

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2019 – 2020

ABOUT CHILDFUND AUSTRALIA

ChildFund Australia is an independent international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in developing communities.

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 11 organisations which assists almost 16 million children and their families in over 60 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 right.

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This year, I am completing my term as chair of the ChildFund Australia Board, of which I have been a member for eight years.

This provides me with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on ChildFund's mission, and the important work it does to support

children and families in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

During my many years of involvement with the organisation, I have seen it go from strength to strength. In the last decade, ChildFund has begun work in Laos, Myanmar, and the Pacific; refined its purpose; and continued to build on core areas of expertise.

ChildFund's work in child protection programming continues to grow and evolve. The first family violence counselling helpline in Papua New Guinea established by ChildFund was scaled up significantly to respond to need during the COVID-19 crisis, and we supported the activation of village court systems to ensure stronger child protection mechanisms are in place.

In Pacific nations, including Solomon Islands and Kiribati, we are working with governments and frontline services to train social workers, to improve their understanding of complex child protection issues and ensure they have the tools to respond.

While more children globally have access to primary schools, the quality of education available is often poor. Improving literacy and numeracy outcomes, and creating safe and supportive learning environments, remains a priority focus for ChildFund.

This work is supported by programs which seek to build children's social and emotional learning. Our sport for development initiatives are vital to ensuring young people have the skills and knowledge they need to navigate future challenges in their lives.

ChildFund Pass It Back, our rugby for development program, is now operational in countries across

the Asia Pacific region. A key component of World Rugby's Impact Beyond program, ChildFund was thrilled to be appointed as principal charity partner for Rugby World Cup 2019.

Unfortunately, the global pandemic presents new challenges to the children and communities with whom we work. It paints in stark relief the enormous inequalities that exist in, and between, nations.

This is why global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 are so important. We must continue to invest in initiatives that address the numerous challenges that children face today: poverty, gender inequality, climate change, and violence within our societies.

Like the global financial crisis of 2008, the COVID-19 pandemic will result in setbacks. But historical evidence shows that we can achieve long-term change for children, despite global threats.

The success of ChildFund's development programs relies on collaboration with, and through, local civil society, government, communities and the children and young people at the centre of our mission. This is backed by the unshakeable support of individual donors, businesses, trusts and foundations.

With this foundation in place, I leave ChildFund knowing that it will continue to make important advances as part of its vision: A world without poverty where all children and young people can say: "I am safe. I am educated. I contribute. I have a future."

Mary Latham
Chair



At the tail end of 2019 I was honoured to be appointed as the new Chief Executive of ChildFund Australia.

I could never have predicted the extraordinary and uncharted waters we would find ourselves in, from devastating bush fires in January to a global COVID-

19 pandemic declared in March. One of my first tasks was to develop interim strategic directions to respond to the multiple challenges of COVID-19. The pandemic has exposed the sharp consequences of weak health systems, inadequate safety nets, economic inequality and violence against women and children.

ChildFund Australia and our Country Offices have worked hard and kept our teams operational to tackle the unprecedented impacts of the pandemic on children and young people in our region.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching impacts on the health, education and safety of children and young people, as well as their levels of participation in community and civic life. The international community is at a crucial turning point which will impact on the life chances of a generation of children and young people.

Over the past months ChildFund Australia has been focused on becoming a more nimble and adaptable organisation, while delivering quality development outcomes for children. It has been a period of change and tough choices.

While we have maintained focus on our three strategic priorities: child protection, education and social and emotional learning; it has not been a time for business as usual activities. ChildFund Australia and our partners have also accelerated and extended our health programming to fill critical gaps in primary healthcare.

In Papua New Guinea, we rapidly trained rural outreach staff and village health volunteers to promote community understanding of COVID-19 and to promote safe behaviours. In Cambodia we beamed classroom lessons into remote villages so that children could still access learning. In Myanmar, we are supporting local youth as volunteers at quarantine centres, ensuring families returning to the country have adequate food, water, clothing, and other essential items during periods of confinement.

There are three messages that I would like to stress from a ChildFund Australia perspective. First, the COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly deepened existing child protection risks and created new threats, including in online environments.

Second, we must work cooperatively to ensure that governments do not compromise or decrease commitments or investments in child protection systems regionally. Strong child protection systems are key to preventing harm and keeping children safe, particularly during times of crisis. Third, working closely with our in-country and local partners is key to keeping up momentum and to prevent the loss of decades of development gains for children and young people.

The full human and economic devastation of COVID-19 is still unknown. While the data suggests there is much work to be done, there is also the promise of a new normal. This includes improving access to quality education for all children. It also includes quality social and emotional learning that will assist children during the post-pandemic recovery and prepares them for the world ahead.

The Sustainable Development Goals 2030 remains the best framework to reduce the worst aspects of COVID-19 because it is holistic. It protects children's health, their education, the environment and their future.

Historically, our achievements are due to strong collaboration with governments, civil society groups, communities and the young people at the centre of our mission. This is backed strong support from individual donors, businesses, trusts and foundations. Despite the uncertainty around us, I have been reminded that human compassion and generosity of spirit is not in short supply. Our work would not be possible without the ongoing commitment and generosity of our supporters.

As always, we are stronger together. ChildFund Australia will continue to work hand in hand with our local partners to have impact for children. We will deliver on our mandate so that going forward children can say: "I am safe. I am educated. I contribute."

I sincerely thank you.

Margaret Sheehan
Chief Executive Officer

COVID-19 response

On 11 March, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic.

In the lead-up, and following, this declaration, ChildFund Australia and members of the ChildFund Alliance have adapted and expanded their programs to help protect children and their families, and prevent the spread of the disease in their communities.

While the primary health consequences of COVID-19 have been significant, the secondary consequences have been just as severe, including loss of employment, food insecurity, school closures, and increased family violence.

The five priorities of ChildFund's response intersect to mitigate its potential harm, whether direct or indirect:

- 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.

Together, the ChildFund Alliance is working together to help:

more than 6 million children and families in over **60 countries** stay safe.

This map is a snapshot of the ChildFund Alliance's global COVID-19 response activities.

ChildFund Ecuador has delivered more than 600 medical protection cloths for intensive care units in hospitals, as well as emergency food kits and cash to families.



ECUADOR

ChildFund Kenya has been educating families about how they can protect themselves and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Families in need have also received emergency food and cash.



KENYA

ChildFund India has been helping to distribute COVID-19 information materials in communities and running handwashing sessions. Families have also received emergency food, hygiene and education packs.



INDIA

ChildFund Cambodia has distributed prevention kits, including soap, hand sanitisers and face masks, to more than 20,000 children and their families. Posters on how to practise good hygiene have also been provided to communities.



CAMBODIA

LAOS



ChildFund Laos has helped to provide critical medical supplies, including surgical masks, soap, alcohol solutions, handwashing gels and thermometers, to provincial and district health authorities.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



ChildFund PNG has mobilised community health volunteers to provide COVID-19 health information to remote communities, and worked with rural schools to ensure children could return safely after lockdown measures.

TIMOR-LESTE



ChildFund Timor-Leste has been teaching children and their families about the importance of social distancing, and how to practise proper handwashing and hygiene. Water tanks have also been distributed to health posts, and families have received education packs and hygiene kits.

I AM SAFE



Ngoc is learning how to navigate the internet safely.

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."

Preventing child abuse and exploitation online

Since its launch in 2017, Swipe Safe has helped more than 12,000 children such as Ngoc in Vietnam navigate the online world more safely.

As many as 91% of children completing the course demonstrate increased skills in online protection, and 85% can identify where to receive assistance if they are in trouble online.

Increasing internet availability, accompanied by low levels of communication technology literacy, is increasing children's exposure to online abuse and exploitation in Vietnam. In Vietnam, more than a third of Facebook accounts belong to young people, aged between 15 and 24.

Fifteen-year-old Ngoc (pictured above) created her Facebook account when she was in Grade 6. She found that on Facebook she was able to make many new "friends" from around the world, and the number of people she connected with reached the thousands.

"I did not know most of the people on my friend list in real life," Ngoc says. She shared a lot of information on her Facebook page, and the time spent on social media began affecting her schoolwork.

Sometimes she and some of her classmates felt unsafe interacting online. "If we did not accept an invitation to go out from friends on Facebook, we received threats and other bad words," Ngoc says. "We felt frightened."

Ngoc later joined training workshops delivered by ChildFund Vietnam's Swipe Safe program. The program works to provide holistic online protective environments for young people. By educating young people about the risks of using the internet, and how they can better protect themselves, the program aims to empower young people to make the most of their online world.

The program also provides valuable information about online safety to parents and teachers, works with internet cafes to build safer environments, and works closely with schools to develop and promote online safety policies and guidelines.

The planned rollout of the Coral Sea Cable will provide, for the first time, fast internet access across the Pacific region. In response, ChildFund has undertaken research with children and youth in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea to gain insight into both the opportunities and risks that increased digital connectivity will bring.

Initial findings from the study, conducted with Western Sydney University and Plan International, find young people and their families have limited digital literacy skills, which puts youth at greater risk of harm online.

Subsequently ChildFund, in partnership in the Solomon Islands, has launched a pilot project to expand the reach of the Swipe Safe program to meet the needs of children and young people.

Phone counselling expands in PNG

ChildFund Papua New Guinea (PNG) has expanded its free national helpline 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain (715-08000). The helpline is a confidential phone counselling service established in 2015 by ChildFund Australia in response to PNG's endemic levels of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In 2019, helpline staff responded to more than 23,000 calls.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, additional counsellors and information officers have been recruited and trained, allowing the service to operate across two shifts, with plans to expand the hours until later at night. This will ensure the helpline has the capacity to respond to a rise in SGBV incidents, spurred by lockdown measures and increased economic uncertainty within families.

The expanded services will also give it a broader role and wider reach: not only will it be providing counselling for those experiencing SGBV, but also vital health advice on COVID-19 and referring callers to national health services where necessary.

The helpline also 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.

Social support for vulnerable children

Six-year-old Samnang is outgoing and loves to play, but when she began school she was teased by other children because she was born with one arm and one leg. Due to her experiences at school, Samnang stopped attending.

In Cambodia's remote and rural communities, there can be social stigma around people living with disability. Studies also show children with disabilities are more likely to be seriously injured or harmed by maltreatment.

ChildFund Cambodia is helping to change community attitudes by training caregivers and young people on child protection and positive parenting. It is also building the capacity of local social services to connect families to much-needed support.

After attending a community session run by ChildFund, a neighbour helped Samnang's family connect to a social worker, who had taken part in ChildFund-supported child protection training. She worked closely with Samnang and her family, and referred Samnang to a hospital where she received an prosthetic leg and learnt how to walk.

"I am very happy to be able to walk normally," Samnang says. "I can do things on my own." She is also looking forward to going to school, with her social worker on-hand to provide support as she transitions into the school environment.

With the support of her social worker, Samnang is now planning to return to school.



I AM EDUCATED

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.”



Duyen, pictured with her peers, loves reading (main photo); and (inset) Duyen's new school building and playground.

NEW SCHOOL BRINGS EDUCATION ALIVE

Eight-year-old Duyen (pictured above, far left) lives in a disadvantaged community in remote Hoa Binh Province in Vietnam.

In these remote areas, children often lack access to child-friendly and modernised learning facilities. This can lead them to feeling unmotivated to learn

and dropping out of school, perpetuating the cycle of poverty in their family and community.

For a long time, the school in Duyen's village was an old building with four classrooms, and few teaching and educational resources. The school also did not have enough classrooms to accommodate the hundreds of primary school-aged children in Duyen's community, who are of an ethnic minority.

ChildFund Vietnam has renovated Duyen's primary school so that it now has eight fully-equipped

classrooms, as well as a new playground, library, toilet blocks and a computer room. Teachers have been trained in child-friendly teaching methods and school management. Education is vital for children from ethnic minority backgrounds because they often do not speak Vietnamese at home.

For Duyen, going to school is fun and exciting. She loves learning and enjoys going to the library. “I love reading a lot of books with colourful pictures and stories,” she says. Her favourite subject is painting. “I would love to be a painter,” Duyen says.

I AM EDUCATED

Easy to Learn Literacy skills

For the first two years of her education, 12-year-old Lyching was falling behind in her grades. She had to walk 3km to her school, which was old and had few facilities.

"I used to think about dropping out of school because studying was hard for me," Lyching says. "I was angry at myself for not being able to read."

ChildFund Cambodia's Easy to Learn project is helping to improve the quality of teaching and infrastructure of schools in disadvantaged communities like Lyching's. It is also helping to improve children's access to education, particularly for girls.

Thanks to the project, Lyching (pictured) now has a bicycle, which makes her trip to school faster, easier and safer. Her school has a new library, and teachers now have the skills and knowledge to deliver engaging lessons that motivate students to continue learning.

"I am so happy to be able to spell and read," says Lyching, who is now among the top seven students in her Grade 6 class. "I find it easy to learn now as my school has a modern library and new learning facilities."

Lyching is enjoying the new library and books available at her rural school.

A library for all children

Children in Laos explore their new digital library.

In the developing communities where ChildFund works, schools often lack the space, funds, and capacity to manage resources such as libraries. There can be few books and other reading materials available for students.

Working with the organisation Library For All, ChildFund in Laos and ChildFund Timor-Leste are helping to improve the quality of education for children in disadvantaged communities by introducing digital libraries in schools.

Books stored in the digital libraries are age-appropriate, culturally relevant, and written in children's local language.

More than 500 students in Houaphan Province in Laos now have access to a digital library with more than 200 titles.

In Timor-Leste, a digital library has been introduced to schools in Manatuto Municipality, that will reach more than 400 students.

When the COVID-19 crisis prevented children from attending school, ChildFund and Library For All worked to ensure that collections of children's books were available online so families could access books for their children to read at home.

Changing views and keeping girls in school

Sixteen-year-old Biftu (pictured below, right) lives with her family in southern Ethiopia. Her parents are farmers and struggle to cover the costs of food and school supplies for their children, so when Biftu was younger she was not enrolled into school.

"My parents didn't believe education would change our lives for the better, so they had no intention of sending me to school," Biftu says. "All I did all day was take care of my younger siblings."

ChildFund Ethiopia is working in partnership with community leaders to ensure parents understand the importance of education, particularly for girls. ChildFund is also implementing projects to improve household incomes. This includes supporting women to become more economically stable by providing training, loans and agricultural products so they can build sustainable sources of income.

Today, Biftu and her family do not need to choose between food and education. "We have enough to make ends meet now," Biftu says. "Even though we are a large family, our access to food and school supplies has improved."

ChildFund is also supporting the Ethiopian Government's National Roadmap to ending harmful traditional practices, such as child marriage and genital mutilation. This includes highlighting the dangers to youth, parents and community leaders.

Now enrolled in school, and with aspirations of becoming a scientist, Biftu is also an advocate in her community. "Through ChildFund workshops, I am better informed, and I try to teach my friends about the damaging effects," she says. "I would like to educate my community, and I want to contribute to the fight against female genital mutilation."

Biftu, age 16, has been able to continue her education with the help of ChildFund.

CONTRIBUTE

ChildFund Myanmar is helping girls to develop their leadership and life skills.

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."



EMPOWERING GIRLS TO BREAK GENDER STEREOTYPES

In a village in Myanmar's Tanintharyi region, 15-year-old Su is attending a weekly 'Circle' group where she, her peers and a trained female facilitator discuss personal development topics, healthy relationships and communication skills, and goal setting. Later, the girls will hone their teamwork skills in a friendly game of volleyball.

Su is participating in a ChildFund Myanmar project that uses both weekly interactive 'Circle'

groups and sport to empower adolescent girls and young women from disadvantaged rural communities with leadership and life skills training, as well as networking opportunities with their peers.

Girls in rural Myanmar are particularly vulnerable, struggling against restrictive gender roles, feelings of isolation, poverty, and early marriage or work to support their families.

A lack of fairly paid jobs, as well as few opportunities to gain vocational skills, results in many girls migrating to neighbouring countries in search of employment, increasing their risk of experiencing abuse and exploitation.

Girls like Su, aged between 12 and 17 years, are

equipped with the skills, confidence and support systems to navigate these challenges, positively influence their lives and relationships, and expand their access to meaningful opportunities.

The project teaches girls how to plan for their future, manage money and contribute to positive change in their communities. It also provides safe spaces where girls can open up about issues that matter to them and feel supported.

After one year of participating in the project, Su shares how her self-perception has changed, as well as her plans: "I want to study until I receive a graduate degree. I want to see myself as a helpful and brave girl as well as a person that other people see as an example."

I CONTRIBUTE



A sense of belonging

ChildFund Australia adopts an inclusive approach to its work in developing communities, and strives to increase the participation of marginalised children, including girls, young people living with disability, and youth from remote, rural communities.

ChildFund's sport for development program Pass It Back, which integrates sport with a structured learning curriculum, has a 50% female participation rate and is also driving social inclusion for children living with disability.

Thirteen-year-old Mai (pictured left), lives in a small village in the remote district of Tan Lac. Her hearing impairment has meant she has always struggled to make friends and lacked confidence. "In the past, Mai was often lonely," her grandmother explains. "At school, she often sat alone during breaks because she could not hear what her friends were talking about."

Children living with disability can experience significant challenges, including discrimination and isolation. There may be few opportunities for them to take an active role in their communities, and they can grow up feeling excluded from education, sport and other activities.

ChildFund Pass It Back coaches, however, are setting a new example. As they actively find, encourage and welcome players like Mai, they demonstrate inclusive behaviours for others to follow in local communities.

Since joining the program, Mai's coaches and teammates have provided her with ongoing support. Today, she plays for the Forest Flowers tag rugby team and has developed a greater sense of belonging, self-confidence, and self-esteem. Mai also overcame her shyness to take part in her first local rugby competition. "I'm so happy that I could be part of the competition," Mai says.

Crossing continents to speak up & speak out

"One child,
one teacher,
one book,
and one pen
can change the world"

Malala Yousafzai
United Nations Youth Assembly, 12 July 2013



Phongsavanh from Laos, at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

In 2019, 15-year-old Phongsavanh travelled from a small village in Laos to the United States to tell world leaders what young people in his country had to say about children's rights, the challenges they face in the modern world, and their vision for the future.

Phongsavanh, who is a part of ChildFund Laos youth empowerment project, took part in events celebrating the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 20 November.

ChildFund in Laos supported Phongsavanh's trip to the UN headquarters in New York, where he spoke about the limited opportunities for some children in Laos in order to reach their full potential.

"By 2030, I want all children to have access to a quality education," he said. "I want improved maternal and child healthcare, and better nutrition for children, and I want children to be able to access appropriate platforms to learn and exchange their knowledge and their skills.

"In addition, I want children in Laos to be able to access digital devices and the digital world, but we also need to know how to use the internet safely."

Youth empowered to give back to their community

In rural communities in Cambodia, many children miss out on a quality education. This not only denies them future employment opportunities, but can result in high-risk activities, such as migrating to neighbouring countries for work where they are vulnerable to exploitation.

ChildFund Cambodia is helping to address this issue through the creation of youth-led groups in Battambang, close to the Thailand border. This project engages young people to participate in their communities by providing them with training and opportunities to improve their knowledge, attitudes and practices around child protection, hygiene, and child rights, enables youth to positively influence change.

Through this training, youth are empowered to help report child-related abuse cases, monitor students' school attendance, assist students who are falling behind, and collect essential survey data that is used to make informed decisions about future projects.

The group has committed members like 16-year-old Rany (pictured right), who often travels up to 30km by motorbike to teach children at school.

"I don't get paid, but I get a lot of experience and knowledge that no school would teach," she says.

"I am happy to do such volunteering because it helps improve my society. I've learned a lot doing this too."

Vy, aged 26, was just 15 years old when his education ended, as he had to travel long distances to reach the nearest school. It is a decision he has regretted since, which is why he now dedicates his time as a mentor to younger peers in his community.

"I am happy to see positive change in my community from the work we have done together with ChildFund," Vy says.



Rany, age 16,
Cambodia.

I HAVE A FUTURE

Every child has 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."

JOB TRAINING SPARKS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

When you ask Jane (pictured right) why she decided to study electrical work, her response is simple: "Because I liked it."

She grins. Then she adds: "I wanted to help people. And I wanted to show other girls that there is no course they can't take."

Where Jane lives in Kiambu County, a rural community in Kenya known for its sprawling coffee farms, it is unusual to see a young woman entering such a traditionally male-dominated industry. In fact, youth unemployment in Kenya is high regardless of gender.

According to the country's 2018 Basic Labour Force Report, more than 11% of young people aged 15 to 34 in the country are unemployed, putting them at risk of poverty and homelessness.

The dangers are even greater for unemployed or low-income girls in this age group, who face higher rates of teen pregnancy and gender-based violence than their peers.

Jane, age 22, has confidence that the vocational training she completed will create employment opportunities and life chances in the future. She is taking part in ChildFund Kenya's youth vocational skills project, which connects at-risk youth to job training programs that will give them a practical means of earning an income for life.

Through the project, ChildFund trains young people like Jane to become electricians, carpenters, hairdressers, tailors, auto mechanics and more, providing full or partial scholarships to students who need them most.

When the students graduate from their training, ChildFund also supports them with start-up tools so they can be prepared to find work or launch their own businesses, helping to reduce youth unemployment in Kenya.

"If I had not received this training, I would have probably been at home farming," Jane says. "In my area, even some who have completed university have no job. But if you take vocational training, it is hard to fail in getting one."

Jane is in the final stage of her studies, after which she plans to seek an electrical apprenticeship and use her skills to power up homes, schools and everything in between for disadvantaged people in her community.

Jane, age 22, is training to be an electrician as part of ChildFund Kenya's vocational training project.

I HAVE A FUTURE



ChildFund Papua New Guinea is helping Jenny, age 8, recover from tuberculosis.

Helping to fight infectious diseases in PNG

Crowded housing settlements like the ones in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, provide a rich breeding ground for infectious diseases such as COVID-19, tuberculosis (TB) and measles.

Mary, who lives in Port Moresby, has seen her children and husband battle TB.

“In PNG everybody dies with all kinds of diseases,” Mary says. “Every day someone dies. If you have money people might see you but if you don’t have money, then you have to go to the back of the line.”

Mary’s eldest daughter, Princess, contracted TB when she was six months old. “I was scared,” Mary says. Princess lost a lot of weight and had to spend a month in the hospital, and six months on medication.

When her eight-year-old daughter Jenny (pictured above) got sick in 2019, Jenny was still active and playing, but she had a swollen abdomen and a persistent cough.

Fortunately, ChildFund Papua New Guinea was working in Mary’s community at the time,

supporting a clinic at a nearby health centre. Jenny was diagnosed with TB.

Now, ChildFund’s TB Treatment Supporters, who are trained to identify symptoms of TB and help people get the treatment they need, regularly follow up with Mary and Jenny.

This follow-up support is vital, as failing to complete a TB treatment program can lead to the development of drug-resistant forms of the disease, which are on the rise.

Jenny’s condition has now improved but she regularly goes to the clinic to get check-ups and ensure she completes her full course of antibiotics.

ChildFund is also implementing health programs in remote, rural villages, where clinics are few and far between, to improve access to essential healthcare.

By training village health volunteers and running outreach services in Central Province, ChildFund is helping to ensure children and families can be accurately diagnosed and get the treatment they need to fight infectious disease.

Promoting equal opportunities in Indonesia

Lin is 22 years old and an aspiring journalist. She has worked hard for years, tutoring younger students and making handicrafts in her spare time, for extra income to supplement her education.

After attending a ChildFund Indonesia workshop, Lin came away with a deeper understanding of gender inequality, particularly in relation to employment.

ChildFund Indonesia runs a program aimed at giving youth marketable skills to combat high rates of unemployment. One aspect of the program focuses on gender training and includes workshops designed to build young people’s awareness of gender issues in education and gender inequality in the workforce.

For many young people in Indonesia, the idea that gender roles are created and reinforced by society is a new message. More and more often, girls are pursuing higher education, but they still tend to set aside their career ambitions when they marry.

More frequently, boys are growing up looking forward to participating fully in domestic life,

but they feel social pressures to leave tasks like cooking, cleaning and caring for children exclusively to women.

Through ChildFund’s workshops, Lin has learnt that women are equally equipped to engage in education, the workforce and society more broadly. “The training has taught me that women have equal rights to work,” she says. “If society denies women the right to work, they are violating women’s rights, stopping women from exploring opportunities and expressing themselves.”



Lin, age 22, Indonesia.

Connecting remote mothers to healthcare

Pregnant women and mothers living in Timor-Leste’s rural communities are often unable to access basic maternal and child health information because of the long distances they need to travel to reach healthcare centres.

ChildFund Timor-Leste is helping to change this through the introduction of a mobile application (pictured below) that connects midwives and doctors with mothers and families.

Through the Liga Inan text messaging service, pregnant women and new mothers are receiving information about nutrition, the danger signs of pregnancy, birth preparation, breastfeeding and family planning.

Mothers registered in the program also receive reminders about antenatal check-ups and the importance of delivering their babies at a health facility. In addition, the service sends midwives alerts on their mobile phones that prompt them to check up on mothers when they are close to their estimated delivery date.

When the first cases of COVID-19 were detected

in Timor-Leste in early 2020, ChildFund adapted the service to send out information to mothers and families about how to prevent the spread of the virus and identify symptoms.



The Liga Inan text messaging service connects midwives to pregnant women in rural areas.

On 20 November 2019, the world marked the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Children's Convention).

As the most ratified human rights treaty in history, the Children's Convention has played a significant role in defining the rights of children. It is a legally binding international agreement, and sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child regardless of their race, religion or abilities.

The Children's Convention ensures we value children's lives now, not only their adult futures. Its four guiding principles – non-discrimination; the rights to survival and development; best interest of the child; and child participation – are crucial in our work with children.

During this historic year, ChildFund and our partners facilitated a range of opportunities for children to share issues of importance to them, upholding their rights to be heard and play an active role in society.

MARKING 30 YEARS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



Doaslin, age 13 from Honduras, says children have the right to live with family (Article 16, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Los niños tienen derecho a vivir en familia

A call to end violence against children

Building on decades of experience in child protection, the ChildFund Alliance released a new report: *Building Momentum: A call for action to end violence*. This examines the types of programming needed to tackle some of the most complex and intractable cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children.

All program examples are consistent with the INSPIRE strategies developed by the World Health Organisation as a framework for initiatives to prevent and respond to violence against children and young people.

In the report, the ChildFund Alliance also calls on governments worldwide to take urgent steps to address violence against children including:

- Analyse gaps in child protection systems and implement policies to address those gaps.
- Increase financial commitments and investments to end violence against children.

- Meaningfully involve children in the development and implementation of child protection policies, as well Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDG) review processes.
- Effectively prevent and respond to violence against children by adopting the INSPIRE strategies, and demonstrate leadership on ending violence against children.
- Report on SDG Target 16.2: ending violence against and exploitation of children, and related targets in monitoring and evaluation efforts.

The report highlights the role that children can play in holding governments accountable to SDG Target 16.2.

Marta Santos Pais, the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, said: "I commend ChildFund's commitment to meaningfully engage children as genuine partners and agents of change to build a world free from fear and from violence, everywhere and at all times."

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 2019-20, data from our 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 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (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.

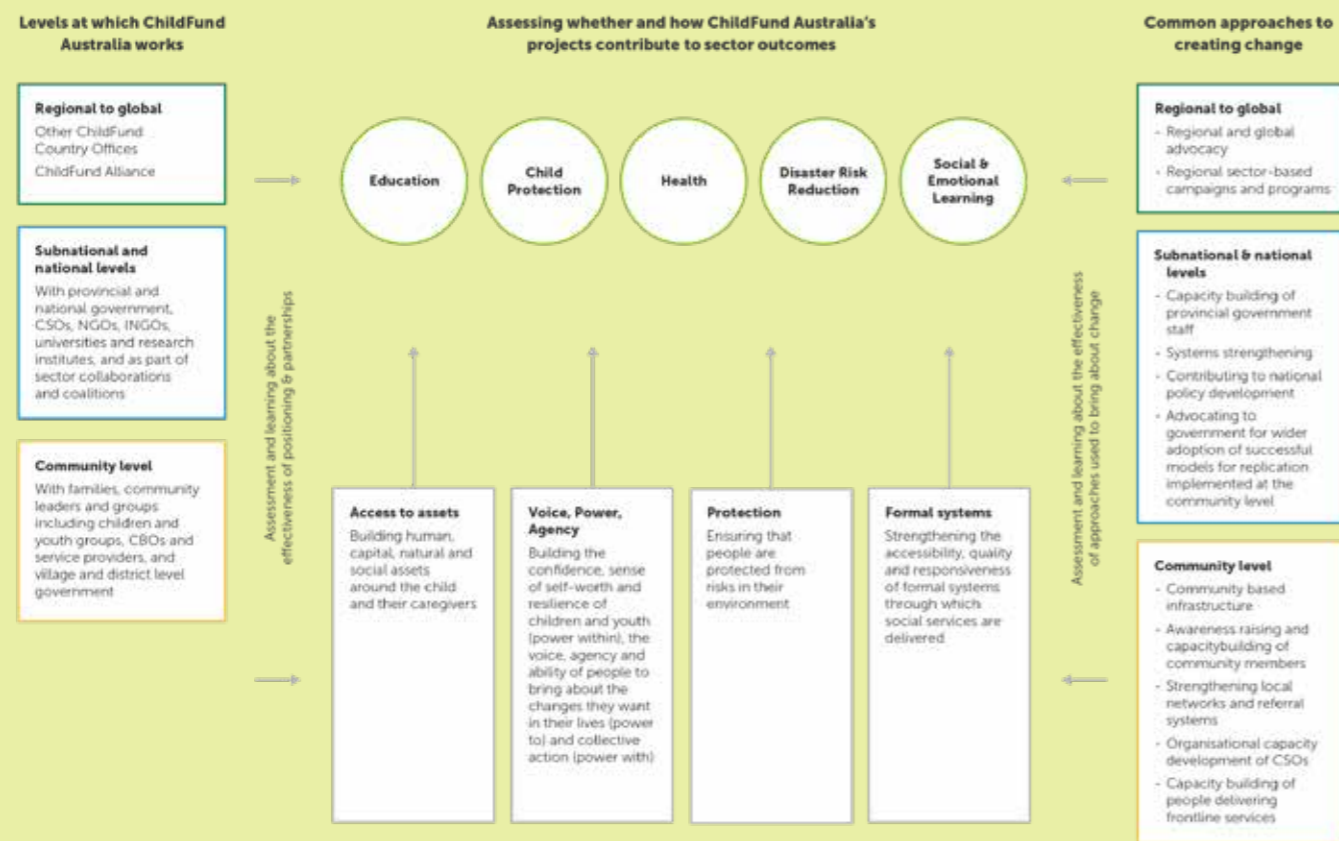
ChildFund Australia's Development Effectiveness Learning Process operates at both a country and organisational level.

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 on 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



Testing and learning of ChildFund Australia's Theory of Change and themes addressed through projects

Sector spotlight: EDUCATION

During 2019-20, ChildFund Australia implemented 32 education projects in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

Headline results

- 32 education projects
- 177 locations covered
- 34 partners
- 92,256 direct beneficiaries
- 44,227 direct beneficiaries under 18
- 46,216 direct female beneficiaries
- 386 schools participating in projects
- 2,453 teachers participating in projects
- 3,381 parents, caregivers, and other community members participating in projects
- 514 School Governance Committee members participating in projects

Key learnings from evaluations and reflections

Strategic directions

ChildFund's education teams in-country have begun identifying future priority areas, while ensuring approaches are appropriate to the changing country context. They have also identified areas to explore further, including shifting focus towards enhancing education quality, e-learning, early childhood education and inclusive education.

Adapting to COVID-19

During the current global health crisis, flexible approaches are needed for program delivery and monitoring. COVID-19 required ChildFund to rapidly revise output delivery, in response to school closures and government restrictions on group gatherings. New approaches to program delivery included online teacher training; the creation of professional learning circles for teachers; the use of messaging apps and SMS blasts for teachers, monitoring purposes and to support home learning; distribution of learning materials to school communities; and book borrowing from school libraries. The use of digital platforms was explored and utilised where possible, but it is not always feasible in rural or remote communities. There is a need to continue to explore low-tech approaches.

Collaboration with various actors (national to community level) has been a key success factor in implementing COVID-19 response activities, with country offices supporting government-sanctioned and WHO health

messaging, and working with national and sub-national governments in response activities. ChildFund staff have also used these relationships to advocate for children's continuous learning during the pandemic, especially children in rural areas without access to online technology.

Local partnerships

During the 2019-20 financial year, ChildFund engaged with many partners, including organisations representing people with disabilities, to strengthen disability inclusion in projects. Country staff worked closely with partners to develop their capacity, particularly around management, implementation plans and monitoring. Project partnerships are improving through regular meetings and the design of capacity building plans. In future, more time will also be committed to strengthening communication and identifying the needs of partners during the project design phase.

Gender and disability inclusion analysis

ChildFund staff are more aware of the gender and disability considerations that need to be addressed in projects, moving beyond participation and basic infrastructure. However, we wish to continue improving employee skills in this form of analysis, and have identified it as an area for capacity building. Education staff in Sydney are now designing virtual training sessions to support education specialists in ChildFund country offices.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The 2019-20 financial year was an extraordinary period. In the first half of the year, our financial results were in line with expectations; positively impacted by the Rugby World Cup charity partnership, and supported by strong outcomes in grant income and public funding.

The impact of COVID-19 in the latter part of the financial year was felt across the operation, impacting our ability to generate new funds, and interrupting program delivery among the children and communities with whom ChildFund works.

In Australia, our ability to invest in activities to source new ChildFund supporters was significantly curtailed. This prevented the organisation from executing fundraising initiatives which support the organisation's regular giving programs and generate public support over the long-term. Fundraising income was negatively impacted as a result.

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

At the completion of the financial year, ChildFund Australia's total revenue had decreased by 2% on the previous year, with a total comprehensive surplus for the year of \$3.5m. The surplus is a direct result of COVID-19, and the fact that some project activities could not be delivered in the final quarter of the financial year.



Bote Son, age 13, Myanmar.

The JobKeeper subsidy assisted in mitigating the financial impact of COVID-19, alongside other measures including reductions in non-essential costs, reduced working hours, recruitment freezes and pay cuts. In 2020-21, programming and other activities are anticipated to return to normal levels of operation, and the surplus will be directed toward supporting these activities.

Net assets at the end of the year were \$15.6m.

Where the money came from

In 2019-20, ChildFund Australia's total revenue was \$53.1m in comparison to \$54.4m in the 2018-19 financial year.

Revenue raised from the Australian public declined from the previous year, with fundraising activities impacted by lockdown measures arising from COVID-19. This decline was offset to some extent by legacy and bequest funding, and the successful Rugby World Cup charity partnership, which generated \$2.7m over three years in support of the ChildFund Pass it Back program. We would like to acknowledge the strong support of ChildFund supporters through this difficult economic period.

Grant funding reduced marginally in comparison to the 2018-2019 financial year. Fortunately, high levels of project implementation in the first three quarters of the financial year offset, to some extent, the interruptions caused by COVID-19 in the final quarter of 2019-20.

How the money was spent

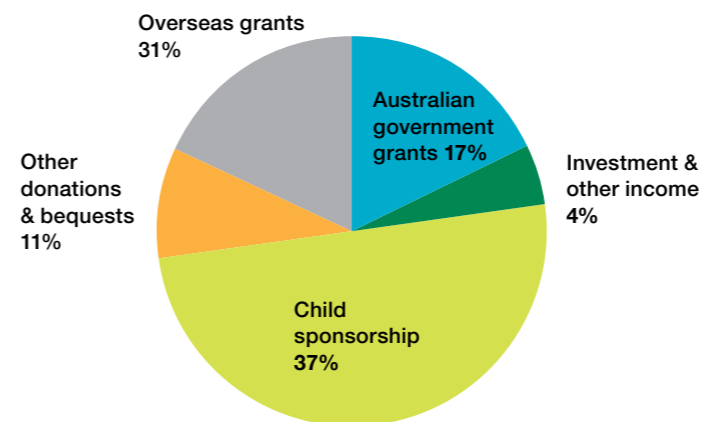
Program expenditure – which comprises of funds sent to international programs, program support costs and educating the community about our work and its impact - totalled \$41m in 2020, representing a 4% decrease from 2019.

Program activities were significantly impacted in the final quarter of the financial year due to restrictions caused by COVID-19. Program expenditure represented 83% 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.

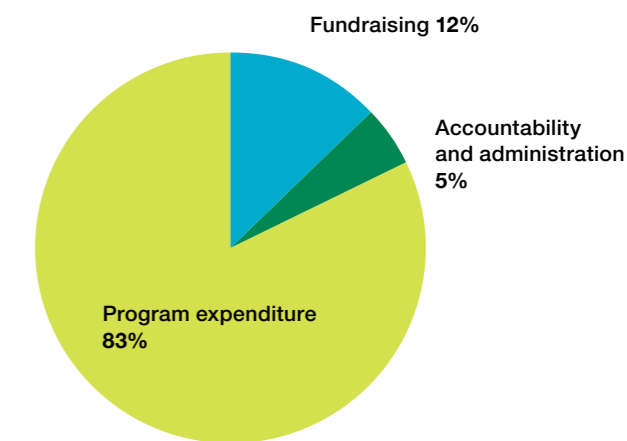
The investment in fundraising of \$5.8m in 2020 was reduced by 33% from \$8.7m invested in 2019. The introduction of lockdown measures across Australia from March onwards significantly curtailed our ability to engage and secure new ChildFund supporters, resulting in both reduced investment costs and associated income.

Accountability and administration expenses of \$2.7m have remained broadly at 2019 levels and represent 5% 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.

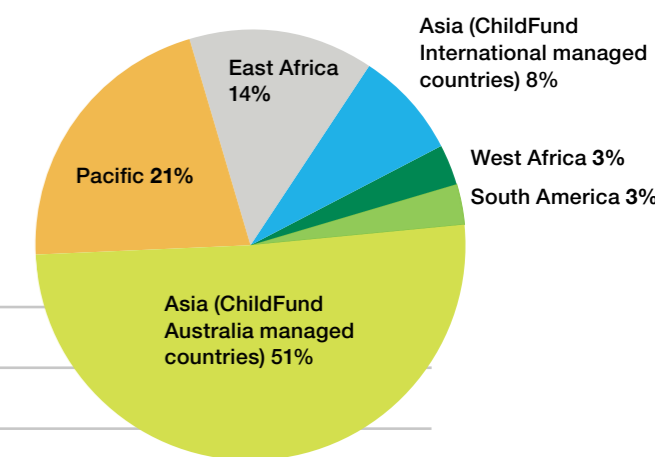
Revenue by Source - 2019-20
(% is a proportion of total income)



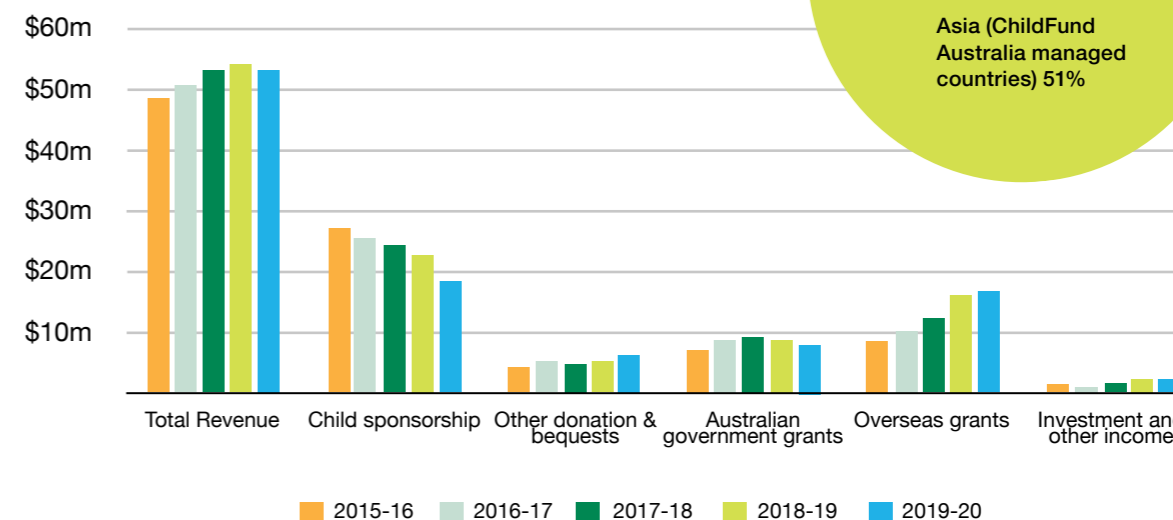
Expenditure by Type - 2019-20
(% is a proportion of total expenditure)



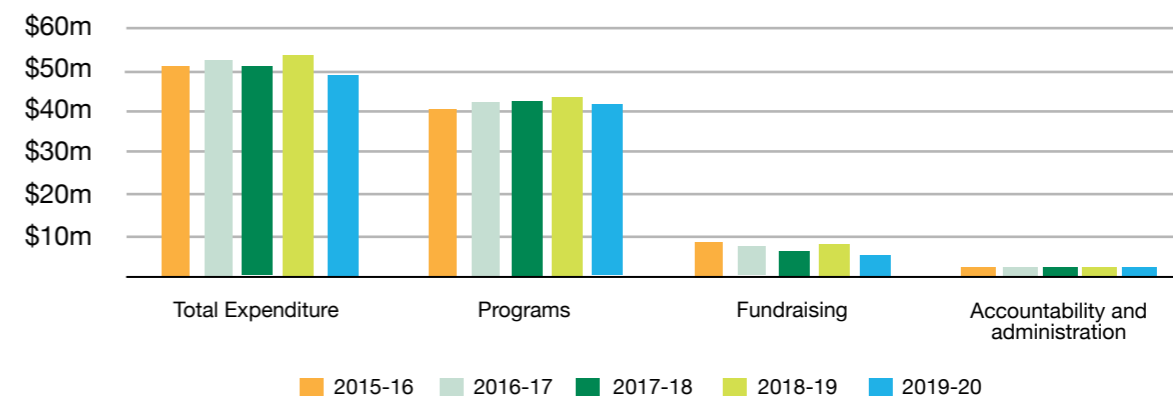
Funds to International Programs by Region 2019-20
(% is a proportion of total funds to International Programs)



Five-year revenue trend (by source)



Five-year expenditure trend (by type)



**Consolidated Summary Statement of comprehensive income
Year ended 30 June 2020**

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
Revenue		
Monetary donations & gifts		
Child sponsorship donations	19,848,552	22,103,328
Other donations	5,166,182	4,359,400
	25,014,734	26,462,728
Legacies and bequests	689,539	133,074
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	7,215,482	7,404,858
Other Australian	1,790,217	2,290,229
Overseas	16,294,040	15,989,476
	25,299,739	25,684,563
Investment income	260,246	282,294
Other income	1,821,098	1,850,900
Total revenue	53,085,356	54,413,559
Expenditure		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International programs		
Funds to international programs	37,701,001	38,976,394
Program support costs	2,786,851	2,990,112
	40,487,852	41,966,506
Community education	536,388	593,890
Fundraising costs		
Public	5,718,250	8,569,735
Government, multilateral and private	124,169	122,021
Accountability and administration	2,702,959	2,568,170
Total expenditure	49,569,618	53,820,322
Surplus of revenue over expenditure	3,515,738	593,237
Other comprehensive income		
Net change in fair value of equity investments	(127,018)	52,610
Foreign operations – foreign currency translation	76,159	167,952
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	3,464,879	813,799

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 2020**

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	14,064,656	8,620,703
Trade and other receivables	2,283,089	1,901,764
Investments – financial assets	4,341,813	6,230,928
Total current assets	20,689,558	16,753,395
Investments – financial assets	3,142,972	3,277,533
Property, plant and equipment	953,376	979,638
Intangibles	1,015,213	1,218,256
Right-of-use assets	1,313,842	-
Total non-current assets	6,425,403	5,475,427
Total assets	27,114,961	22,228,822
Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	8,168,321	8,213,929
Provisions	930,060	981,716
Lease liabilities	615,121	-
Total current liabilities	9,713,502	9,195,645
Provisions	1,003,180	923,037
Lease liabilities	823,260	-
Total non-current liabilities	1,826,440	923,037
Total liabilities	11,539,942	10,118,682
Net assets	15,575,019	12,110,140
Equity		
Unrestricted reserves		
Retained surplus	5,769,325	2,813,360
Bequest reserve	500,000	500,000
Fair-value reserve	709,453	836,471
	6,978,778	4,149,831
Restricted reserves and foreign currency translation reserve	8,596,241	7,960,309
Total equity	15,575,019	12,110,140

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 2020**

	Retained surplus (\$)	Bequest reserve (\$)	Fair value reserve (\$)	Restricted reserve (\$)	Total equity (\$)
Balance as at 1 July 2018	1,856,043	500,000	783,861	8,156,437	11,296,341
Total comprehensive income for the period					
Surplus in revenue over expenditure	593,237	-	-	-	593,237
Other comprehensive income					
Net change in fair value of available-for-sale financial assets	-	-	52,610	-	52,610
Transfers from restricted funds	364,080	-	-	(364,080)	-
Foreign operations – foreign currency translation	-	-	-	167,952	167,952
Balance as at 30 June 2019	2,813,360	500,000	836,471	7,960,309	12,110,140
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					
Excess in revenue over expenditure	3,515,738	-	-	-	3,515,738
Other comprehensive income					
Net change in fair value of equity investments at FVOCI	-	-	(127,018)	-	(127,018)
Transfers to 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

Independent Auditor's Report


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www.kpmg.com.au

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 2020 (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 2020
- 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 23 September 2020.

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
23 September 2020

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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

OUR MAJOR DONORS

- Carbine Club
- Chris Dwyer
- The Clough Foundation Trust
- DHL
- DOG Foundation, a sub-fund of the JBWere Charitable Endowment Fund
- Estate of Kaye Hurcum
- Estate of Laurence John Tracona
- Estate of Margaret Mary Moloney
- Estate of Ron Marshall
- Estate of Timothy Andrew Fischer
- Felicity Thomson
- Florine Simon
- Housley Communications
- Ingenuity Design Group
- Jancic
- J&B Jackson Foundation
- Jean-Marc Imbert
- New Zealand Rugby
- Richard Field
- Societe Generale
- Vince Murdoch
- Women's Plans Foundation
- World Rugby

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

- Asia-Pacific -

- Asia Rugby
- Library for All
- New Zealand Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Oceania Rugby

- 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
- 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 -

- Department of Social Welfare Fiji
- Empower Pacific
- Fiji Council of Social Services
- 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
- Gerehu Hospital
- iCARE
- Plan International
- PNG Education Institute
- Sacred Heart Teachers College - Bomana UNDP
- UNICEF
- UN Women
- World Health Organisation

- World Vision
- YWCA of Papua New Guinea

- The Philippines -

- Philippine Rugby Football Union

- Timor-Leste -

- The Timor-Leste Government, its ministries and local authorities
- Action for Change Foundation
- Ba Futuru
- Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste
- Fundasaun Alola
- Mary Mackillop Today
- 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 Population
- Hagar international in Vietnam
- The Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment
- Taiwan Fund for Children and Families
- UNICEF
- Vietnam Association for Protection of Children's Rights



ChildFund was proud to be World Rugby's principal charity partner for Rugby World Cup 2019, with the tournament taking place for the first time in Japan.

Thanks to the generosity of the global rugby community, including World Rugby, Asia Rugby, DHL and Societe Generale, over \$3.5m was raised for our award-winning sport for development program ChildFund Pass It Back.

This support is giving over 25,000 young people from disadvantaged communities in Asia with the opportunity to play, learn and grow through sport.

AMBASSADORS



Mark Beretta



Charlotte Caslick



Emily Chancellor



Danielle Cormack



Lynne McGranger



Frankie J Holden



Stephen Larkham



James Owens



Michelle Pettigrove



Michael Rose

Our youth ambassadors making a difference

ChildFund is supporting the training and development of a new generation of young leaders who are confident and equipped with the communication and life skills needed to change their lives, and make a positive difference in their communities.

In Myanmar, for example, ChildFund-trained youth ambassadors like 19-year-old Mee (pictured right) have played a critical role in their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mee has been helping to get information out about the virus and how children and their families can prevent the spread of the disease. Through social media, Mee has been reaching out to other young people to help organise activities in her village in Tanintharyi.

“We’ve been helping to participate in the village charity association’s activities, like distributing fact sheets of COVID and raising awareness of COVID through loud speakers,” she says.



Mee, age 19, Myanmar

ChildFund Ambassador James Owens (front) and Ron Rutland on the road in 2019.



AN EPIC RACE TO THE RUGBY WORLD CUP

In September 2019, ChildFund Ambassador James Owens and travelling partner Ron Rutland arrived in Tokyo, completing their remarkable quest of cycling more than 20,000km through 27 countries in a bid to deliver the official whistle for the opening match of Rugby World Cup 2019.

James and Ron began ‘Race to RWC’ on 2 February, departing Twickenham Stadium in London. Their seven-month journey saw them battle snow, wind and heat, and live in a vast array of accommodations ranging from their tent to the homes of locals, who kindly offered them a place to stay.

James, who is a former ChildFund employee, said: “I am so fortunate to have been a part of ChildFund Pass It Back, where I was able to combine my love of the game with a passion for development and making a difference.”

A highlight of the journey was the duo’s ride through Laos and Vietnam, and a chance to spend time in the rural communities where ChildFund’s rugby for development program is implemented.

Ron said: “Quite simply, very few things in life have made more of an impact on me than meeting the coaches and players of the program in Laos and Vietnam.”

The expedition, backed by ChildFund partner DHL, raised \$150,000 for ChildFund’s sport for development programs.

ChildFund Australia Chief Executive Officer Margaret Sheehan said: “Their epic journey may be over, but hundreds of young people now and in the future will be given the opportunity to play, learn and grow through the power of sport.”

CHILDFUND AUSTRALIA BOARD



Mary Latham (Chair)

Mary Latham is a Chartered Accountant, Company Director and Consultant. Mary is a member of the Audit, Risk and Nominations Committee and the Communications and Marketing Committee. Mary was appointed as Chair of the Board in 2015.



David Shortland (Deputy Chair)

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



David Bolton

David Bolton is a General Manager with Boral Ltd with over 20 years of leadership experience in the construction materials sector. He joined the Board in 2017. Prior to his resignation from the Board in March 2020, David was a member of the Audit, Risk and Nominations Committee.



Jo Brennan

Jo Brennan has over 25 years of executive leadership experience working across a range of industries including financial services, energy and not-for-profit. Jo is currently Chief Operations Officer with Aware Super. Jo is Chair 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. Micaela is a member of the Audit, Risk & Nominations Committee and the Program Review Committee.



Richard Moore

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



Belinda Lucas

Belinda 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, Belinda is Chair of the Program Review Committee.



Michael Pain

Over his career Michael Pain worked with strategic and technology implementation projects across a range of industry sectors including financial services. Michael is a member of the Communications & Marketing Committee, the Program Review Committee and the Audit Risk & Nominations Committee.



Anita Parer

Anita Parer is a highly experienced digital marketing professional and currently leads Customer Success, Marketing, and Sales for Magia Solutions. Anita is a member of the Communications and Marketing Committee and the Program Review 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.



Annabelle Williams OAM

Annabelle Williams 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.

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

CHILDFUND 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 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

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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.



ChildFund Australia

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