

ChildFund
Papua New Guinea

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



ChildFund Papua New Guinea is the representative office of ChildFund Australia – an independent international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in developing communities

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 organisations which assists almost 36 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.

ChildFund began work in Papua New Guinea in 1994 and works in partnership to create community and systems change which enables vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights. Projects are implemented in seven provinces across the country, in both rural and urban settings, with a focus on maternal and child health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, and child protection and addressing family and sexual violence.

In 2015, ChildFund PNG established the country’s first Family and Sexual Violence Counselling Hotline which operates in Port Moresby and provides national coverage for survivors.

ChildFund Papua New Guinea

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Overall, it was a very productive year in delivering quality projects for targeted impact for children and their families, despite challenging circumstances. Elections in Papua New Guinea (PNG) led to widespread violence that threatened the safety and security of our teams, local partners and communities. We also faced disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

In 2022, we were still responding to the challenges of the pandemic, however our staff and local partners were motivated and resilient, and continued to work hard to support children and their families. Projects that were implemented in response to COVID concluded with positive results. These projects focused on providing vaccinations, education in emergencies, and water and sanitation.

In early 2023, the Department of Community Development and Religion formally recognised the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain as a national helpline to support survivors of violence. The helpline will be an integral part of the government’s response to the high rates of gender-based violence in the country. This is a huge achievement as we look to transition over the next three to five years the helpline into a service that is owned and managed by the national system.

We continued to work in partnership with government departments and provincial authorities to implement programs. The ChildFund PNG team developed some excellent tools and resources that have been endorsed by government departments. These included training manuals on School Learning and Improvement Plan (SLIP), disaster risk management, psychosocial support and wellbeing, and training modules for community health workers and volunteers, and more.

This year we were also awarded a grant by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to strengthen the capacity of school boards of management to develop high quality SLIPs. This work will be carried out in Central and Sandaun provinces, as well as the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Thank you to the ChildFund PNG team for their hard work, dedication and resilience this year. Additionally, a sincere thank you all our donors for their commitment and support, our teams in Australia and New Zealand for their cooperation, the Government of PNG, and all our partners for making it a successful year of change. We would not be able to move forward in our journey without all your understanding and support.

ANAND KISHORE DAS
COUNTRY DIRECTOR



29,552

PEOPLE REACHED



9,709

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED



2

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

3

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROJECT

2

CHILD PROTECTION PROJECTS

2

EDUCATION PROJECTS

3

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROJECTS

4

HEALTH PROJECTS

OUR IMPACT

Keeping mothers and babies safe and healthy

Poor access to healthcare facilities and services is severely affecting the wellbeing of rural communities in Papua New Guinea (PNG). To receive immunisation shots and medicine, or find a clinic to safely give birth, families must travel long distances in rough conditions - and even then, treatment is not guaranteed.

In rural communities, the risk of women dying in childbirth is four to eight times higher compared to urban areas. This is because healthcare facilities are few and far between, and deliveries continue to take place unsupervised or without a skilled birth attendant.

11,493

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH OUR HEALTH PROJECTS.

ChildFund is working with local partners to train community health volunteers to prevent maternal and child mortality and malnutrition, and improve vaccination rates. ChildFund is also working in partnership with local health authorities to set up outreach services in rural communities where children can get health check-ups, treatment, referrals, and immunisations.

Rosemary, from Central Province, has been a community health volunteer for six years. One of her focuses is supporting mothers to attend antenatal and postnatal care and making sure they give birth in a health clinic or hospital, rather than at home. "We do home visits to see the mothers and attend the clinics with them," she said. "We also support them with transport to and from the community."

Rosemary also helps to identify and treat cases of tuberculosis (TB), a preventable but widespread infectious disease in PNG that affects the lungs, brain, kidneys and spine.

ChildFund Australia Board member, Michael Pain, visited PNG in February 2023. He said: "Our volunteers make sure families understand the importance of attending health check-ups at the outreach service."

Michael also attended the opening of a new TB clinic supported by ChildFund in a small community near PNG's capital of Port Moresby. He spoke about its impact on the community, and how the geography of the region posed a unique challenge for TB survivors. "Previously, tuberculosis samples had to be driven 2 hours to Port Moresby to be tested, and then the results sent back," Michael said. "Things would happen very slowly because of the long distances and the impact of the weather. What ChildFund was able to do was create a dedicated TB space and also invest in a microscope and facilities."

Family planning for a brighter future

In a remote village in Central Province, one woman's curiosity and courage has helped transform attitudes towards health care.

Belinda, 39, a mother of three, was eager to break away from the cycle of hardship and provide a better future for her family. She is part of a small community facing challenging living conditions, including overcrowding, limited food supplies, and a lack of family planning resources.

Belinda was the first woman in her community to participate in group discussions on family planning supported by ChildFund and local health partners. Among the services offered was the implant method with the goal of improving health care for generations to come.

Participants learnt about the female reproductive system and how the implant method worked. At first, there was distrust and fear among women because of a lack of awareness about family planning and the novelty of the approach. But Belinda stepped forward, eager to learn more. She got the implant and has since become a vocal advocate for family planning and women's health in her community.

Through the project, women in Belinda's village also learnt about other contraceptive methods and how to lead healthier lives. More than 20 mothers in the village have now received implants and are empowered to prioritise their health and wellbeing. Belinda said: "The support we received from ChildFund was crucial in making a lasting change."

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The support we received from ChildFund was crucial in making a lasting change.

Belinda, mother of three,
Central Province

Participants of a family planning and women's health group in Central Province.

A principal's determination brings about positive changes

A primary school in Central Province was facing significant challenges, including poor classrooms and staff facilities, and a lack of resources. Jiwi, the school's new principal, said: "I had no idea how to face the challenges, but I knew we had to deal with them."

Jiwi, along with other school leaders, attended a one-day workshop led by ChildFund that helped him develop and execute a School Learning and Improvement Plan. This involved learning about low-cost and no-cost approaches to improve his school, how to identify the weaknesses and strengths in the school system, and how to improve his planning and documentation methods.

Using the knowledge gained from the workshop, Jiwi began making changes to his primary school. "With community support, we began building staff facilities and classrooms from the project fees," he said. "I found hope for my school."

"Tremendous changes are starting to take place, and I can see the school environment starting to thrive with newfound energy and enthusiasm."



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Empowering communities for lasting change

John* is a father and the managing director of a women and children's crisis centre in Abau District, Central Province. Since 2016, he and his wife, Jane*, have supported survivors of gender-based and sexual violence in their community. However, like many grassroots organisations, they faced challenges with resources and capacity.

John recalled: "We were heavily reliant on service providers in the National Capital District for logistical support, case management, and temporary accommodation for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors." The situation was challenging, said John, especially as GBV case rates surged and support services were in high demand.

ChildFund, through the Stopim Hevi Kamapim Bel Isi project, supported individuals from nine civil society organisations, including John's workplace, to enhance their occupational capacity. Staff at the women and children's crisis centre participated in counselling and operations training.

"ChildFund PNG helped with our organisational reforms, particularly in financial processes and procedures during project visits," John said. "These changes not only streamlined our operations but also made our organisation more attractive for future funding prospects."

One of the most significant impacts of the project was the counselling training in

Port Moresby, which Jane attended. The training helped staff to manage the large number of cases they get each year – one of centre's biggest challenges.

"The number of GBV cases we handle can be overwhelming and complex, reaching as high as 300 a year," John explained. "A well-structured system is required. The training equipped us with the necessary tools and skills to meet these demands and expand our services to help more survivors. Jane's counselling skills are making a significant difference, and she's gaining recognition throughout the country."

The women and children's crisis centre in Abau District is open all day, every day, and has become a refuge for women and children facing abuse and violence.

"Thanks to the project, we have unlocked the potential of the crisis centre," John said. "We will continue to work tirelessly to promote peace and stop violence in our community and beyond."

*Names have been changed to protect individuals' identities.

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Thanks to the project, we have unlocked the potential of the crisis centre.

**John, Managing Director,
Central Province**

Creating safe schools to support children to develop respectful and healthy relationships

In a remote community in Central Province, one junior high school has become known for providing children with a second chance at a quality education. It is a lifeline for students who have been expelled or have had to transfer from other schools, often because of behavioural issues.

To address these behavioural issues and shift students' negative mindsets about school to a more positive one, ChildFund worked with local authorities to develop a wellbeing program for the high school. The program focuses on teaching students the skills and knowledge needed to interact and connect with one another – and with their teachers and parents – in healthy, respectful, and supportive ways. Students are supported to become leaders and role models to pass on the skills and knowledge they have learnt in the program, to their peers.

ChildFund is also working with school leaders and teachers to end corporal punishment and create safer learning environments.

School Inspector, Joe, (pictured above, right) said teachers had now moved away from corporal punishment, a method of discipline that had long been used in schools in PNG, and were now embracing non-violent methods instead.

"The project promotes a safe and conducive learning environment for all students," Joe said.



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The project promotes a safe and conducive learning environment for all students.

**Joe, School Inspector,
Central Province**

3,891

CHILDREN DIRECTLY REACHED THROUGH OUR CHILD PROTECTION PROJECTS.

Help is a phone call away for survivors

Elizabeth* is four years old but she already bears the painful scars of abuse that far too many people experience in life. She is from a poor community in Papua New Guinea, where domestic violence – mainly against women and children – is common in families and households. For months, Elizabeth, was physically abused by one of the people who should have loved her most – her father.

Elizabeth had been left in the care of her father when her mother needed to move far away for work. It was about a year after Elizabeth had moved in with her father when her aunt, Maggie*, discovered the abuse. Elizabeth's father had sent images of the abuse to Elizabeth's mother, threatening to kill her and Elizabeth.

Maggie* was terrified for Elizabeth's life. She had learnt about the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain, a phone counselling service for survivors of violence that was established by ChildFund PNG in 2015.

Maggie called the helpline and shared her story and fears with the counsellor over

the phone, who provided her with support and reported Elizabeth's case to police, and welfare and child protection services.

The counsellor helped Maggie access emergency funds so that Elizabeth could be removed from her father as soon as possible and move into a safe place with Maggie. Today, Elizabeth is living with her mother again. Elizabeth's father has been charged, and Elizabeth and her mother have protection orders in place.

Maggie has been in touch with the helpline counsellors, providing them with updates on Elizabeth's wellbeing. She said Elizabeth and her mother were both safe and living at peace. All this would not have been possible, Maggie said, without the support of the counsellors and emergency funds that were secured through the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain service.

*Names have been changed to protect individuals' identities.



COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

Thank you to the following organisations and individuals whose generous support and assistance is vital to the work of ChildFund PNG:



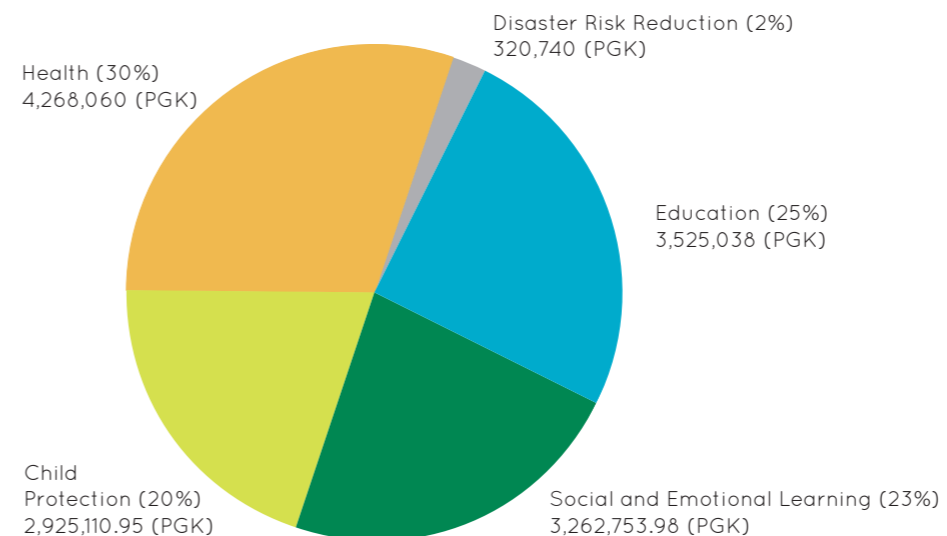
- Baptist Union PNG, Mt. Hagen • Central Provincial Education Division • Central Provincial Health Authority
- Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) • Department of Community Development and Religion – National GBV Secretariate • Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC) • Department of Justice and Attorney General • District Courts • East New Britain Provincial Government • FHI360 • Marie Stopes PNG
- Milne Bay Provincial Government • NASFUND • National Department of Education • National Department of Health • National Youth Development Authority (NYDA) • No Roads Expeditions Foundation • Northern Provincial Health Authority • NRI – Professor Eugene Ezibilo • Office of Child and Family Services • PNG Counselling Association • PNG Royal Constabulary - FSVU • St. Johns Ambulance • UNFPA • UNICEF • Village courts • YWCA

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2023

REVENUE	FY 21-22 (PGK)	FY 22-23 (PGK)
Donations	1,818,282	2,368,127
Grants	18,059,312	13,464,516
Other income	6,019	1,747
Total income	19,883,613	15,834,390

EXPENDITURE	FY 21-22 (PGK)	FY 22-23 (PGK)
Program and projects	18,739,795	14,276,288
Program support	333,372	232,635
Accountability and administration	745,295	1,325,467
Total expenditure	19,818,462	15,834,390

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY 22-23 (PGK)



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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