

ChildFund News

Year in Review - January 2024



ChildFund
Australia

**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**



Thank you for your support

In 2022-23, we embarked on the first year of ChildFund Australia's ambitious strategic plan. We partnered with 100 local governments and organisations to bring about real change, extending our services to positively impact more children and young people worldwide.

Throughout this journey, you have been our constant support. You contributed to the incredible \$41.4 million raised for programs in communities worldwide such as providing menstrual education and products for teenage girls in Zambia. You promptly showed your support for our emergency appeals and strengthened our humanitarian response. And you provided necessities such as food, water, shelter, and care to thousands of children and their families in Ukraine and Afghanistan, while continuing to assist those closer to home.

Thanks to our local partners and supporters like you, we can deliver impactful programs for communities in need. We are grateful for your care and generosity and look forward to achieving more together in 2024. Ahead you'll find a few of the highlights from our Annual Report, including some incredible stories and figures that make us optimistic for children's futures.



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



Supporting girls to go to school in Zambia



Above: Girls received sanitary pads and information resources.

In rural Zambia, schoolgirls would rather stay home than face the possibility of a menstrual leak in the classroom and teasing by their classmates. It's an all-too common experience for many adolescent girls across the country where menstruation is still a taboo topic.

Many families living in poverty cannot afford supplies of sanitary products and are forced to manage as best they can with inadequate materials such as cloth, tissues, or toilet paper.

On a visit to a school in the Kafue District earlier this year, Sarah Hunt, ChildFund Australia Global Programs Director, observed how a lack of menstrual hygiene education and resources could harm girls' wellbeing.

"Some girls and young women were either doing cheap domestic labour on the weekends or after school to save a bit of money to buy menstrual hygiene products, or they're engaging in risky relationships with older men, who will buy the products for them," Sarah said.

Remaining in the dark or misinformed about menstruation can also lead to unhygienic practices that cause infection and other diseases. ChildFund Zambia and a local partner, Kafue Child Development Association, are working with schools to start the conversation with teenage girls and their families, provide menstrual hygiene products, and build proper waste disposal facilities. Schools in the Kafue and Chilanga districts are providing girls with a safe space to share what they do and don't know about menstruation with their peers. At monthly meetings and trainings, girls can learn more about menstruation and best hygiene practices. They also receive sanitary pads and instructions on how to properly dispose of them.

A total of 1,211 teenage girls have so far been reached through the project. It is helping to empower them to feel comfortable in their bodies, equipping them with the resources to identify and manage common physical and emotional period symptoms and, most importantly, stay in school.

Help a call away for families in Papua New Guinea

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.

Elizabeth had been left in the care of her father after her mother needed to move far away for work. For nearly twelve months, Elizabeth was abused by her father. Her aunt, Maggie*, discovered the abuse after Elizabeth's father had sent images of the abuse to Elizabeth's mother, threatening to kill them both.

Maggie was terrified. She called the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain, a phone counselling service for survivors of violence established by ChildFund PNG in 2015.

A counsellor helped Maggie access emergency funds so Elizabeth could quickly 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.

All this would not have been possible, Maggie said, without the support of the counsellors and emergency funds secured through the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain service.

**Names have been changed*

Reach of PNG 1-Tok
Kaunselin Helpim
Lain in 2022-23:

16,024
PEOPLE DIRECTLY
REACHED

3,891
CHILDREN & YOUNG
PEOPLE REACHED

6,971
GIRLS & WOMEN
REACHED

Making education accessible for all children

Brothers Bunna, 15, and Lina, 10, from Cambodia, look forward to school. But this wasn't always the case. Both have a hearing impairment and have struggled to access a quality education that offers specialised support.

The brothers attend one of the very few schools in Cambodia dedicated to teaching children with a hearing impairment. ChildFund Cambodia and local partners, Khmer NGO for Education and the Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation, worked closely with Bunna and Lina's family and community to help get the brothers in the government-run school. The school is free so that any child can attend, no matter their socio-economic background.

ChildFund and local partners are changing discriminatory attitudes towards disabilities. Parents and community leaders are learning to overcome social stigma and advocate for the needs of their children, and teachers are learning to create safe, inclusive learning environments. ChildFund is also supporting children with disability aids and equipment.

"It was difficult starting at the new school at first but now that we have settled in, we are happier, and we're learning more," said Bunna, who has made a lot of new friends at the school. "We get along great and support each other in class."

Left: Bunna (15) receives specialised support at their new school.



Swipe Safe launch in Timor-Leste

With just a swipe or a tap of a finger on an electronic device, children can open so many doors into the digital world. However, with plenty of possibilities, there are also many risks.

In August 2023, ChildFund Timor-Leste partnered with local youth organisation, Alumni Parlamentu Foinsae (APFTL), to implement Swipe Safe, a program that supports young people to gain the knowledge and skills needed to navigate their online worlds safely.

17-year-old Laura, from Lautem municipality, said, "I'm very excited to begin the online safety training because we'll learn how to use technology, and how to protect ourselves from online dangers," she said. "I want to use social media wisely and correctly."

ChildFund Timor-Leste and APFTL are aiming to reach 5,000 young people and 1,000 parents in Lautem and Dili municipalities through the project. ChildFund is also working with the Timor-Leste government to educate parents and carers, and schools across the country about online safety.



“

Together, we can help everyone to become good online citizens and to protect children online.”

Erine Dijkstra

Above: Swipe Safe students in Timor-Leste are joined by ChildFund's Country Director Erine Dijkstra.

Afghanistan Earthquake Update

Since 7 October, a series of earthquakes have hit Afghanistan affecting over 275,000 people. In total 382 villages in Herat Province were impacted, where the devastation has been substantial. 50,000 homes were either completely destroyed or seriously damaged. Unfortunately, those most affected are children and women, forced to face the harsh winter conditions with insufficient means.

We have seen signs of malnutrition in the residents of 190 villages, impacting individuals who are already vulnerable, including infants, children under the age of five, pregnant women, chronically ill people, and unaccompanied elderly people.

Thanks to the generous response of ChildFund Australia supporters, our partner WeWorld is rolling out a 5-month earthquake emergency response until March 2024. We expect to reach 2,170 people through food and winter assistance in 14 villages of Kushk Rabat-e-Sangi District in Herat Province.

If you would like to donate, please visit our website or call us on [1800 023 600](tel:1800023600)

Right: Thousands left homeless after earthquakes caused widespread devastation in Afghanistan.

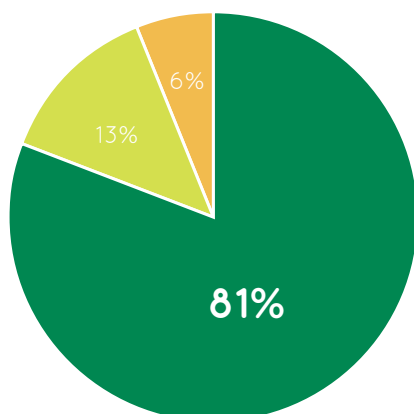


Our reach and impact

Our annual report for the financial year 2022-2023 has just been completed. We're thrilled to report that, thanks to supporter donations and grants, ChildFund Australia funded \$41.4 million in programs for children, young people, and their families. Programs are focused on health, education, child protection, disaster risk reduction / emergency response, sport for development, and social and emotional learning in 33 countries around the world. 81% of your dollar goes to where it's needed most – to children and families.

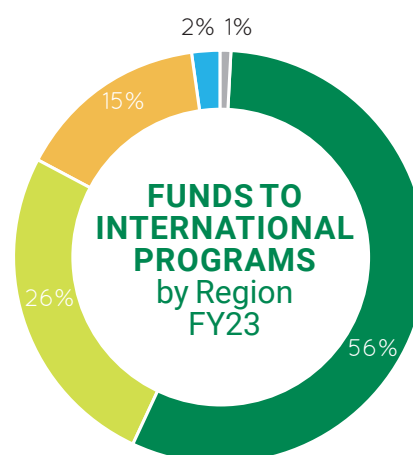
If you would like to find out more, you'll find the full Annual Report at www.childfund.org.au/publication-reports (or complete the form and we'll mail it to you).

EXPENDITURE FY23



(% is a proportion of total expenditure)

- Program expenditure
- Fundraising investment
- Accountability and administration



(% is a proportion of total funds to International Programs)

- Asia
- Pacific
- Africa
- South America
- East Europe

The FY23 financial results reflect ChildFund Australia's core objectives, such as increasing our presence and impact and diversifying our funding base, to ensure ChildFund is fit for the future.

“

It's my way of giving back. It shouldn't matter what circumstances a child may find themselves in when they are brought into this world. Every child has a right to know what it's like to be loved, have a home, never feel the pain of hunger, have access to good health care and be cared for.”

Maree, Tasmania, ChildFund Australia supporter for more than 30 years



Margie's legacy is a better future for children

Margaret "Margie" Maloney was a kind and generous woman who was passionate about children and education.

Margie was affectionately remembered by her family and friends as always putting the needs of others in her life first, right until her last years when she included a gift in her will to ChildFund Australia. That gift funded quality education for children across Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Cambodia, and recently Margie's sister, Bernadette, and her husband, Kevin, travelled to Cambodia to see Margie's impact firsthand.

Far from the busy streets of Phnom Penh, in Prey Veng Province, Bernadette and Kevin toured the classrooms and libraries that Margie's bequest supported. Bernadette said the trip has left a lasting impression and solidified her sister's care and passion for others.

"It was overwhelming experience to see the joy of the children in school," recalled Bernadette. "When I walked in, I saw it was a really happy place. It was just the people and the atmosphere – so inclusive and beautiful. That will stay with us for a lifetime"

As photos and updates on Bernadette's experience trickled back to Australia, her family was delighted to see the extent of Margie's legacy. Long into the future, her gift will continue protecting what she believed mattered most – childhood.

To find out the impact of including a gift in your Will, and how to go about it, please contact philanthropy@childfund.org.au or call 02 8281 3121.

*Left: Over 27 years, Margaret Maloney supported children around the world through ChildFund.
Right: Bernadette visited a classroom that Margie's bequest supported.*

“

Over half of you said ChildFund is either your favourite charity or one of your top three charities. So, thank you for the vote of confidence!

“

You trust our organisation, and the updates we send you make you feel confident that your donations are making a real difference to children.

“

Our general communications could be more inspiring. We're taking that on board and hope you will continue to read our quarterly newsletter – like this one – for more inspirational stories about the difference you are making to the lives of children, their families and their communities around the world.

Thank you for your feedback!

A few months ago, we sent out a survey to all our wonderful supporters. We wanted to hear your thoughts on what you think we do well, why you support us and what we could improve. We crunched the data, read your comments, and want to say a huge thank you for taking the time to provide us with your invaluable opinions and insights.

We value your trust and are grateful for your ongoing support. Please feel free to share your feedback with us at any time via email at info@childfund.org.au



ChildFund Australia recognises the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.

ChildFund Australia

Address: 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills NSW 2010
 Phone: 1800 023 600
 Email: info@childfund.org.au
 Website: www.childfund.org.au
 ABN: 79 002 885 761

Editor: ChildFund Australia communications staff
 Designer: Minnie Milan
 Photography: ChildFund staff and supporters
 Printers: JA Wales
 Front cover: Pisey Khun

© ChildFund Australia