CAPACITY STATEMENT

ChildFund®
Because we need each other.

YOUTH LIVELIHOODS



A Trusted Name With Deep Roots

24 million

children and their families reached across Africa, Asia and the Americas annually.

For over 65 years, ChildFund has been present in Africa, working hand in hand with families, communities, and governments. ChildFund reaches over 24 million children and family members in Africa, Asia and the Americas annually, connecting them to people, resources, and institutions that enable them to grow up healthy, educated, safe, and economically empowered. In partnership with the ChildFund Alliance, a global network of 11 child-focused development and humanitarian organizations, we implement long-term development and humanitarian programs that protect children, strengthen families, and build resilient communities. We champion measurable, scalable, and locally-led solutions that put children and youth at the center. Together with communities, we are building resilience and creating a future where every young person can thrive.

Community-Led Approach

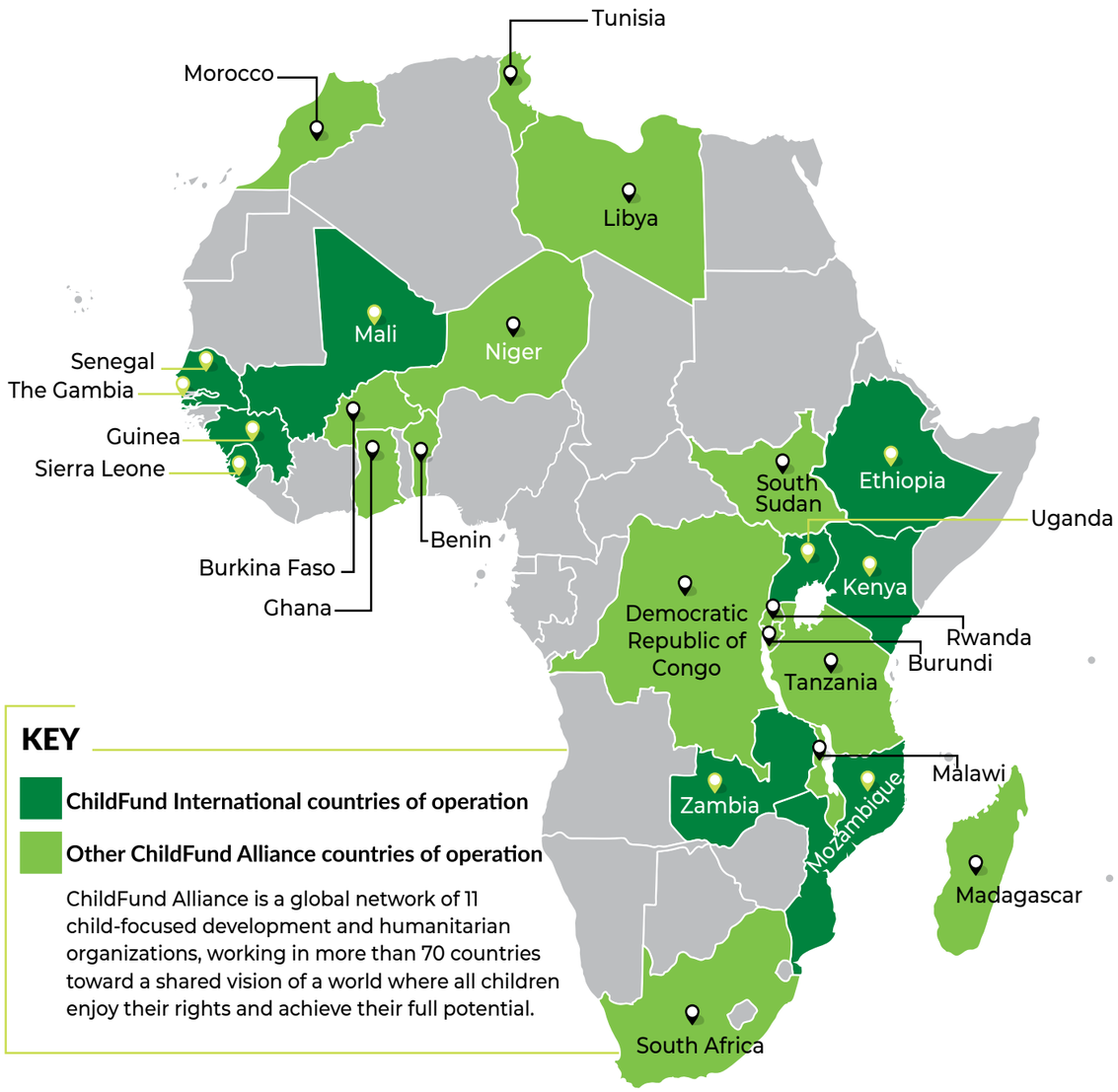
ChildFund's approach is rooted in the lived experiences and leadership of local communities, powered by trusted partners who are embedded within them. We prioritize collaboration with local NGOs, authorities, and communities, building capacity for sustainable, contextually relevant, community-owned, and child and youth-centric interventions. We seek to fully involve marginalized groups, including those with disabilities, and we address the deep-rooted gender inequality that defines the life experiences of girls and young women, advocating for their right to make decisions about their lives. From intergenerational knowledge exchanges and land restoration practices to youth-led initiatives that inspire sustainable behavioral change, our work uplifts the wisdom and agency of those most connected to their communities.

We prioritize the integration of indigenous and local knowledge systems with modern science to strengthen community resilience. By honoring traditional practices and advancing sustainable solutions, we support the localization of sustainability and efforts that are culturally grounded for the next generations. ChildFund collaborates with governments, UN agencies, multilaterals, and corporates to scale results and strengthen the link between community-driven action and national and global platforms.

From local governance to international platforms, our youth are ensuring that community voices are heard. We proactively engage with young people to solicit their feedback, ideas, and solutions concerning the challenges of greatest importance to them, through initiatives like our youth-centered design methodology. Our children and youth advocates have presented at COP27, COP28, COP29, and the Africa Climate Summit, ensuring Africa's youngest voices are meaningfully engaged and heard in shaping policies that impact their future.



Our Presence in Africa



KEY

ChildFund International countries of operation

Other ChildFund Alliance countries of operation

ChildFund Alliance is a global network of 11 child-focused development and humanitarian organizations, working in more than 70 countries toward a shared vision of a world where all children enjoy their rights and achieve their full potential.



Co-Investment

Partners choose ChildFund because we deliver what matters: evidence, scale, and durability. We turn bold ideas into measurable results and replicable models. We test, adapt, and scale approaches with our local partners. And we do it with full transparency, financial discipline, and commitment to shared impact and investment.

With an annual operating budget of $222.3M (2024), we have robust financial and management policies. We currently manage 95 active grants, and our impact doesn't fade when a project ends. Backed by 160,000+ individual donors and a global network that believes in doing the hard work, ChildFund invests alongside our partners to deliver evidence-backed, future-ready impact that communities can sustain. And since our partners own the systems, capacities, and solutions built along the way, impact continues to expand long after grants close. That is the ChildFund Difference.

Youth Livelihoods

In Africa, ChildFund implements multi-sectoral youth interventions that respond to the realities of high informality, underemployment, and limited access to capital. Essential technical and soft skills are vital for equipping young people with the competencies required to thrive in evolving economies. ChildFund's approaches align with International Labour Organization (ILO) standards for decent work and just transitions, ensuring that youth, especially young women and vulnerable groups such as youth with disabilities, are equipped not only with technical skills but also with leadership, financial literacy, and digital competencies.

ChildFund adopts green livelihood approaches that integrate sustainable land management practices such as climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, organic soil fertilization, and energy-efficient irrigation systems. Our projects in Africa promote biodiversity and build resilience to environmental shocks, while directly improving household food security and incomes. By connecting eco-friendly solutions with livelihoods, we work with young people and their communities on generating income, strengthening community cohesion, and advancing just transitions to climate-resilient development across Africa.

ChildFund has deep expertise in designing and implementing integrated youth employability and economic empowerment programs that combine skills development, entrepreneurship, market access, and social protection. We combine international best practices in youth employability with strong local expertise in value-chain development. ChildFund provides strategic leadership, technical expertise in youth employment, green livelihoods, digital inclusion, safeguarding, and results-based management, while local partners ensure contextual relevance, market connectivity, and community ownership.

Our areas of expertise include:

- **Vocational training in technology, agriculture, and entrepreneurship**
- **Life skills development, digital literacy, and career counseling**
- **Tailored approaches for vulnerable youth, including women, refugees, and those with disabilities**
- **Advisory boards with industry and youth representatives**
- **Partnerships with local businesses for internships and apprenticeships**

ChildFund's livelihood programming focuses broadly on youth work and entrepreneurial skills, employability, and work readiness. Many of our livelihood interventions also overlap with youth participation programming and adolescent sexual and reproductive health. This means we are able to holistically support youth through this life stage, properly preparing them not only for work, but for being able to stay employed, continue their education, and remain safe and healthy. Our interventions emphasize market-driven skills, self-employment, and enterprise development, particularly in agriculture, agribusiness, and green livelihoods. By providing vocational and entrepreneurial training, ChildFund creates safe, sustainable employment opportunities. Intentionally inclusive curriculum design has enabled integration of youth with disabilities in our programming, boosting the livelihoods of thousands of young people with disabilities.



ChildFund's youth employment approach is built on five core components, and our results are aligned with Sustainable Development Goals:

- **Market-driven job training**
- **Technical skills training and production support**
- **Business and entrepreneurship skills**
- **Ongoing mentoring and coaching**
- **Life skills development**

Core Outcomes

The Results Framework outlines how our programming produces positive outcomes for Sustainable Livelihoods

Result Area

Livelihood Strengthening

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Sub-Result Areas

- **Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship**
- **Financial Inclusion**
- **Sustainable livelihoods**

Data-Driven Interventions

ChildFund's interventions in green and climate-smart livelihoods integrate climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, regenerative land management, and renewable energy solutions such as solar irrigation into youth employment pathways. Across Africa, these interventions have increased productivity, strengthened resilience to climate shocks, and created sustainable self-employment opportunities for young people. Our experience linking production to markets through cooperatives, private-sector partnerships, and digital platforms ensures that training translates into real income and job creation rather than short-term activities.

For example:

Zambia
Nurse and Life Skills Training (MasterCard Foundation): Training 6,000 youth as nurses over five years through an e-learning platform, to address national health worker shortages. The project includes full and partial scholarships for 1,631 disadvantaged youth and has a total budget of USD 7.6 million.

Uganda
Climate-Smart Agriculture (BMZ): Supporting youth in northeastern Uganda through climate-smart agriculture, disaster risk management, vocational skills development, and agri-based microenterprises, strengthening resilience for over 7,000 households.

Ethiopia and Kenya
Youth and Women-Led Waste Management: Engaging youth and women in waste management initiatives to address urban poverty and environmental challenges, generating income for 300+ families and improving environmental conditions for over 500,000 people.

Ethiopia:
The Youth Economic Empowerment Project (YEEP II): improved the socioeconomic well-being of vulnerable youth and helped increase the engagement of young women in their own business by 37% (from 7% to 44%).

Kenya
Circular Economy in Nairobi: Establishing youth-led plastic waste management centers, linking youth to waste markets, and promoting school-based awareness and behavior change on waste management.`



ChildFund leverages our Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) infrastructure and our global digital data platform for all interventions. This encompasses a MEL toolkit and a comprehensive and integrated set of powerful data collection, analysis, and reporting tools designed to track services and outcomes for children and youth in development and humanitarian settings.

Our MEL toolkit includes resources that enable us to co-develop program-specific monitoring questions and surveys, and measure standard indicators to evaluate program fidelity, quality, adherence, acceptance, satisfaction, and outcomes. Once we establish monitoring tools, we adapt them to local languages, train local implementers and enumerators to use the tools, and automatically save and aggregate data in our global digital data platform for analysis and reporting through a secure server. Once data is saved, we use integrated tools to develop analyses, reports, and data visualizations based on the needs of individual stakeholders and to support timely decision-making and program adaptations. We also have the ability to export data for statistical analysis with specialized software.

Strategic Vision for The Sahel

ChildFund's work in the Sahel region is part of our global vision to contribute to a world where all children fully enjoy their rights and live in dignity. Newly established in Mali, our 2025-2029 Action Plan for Central Sahel outlines strategic expansion in the region. Prior to 2025, ChildFund supported the region through the ChildFund Alliance, which works in 70 countries. Through the ChildFund Alliance, ChildFund partners with WeWorld, Educo, Children Believe and strategic partner Search for Common Ground to form a strong consortium dedicated to advancing the rights and well-being of children, youth, and communities in the region.

Key Consortium Strategies

Technical and vocational training aligned with priority value chains (urban services, zootechnics, green and climate-resilient sectors).

Enterprise development and access to employment (microenterprise support, start-up funding, labor market insertion).

Soft skills, digital skills, and youth empowerment (employability, digital literacy, conflict prevention, intergenerational dialogue).

Together, we bring decades of experience, deep local partnerships, and complementary expertise in humanitarian response, development, peacebuilding, and advocacy. Through collaboration with more than 100 local organizations across Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, ChildFund Alliance-led Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs currently reach approximately 10,000 youth. These initiatives aim to improve youth employability, social cohesion, and resilience by strengthening technical skills, access to decent work, and inclusive economic opportunities while contributing to stability and community resilience.



Ongoing Consortium Projects

Mali (Bamako and IDP Camps)
Support to three priority value chains through vocational training, start-up grants, and strengthening of training centers. Training of 2,000 youth in employability skills and 500 youth in technical skills.

Burkina Faso (Grand Ouaga, Ziniaré)
Strengthening TVET, employment support, and microenterprise development in the sustainable zootechnical value chain through training, partnerships, and access to finance.

Mali
Integrated education, protection, food security, and WASH interventions supporting alternative education models and livelihood resilience for vulnerable communities.

Mali
Youth 360° approach combining youth-led initiatives, sub-grants, and intergenerational dialogue to promote social cohesion, conflict prevention, and youth leadership.

Burkina Faso and Benin
Digital peacebuilding, climate resilience, and empowerment of women and vulnerable groups through digital education, community dialogue, media production, and advocacy platforms.

Local Partnership In Mali

ChildFund currently partners with the Association Malienne pour la Solidarité et le Développement (AMSD), a local organization working on value chain development and youth job creation in the Sahel. AMSD (https://ongamsd.org/), brings strong contextual knowledge and a proven track record in value-chain development and youth employment creation. With longstanding experience in Mali's agricultural and agri-food sectors, AMSD works closely with youth groups, cooperatives, producer associations, and local authorities to strengthen inclusive, market-oriented value chains.

AMSD has demonstrated capacity to identify high-potential value chains—particularly in climate-smart agriculture, horticulture, livestock, and local processing—and to support youth in transitioning from subsistence activities to viable income-generating enterprises. Its expertise spans the full value chain, including production, post-harvest handling, processing, packaging, storage, and market distribution.

A key comparative advantage of AMSD is its ability to translate training into jobs through hands-on coaching, access to productive assets, and strong market linkages. The organization supports youth-led cooperatives and microenterprises to access land, shared equipment, and buyers, while facilitating relationships with traders, aggregators, and processors.











Objectives In The Sahel

ChildFund is bringing our youth-centered and gender-transformative approach to youth employment, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and livelihoods in the Sahel. We are committed to equipping youth in the Sahel with market-relevant skills and pathways to decent employment and entrepreneurship. Building on proven results and strong local partnerships, we aim to scale impact and contribute to economic growth and social inclusion.

We will target at least 50% participation of young women, address structural barriers such as access to land and finance, and establish safe learning and mentoring spaces. Our interventions integrate safeguarding, psychosocial support, and trauma-informed approaches, which are critical in Sahelian contexts affected by displacement, insecurity, and social stress. This positions ChildFund to effectively deliver complex youth employability initiatives in fragile environments such as Mali.

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Our Development Partners



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