digital library, introduced by ChildFund in Laos and Library for All, has inspired students to learn Lao, and increased their confidence. "Since the digital library was implemented two years ago in our school, students have been more motivated to come to school, are interested in reading, and have developed their Lao reading and speaking skills," said Toui.

Each student in Toui's class has access to an electronic tablet to use the library, which has more than 200 age- and culturally appropriate books written in Lao.

I CONTRIBUTE

The CRC demands that every child has the right to play, to participate and to be heard. Our programs give children and youth the confidence to share their opinions, and to participate in family and community decision-making, on issues that affect them.

We want every child that we reach to be able to say: "I contribute."



Trang is learning leadership through rugby

Trang (pictured above) is a teen rugby player from Hoa Binh, Vietnam. She has been playing the game for over two years now and anyone meeting her for the first time is impressed by her liveliness.

But what impresses people even more is what this 13-year-old girl has accomplished at her young age. "I love being part of Pass It Back because I can make many new friends," she said.

Trang is the captain of her team and is looked up to by her teammates. Her coach, Dung, is very proud of this: "I realised that it is important for our players to have a role model to follow. Anyone can be a role model."

Trang adds: "I hope the program can spread everywhere, even across the globe, so children in other places of the world can enjoy learning and playing like us here."

Using sport as a platform to equip girls and young women with important leadership and life skills, Pass It Back supports girls and young women to reach their full potential.

Trang's story shows how girls, even at their young age, can actively stand up for their rights and become role models in their local community.

Grace is using radio to raise her voice

Grace (pictured right) lives in Zambia and, with support from ChildFund Zambia, she is making her voice heard. The 18-year-old is a member of a Children's Protection Committee and now the Youth Committee that focuses on children's right to be heard. Both groups have been facilitated by ChildFund.

"Last month we took part in celebrating the International Children's Day of Broadcasting with the theme, 'Ending violence against children through the media,'" Grace said. "That day we went on radio and highlighted the importance of reporting on children's issues. We said the media needs to do more and give children an opportunity to speak on radio or TV more."

Grace also joined in last year's Day of the African Child.

"We were given an opportunity to be on radio and we discussed the importance of having a child-friendly justice system as a country," she said. "When children commit crimes, it's important that they face a friendly system where they are still protected. I look forward to another time like that this year."

Members of the Child Protection Committee said that taking part in various events had helped a lot of children to become assertive and become more aware of their rights.



Youth are raising their voices in rural Laos

"I never knew there were activities where children could share their thoughts and opinions," said 16-year-old Xaykham from Khoun District, Xiengkhouang Province, one of Laos' most remote and rural areas.

Children's voices are important. That's what makes opportunities such as the National Children's Forum, an annual event co-hosted by ChildFund in Laos and the National Commission for the Advancement of Women and Mothers-Children, so vital.

Xaykham has participated in two such events in recent years. At these events, youth representatives from all Laos provinces had an opportunity to meet and bring their concerns on issues affecting them and stakeholders at the national level.

When he heard about the Children's Forum, Xaykham was enthusiastic about participating. "I wanted to have the chance to speak as a youth representative," he said. "In my community, most children still lack opportunities. I wanted to speak out to represent youth in my district and to tell adult leaders and authorities about the problems children in my community are facing."

Xaykham is also now taking part in ChildFund's Ready for Life project, which aims to empower young people through developing their decision-making, critical thinking, and life skills, and increasing their opportunities to participate in change in their communities.



I HAVE A FUTURE

The CRC demands that every child has the right to survive and thrive, and to feel confident and hopeful about their future. We implement programs that prioritise children's health, wellbeing and resilience, working with their families and communities to ensure their basic human rights are safeguarded and upheld.

We want every child that we reach to be able to say: "I have a future."



Disability inclusion

Seven-year-old Boun (pictured above) lives in a small, remote, disadvantaged community in Huaphanh Province in the eastern part of Laos. He is in Grade 3 and loves school. Lao is Boun's favourite subject.

Boun lives with a physical and learning disability that means he needs extra support in the classroom and the help of his father to travel to and from school.

Boun's teacher Khamlian, however, has had no formal training on how to prepare lessons for children with a disability to help them reach their full learning potential. His school also lacks the facilities and resources to help children with a disability to excel in their studies, so they are often left behind their peers. Stigma and discrimination also prevent children like Boun from participating in activities and opportunities.

ChildFund in Laos and its local partners are working with schools like Boun's to create inclusive, safe learning environments for children with a disability.

This includes training teachers to prepare tailored lessons for children with a disability, providing learning resources to schools and organising village festivals to raise awareness about children's rights to reduce stigma and discrimination against children living with a disability.

Maternal health

Jacson was three years old when his mother Augusta discovered his growth was stunted and he was not getting the proper nutrition he needed.

As a community health volunteer who had undergone training with ChildFund Timor-Leste, Augusta was able to recognise her son was at risk of being malnourished and that he was below the healthy height and weight range that a child his age should be. Gradually, with better nutrition and diet, Jacson's health improved.

High rates of stunting, wasting and malnutrition among young children in the country often results from a lack of access to health information and healthcare. Stunting and poor nutrition can have long-term effects on young children, including diminishing their cognitive and physical development.

As one of ChildFund's community health volunteers, Augusta regularly monitors the growth and health of children in her village, referring them to a health professional when required, and speaks with parents and caregivers about how good health, hygiene, and nutrition can improve their children's development.

Augusta has seen the difference that she and other community health volunteers are making in her village. Being a community health volunteer is fulfilling. "I am serving my community," she said.

Ending tuberculosis in Papua New Guinea

Esther has become very familiar with the 8km walk to the health clinic from her home in remote Central Province, Papua New Guinea (PNG).

She often carries her one-year-old son Max, who has had a persistent cough for so long that Esther cannot remember when it first appeared.

Like many mothers in PNG, Esther knows the signs of tuberculosis. PNG has one of the highest rates of tuberculosis in the world. Globally, one in 10 people with tuberculosis is a child. In PNG, it is one in four.

To get her children treated Esther must pay to travel to Port Moresby and find a place for her family to stay for up to a week. Esther has made the trip at least 10 times since Max was born.

In Central Province, health clinics are often ill-equipped, and families are forced to seek treatment in Port Moresby.

ChildFund PNG worked in partnership with health authorities to develop and implement education outreach programs, providing information to communities about how to identify symptoms, vaccinations, dietary information, and general household awareness about

what to look for and when to seek treatment.

These health programs bring together healthcare workers, children, and their families in remote villages to diagnose and treat children like Max.



Esther and her son, Max, age 1.

Inclusive education in Vietnam

Hue is implementing a disability inclusive teaching plan in her classroom in Cao Bang Province, Vietnam, and she is particularly proud of the growth of one student, Hoan.

Five-year-old Hoan (pictured right) lives with epilepsy. With little information available, Hue felt unprepared to support his needs in the classroom.

With support from ChildFund Vietnam and local partner Action to the Community Development Institute, Hue participated in a series of training sessions on inclusive education. This professional learning gave Hue the confidence to create and implement a teaching plan that would keep Hoan safe while he was at school. After the training, she felt empowered.

Hue learned how to respond to an epileptic seizure and now spends 30 minutes with Hoan undertaking one-on-one teaching in the areas of literacy, numeracy and communication skills.

With these changes Hoan can now fully participate in all aspects of school life. Hoan enjoys learning and playing with his teacher.

Hue said: "I no longer feel scared, I am confident and proud to help Hoan more and be able to support other children with disabilities."



A disability-friendly classroom in Vietnam.

Over the last year, ChildFund Timor-Leste met with the Committee of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste during a series of public hearings to advocate for stronger child protection laws in the country. ChildFund provided a series of recommendations on the draft Law for the Protection of Children and Youth in Danger.

These recommendations will be vital to keeping children across the country safe from abuse and exploitation and to make sure that children have access to justice and to appropriate protection services when necessary.

The recommendations are:

1. That the child protection law should focus on the full spectrum of prevention including early prevention and response services rather than primarily on reactive procedures.
2. ChildFund advocated that 'the best interest of the child' should be made the guiding principle and be reflected throughout the entire law.

3. All efforts should be made to keep children with their families. If a child has been removed from his/her family, services should be made available to strengthen the family unit with the intention of reuniting them as soon as possible.
4. ChildFund would recommend that the Committee develops safe, confidential and accessible ways to report violence against children.

ChildFund advocated that children's experiences, views and thoughts should also be taken into account when creating legal protections for children. They should consider a child's family ties, the child's linguistic and religious background and relationships with their siblings. ChildFund will continue to advocate on the proposed law to make ensure that children across the country are protected from violence.

ChildFund Cambodia advocates for child protection policies in schools

ChildFund Cambodia is leading the development of a pool of social workers in communities across the country and advocating that they take a holistic approach to child protection. Last year they launched a pilot project to implement and adopt this approach in all of their work in child protection.

This program and approach was later endorsed by the local government. In 2020, the Ministry of Social affairs announced a revised national child protection policy for Cambodia which included the recommendation that trained social workers should operate in each commune to ensure a safe environment for all children.

With support from UNICEF, Child's Rights Network (CRN) members consistently encouraged the government to consider the need for a critical review of the child protection system. After this piece of advocacy, the government agreed to review their child protection policies.

With support of CRN members including UNICEF and local partners, ChildFund advocated to the Ministry of Education to have a clear policy framework on child protection in schools. As a result, the Ministry of Education introduced a child protection policy in the schools in 2020.

ChildFund continued to work with other International NGOs to advocate to the Ministry of Interior to develop and distribute the child protection guidebook to schools across the country.

Working with other International NGOs and local partners, we advocated for a National Action Plan to respond to online child exploitation. The policy was officially endorsed by the Cambodian Government and officially launched by the Ministry of Social affairs in July 2021.



Listening to young people in our region

With support from ChildFund Australia and the Australian Government, youth delegates from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia attended the Asian Children's Summit in Bangkok in November 2019.

For Phanomphone and Phoukhao, both age 16 from Laos, Cuong, age 13 from Vietnam, and Sotheavy, age 15 from Cambodia, attending the event was an opportunity for them to collaborate with other young people from diverse backgrounds across the region.

They discussed issues for children and young people in Asia, including poverty, discrimination, harmful norms and traditional practices, abuse, mental health problems, and cyber-bullying.

Sotheavy is a passionate advocate for raising awareness on children's rights and ending violence against children.

At the summit, she spoke about the dangers of unsafe migration in her community. "I plan to share what I learnt to my child club members and friends in Cambodia," she said.



Child delegates (left to right) Cuong from Vietnam, Phanomphone from Laos, Sotheavy from Cambodia, and Phoukhao from Laos.

MEASURING IMPACT

ChildFund Australia is focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for children, their families and the wider community. During 2020-21, data from our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MEL) system shows that ChildFund Australia's projects reached 266,403 beneficiaries, including 115,303 individuals under 18.

Why ChildFund measures impact

ChildFund Australia's MEL is a vital tool to ensure we can measure and evaluate the effectiveness of our work in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and other Asia-Pacific nations. ChildFund Australia's MEL Framework aims to generate credible evidence about:

1. If and how our projects contribute to change.
2. What we can learn about the quality and effectiveness of our approaches.
3. The reach and scale of our programs.

The MEL Framework enables the organisation to capture, analyse and document this information, while generating discussion, learning and decision-making to improve the effectiveness of ChildFund Australia's projects and development approaches and bring about better outcomes for people living in poverty.

How ChildFund measures impact

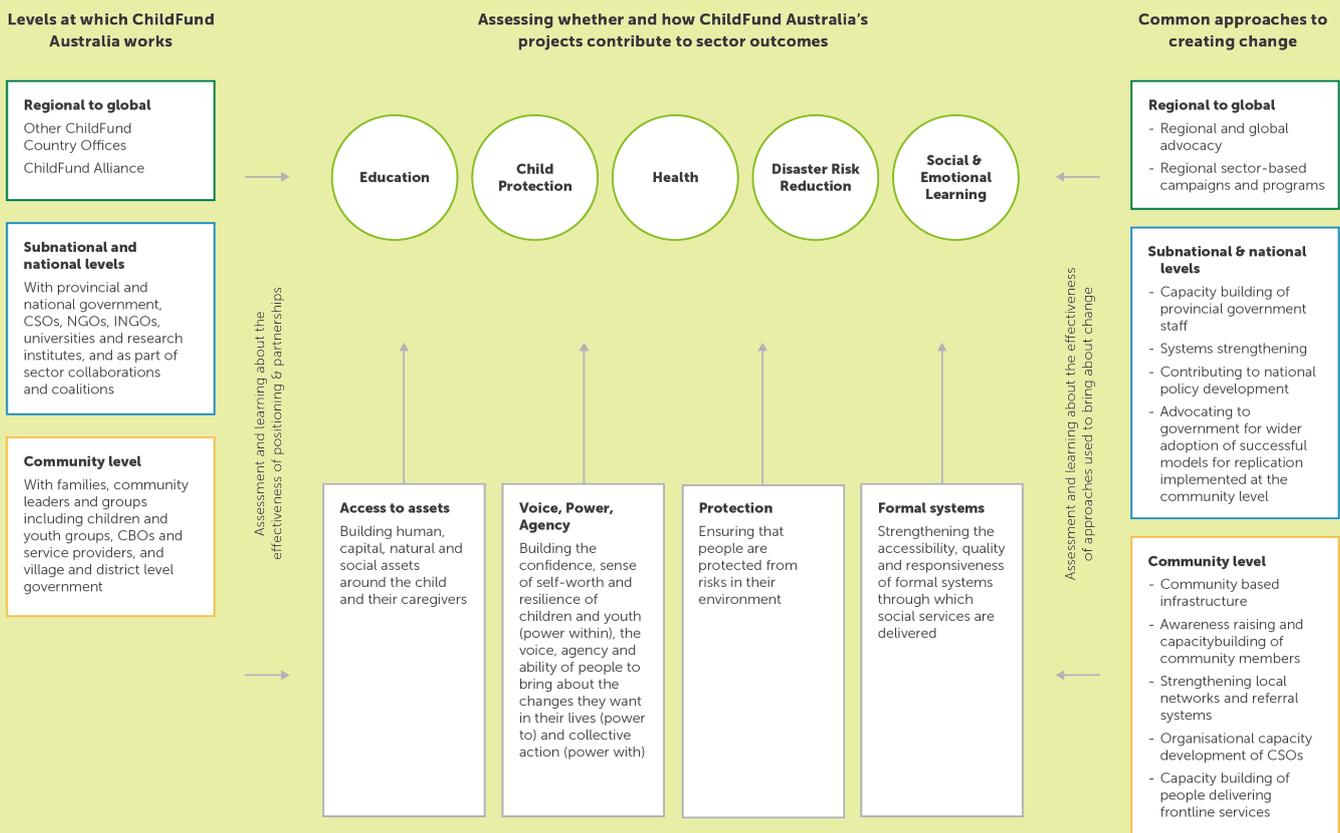
The MEL Framework articulates the types of information required by the organisation to understand the extent to which its activities bring results and learn how to improve the effectiveness of its approaches. ChildFund Australia's Development Effectiveness Learning Process operates at both a country and organisational level. In countries where ChildFund Australia implements programs, teams design their own projects, and develop and

implement MEL frameworks and plans tailored to those projects. Reflection workshops are conducted in collaboration with local partners. Country Offices also develop sectoral learning papers. At an organisational level, the MEL Framework supports structured learning and reporting, allowing ChildFund Australia to assess and learn about the effectiveness of its development approaches.

This requires undertaking an in-depth analysis of some of the projects from a strong evidence base, using the following information:

- **Headline reporting:** key data sets are reported each year.
- **Sectoral analysis:** learning papers examine how projects are achieving change, and what can be learned about the approaches used.
- **Organisational analysis:** annual reflection and reporting processes are planned to generate discussion, learning and inform decision-making.

Overview of ChildFund Australia's theory and approaches



Sector spotlight: Child Protection

During 2020-21, ChildFund Australia implemented 16 child protection projects in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.



Headline results

16	projects
40,502	direct beneficiaries
9,765	direct beneficiaries under 18
20,705	direct female beneficiaries
6	countries covered
15	partners
18,269	children and adults taking part in preventative activities
2,453	2,163 children accessing child-friendly spaces
339	child protection groups participating
640	social workers participating
332	child protection cases responded to

Key learnings from evaluations and reflections

Child Protection Helpline projects were well positioned to pivot during COVID-19 pandemic. In Papua New Guinea, the Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) Helpline provided counselling to callers affected by the consequences of COVID-19 such as increased distress, job losses, food insecurity and rising levels of SGBV. Its callers were also provided with information about COVID-19 and referrals to formal COVID-19 Hotlines. ChildFund successfully secured funding to expand the counselling and referral services, to support safe housing, and other child protection activities. The project played a significant role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and was one of the few services still running during government lockdowns. The project responded to rising levels of SGBV by deploying more trained counsellors and extended the counselling hours to become a 24-hour Helpline.

Young people's online safety.

Vietnam's Swipe Safe project 'Help young people make the most of the online world' is a pioneer in protecting children online. The project empowered young people to make the most of the online world, by educating them on internet risks and protective strategies, and by equipping their parents and teachers, and other stakeholders to become online safety partners.

Safer community for children.

A child protection program in Cambodia confirmed that building the capacity of both informal systems and formal systems was key to building better services for children and their families. A large part of this effectiveness was attributed to the proximity of Child Protection workers to children and community members. When they live and work in the same place, this builds trust and increased access to protection services for families.

Staff's emergency response capacity.

The start of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global emergencies highlighted the need to strengthen our ability to focus on child protection in times of crisis. We worked with local staff and other community-based partners to upskill them in this area. We improved the technical skills of local staff to make sure that children can access a safe place in an emergency.

COVID-19 as new normal.

As we continued to adjust to working remotely, we looked at bolstering our resources in local communities to make sure that we could continue our programs despite widespread lockdowns and travel restrictions. This required investing in partners and community members digital literacy, technological resources and increasing online connectivity.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The 2020-21 financial year continued to be an extraordinary and challenging period. Whilst we saw some return to normality in Australia, our expectation that programming and other activities would return to normal operating levels was curtailed by increased lockdowns and movement restrictions across our countries of operation.

In Australia, the easing of lockdown restrictions in the year allowed us to resume investment in activities to source new ChildFund supporters across Australia – activities which had been significantly curtailed in the final quarter of 2019-20. Although lockdown measures occurred for varying periods across Australia, we were largely able to execute fundraising initiatives which support the organisation's regular giving programs and generate public support over the long-term.

Lockdown measures, social distancing rules, and domestic travel restrictions impacted our ability to reach communities in the countries where we work and deliver child-focused development programs. While ChildFund Australia was able to adapt and pivot many project activities in response to the pandemic, significant interruptions to normal delivery occurred. As a result, project expenditure decreased compared to 2019-20.

At the end of the financial year, ChildFund Australia's total revenue had decreased by 5 per cent on the previous year, with a total comprehensive surplus for the year of \$4.3m. The surplus is a direct result of COVID-19, with project activities negatively impacted throughout the financial year.

The Job Keeper subsidy assisted in mitigating the financial impacts of COVID-19, alongside other measures including reductions in non-essential costs, reduced working hours and pay cuts. We expect programming and other activities to return to higher levels of operation in 2021-22, and the surplus will be directed toward supporting these activities.



Catarina, age 10, Guatemala.

Net assets at the end of the year were \$19.3m.

Where the money came from

In 2020-21, ChildFund Australia's total revenue was \$50.6m in comparison to \$53.1m in the 2019-20 financial year.

Revenue raised from the Australian public declined from the previous year – a consequence of the successful Rugby World Cup charity partnership and legacies and bequests that increased public fundraising revenue in the previous year. We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support from ChildFund supporters through such a difficult economic period.

Grant funding was impacted more significantly in comparison to the 2019-2020 financial year. Interruptions caused by COVID-19 impacted and delayed project implementation throughout the year. As lockdowns ease across our countries of operation, grant funded work will resume to higher levels. We would like to acknowledge the support of our institutional funding partners who have adapted to and provided necessary flexibility to deal with the impact of COVID-19.

How the money was spent

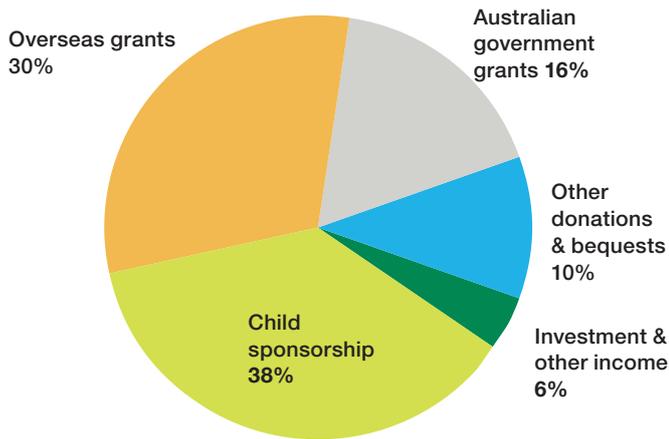
Program expenditure – which comprises of funds sent to international programs, program support costs and educating the community about our work and its impact - totalled \$35.8m in 2021, representing a 13 per cent decrease from 2020.

Program activities were significantly impacted throughout the financial year due to restrictions caused by COVID-19. Program expenditure represented 77% of total expenditure by the organisation, a strong measure of the level of funds being directed by ChildFund Australia towards delivering results for vulnerable children and families.

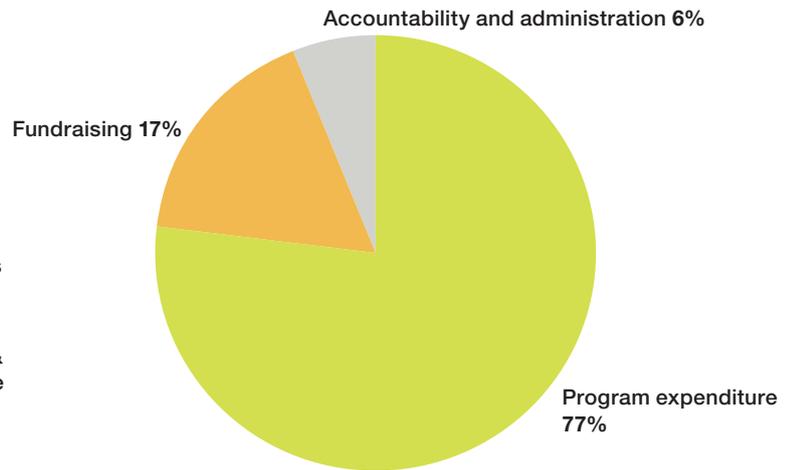
Investment in fundraising of \$7.8m in 2021 increased by 34 per cent from \$5.8m in 2020. Easing of lockdown measures across Australia provided some return to normality in the year and allowed us to engage and secure new ChildFund supporters, resulting in both increased investment costs and associated income.

Accountability and administration expenses of \$2.6m have decreased slightly from 2020 levels and represent 6 per cent of total expenditure. These costs are necessary to efficiently run the organisation and include staff costs for operation support teams such as finance and organisational development, and standard operating expenses such as audit fees, insurance, rent and utilities.

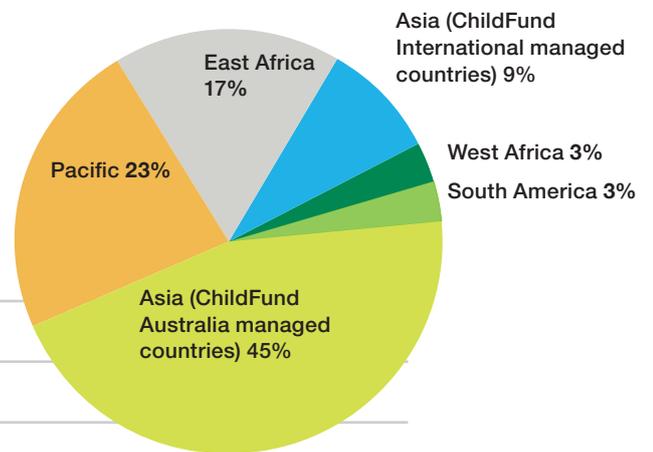
Revenue by Source - 2020-21 (% is a proportion of total income)



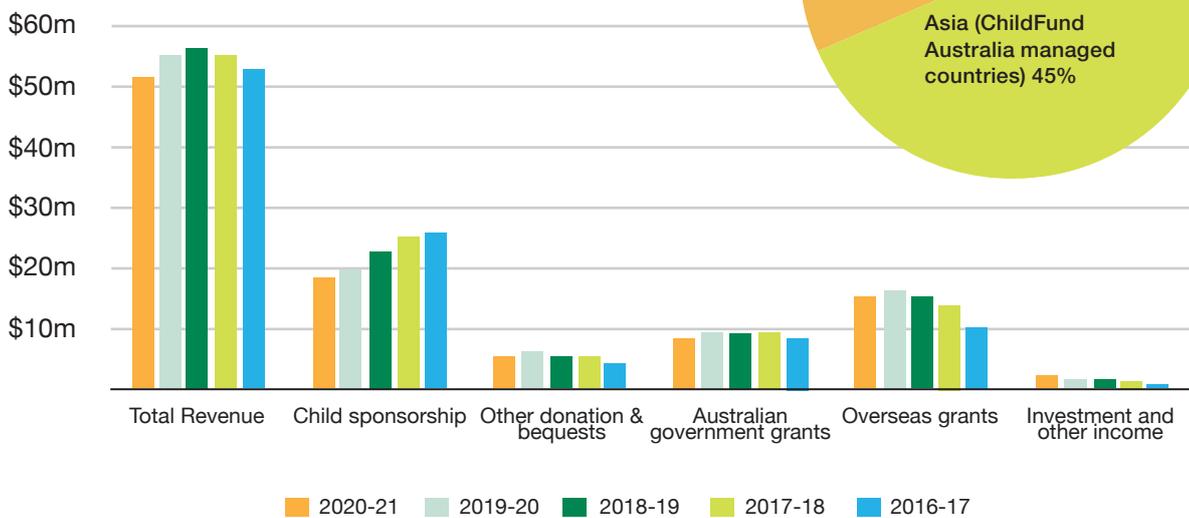
Expenditure by Type - 2020-21 (% is a proportion of total expenditure)



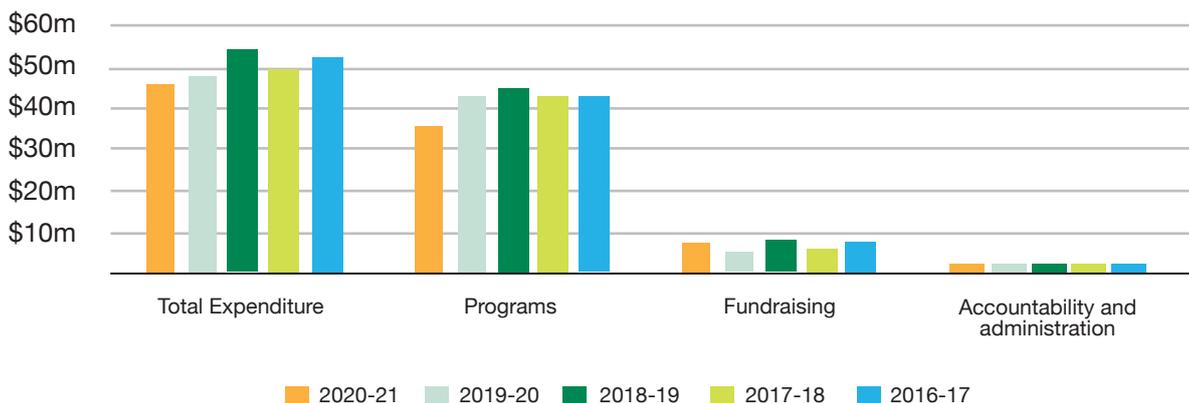
Funds to International Programs by Region 2020-21 (% is a proportion of total funds to International Programs)



Five-year revenue trend (by source)



Five-year expenditure trend (by type)



Consolidated Summary Statement of comprehensive income Year ended 30 June 2021

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Revenue		
Monetary donations & gifts		
Child sponsorship donations	18,938,189	19,848,552
Other donations	4,677,666	5,166,182
	23,615,855	25,014,734
Legacies and bequests	316,131	689,539
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	6,116,440	7,215,482
Other Australian	2,191,640	1,790,217
Overseas	15,141,171	16,294,040
	23,449,251	25,299,739
Investment income	270,640	260,246
Other income	2,913,662	1,821,098
Total revenue	50,565,539	53,085,356
Expenditure		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International programs		
Funds to international programs	32,737,356	37,701,001
Program support costs	2,477,671	2,786,851
	35,215,027	40,487,852
Community education	550,450	536,388
Fundraising costs		
Public	7,728,619	5,718,250
Government, multilateral and private	99,191	124,169
Accountability and administration	2,638,798	2,702,959
Total expenditure	46,232,085	49,569,618
Surplus of revenue over expenditure	4,333,454	3,515,738
Other comprehensive income		
Net change in fair value of equity investments	241,905	(127,018)
Foreign operations – foreign currency translation	(784,062)	76,159
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	3,791,297	3,464,879

During the year, the Group did not engage in any political or religious proselytisation programs, domestic projects, commercial activities, had no impairment of investments and did not include the value of non-monetary donations and gifts.

Consolidated Summary Statement of financial position As at 30 June 2021

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	22,711,694	14,064,656
Trade and other receivables	2,857,847	2,283,089
Investments – financial assets	1,320,000	4,341,813
Total current assets	26,889,541	20,689,558
Investments – financial assets	3,834,196	3,142,972
Property, plant and equipment	907,382	953,376
Intangibles	1,027,865	1,015,213
Right-of-use assets	791,111	1,313,842
Total non-current assets	6,560,554	6,425,403
Total assets	33,450,095	27,114,961
Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	11,159,467	8,168,321
Provisions	950,465	930,060
Lease liabilities	528,591	615,121
Total current liabilities	12,638,523	9,713,502
Provisions	1,103,171	1,003,180
Lease liabilities	342,085	823,260
Total non-current liabilities	1,445,256	1,826,440
Total liabilities	14,083,779	11,539,942
Net assets	19,366,316	15,575,019
Equity		
Unrestricted reserves		
Retained surplus	8,082,113	5,769,325
Bequest reserve	500,000	500,000
Fair-value reserve	951,358	709,453
	9,533,471	6,978,778
Restricted reserves and foreign currency translation reserve	9,832,845	8,596,241
Total equity	19,366,316	15,575,019

The Summary Financial Reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance Document available at www.acfid.asn.au.

Copies of our audited financial statements can be downloaded from our website at www.childfund.org.au or can be requested via email to info@childfund.org.au, or by calling 1800 023 600.

Consolidated Summary Statement of changes in equity Year ended 30 June 2021

	Retained surplus (\$)	Bequest reserve (\$)	Fair value reserve (\$)	Restricted reserve (\$)	Total equity (\$)
Balance as at 1 July 2019	2,813,360	500,000	836,471	7,960,309	12,110,140
Total comprehensive income for the period					
Surplus in revenue over expenditure	3,515,738	-	-	-	3,515,738
Other comprehensive income					
Net change in fair value of available-for-sale financial assets	-	-	(127,018)	-	(127,018)
Transfers from restricted funds	(559,773)	-	-	559,773	-
Foreign operations – foreign currency translation				76,159	76,159
Balance as at 30 June 2020	5,769,325	500,000	709,453	8,596,241	15,575,019
Balance as at 1 July 2020					
Balance as at 1 July 2020	5,769,325	500,000	709,453	8,596,241	15,575,019
Total comprehensive income for the period					
Excess in revenue over expenditure	4,333,454	-	-	-	4,333,454
Other comprehensive income					
Net change in fair value of equity investments at FVOCI	-	-	241,905	-	241,905
Transfers to restricted funds	(2,020,666)	-	-	2,020,666	-
Foreign operations – foreign currency translation	-	-	-	(784,062)	(784,062)
Balance as at 30 June 2021	8,082,113	500,000	951,358	9,832,845	19,366,316

Independent Auditor's Report



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of ChildFund Australia

Report of the independent auditor on the summary financial statements of ChildFund Australia

Opinion

The Summary Annual Financial Statements of ChildFund Australia (the Group) are derived from the audited Annual Financial Statements of the Group as at and for the year ended 30 June 2021 (audited Annual Financial Statements).

In our opinion, the Summary Annual Financial Statements are a fair summary of the audited Annual Financial Statements of ChildFund Australia. The Summary Annual Financial Statements comprise:

- Consolidated Summary Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021
- Consolidated Summary Statement of comprehensive income and consolidated Summary Statement of changes in equity for the year then ended.

The Group consists of ChildFund Australia and the entities it controlled at the year-end or from time to time during the financial year.

Summary Annual Financial Statements

The Summary Annual Financial Statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards applied in the preparation of the audited Annual Financial Statements. Reading the Summary Annual Financial Statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited Annual Financial Statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Annual Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited Annual Financial Statements in our report dated 28 October 2021.

Responsibility of the Directors for the Summary Annual Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the Summary Annual Financial Statements.

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the Summary Annual Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the Summary Annual Financial Statements are a fair summary of the audited Annual Financial Statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

KPMG

Cameron Roan
Partner
Sydney
28 October 2021

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OUR COMMUNITY

Thank you on behalf of the children and families with whom we work.

OUR CHILDFUND ALLIANCE FAMILY

ChildFund Deutschland
ChildFund International
ChildFund Ireland
ChildFund Japan
ChildFund Korea
ChildFund New Zealand
Barnfonden
Children Believe
Educo
Un Enfant par la Main
WeWorld

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

- Asia-Pacific -

Library for All
Oceania Rugby
UN Women

- Bangladesh -

ActionAid Australia

- Cambodia -

The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, its ministries and local authorities
Cambodian Center for the Protection of Children's Rights
Cambodian Disabled Peoples' Organisation
Cambodia Federation of Rugby
Kampuchea Action for Primary Education
Khmer Association for Development of Countryside Cambodia
Khmer New Generation Organization
Khmer NGO for Education
Komar Rikreay Association
Krousar Thmey
Life With Dignity
Northeastern Rural Development
Wathnakpheap

- Fiji -

Cricket Fiji
Department of Social Welfare Fiji
Empower Pacific
Fiji Council of Social Services
Fiji Rugby Union
Plan International
Rainbow Pride Foundation

- Laos -

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, its ministries, and local authorities
Aid Children with Disability Association
European Union
Lao Rugby Federation
Life Skills Development Association
Stella
Vientiane Youth Centre

- Myanmar -

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, its ministries and local authorities
Burnet Institute Myanmar
Child Development Association
Future Light
Girl Determined

Hope For Shining Stars
Industrial Bank of Korea
Monastic Education Development Group
Precious Stones
SPECTRUM-SDKN

- Papua New Guinea -

The Papua New Guinea Government, its ministries and local authorities
Cheshire Disability Services (PNG)
Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council - Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (CIMC-FSVAC)
Dom Ina Child and Women Support Centre
Equal Playing Fields
European Union
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iCARE
Plan International
PNG Education Institute
Sacred Heart Teachers College - Bomana
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Lakapi Samoa

ChildFund Australia would like to thank the Australian Government for its support.



OUR MAJOR DONORS

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Estate of the Late William George
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National Health Institute
ONG Fraterna

- *Vietnam* -
The Government of Vietnam, its ministries and
local authorities
Action to the Community Development Center
Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and
Populati
Hagar international in Vietnam
Kim Boi Rugby Network
The Institute for Studies of Society, Economy
and Environment
Taiwan Fund for Children and Families
UNICEF
Tan Lac Rugby
Vietnam Association for Protection of Children's
Rights

OUR CHILDFUND AMBASSADORS

Aimee Sutorius
Danielle Cormack
Emily Chancellor
Frankie J Holden
Honey Hireme-Smiler
Lynne McGranger
Mere Baker
Michelle Pettigrove
Michael Rose





Belinda Lucas

Belinda Lucas, appointed as Chair in November 2020, has over 20 years of experience in international development. She is a Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor to DFAT and the Australian Human Rights Commission. She is also a safeguarding specialist.



Michael Pain

Over his career Michael Pain (Deputy Chair) worked with strategic and technology implementation projects across a range of industry sectors including financial services and was appointed to Deputy Chair in November 2020. Michael is a member of the Communications & Marketing Committee, the Program Review Committee and the Audit Risk & Nominations Committee.



David Shortland

David Shortland is a specialist governance advisor and communication counsel to boards and senior executives. He is a member of the Audit, Risk & Nomination Committee. David was appointed Deputy Chair in November 2016. David is a director of the international board of ChildFund Alliance.



Annabelle Williams

Annabelle Williams OAM is a Paralympic Gold Medallist, motivational speaker, lawyer, brand ambassador, TV reporter and sports commentator. She is a strong advocate for the rights of athletes and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to sport. Annabelle is a member of the Communications and Marketing Committee.



Micaela Cronin

Micaela Cronin is a Director at the Future Social Service Institute in Melbourne. She was awarded the Robyn Clark Memorial Award for service and leadership in the children, youth and family services sector. She is the Chair of the Communications & Marketing Committee.



Justine Richardson

Justine Richardson works with senior executives to address complex business issues and help businesses grow and improve their operations. She specialises in optimising business processes and internal controls. Justine is Chair of the Audit, Risk and Nominations Committee.



Richard Moore

Richard Moore is a Manila based, strategic analyst, specialising in Southeast Asian development. He was previously Deputy Director General for Asia at the Australian Agency for International Development. Richard is Chair of the Program Review Committee and a member of the Communications & Marketing Committee.



Kobus Ehlers

Kobus Ehlers is an experienced leader in governance, risk and compliance with more than 20 years' experience working and leading teams in large multinational companies across a range of industries and markets including Australia, Africa and Asia. Kobus joined the Board in March 2021 and is a member of the Audit, Risk & Nominations Committee.



Lisa Hresc

Lisa Hresc is an experienced media, brand, and digital marketing strategist. Lisa has held executive leadership roles in Brand, Marketing & Communications across media, broadcast and in the not-for-profit sector for over twenty years. Lisa is the Director, Brand, Marketing & Communications for The Benevolent Society. She is a member of Australian Institute of Company

Directors. Lisa is also a Board member on the Glycaemic Index Foundation board.



Tureia Sample

Tureia Sample is an experienced lawyer specialising in critical infrastructure, supply chain and governance projects particularly in the communications, transport, health and energy sectors. She is a partner at PwC, and previously held senior executive roles at SBS including Company Secretary and Director of Corporate Affairs. Tureia joined the ChildFund Australia board

in June 2021 and is a member of the Program Review Committee.

The directors of ChildFund Australia serve voluntarily and do not receive any remuneration for their services as directors.

CHILD FUND AUSTRALIA EXECUTIVE TEAM



Margaret Sheehan
Chief Executive Officer



Adrian Graham
Chief Operating Officer



Sarah Hunt
Global Programs Director



Amy Lamoin
Global Programs Director



Diana Mason
Public Engagement Director



Nina von Stebut
Director of People & Culture

ChildFund Australia moves to greener solutions

In the 2020-21 financial year we undertook a green audit of the ChildFund Australia office to make our office more environmentally adaptive and reduce our carbon footprint. We undertook organisational training to learn about climate adaptation. Working with young environmental consultants, we are moving towards digital solutions, reducing our air travel, reducing our paper usage, and offsetting our carbon footprint.

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.

For more information, or to lodge a complaint, please contact ACFID on main@acfid.asn.au or email ChildFund Australia's Supporter Relations team on info@childfund.org.au.



ACFID
Address: 14 Napier Close,
Deakin ACT 2600
Phone: +612 6285 1816
Email: main@acfid.asn.au
Website: www.acfid.asn.au

ChildFund Australia is also a member of Accountable Now, a platform of international civil society organisations that strive to be transparent, responsive to stakeholders, and focused on delivering impact. As a member, ChildFund has signed 12 globally-agreed-upon Accountability Commitments and will report annually to an Independent Review Panel on our economic, environmental and social performance according to the Accountable Now reporting standards.



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EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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