ChildFund®

Because we need each other.

AFRICA IMPACT REPORT 2025



When communities lead, change lasts.

www.childfund.org



Ten years ago, Rose's father was killed in conflict in South Sudan. Now 18, she has been raising her two younger brothers in Uganda's Palorinya Refugee Settlement after their mother abandoned them. With support from ChildFund, Rose has returned to school and dreams of becoming a nurse, determined to build a brighter future for her family.

Palorinya is home to more than 122,000 refugees, mostly from South Sudan, where children face heightened risks of exploitation and abuse. To protect them, ChildFund provides safe child-friendly spaces for learning, play and support, while also training community members to prevent violence against children, girls and women.

Front cover: Eight-year-old Yussira, a second grader in Inhambane Province, Mozambique, attends a ChildFund-supported school with desks, learning materials, and improved latrines. ChildFund also conducts child protection sessions with children, youth, and parents on reporting violations such as child marriage, violence, and abuse.

This Impact Report highlights ChildFund's work in Africa from July 2024 to June 2025.
All rights reserved. Published by the ChildFund Africa Regional Office. All photos were taken with informed consent.

CONTENTS

About ChildFund 4

When communities lead, change lasts 6

ChildFund's visible and invisible work of change 8

ChildFund in Africa 10

Our Work

- Policy Advocacy 11
- Education 14
- Health & Nutrition 24
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) 28
- Humanitarian Response 30
- Child Protection 37
- Food Security & Livelihoods 42
- Youth Development 48
- Child Sponsorship 52

Resources 54

Key Lessons Learned 58

2025 and Beyond 60

Our Development Partners 65

Our Team 66



"It used to be very difficult to get water. What we drank was not clean, and it often made me sick. Now we have safe, clean water." - Jorifo, 13.

Commissioned by ChildFund in January 2025, this borehole in Nampula Province, Mozambique now provides clean, safe water to more than 3,200 people.

About ChildFund

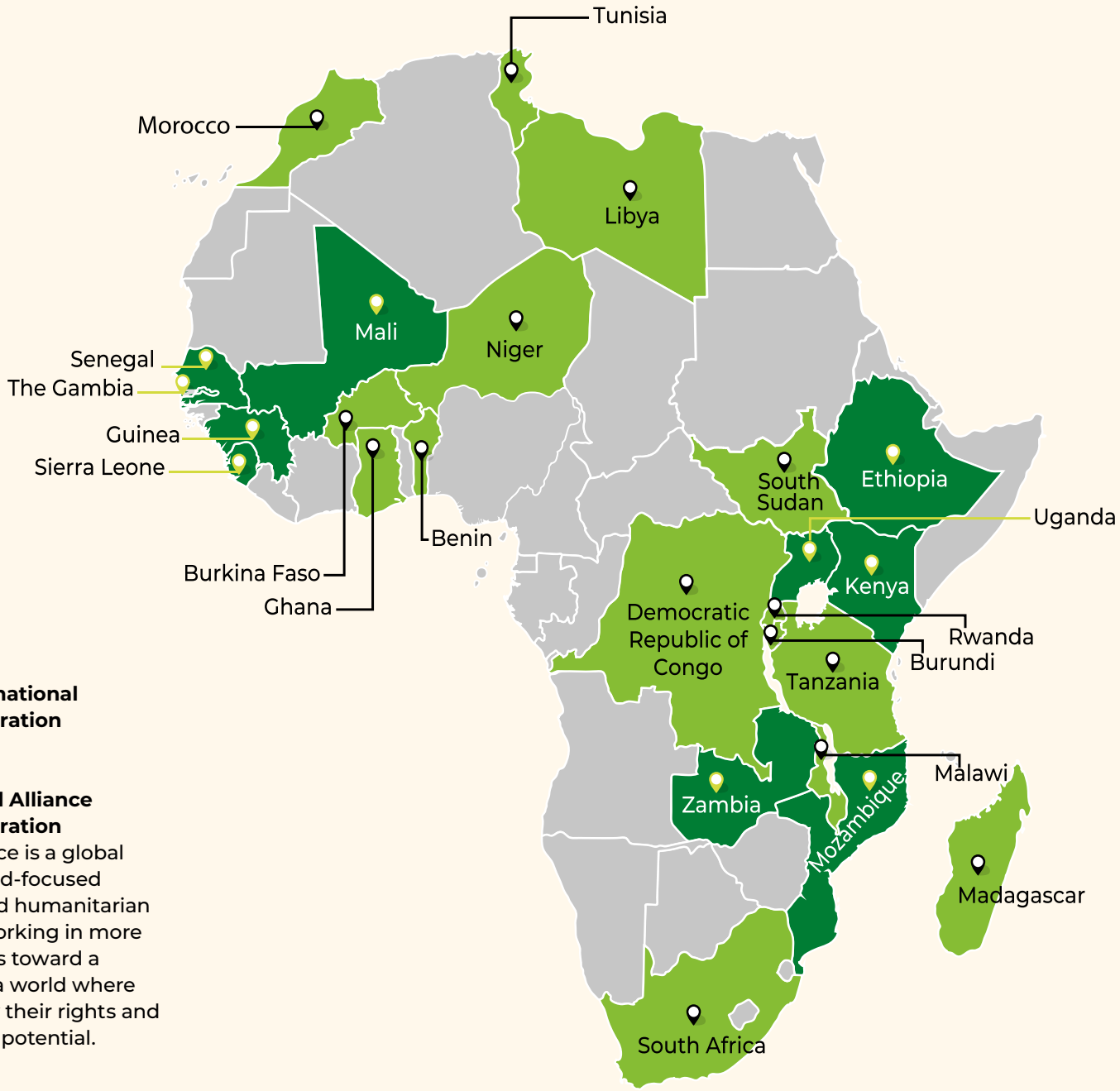
ChildFund International is a child-focused development and humanitarian organization that works in Africa to connect children with the people, resources and institutions they need to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe — safe at home, at school, in the community and online.

Delivered through 57 local implementing partner organizations in Africa, our programs address the underlying conditions that prevent any child or youth from achieving their full potential.

Our Vision

A world where every child realizes their rights and achieves their potential.

ChildFund 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.



ChildFund Africa Regional Director Chege Ngugi distributes food items to families affected by drought in Zambia's Chongwe District in May 2024.

When communities lead, change lasts

Across Africa, the promise of childhood is too often threatened by conflict, environmental shocks, economic instability, and social inequality. Yet, in the face of these challenges, I am constantly inspired by the resilience of our children and youth. They are powerful changemakers. With the right support, their energy and ideas can unlock transformative solutions for their communities.

At ChildFund, we believe that those closest to the issues are also closest to the solutions. We listen, learn, and collaborate with communities to ensure they lead their own development. Since the 1960s, ChildFund has partnered with local institutions that deeply understand their communities' needs, working together to ensure children grow up healthy, educated, skilled, and safe.

Localization has long been central to our approach; well before it became a global priority. We believe sustainable development must be owned and led by communities, where local voices shape solutions that promote ownership, relevance, and lasting impact.

Today, ChildFund partners with 57 local organizations across nine African countries (Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Mozambique, and Zambia.) Over the past 65 years, we have walked alongside these organizations, nurturing their growth into capable leaders of change. Through sustained capacity strengthening, many now secure direct donor funding and design and implement programs that respond to the real needs of children, youth, families, and communities.

Besides funds from ChildFund, over the past three years our local partner organizations raised a total of USD 23.72 million for donor-funded projects. Despite reductions in Official Development Assistance, we remain confident in the long-term upward trajectory as partners continue to strengthen their capacity to lead community-driven programs.

2025 also marked a major milestone as we began our expansion into the Central Sahel region, covering Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. These countries face fragility, food insecurity, displacement, and limited access to essential services, yet they hold significant potential for transformative development.

Alongside this geographic expansion, we strengthened our focus on child protection, education, health, livelihoods, and humanitarian response. This approach addresses urgent needs across the continent, as we work to ensure every children grows up healthy, educated, skilled and safe, and resilient, while equipping communities to build sustainable futures.

Overall, this report highlights our progress and collective achievements over the past year, structured around five key pillars that shape our work:



Impact: We measure success by the tangible changes we help create in children's lives, from access to education and healthcare to protection and skills development.



Partnerships: We work collaboratively with governments, donors, private sector actors, civil society, local organizations, communities, and young people to drive shared success and amplify our reach and impact.



Localization: We are committed to shifting power to communities by strengthening local leadership, ownership, and action. Localization is a principle we have practiced and scaled with purpose and pride, currently partnering with over 57 local organizations in Africa to drive lasting change.



Systems Strengthening: We invest in, support, and lead initiatives that enhance the structures, processes, and capacities of institutions and sectors, enabling them to deliver more effective, equitable, and sustainable services and outcomes.



Resources: Our programs are powered by financial, technical, and human capital. In FY25 alone, ChildFund invested over USD 79.9 million across Africa to support community-led solutions that help children and families thrive.

These pillars come to life through the voices, data, and stories in this report. They are real examples of what is possible when we work in true partnership with those we serve. Over the past year, together with our partners, we reached over **12.1 million** children, youth, and adults, transforming lives through community-driven solutions in health, education, skills and safety.

Together, we achieved meaningful impact across multiple fronts:

- **2.4 million** children and youth learned in safe and inclusive learning environments.
- **3.62 million** people benefited from community-led health and WASH programs.
- **940,000** youth, women, and men were supported through livelihoods initiatives.
- **1 million** children, youth, and adults engaged in environmental sustainability programs.
- **165,112** people reached through humanitarian responses.
- **2.88 million** children benefited from strengthened child protection systems. Notably, we partnered with the African Union to develop a continental model law on online safety that will guide national legislation to ensure children are safe online.

None of this progress would be possible without the trust and collaboration of our local partners, donors, governments, and, most importantly, the children and youth who inspire our mission.

Looking ahead, we are deepening partnerships, strengthening government systems, and exploring innovative financing to advance our work.

We remain committed to a future where every African child grows up free from poverty, violence, and fear. The challenges are significant, but our resolve is greater. And when communities lead, the change we create is lasting and transformative.



CHEGE NGUGI
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, AFRICA



Hawa (14), a sixth-grade student, attends class at a ChildFund-supported school in The Gambia's Western Region. To promote safe, inclusive, and quality learning, ChildFund improved access to water with a solar-powered borehole, provided learning materials and play equipment, and supplied bikes with safety gear for children commuting long distances.

ChildFund's visible and invisible work of change

We work to ensure every child grows up healthy, educated, skilled, and safe. Some of our work is easy to see. Picture 14-year-old Hawa, a sixth-grade student at a ChildFund-supported school in The Gambia, confidently answering a question in class. But behind that moment are many invisible efforts: trained teachers, engaged parents and supportive communities, strong child protection systems, and governments that budget for children's rights.

We ask the hard questions:

- **Is the school safe, free from violence and discrimination?**
- **Can she attend class instead of staying home to fetch water or care for siblings?**
- **Did she have a meal that morning so she can concentrate in class?**
- **Does she have access to menstrual hygiene products and a private, dignified space at school so her period doesn't interrupt her learning?**
- **Has her teacher been well trained and equipped to teach?**
- **Does her family have the resources to keep her in school? And do they understand why education for all children matters?**
- **Does Hawa's community have child protection systems in place, linked to formal structures, to identify risks, report violations, and ensure children like her are safe and supported within the community?**

ChildFund supports children at every level, some work is visible, some happens behind the scenes. Visible progress lasts only when it is built on strong, sometimes unseen foundations. When these systems work, children, families and entire communities thrive.



Promoting access to quality learning, inclusion, and safety for all children.



Building safe and inclusive school infrastructure that support learning for every child.



Delivering clean and safe water to schools, health facilities, and communities.



Training teachers on child-centered teaching methodologies.



Providing school meals and nutrition support.



Ensuring menstrual hygiene access for girls to support dignity and learning.



Supporting children, youth and their families to access quality and affordable healthcare services.



Strengthening child protection through community-based systems linked to formal structures.



Equipping youth with resources and opportunities to lead, influence, and transform their communities.



Working with governments to strengthen systems that ensure children have access to health, education, skills, and protection services.

ChildFund supports children at every stage of life, from infancy to young adulthood.

Some of this work is visible, while much also happens behind the scenes to ensure they grow up healthy, educated, skilled, and safe.

ChildFund in Africa: 2025 Highlights



12.1 million+ children, caregivers and their families reached through health, education, protection, llivelihoods, environmental sustainability and humanitarian assistance programs

13 emergencies (conflict, floods, cyclones, droughts, fires and earthquakes)

1,000+
ChildFund, local partners staff and volunteers across Africa

10 countries
Ethiopia, Guinea (Conakry), Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia

57
trusted local implementing partners

USD 79.9 million
total investment in Africa in 2025

USD 30.2 million
(estimated market value) worth of drugs and medical supplies were distributed to public health facilities



10 policy changes

advancing the rights and opportunities of children, girls, and youth.



2.45 million+

children supported to access safe, inclusive, quality education in 9 countries.



1.13 million+

children, caregivers, and community members accessed early childhood development programs supporting nutrition, learning, stimulation, and caregiver engagement.



3.62 million+

children, youth, and caregivers gained access to quality and affordable healthcare services.



2.88 million+

children benefited from stronger protection systems, which provided psychosocial support, access to justice, knowledge and skills to stay safe online.



207,035

children aged 0 to 24 were enrolled in ChildFund's child sponsorship program.



165,112

people affected by emergencies reached with lifesaving interventions such as food assistance, cash transfers, education, WASH, and child protection.



2.5 million+

people have access to safe and clean water, and improved sanitation and hygiene services.



1,040,000+

children, youth, and adults engaged in environment-focused programs on adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and nature conservation.



940,000+

people strengthened their livelihoods through access to skills training, income-generating opportunities, market support, agricultural inputs, and financial literacy programs.



Nearly seven in ten children in Uganda cannot read or solve basic math problems by age 10. This learning gap is especially acute in rural and hard-to-reach communities where schools lack basic learning materials.

In partnership with Longhorn Publishers, ChildFund is strengthening early literacy and numeracy in Uganda and Kenya by equipping schools with quality, government-approved books, learning materials, and targeted learning support. In Uganda, the partnership addresses chronic shortages of textbooks by supplying thousands of early-grade reading materials to rural schools, helping improve classroom instruction and learning outcomes.

In Kenya, the partnership focuses on early childhood development, supporting pre-primary schools in counties such as Baringo and Tharaka Nithi with age-appropriate books, learning materials, and basic classroom infrastructure.

Together, these efforts reached over 92,000 learners across Uganda and Kenya between 2024 and 2025, giving children a stronger foundation to stay in school and learn effectively.

Our Work

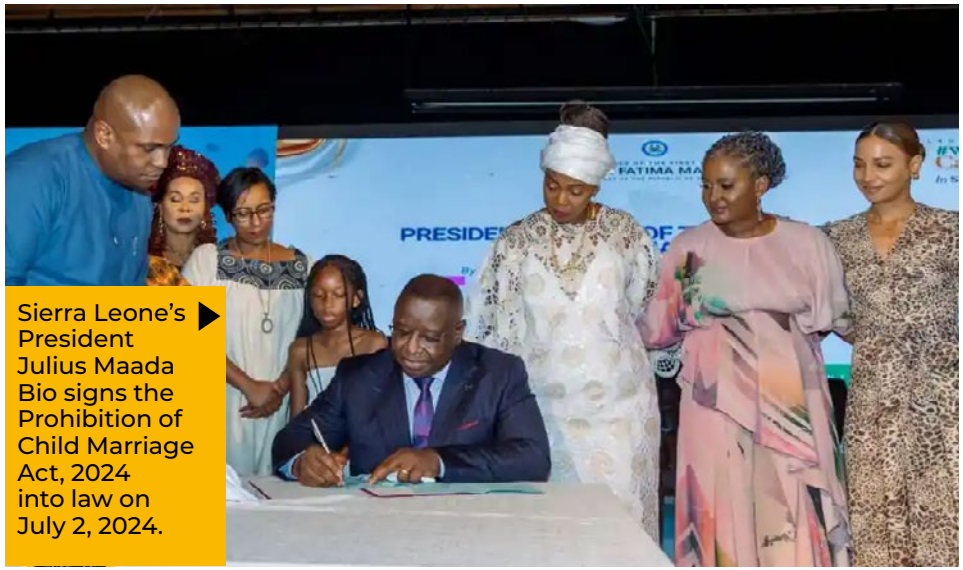
Advancing child and youth rights through policy change

In 2025, ChildFund played a key role in shaping policy environments that better protect and uplift children and youth across Africa. Working with governments, peer organizations, civil society, and young people themselves, we contributed to several key policy milestones:

- **Sierra Leone:** Advocated for the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2024, a landmark law ending child marriage. ChildFund now serves on the Technical Working Group (TWG) developing its implementation regulations.
- **The Gambia:** Contributed to the development of the National Children's Policy (2025-2030) and the National Child and Vulnerable Groups Online Protection Policy, providing a strong framework for safeguarding children both online and offline.
- **Guinea:** Participated in the review of the National Child Protection Policy to integrate climate change and Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children (OSEAC) considerations into the new policy, set for rollout in November 2025.
- **Ethiopia:** Contributed to the launch of these landmark frameworks:
  - National Children's Policy Implementing Strategy (2025)
  - Standards for Preventing and Responding to Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) Framework (2025) - the country's first-ever framework dedicated to promoting online safety for children.
  - Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) Policy
- **Kenya:**
  - Developed and rolled out the country's first Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Interagency Coordination Guidelines for OSEAC response, now adopted by 12 agencies.
  - Co-developed a National OSEAC Manual with the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to guide nationwide implementation.
  - Advocated for the activation of the Victim Protection Trust Fund, unlocking resources to support survivors.



ChildFund Ethiopia Country Director, Lilly Omondi, receives an award from H.E. Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye, Minister of Women and Social Affairs, in recognition of ChildFund's outstanding work in Child Protection and Alternative Childcare and Support programs in the country.



Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio signs the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2024 into law on July 2, 2024.



EDUCATION

ChildFund's holistic approach nurtures children's learning, life skills, and emotional well-being, ensuring they are equipped to thrive.

In 2025, our education programs, including early childhood development interventions, reached over **3.58 million** children, including children with disabilities,by strengthening the ecosystems around them, families, schools, communities, and systems.

2.45 million+ children gained access to quality learning through ChildFund education programs across 9 countries.

2,000+ children and youth with disabilities in 9 countries supported to access educational opportunities.

75,258 out-of-school children in The Gambia and Sierra Leone supported to re-enroll in school.

810 early childhood development centres in 9 countries supported with teaching and learning materials, school meals, conducive learning environments, play materials, and equipment.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Through our ECD programs, we lay strong foundations for lifelong learning by nurturing children's cognitive, social, and emotional growth.

For example, in Senegal's Diourbel Region, the proportion of caregivers who reported actively helping their children read at home increased from **88%** to **98.2%.** Additionally, caregivers who felt confident in their ability to support their children's reading grew from **70%** to **99.6%,** reflecting significant improvements in early literacy engagement at the household level.

Read the full report.

Tackling Learning Poverty

We are tackling learning poverty by strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy through school-based interventions, community reading clubs, and active caregiver engagement.

For example, in Kenya and Uganda, a partnership with Longhorn Publishers provides schools with books, learning materials, classroom furniture, and remedial support, addressing challenges such as Uganda's high rate of children unable to read or do basic math by age 10. Between 2024 and 2025, this initiative reached more than 92,000 learners, helping children build strong foundations for learning.

Social-Emotional Learning

Our Education for Well-being approach integrates social-emotional learning (SEL) into all education initiatives, equipping children, caregivers, and teachers with critical life skills like communication, emotional regulation, self-awareness, conflict resolution, and responsible decision-making.

In Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Uganda, we are partnering with Ministries of Education to mainstream SEL through teacher training, co-created SEL frameworks, and community-driven research. In the past year, over **200,000** adolescents benefitted from our life skills curriculum, enhancing their resilience, problem-solving, and critical thinking abilities.

Digital Learning

Recognizing technology's role in education, ChildFund is expanding digital learning solutions to bridge the digital divide and improve access to interactive, learner-centered resources in underserved communities. Through digital platforms integrated in schools and learning spaces, we are enhancing literacy, numeracy, and life skills acquisition.

For example, in Kenya, the Elimu Kidijitali project improved children's digital literacy in 10 schools, rising from **33%** to **99%.** Students reported significant gains in knowledge, attitudes, and practices on digital learning and online safety.

Read the full report.

Reintegrating Out-of-School Children

ChildFund is scaling up efforts to support out-of-school children at primary and secondary levels, ensuring marginalized children, especially girls and children with disabilities, have opportunities to return to education.

In The Gambia, reintegration programs and alternative learning pathways have enabled **74,898** children (**51% girls, 49% boys**, including **1.5%** children with disabilities) to enroll in school by the start of the academic year.

In Sierra Leone, the KOICA-funded "Increasing Access to Secondary School Education for Girls" project is helping adolescent girls return to the classroom after early marriage, pregnancy, or economic hardship forced them to drop out. A total of **360** girls who were previously out of school were re-enrolled in junior and senior secondary in 6 schools.

Education in Emergencies

ChildFund helped children continue learning during and after emergencies caused by conflict, displacement, or natural disasters in countries including Ethiopia, Uganda, and Mozambique. Working with communities, schools, and governments, we restored access to safe, inclusive, and protective learning environments. In these contexts, we:

- Established temporary learning spaces to ensure children could continue their education.
- Provided education kits with age-appropriate learning materials and supplies.
- Trained teachers to support children coping with trauma and stress.
- Integrated psychosocial support and child protection into classroom settings.
- Constructed and rehabilitated schools and facilities to restore long-term access to education.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



Increasing access to secondary education for out-of-school girls in Sierra Leone

In April 2023, Sierra Leone's parliament enacted the Basic and Senior Secondary Education Act, 2023, embedding key principles from the landmark 2021 National Policy on Radical Inclusion in Schools. This progressive policy confronts the long-standing exclusion of pregnant girls, young mothers, and other marginalized groups from education, an issue rooted in a previous government ban that barred pregnant girls from attending school until 2020. Sierra Leone, which struggles with one of the world's highest teenage pregnancy rates, sees this challenge most acutely among girls from impoverished communities.

To translate this law and policy into real change, alongside our donors and implementation partners, ChildFund working with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education set an ambitious target to re-enroll 3,300 out-of-school girls through our "Increasing Access to Secondary Education for Out-of-School Girls" project, funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

With a USD 1.5 million investment, the project is already making a tangible impact: 360 girls have been re-enrolled since its launch, four new school blocks, each with three classrooms and WASH facilities, have been constructed, and community structures such as male action groups, teachers, and child protection networks are working hand-in-hand to ensure that both the learners and their babies are safe and supported throughout the school day.

360 girls who were previously out of school were re-enrolled in junior and senior secondary education in **6 schools.**

18 new classrooms constructed in 6 schools, reducing congestion from 55 to 40 pupils per class and enabling increased enrolment.

10,865 pupils now have access to safe water through 6 mechanized solar-powered boreholes (120,000 liters capacity) and improved WASH facilities, including sex-separated VIP latrines and urinals.

840 sets of modern furniture (desks and chairs) supplied, creating a more conducive learning environment across 12 classrooms in four schools.

4 early childhood development centers established, supporting retention of out-of-school girls by providing safe childcare for their young children.

441 textbooks (Math, English, Physics, Chemistry) and learning materials provided, along with uniforms, shoes, hats, solar radios, and other supplies, boosting reading and comprehension.

Community by-laws enacted to address dropout rates, promote gender equality, and end violence against children across six schools and their communities.

139 teachers trained and demonstrated improved knowledge on professional conduct, inclusive education, sexual and reproductive health rights, lesson preparation, and the 2023 Education Act.

25 previously out-of-school girls sat the Basic Education Certificate Examination in 2024; 23 passed successfully and have transitioned to senior secondary education.

6 child rights clubs active in 6 schools, promoting peaceful conflict resolution, ending gender discrimination, and fostering self-protection among pupils.

Teaching materials (chalk, paper, markers, registers, files, etc.) supplied, improving classroom delivery and teaching quality.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



The Gambia's push to bring out-of-school children back to class

In March 2023, the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, the Office of the First Lady of The Gambia, UNICEF, and the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation launched a major initiative to ensure that every primary school-age child in The Gambia is in school. The project set out to reach 66,765 out-of-school children (OOSC) and adolescents with access to quality primary education.

This three-year program was implemented nationwide by the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, ChildFund, and the Education for All Campaign Network, in close coordination with UNICEF and EAA's Educate A Child programme, with financial support from the Qatar Fund for Development.

Since its launch, the program has made remarkable progress in expanding access, improving quality, and strengthening education systems. The following impact highlights capture key achievements to date:

74,898
children enrolled in school

74,898 out-of-school children were enrolled from September 2022 to June 2025 – 121% of target (girls: 51%; boys: 49%).

Enrolments included **68,729 in formal schools, 4,074 in Majalis** (Quranic schools), and **2,095 in Gambia Classes for Open Learning (GCOL).**

The project exceeded targets for both formal schools **(111%) and Alternative Learning Programs (ALPs) (123%).**

Outcome 1: Parents and communities support children's enrolment

39,128 parents (16,770 women; 22,358 men) sensitized on children's right to education in 366 low-enrolment communities through awareness campaigns, boosting enrolment and retention.

Disability inclusion: Parents of children with disabilities oriented on the right to education and empowered as community champions to advocate for enrolment and monitor retention.

7,500 children supported through conditional cash transfers (CCTs), covering indirect school costs such as uniforms, shoes, and learning materials. Beneficiaries included children with disabilities, orphans, and newly enrolled learners.

3,000 bicycles with helmets and reflectors distributed to children in remote communities, improving safe access to school and reducing dropout risk.

Outcome 2: Quality of education strengthened through improved learning environment and staff capacity

106 new classrooms and **108 toilets** constructed, raising the share of primary schools with adequate separate toilets to **89%.**

698 headteachers and teachers trained in school management and pedagogy; **614 new teachers** recruited and posted.

109 schools received annual teaching and learning materials; **19,424 children** received individual learning materials, with evidence of improved grades.

300 children with disabilities received learning materials and assistive devices.

Outcome 3: National and sub-national education management and planning systems strengthened

2 national policies/strategies developed to strengthen OOSC data systems within the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE).

310 education managers and practitioners trained on OOSC data analysis and interpretation.

Development of a comprehensive **enrolment database** with links to EMIS and collaboration with the Ministry of Health to integrate birth registration data, enabling early identification of at-risk children and targeted interventions.

Outcome 4: Alternative Learning Programs (ALPs) expanded to offer options for out-of-school and over-age children

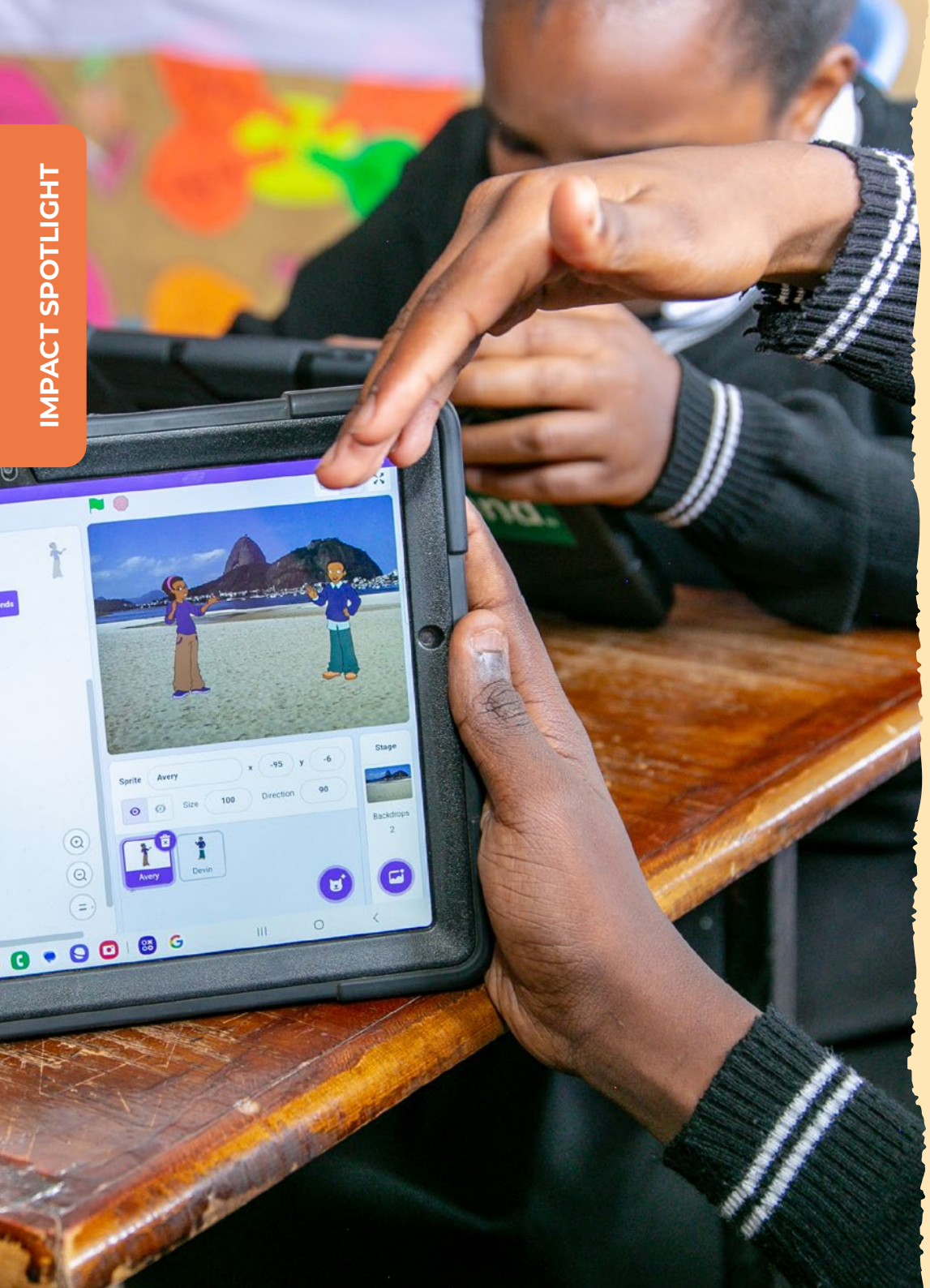
88.6% of enrolled children attained minimum proficiency in literacy and numeracy.

2,543 children (1,297 girls; 1,246 boys) accessed second-chance education through ALPs.

Alternative Learning Programs (ALP) centres established in schools and community spaces, with validated accelerated curriculum and syllabi.

6,169 children (2,169 girls; 4,014 boys) in **32 Majalis centres** nationwide benefitted from literacy and numeracy classes and targeted cash transfers that improved school attendance by covering essential needs (boarding, hygiene, food, and learning materials) while reducing child labour.

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT



Digital education in Kenya

ChildFund implemented the "*Elimu KiDijitali* (Digital Education)" project to enhance digital learning access for 8,300 children across 10 primary schools in Nairobi, Kiambu, and Murang'a counties in Kenya. The initiative provided a safe and inclusive digital learning environment, equipping children with essential skills to explore the online space confidently while being safeguarded from exploitation and harm. Key achievements include:

80%
of learners reported confidence in online safety and responsible digital behavior, a sharp rise from project onset, as children learned to navigate digital spaces safely.

Children's digital literacy soared from
33% to 99%,
with significant gains in knowledge, attitudes, and practices on digital learning and online safety by project endline.

95%
of schools established digital learning environments, up from 82% at project start. Schools received digital equipment, while teachers and school leaders were trained to integrate ICT into curriculum delivery.

94%
of teachers actively integrated digital tools into lessons, up from 44% at baseline, transforming them into digital champions who deliver interactive and engaging classroom experiences.

When parents become first teachers, every home becomes a space for learning

Early learning begins at home, with parents as a child's first and most important teacher. Yet, many families lack the tools and support to nurture early literacy and development during these critical early years.

In Senegal's Diourbel region, the "Read@Home" initiative equipped parents and caregivers with skills and resources to support early learning at home.

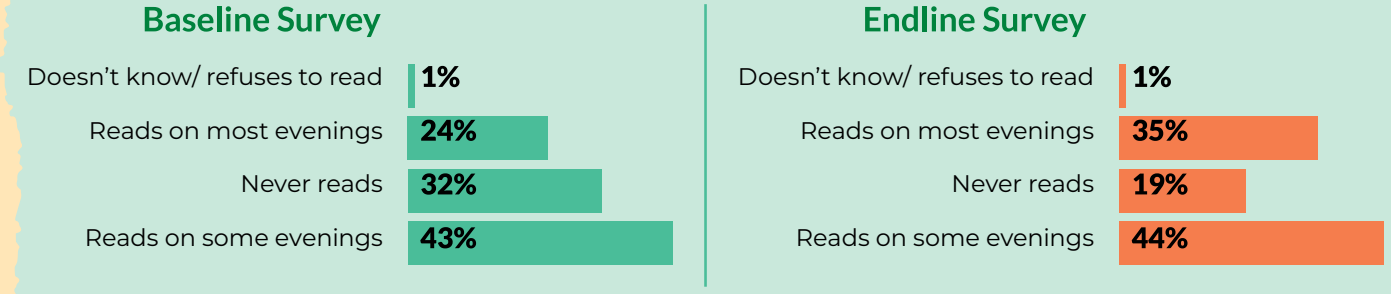
Implemented by ChildFund and its local partner Partenariat pour le Développement de l'Énfants et la Famille (PDEF), with funding from the World Bank, the program reached over **2,500** parents and **7,500** children aged 0 to 5.

- At the start, only **70%** of caregivers believed they had the skills to support their children's reading. This work is critical in a country where adult literacy remains low, with estimates showing only around 57.7% of adults in Senegal can read and write. By the project's end, **99.6%** felt confident in their ability to nurture early literacy.
- Caregivers who reported actively helping their children read at home increased from **88%** to **98.2%,** marking a powerful shift in daily habits that promote a lifelong love for learning.



As a mother of a 3-year-old girl, this experience has been deeply rewarding. The parent training and tools we received to support our children's reading at home were very instructive. They also helped me spend time with my daughter more productively by introducing her to reading books.

Maguette, a mother of four



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



“Now my children run to me” - Parenting sessions are transforming fatherhood in Mozambique

In Nampula Province, Mozambique’s most populous region (over 5 million people), and one of its poorest, families face significant challenges. Malnutrition rates are the highest in the country, most households survive on subsistence farming, and many young children miss out on routine health screenings, vaccinations, and proper care in their early years.

It is here that the Okhala Sana Project, meaning “Child Well-Being” in the local Makua language, is making a difference. Funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and implemented by two of ChildFund’s local partner organizations, the project supports parents and caregivers of children under three to provide safe, healthy, and nurturing environments.

Patricio, a father of nine, is among those taking part. Sitting outside his home, he cradles his 2-year-old daughter, Felicia, and reflects on the changes he has made.

As a father, I’ve learned how to spend more time playing with my children,” Patricio says. “When I do so, I can find out their needs and help them. Now, when my wife and I are out for the day and come back home, the children start shouting, skipping, and laughing. They’re excited when they see us. This project has helped me become a good father.

◀ Patricio, 42, a father of nine, cuddles with his 2-year-old daughter Felicia outside their home in Nampula Province, Mozambique.

Changing parenting practices

According to Bruno de Alegria Vasquez-Gurua, Project Officer, parents in Nampula previously struggled with issues such as premature introduction of solid foods, lack of paternal involvement, poor sanitation and hygiene, and limited parental engagement.

To address this, trained community facilitators deliver monthly parenting group sessions and make regular home visits. Parents learn about:

- Nutrition and preparing healthy meals using local foods
- Early stimulation and play to support brain development
- Sanitation and hygiene practices to prevent illness
- Child protection and positive discipline
- Nurturing relationships between parents, caregivers, and children

Parents also join hands-on nutrition workshops and cooking demonstrations, while children under three benefit from monthly growth monitoring, vitamin supplements, deworming, and routine vaccinations in partnership with Mozambique's Ministry of Health.

Fathers and male caregivers have become more involved in their children's lives

Even within the first year, the changes are evident. Parents report feeling more confident and better equipped to care for their children. "Fathers and male caregivers are now more involved," says Henriqueta Paulo, Project Coordinator.

"You can meet a father going to the market or to a neighbor's house with his child in his arms, something we never used to see. Spending time with their children is helping fathers understand the positive impact they can have on their child's growth and mental health. For us, this is already a success."

Henriqueta adds that homes are cleaner and healthier: "Before, many houses had no place for garbage or proper storage for dishes. Children didn't bathe regularly. Now, parents are paying more attention to cleanliness, and we've seen cases of malaria and diarrhea decline. The atmosphere in homes has changed."

Reducing violence in homes

Florinda Francisco, Field Coordinator with EHALE Association, another local partner, has seen shifts in family dynamics. "There was a lot of violence in homes before," she explains.

"Children feared their father. They would run away and hide. Wives stayed quiet out of fear. Now, families talk more. Violence has drastically decreased. Children are surprised to see their father running toward them, hugging them, playing with them. Women feel freer to speak to their husbands without fear."

Launched in March 2024, the Okhala Sana Project is expected by 2026 to reach more than 2,000 caregivers, ensuring that thousands of children in Nampula grow up healthier, safer, and better prepared for the future.

There was a lot of violence in homes before. Children feared their father. They would run away and hide. Wives stayed quiet out of fear. Now, families talk more. Violence has drastically decreased. Children are surprised to see their father running toward them, hugging them, playing with them. Women feel freer to speak to their husbands without fear.

Florinda Francisco, Field Coordinator with EHALE Association, one of ChildFund's local partners in Mozambique.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Improving access to essential health services

In 2025, ChildFund strengthened access to essential health services in nine countries across Africa through a community-based approach that prioritized health promotion, disease prevention, and capacity building of frontline health workers, reaching over **3.62 million** people. These efforts were complemented by initiatives to improve the availability of quality and affordable medicines, ensuring that children and families in underserved communities could access essential treatments for common illnesses and chronic conditions.

This integrated approach contributed to a significant reduction in childhood illnesses such as pneumonia, diarrhea, and respiratory infections, while increasing community awareness on pregnancy, delivery, postpartum, and childhood illnesses.

Expanding access to medicines and supplies

To ensure children and their families have access to life-saving treatments, ChildFund, in partnership with MAP International, donated medicines and pharmaceutical supplies worth over **USD 30 million** in Sierra Leone and The Gambia.

- **Sierra Leone:** ChildFund donated essential medicines worth **USD 25 million** (estimated market value) for the treatment of diabetes to the Ministry of Health, which were distributed to health facilities nationwide.
- **The Gambia:** Medicines for common childhood illnesses and women's health conditions were supplied to public health facilities across the country, easing pressure on overstretched health systems and improving health outcomes for communities.

Advancing adolescent and youth health

Recognizing the critical needs of adolescents and youth, ChildFund scaled up youth-friendly reproductive health programs in Senegal, Uganda, and Ethiopia, reaching over **200,000** adolescents with life-saving information and services.

- **Senegal:** Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) was a key focus. ChildFund engaged 150 schools, 300 parent groups, and 50 local leaders to break menstrual taboos, improve access to sanitary products, and promote safe hygiene practices. As a result, **90.8%** of adolescents and youth adopt positive reproductive health behaviors, compared with **45.1%** at the baseline.
- **Uganda and Ethiopia:** Peer-led awareness campaigns reached 50,000 youth, alongside life skills training and adolescent-friendly health services. These initiatives enhanced knowledge on sexual and reproductive health, reduced harmful practices, and strengthened community-based protection systems.

Supporting early childhood development

With funding from the Conrad Hilton Foundation, ChildFund advanced early childhood development through a multi-country Nurturing Care Initiative in Kenya and Mozambique.

The program equipped **15,000** caregivers of children under three with skills in responsive caregiving, early stimulation, and child nutrition. Community health systems were also strengthened, resulting in an increase in early childhood health and nutrition service uptake among families.

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

The PASSAJE project in Senegal registered **64.5% male involvement** in menstrual hygiene management, up from **18%** at baseline, with fathers, male teachers and boys actively supporting awareness sessions, and girls' access to sanitary products.



▲ Amadou, 16, a peer educator and student in Senegal's Diourbel region, shows his fellow students and peer educators how to use a sanitary towel.

Improving reproductive health for adolescents in Senegal

In FY25, ChildFund implemented the PASSAJE project to improve the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth in Diourbel and Thies regions. Key achievements include:

16 sanitary blocks built in 16 schools with equipment such as washbasins, water tanks and sanitary towel chutes.

16 boreholes equipped with pumping systems and linked to sanitary blocks to provide access to potable water.

12.5% to 5.3% drop in girls' school absenteeism due to menstruation thanks to improved sanitation and menstrual hygiene management services.

90.8% of adolescents and youth adopted positive reproductive health behaviors, compared with 45.1% at the baseline.

83.8% of girls practice appropriate menstrual hygiene, compared with 40% at baseline.

64.5% male involvement in menstrual hygiene management, up from 18% at baseline, with fathers, male teachers and boys actively supporting awareness sessions, and girls' access to sanitary products.

Youth-led advocacy has prompted some local authorities to allocate budgets for the management of health infrastructures and awareness-raising activities.

Strengthened local actors' capacities, including teachers and peer educators, foreshadowing the continuity of interventions.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



Malaria control and health systems strengthening in Guinea

Malaria is one of the most urgent public health challenges in Guinea, with children under five and pregnant women most at risk. In 2022, the country recorded 4.4 million cases and 10,200 deaths (WHO World Malaria Report 2023). It remains the leading cause of child illness and death, responsible for over one-third of consultations and hospitalizations in public health facilities.

In response, ChildFund's Malaria Control and Health System Strengthening Project in Mamou region delivered preventive, curative, and community-based interventions focused on vector control, community sensitization, seasonal malaria chemoprevention, and building stronger health systems.

Vector Control

Vector control remained central to malaria prevention efforts, with activities designed to protect the most vulnerable populations from mosquito-borne transmission.

- **Distribution of Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets (LLINs)**
  71,234 LLINs were distributed to at-risk populations through 42 health centres across Mamou region, achieving 85% of the annual target of 83,844 nets. This ensured increased household access to insecticide-treated nets, contributing significantly to malaria prevention.

- **Communication for Behavioural Change**
  To reinforce preventive practices, malaria control messages were widely disseminated through six radio stations in Mamou, Dalaba, and Pita. ChildFund facilitated more than 1,854 media engagements, including radio magazines, skits, and spots on malaria prevention and control. These broadcasts featured participation from district health officials, community leaders, and civil society.

Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC)

Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC), a preventive strategy that provides antimalarial drugs to young children during peak transmission months, was implemented for four consecutive months (July–October 2025) in Mamou, Dalaba, and Pita districts.

In partnership with national health authorities, regional teams, and Catholic Relief Services, ChildFund supported the administration of Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine plus Amodiaquine (SP+AQ) anti-malarial medicine to children aged 3–59 months.

- **194,556** children aged 3 to 59 months received SMC medication.
- The campaign achieved **100% coverage,** reaching 89,092 children, surpassing the national target of 95%.
- Women benefited significantly from these efforts, with coverage analysis showing they represented **58%** of participants in Dalaba, **57%** in Mamou, and **62%** in Pita.

Strengthening Community Health Workforce to Ensure Availability of Tracer Medicines

Through this project, the availability of tracer medicines, which are essential for diagnosing and treating uncomplicated malaria at the community level, increased in health facilities from **89%** to **95%.** This progress was achieved through ChildFund's close collaboration with community health structures.

- Technical assistants supported health center supervisors to conduct inventories and prepare orders that captured community needs.
- Community health workers, supported by field agents, ensured continuous availability of inputs for the management of uncomplicated malaria cases at the community level. This integrated approach has reinforced the capacity of local health systems to respond promptly and effectively to malaria cases, reducing delays in diagnosis and treatment.

Sustaining these gains will require continued investment in prevention, health systems strengthening, and community engagement, ensuring that Guinea advances towards national and global malaria elimination targets.

71,234
Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets distributed through 42 health centers in Mamou, boosting malaria prevention.

1,854+
media broadcasts on malaria prevention aired across six radio stations in Mamou, Dalaba, and Pita, featuring health officials, community leaders, and civil society voices.



Women represented the majority of participants:
58%
in Dalaba,
57%
in Mamou, and
62%
in Pita.

194,556 children
(ages 3–59 months) reached through Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) with Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine + Amodiaquine (SP+AQ) anti-malarial medicine.

100%
coverage achieved, reaching
89,092 children,
surpassing the national benchmark of 95%.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Access to clean water, dignified sanitation, and proper hygiene is a fundamental right for every child and their family. Our commitment aligns with SDG 6, ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

In 2025, through collaborative efforts with communities, local partners, technical experts, governments, and other stakeholders, ChildFund supported the construction and renovation of water supply systems across nine countries, including solar-powered piped water systems that harness clean energy to deliver safe water to children and families in underserved areas.

These efforts improved access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in 61 schools and 3 health facilities. ChildFund's WASH initiatives in Africa reached over 2.5 million people in 2025, reducing waterborne diseases, keeping children in school, and improving community health and wellbeing.

Scaling Access to Clean Water through Partnerships

ChildFund, in partnership with DuPont and Davis & Shirtliff, is expanding access to safe water in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. This collaboration focuses on delivering sustainable water solutions to communities that lack reliable water sources.

In 2025, the partnership delivered tangible results through the completion of water projects in Kapelebyong District (Uganda) and Mchimadzi (Zambia) and Nyagina Beach (Kenya). These interventions rehabilitated boreholes, installed water storage tanks, and introduced solar-powered water pumps, ensuring safe and consistent water access for over 16,000 people, including 3 schools and 2 health facilities.

Under this partnership, DuPont ensures water quality with advanced filtration systems, Davis & Shirtliff provides technical expertise in water infrastructure, and ChildFund leads project implementation, working with local governments and community partners to ensure sustainability.



2.5 million people
now have access to safe and clean water.

61 schools
equipped with safe water and sanitation services, reaching over 200,000 children.

3 health facilities
now have access to clean water, ensuring safer care for mothers and children.











Increasing access to clean water in Uganda

In Uganda, access to safe water remains a pressing challenge, particularly in rural and underserved regions where families often depend on unsafe sources. Rural water coverage is only about 69%, leaving many households without reliable access.

In FY25, ChildFund, together with local partner Partners for Children Worldwide, and Davis and Shirtliff, brought life-changing water access to a community in Kapelebyong District, northeast Uganda.

For years, the 3,500 residents relied on a single handpump well, queuing for hours or turning to unsafe swamps and streams. “We used to go to the borehole, and you’d sit there from morning to midday and still not get water,” recalls Anne-Ruth, a young mother.

“Sometimes we even missed classes struggling for water,” recalls Martha (15), a Primary 7 student. “Human beings cannot live without water!” she says emphatically.

“There were many problems, particularly with diseases,” recalls Amou John Peter, the area chief. “People were sick with malaria, with typhoid, with diarrhea. Life was difficult and some people lost their lives.” In the swamps where people collected water, mosquitoes bred freely, spreading deadly malaria. Our children were unable to go to school due to a lack of water, but now that water is available here, many children are attending school.”

The solution came in the form of a solar-powered water system, delivering clean water to three outlets, including the town center, a primary school, and a ChildFund-supported early childhood center. The new system serves at least **2,000** people daily.

“This water has brought about many changes,” says Amou. “First, it has led to improved sanitation at home. And secondly, the incidence of disease has reduced since the water is clean. Thirdly, domestic violence no longer takes place among families because women don’t take too much time fetching water.”

“There were a lot of fights between men and women because of the water problem,” remembers Chairman Amou. “Now, my people are so happy because it does not take much time for women to collect water. Children have gone back to school (enrollment at the school has risen from **700** to **1,240 learners),** and incidences of domestic violence have gone down.”

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Responding to Multiple Crises Across Africa

Africa is experiencing a deepening poly-crisis, driven by armed conflict, environmental shocks (floods, droughts, landslides, heatwaves), and public health emergencies. These intersecting crises are increasing humanitarian needs at an alarming scale. As of mid-2024, over 140 million people across Africa needed humanitarian assistance, with more than 40 million forcibly displaced due to conflict, violence, and environmentally-induced disasters (OCHA, 2024).

In 2025, ChildFund responded to 13 emergencies in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and Mozambique, caused by conflict, cyclones, floods, drought, and fires. These interventions reached over 165,112 people, including children and women.

Strengthening our Humanitarian Response Capacity

We strengthened our institutional capacity by investing in leadership development for emergency response across our global operations.

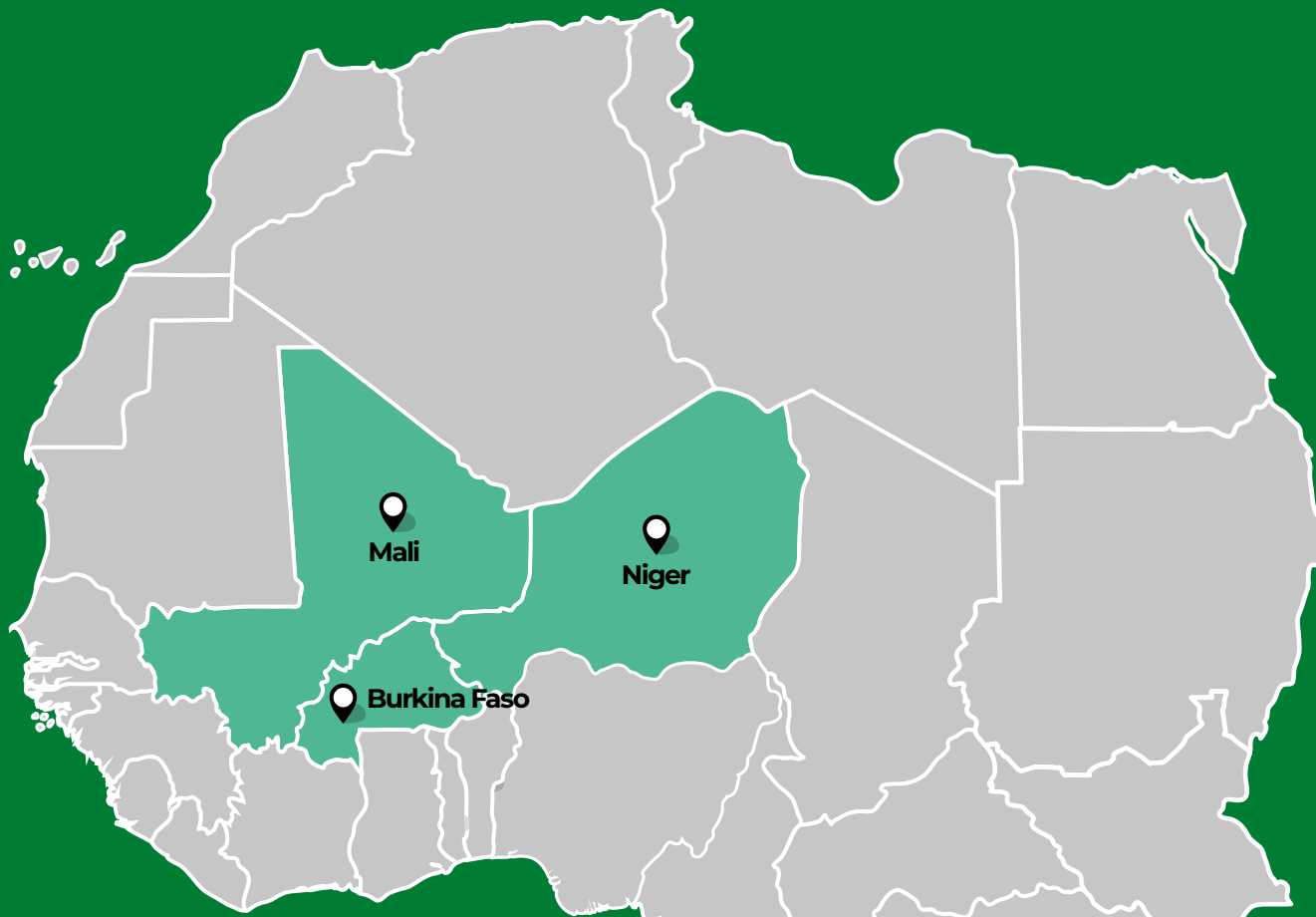
Through the Protecting Children in Crisis team, 13 ChildFund staff from country and regional offices participated in the Center for Humanitarian Leadership (CHL) GROW Program, delivered in partnership with Deakin University. This comprehensive program builds skills to lead effectively in humanitarian contexts.

The training focused on strategic decision-making, systems thinking, coordination in complex emergencies, and advancing locally led, child-focused humanitarian response.

Expanding Our Humanitarian Footprint to the Central Sahel

2025 marked a significant milestone with our expansion into the Central Sahel region, covering Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. These countries face complex challenges, including fragility, food insecurity, displacement, and limited access to essential services. At the same time, they offer immense potential for transformative development.

To ensure effective programming, we conducted comprehensive situational assessments and engaged closely with local governments and humanitarian partners. In these fragile contexts, ChildFund will address urgent needs in child protection, food security, health, education, and psychosocial support for children and families affected by crisis.



In 2025, ChildFund responded to 13 emergencies across five countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and Mozambique. These emergencies stemmed from conflict, cyclones, floods, drought, and fires. Through these responses, ChildFund reached **165,112** people.

Our multi-sectoral assistance focused on:

- **Emergency food and nutrition support**
- **Multipurpose cash assistance**
- **Safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services**
- **Health care, including dignity kits**
- **Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)**
- **Child protection services, including child-friendly spaces and safe identification and referral**
- **Education in emergency settings**





In Kisumu County, Kenya, Melisa, a community health volunteer, speaks with women and children living in makeshift camps after their homes were flooded, on safe water, hygiene, and sanitation practices to protect children from waterborne diseases during floods.



Emergency nutrition response brings relief to drought-affected communities in Zambia

In May 2024, ChildFund launched an Emergency Nutrition Project in Zambia. The four-month response aimed to cushion families from the devastating drought that struck during the 2023/2024 farming season. The prolonged dry spell, declared a national disaster by President Hakainde Hichilema, left thousands of families without enough food and created a nutrition crisis in Central, Eastern and Lusaka Provinces.

In response, ChildFund, with funding from KOICA, invested USD 328,000 in the Emergency Nutrition Project. The support focused on the most vulnerable groups: children under five years and pregnant and lactating mothers.

The project was launched by ChildFund Africa Regional Director, Chege Ngugi, who joined government and community leaders in distributing food in five affected districts: Chongwe, Kafue, Chilanga, Rufunsa and Shibuyunji.



"The drought has left many families struggling, and our priority is to provide swift and effective support. Every child deserves a healthy start in life. Through this initiative we are working to ensure that children and mothers receive the nourishment they need."

More than 11,000 children were screened for malnutrition to ensure timely treatment. Ready-to-use therapeutic foods and fortified blended foods were distributed to help children recover from moderate and severe malnutrition.

For many families, this support was a lifeline. "I am grateful to receive these supplements for my son," said Mary, a mother from Chongwe District. "He was found to be malnourished, but now I have hope that his health will improve."

The project provided therapeutic and supplementary feeding to:

11,289
children aged 6 to 59 months

3,828
pregnant and lactating women



Children walking home after receiving relief food.



ChildFund Zambia Programs and Sponsorship Director Mercy Ngoma distributing food items to affected families in Chongwe District.

The Government of Zambia commends ChildFund's emergency response

Following this intervention, the Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Donor Coordination, Dr George Sinyangwe, paid tribute to ChildFund for launching the Emergency Response Nutrition Program worth 9 million Kwacha (USD 390,500) to support the most vulnerable members of the community, including women and children.

"Zambia, like many other sub-Saharan countries, is grappling with malnutrition issues, including undernutrition, overnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies that affect people across different stages of life," he noted. "During childhood, inadequate nutrition can hinder physical and cognitive development, impair community functioning and lead to acute malnutrition. This results in developmental delays, weakened immune systems and a heightened risk of common childhood illnesses. Poor nutrition during pregnancy can also cause anaemia, premature births and increased maternal mortality. We commend ChildFund for this noble intervention," Dr Sinyangwe explained.

ChildFund remains committed to working with government and local partners to strengthen long-term resilience. Continued investments in nutrition, food security and early warning systems are critical to protect vulnerable families from future shocks.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



Children playing with local materials at the Milamba Child-Friendly Community Recreational Space. They accessed safe, structured environments that helped rebuild routines, regain stability, and process disaster-related trauma, supporting their emotional and psychological recovery.

Restoring safety and learning for children after Cyclone Chido in Mozambique

In March 2025, Cyclone Chido struck Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique, bringing torrential rains and destructive winds that left behind widespread devastation. Homes, schools, and health facilities were destroyed. Thousands of families were displaced, many forced to live in overcrowded shelters with little access to clean water, protection, or safe learning spaces.

For children, the impact was especially severe: disrupted education, separation from families, heightened risks of violence, and the trauma of losing their sense of normalcy.

In response, ChildFund, in partnership with We World, launched a comprehensive emergency program to address children's education, protection, resilience, and WASH needs. The project focused on restoring safety, learning, and hope in the communities hardest hit by the disaster, with special attention to the most vulnerable groups, including displaced children, unaccompanied minors, and out-of-school learners.









Education

2,340 children were enrolled in catch-up and remedial classes. The curriculum was specially designed for learners who had missed substantial school time, focusing on core content and foundational skills to help close learning gaps created by the emergency.

10 classrooms rehabilitated and equipped with teaching materials, restoring safe, conducive learning environments for 5,160 children.

Psychosocial Support: Children accessed safe, structured spaces that helped them rebuild routines, regain stability, and process disaster-related trauma, strengthening their emotional and psychological recovery.

Knowledge Sharing: A peer-to-peer learning model enabled children to collaborate, support each other, and act as agents of change by sharing safety and resilience messages with their families and communities.

Child Protection

13,345 people benefited from school-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) which focused on delivering essential psychosocial services to adolescents and adults, while also implementing community-based initiatives to prevent and respond to violence against children, girls and women in emergency and post-disaster contexts.

13,345 children and community members came together in sports, games, and recreational activities combined with awareness sessions on preventing violence against children, women, and girls. These sessions created safe spaces for play and expression while promoting protection, and equality.
2 resilience and recreational centers were established and equipped with games and learning materials to support children's cognitive and social development. These centers also served as community-based child protection hubs, providing:

Safe spaces for children to play, learn, and heal.

Facilitated sessions led by trained child protection focal points.

Referrals for specialized support when vulnerabilities were identified.

Dignity Kits

618 dignity kits were distributed (395 to women and girls, 223 to men and boys), providing essential supplies that helped families safeguard their health, uphold dignity, and restore a sense of normalcy. For women and girls in particular, the kits offered comfort, safety, and reassurance, supporting them to rebuild their lives with dignity and confidence.

Humanitarian response in Ethiopia

In 2025, ChildFund worked with the Federal and Regional Governments of Ethiopia and local partners to respond to urgent humanitarian and rehabilitation needs across Tigray, Afar, Amhara, and Oromia regions.

Through nine humanitarian and resilience-building projects, more than 106,120 children and community members received life-saving assistance, food, protection, education, psychosocial support, and livelihood recovery. This year marked a turning point as operations expanded into Afar and scaled up in Tigray, mobilizing record levels of resources.

Key achievements included:

- Delivered food security and child protection assistance to conflict-affected families in Tigray, reaching over 16,700 people, including 11,700 children.
- Restored Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers and Child-Friendly Spaces in Afar's Berhale Refugee Camp, supporting 1,536 children.
- Strengthened community-based child protection in Afar, reaching 2,587 children and caregivers.
- Provided food, cash assistance, and psychosocial support to more than 16,000 people in Tigray.
- Supported 23,700 individuals, including ex-combatants, children with disabilities, and survivors of violence in Eastern Tigray.
- Enhanced access to education for 3,559 students in Tigray through school rehabilitation, learning materials, sports equipment, and menstrual hygiene support.
- Reached 2,000 people affected by earthquakes and displacement in Oromia with food, shelter, and hygiene kits.
- Created safe and inclusive learning environments for 8,000 students in Amhara, while building resilience among families and caregivers.
- Improved access to safe drinking water for nearly 46,000 people affected by drought, conflict, and earthquakes in Oromia.

106,120
lives reached through more than 9 humanitarian and disaster risk reduction projects in Tigray, Afar, Amhara, and Oromia regions.



▲ Children drink safe water from a newly constructed water point in a conflict-affected community in Tigray Region.

CHILD PROTECTION

Building Safer Communities Across Africa

Violence against children remains a critical challenge across Africa. It disrupts healthy development, damages emotional well-being, and increases the risk of children perpetuating violence themselves.

ChildFund's child protection approach tackles these challenges head-on by ensuring families and communities have access to quality prevention and response services, while working with communities, local partner organizations and governments to strengthen child protection systems for long-term sustainability.

In 2025, ChildFund reached over 2.88 million children, youth, and caregivers in Africa with child protection programs designed to champion child rights and to prevent and respond to violence in homes, schools, communities, online spaces, or in humanitarian contexts.

In crisis-affected communities in Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, and Mozambique, ChildFund delivered vital support to 165,112 children, youth, and adults facing heightened risks from conflict, cyclones, floods, drought, and fires.

We distributed non-food items and dignity kits, set up child-friendly spaces where children could play, learn, and feel safe, and provided mental health and psychosocial support services to help children and caregivers cope with trauma.

We also identified at-risk children and referred them to appropriate protection services. Additionally, we provided multipurpose cash assistance to families, enabling them to meet urgent protection needs and necessities with dignity.

Ligia Macalo, a Project Mobilizer with Associação Txivuno Txavanana (ATTV), ChildFund's local partner in Zavala District, Mozambique, leads an awareness session for parents on early marriage and children's rights.

Mozambique has one of the highest child marriage rates globally, affecting nearly one in every two girls, with Zavala District recording the highest incidence in Inhambane Province.

"We want girls to be able to make their own decisions and say no to early marriage. What's most important for the child is education." she says.



2.88 million

children, youth and adults benefited from child protection initiatives aimed at reducing violence against children in their homes, schools, communities, and online.

Online sexual exploitation and abuse of children is a growing crisis in Africa



One of the fastest-growing threats to children's safety is online sexual exploitation and abuse of children (OSEAC). In 2025, ChildFund intensified efforts to combat this rising crime through evidence-based interventions and strategic partnerships. Different studies by ChildFund, the African Child Policy Forum, and the Disrupting Harm research initiative (led by ECPAT International, INTERPOL, and UNICEF Innocenti) in select countries revealed alarming findings:

Across surveyed African countries,

7%

of internet-using children have shared sexualized images under coercion.

Up to

21%

of children in Uganda and

19%

in South Africa have received unsolicited requests to discuss sexual acts online.

13%

of children aged 12–17 in Kenya and Mozambique have been threatened or blackmailed into sexual activities online.

Globally,

65%

of victims are girls, and

60%

of unidentified victims are young children, including infants.

ChildFund's multi-level action against online abuse

Every exploitative image, video, or livestream involving a child represents a grave violation of that child's rights and dignity. To address this growing and often hidden threat that often leads to lasting physical, emotional, and psychological harm, ChildFund adopted a comprehensive multi-level approach to strengthen children's online safety, which includes:



Shaping Continental Legislation

ChildFund is collaborating with the African Union (AU) to develop a Model Law on Online Child Safety that will guide national legislation across Africa. To ensure the law reflects children's lived experiences, ChildFund and the African Union (AU) mobilized over 100 children and civil society representatives from across the continent to provide direct input.

In 2026, ChildFund and the AU will host two regional validation webinars to gather feedback from AU Member States and key stakeholders, promoting national ownership, adoption and alignment with local contexts.



Advocacy and Awareness at AU Platforms

ChildFund actively participated in the 44th and 45th Ordinary Sessions of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), as well as the Civil Society Organizations Forum on the ACERWC. At the CSO Forum, ChildFund partnered with the Brave Movement to co-host an interactive side event titled Stories that Can't Wait: Why Governments Must Act on Online Child Safety. This session showcased the draft Model Law to partners and screened *Beyond the Screen*, a powerful film by Brave Movement that highlights the harsh realities of online child exploitation.

The event equipped participants with a clearer understanding of the Model Law's provisions and practical strategies to detect and prevent online child abuse.



Strengthening Child Protection Systems

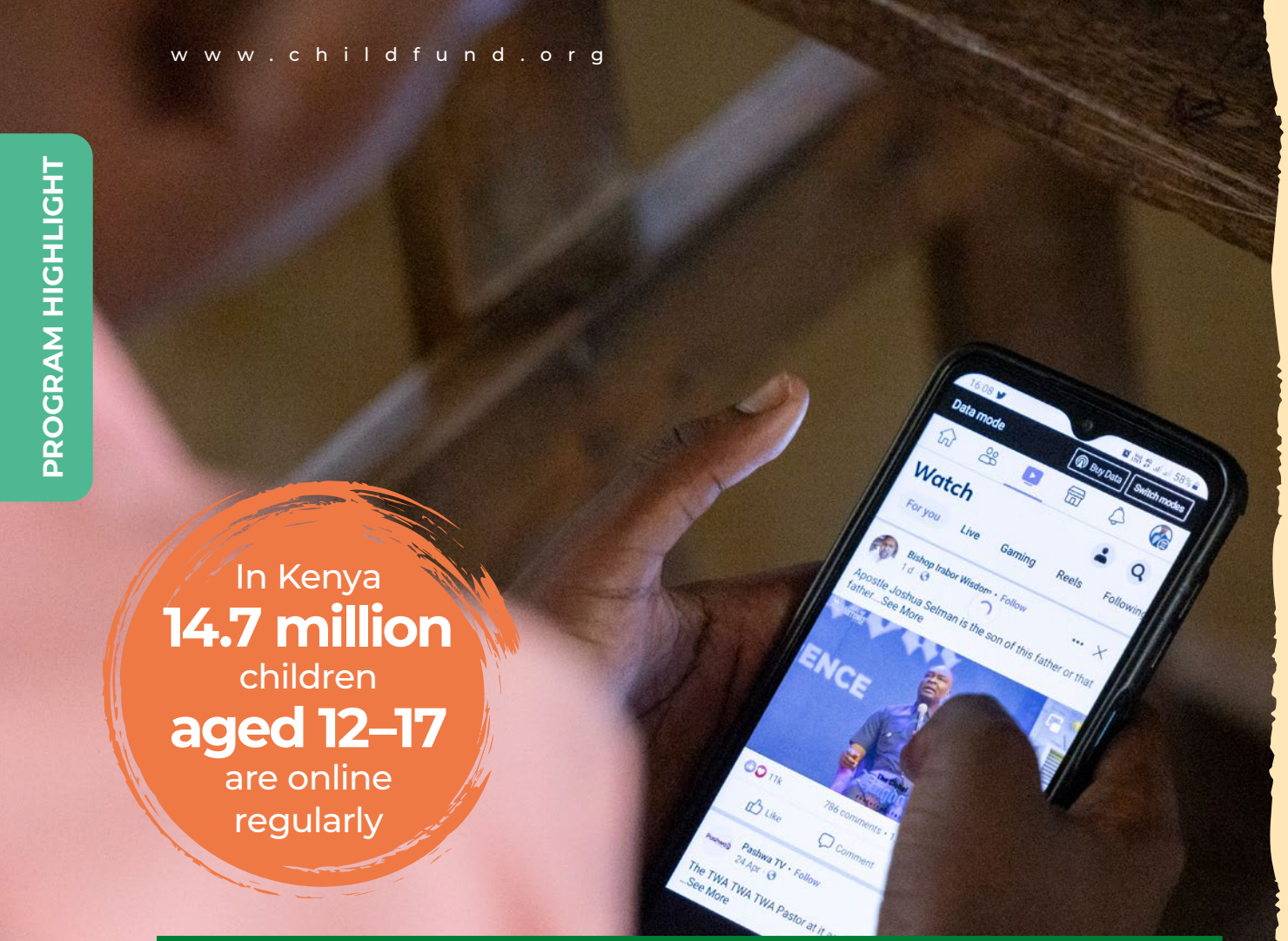
ChildFund supported governments to strengthen child protection policies on online safety, enhance law enforcement and justice systems, and provide survivor-centered services, including psychosocial support and legal aid.



Digital Safety Skills for Children and Communities

ChildFund implemented child online safety programs to equip children, parents, teachers and communities with digital safety skills to prevent and respond to online exploitation and abuse.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



Children play online games for about 30 minutes but the teenagers are always online chatting especially when schools are closed one could be online 3 straight hours, they cannot hear what the parent is saying, even when cooking in the kitchen the food ends up burning as they are online. Their phones and other apps are secured with passwords, and they reset their phones once you show interest to access their online content."

- Caregiver, Nairobi, Kenya

Building a safer internet for children in Kenya

While internet access has expanded opportunities for learning and connection, it has also exposed children to serious dangers, often without adequate adult supervision or awareness.

In Kenya, where over 67% of children aged 12–17 (14.7 million) are online regularly, online sexual exploitation and abuse of children (OSEAC) is a growing threat.

Children face increasing risks of grooming, blackmail, exploitation, and cyberbullying through social media, messaging apps, and livestream platforms.

In response, ChildFund's Safe CLICS (Safe Community Linkages for Internet Child Safety) project demonstrated the power of locally-led, multi-sectoral collaboration, bringing together technology companies, government agencies, law enforcement, community child protection committees, schools, civil society networks, survivor networks and the media to prevent, detect and respond to OSEAC.

This project was implemented by ChildFund in partnership with LifeSkills Promoters and Childline Kenya, with strategic engagement of the Directorate of Children Services and other relevant government departments, and funded by the global Safe Online initiative.

The Safe Community Linkages for Internet Child Safety (Safe CLICS) in Kenya

Building Community Capacity to Promote Online Safety

13,300 children equipped with essential digital safety skills to navigate and protect themselves in the online world.

20,998 parents and caregivers trained to recognize online threats, protect their children, and utilize reporting pathways.

4,500 frontline workers, including social service providers, police force and community leaders trained to prevent, detect, and respond to OSEAC.

1,200 teachers and school leaders trained across 150 schools to identify, prevent, and manage OSEAC incidents effectively.

300 peer educators equipped to lead student dialogue forums, creating safe spaces for children to learn and speak up about online safety.

30 community child protection committees strengthened, enhancing surveillance and building sustainable local networks for ongoing child online safety awareness.

National Systems Strengthening

Contributed to the development and rollout of **Kenya's first Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** and interagency coordination guidelines for OSEAC response, adopted by 12 government and civil society agencies.

Lobbied for the activation of the **Victim Protection Trust Fund,** to provide support for survivors of OSEAC.

Collaborated with the Department of Children Services (DCS) to develop a **National OSEAC Manual and distributed 10,000 child-friendly outreach toolkits** to schools and community centers.

80 journalists and news editors trained on ethical reporting on child protection and online harms to children.

Multi-Sectoral Collaboration & Policy Influence

Strengthened partnerships between 3 government ministries and 2 leading tech companies to enhance reporting, data-sharing, and rapid response systems for OSEAC cases.

Improved referral mechanisms, enabling the timely support of 100 OSEAC survivors, who were linked to psychosocial support, legal aid, and rehabilitation services.

Established a scalable model of community-driven child protection linked to national policy reform, for adaptation by other counties as a blueprint for child online safety interventions.

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Through our food security and livelihoods programming, ChildFund equipped communities with the tools, skills, and resources needed to build resilient and sustainable livelihoods. In 2025, these initiatives reached over 940,000 people, including women and youth, through interventions such as smart agriculture, vocational and business skills training, village savings and loan associations (VSLAs), livestock production, and support for technology and market access.

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)

Across Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Mozambique, ChildFund successfully scaled up the VSLA model as a key driver of economic empowerment.

In 2025 alone, we supported the formation and operations of 25,500 VSLAs, reaching over 375,000 members, 80% of whom are women. These groups have become essential platforms for savings, micro-loans, and financial literacy, especially in underserved communities with little access to formal financial services.

VSLA members collectively saved over USD 1.97 million, enabling caregivers to start or grow small businesses, invest in agriculture, pay school fees, and cover urgent household needs.

In Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, for example, over 65% of VSLA members reported increased food security and a greater ability to meet their children's educational and health needs. Beyond financial gains, VSLAs have also promoted social cohesion and community leadership, particularly among women and youth.

In many areas, members are taking on leadership roles and spearheading local development efforts. ChildFund continues to integrate VSLA into broader programming, including child protection, early childhood development, and youth skills training, ensuring that financial empowerment translates into safer, healthier, and more nurturing environments for children.

Smart Agriculture for Food Security and Resilience

ChildFund is supporting families to adopt environmentally sustainable practices that improve food security and safeguard children's wellbeing. In 2025, across Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Sierra Leone, thousands of smallholder farmers, many of them women and youth, were trained in sustainable agriculture techniques such as drought-tolerant crop cultivation, agroforestry, organic composting, soil conservation, and micro-irrigation methods.

In Kenya, ChildFund introduced Spowdi, a solar-powered, water-efficient irrigation system that helps small-scale farmers produce food year-round using minimal water and energy. In Ethiopia, over 18,000 households adopted these improved methods, resulting in an average 45% increase in crop yields within one planting season. In Sierra Leone, more than 3,000 farmers applied drip irrigation, crop rotation, and eco-friendly farming techniques to boost productivity and household nutrition.

These environmentally smart solutions enable communities to protect their natural resources while improving food security and income stability. Most importantly, they are ensuring that children have consistent access to nutritious food, healthier surroundings, and stronger foundations for lifelong development.



ChildFund is partnering with Spowdi to scale the Mobile Pro MKII Smart Farming System to 10,000 smallholder farmers in Kenya. Optimized for drip irrigation, the system can save up to 80% of water compared with traditional methods, while increasing productivity, raising incomes, and supporting sustainable farming.













In Senegal's Diourbel region, Sol Serigne, a ChildFund-supported Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), is promoting financial inclusion for women.

In 2024, the group of 30 women aged 19 to 60 mobilized **USD 18,418** in savings and accessed **USD 12,710** in loans from their collective fund, enabling members to invest in small businesses and meet household needs.

Over the past 5 years, the group mobilized **USD 85,130** in savings and accessed **USD 61,843** in loans from their collective fund, enabling members to invest in small businesses and meet household needs.

All group members reported a greater ability to support their children's education and health. In addition to income gains, the VSLA has promoted social cohesion, standing by one another during difficult moments, such as times of loss, and taking up leadership roles and spearheading local development initiatives.

The group also serves as an intergenerational platform, where older and younger women connect.

ChildFund integrate VSLAs like Sol Sergne into child protection, early childhood development, and youth development programs, ensuring financial empowerment translates into safer, healthier spaces for children.

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT



Cassava value chain strengthening in Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, smallholder farmers, who form the backbone of rural communities, face persistent challenges of low productivity, limited market access, and increasing environmental pressures. Cassava, a staple crop for many households, holds great potential for improving food security and livelihoods, yet farmers often lack the resources, skills, and sustainable practices to maximize its value.

To respond to these challenges, ChildFund Sierra Leone, with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through ChildFund Germany, launched the Cassava Value Chain Strengthening for Improved Food Security and Sustained Income Project. The €1 million, 42-month initiative (May 2024–October 2027) is being implemented by Daindemben Federation and Munafa-M'Patie Federation in 30 communities in Koinadugu, Falaba, and Bombali districts.

The project strengthens Farmer-Based Organizations (FBOs) to integrate cassava cultivation with ruminant livestock rearing using environmentally sustainable practices. It directly supports 1,200 farmers and benefits 6,000 household members, reaching over 7,200 individuals.

Beyond boosting food production, the project is tackling harmful practices such as early marriage and child labor. Communities are being sensitized on child rights, positive parenting, and the value of education, helping families understand that children belong in classrooms, not on farms or in early marriages.

School enrollment and attendance increased by **7.5%** across Bombali, Falaba, and Koinadugu districts, with over **2,150 children** newly enrolled—250 in Bombali (180 boys, 70 girls), 1,200 in Falaba (800 boys, 400 girls), and 700 in Koinadugu (450 boys, 250 girls). This improvement is a direct outcome of a three-day training on child labor, which engaged 300 farmers.

At baseline, **52%** of children had experienced violence at home or within their communities. After one year, this dropped significantly, with **18.75%** of children (900 out of 4,800), following trainings on positive parenting and child development for **150** farmers.

Before the project's implementation, the average annual household income from cassava production and/or processing stood at **Le 12,750 (USD 510).** By the end of Year 1, this income had increased by **20%,** reaching **Le 12,750 (USD 612)** among targeted households.

At baseline, only **22%** of households in Koinadugu, **14%** in Falaba, and **10%** in Bombali had "acceptable" food consumption levels. By project end, these rose to **42%, 34%,** and **30%** respectively, according to the Food Consumption Score.



Zainab
Farmer, Sierra Leone

I was married at 14. I was too young to understand what it meant, and at the time, I didn't even realize it was wrong. Through this project, I learned that early marriage destroys a girl's future.

After one session, I found the courage to confront my parents, telling them that by not allowing me to go to school, they had taken away my future.

With the knowledge I now have, I am determined to protect my own children and others in the community, from early marriage.



Philip
Farmer, Sierra Leone

In my community, discrimination against children, especially those living with disabilities, was widespread. I know this too well because, as a physically challenged person, I was once neglected by my own parents.

What stood out to me about this project is its inclusive nature. It blew my mind. I am now a proud member of the Tawopaneh Farmers' Group, where everyone is valued. Another remarkable aspect is its emphasis on the rights of the child.

Today, parents are more conscious of their children's rights. Those who once kept their children out of school are now sending them to get an education. This change gives me renewed hope for the future of all children, especially those who, like me, once felt overlooked and left behind.



Joseph
Farmer, Sierra Leone

I didn't know the right time to plant cassava. I never considered weather or climate conditions. Last year, I planted a large field in March, and most of my plants withered. I also used to make circular beds and overcrowd the heaps. Through this project, I learned improved farming methods.

We were taught to make long beds, which made our plantation neat and well-spaced. I also learned that instead of throwing weeds into the gutter, placing them around cassava plants turns them into manure.

Today, our cassava is growing strong and healthy, and I can already see the difference.

Orange-fleshed sweet potato farming in Kenya's arid lands

In Turkana and Samburu counties, families face the harsh realities of climate shocks, recurring droughts, and limited livelihood options beyond pastoralism. Women and youth are locked out of high-value markets, while households struggle with high production costs, low returns, and alarmingly high Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates (15.1% of children were acutely malnourished in 2019).

To address these challenges, a three-year project, funded by BMZ and implemented by Frontiers Children Development Organization, Samburu Children's Program, and Sustainable Approaches for Community Empowerment, with oversight from ChildFund, set out to enhance livelihoods and improve nutrition for 12,000 children, 3,000 women, and 2,200 youth through the adoption of orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) technologies and agri-nutrition training.

The project established producer groups and community seed systems, promoted value addition, and developed modern agricultural infrastructure, including boreholes, irrigation systems, and eco-sheds. To ensure inclusive participation in market systems development, the project targeted women and youth.

Watch the video to learn more about the impact of the OFSP project.



Key Achievements:

OFSP cultivation surged from **1%** to **98.4%,** with **70 acres** under production.

Farmers harvested **128.4 metric tons** of OFSP, averaging **211 kg per household** per season.

40% of participants accessed markets, earning **Kenya Shillings 44,307 (USD 300)** in 2 years.

Monthly household incomes rose by at least **50%** for over **2,200 households.**

Adoption of smart practices ranged between **30-90%,** including OFSP ridge planting **(96%),** vine conservation **(49%),** and irrigation systems **(50.3%).**

99% of households fed children under 5 with OFSP, benefiting **8,000 children** in ECD centers and significantly reducing vitamin A deficiency.

100% of households integrated OFSP leaves into daily meals, improving vitamin A intake among children and lactating mothers.

Food security improved, with **23.7%** of households reporting no hunger.









“Before I started growing these orange-fleshed sweet potatoes (OFSP), I depended entirely on livestock to feed my family. Today, I earn a living from selling OFSP vines. Last year, I made $10,700 from vine sales to an organization that distributed them to other farmers. With that money, I renovated my home, paid school fees for my children, built a proper latrine, and even started a small business. OFSP has completely changed my life.”

Geoffrey Emune, Farmer, Turkana County, Kenya







YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Investing in Skills and Livelihoods

Across Africa, ChildFund has continued to prioritize youth development as a cornerstone of long-term community resilience. In FY25, over 200,000 young people, including adolescent girls and youth with disabilities, gained access to market-relevant vocational training, financial literacy, digital skills, and entrepreneurship support.

Green Jobs for a Green Future

With rising demand for sustainable and environmentally responsible development, ChildFund has integrated green jobs into its youth programming. In 2025, youth received technical training in solar technology, agro-processing, smart agriculture, forestry conservation, clean energy enterprises, and waste recycling—sectors that are expanding rapidly under national green economy strategies.

Preventing Irregular Migration

Irregular migration remains a critical challenge across Africa, driven largely by high youth unemployment, poverty, and limited opportunities. Young people often face risks such as exploitation, trafficking, and dangerous journeys in search of better livelihoods. Recognizing these vulnerabilities, ChildFund is committed to supporting youth through targeted programs that address root causes and build safer futures within their communities.

- **Senegal**

  In Senegal, where young people under 35 make up 72.2% of the population and unemployment pushes many toward irregular migration, ChildFund partnered with Partenariat pour le Développement de l'Enfant et de la Famille (PDEF) and the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) to implement the USAID-funded Positive Youth Development Project (Feed the Future - Dooleel Ndaw Ñi).

  In FY25, the project raised awareness among 4,000 community members on youth's vital role in development and equipped 2,835 young people with leadership and civic engagement skills, positioning youth as drivers of social and economic change, offering them viable alternatives to migration.

- **The Gambia**

  Similarly, in The Gambia, ChildFund is addressing the root causes of irregular migration through a holistic approach that combines education support, skills development, and community-based services. A total of 200 youth received tuition support to pursue Technical, Vocational, and Educational Training (TVET) and university education, ensuring they have viable pathways to economic independence.

  To further strengthen youth engagement and livelihoods, ChildFund is constructing a Youth Multipurpose Center in Brikama. The center will feature a conference hall, migrant clinic, career counseling unit, resource center, and a sports arena, providing essential services in reproductive health, career development, and job creation. This hub is designed to be a central point for empowering young people and offering alternatives to migration.

  In addition, ChildFund has established a Shoe Production Center in Brikama to equip migrant returnees, school dropouts, and other youth with practical skills for self-employment. The first cohort of 18 trainees successfully completed the program and are now certified shoemakers, ready to contribute to their local economy.

- **Ethiopia**

  In Ethiopia's Amhara region, ChildFund is actively working to prevent child trafficking and exploitation through community sensitization and protective programming.

  In FY25, the project reached over 15,000 community members, including 50,000 youth with awareness campaigns on trafficking risks and prevention. It established 35 child protection committees and provided direct support services to vulnerable children and families at risk.

  Additionally, the initiative provided livelihood training for 3,000 caregivers, helping reduce economic pressures that often drive abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.



Strengthening Youth Agency

In addition to skills and livelihoods, ChildFund supported over 15,000 youth advocates across the region to lead community, sub-regional, national, and global dialogues, engage policymakers, and raise awareness on pressing issues such as climate action, gender equality, biodiversity, and child protection.

These young leaders are contributing to local, regional, continental and global advocacy spaces, including consultations at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) and UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16) summits, amplifying youth voices and championing environmental justice and intergenerational equity.

▲

Adérito, an intern working with Mozambique's national electricity provider, Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM), travels from house to house in Inhambane Province to read meters and verify connections. In 2025, Associação Txivuno Txavanana (ATTV), ChildFund's local partner in Inhambane, launched a vocational training program in electrical engineering in partnership with EDM. Through this initiative, young people like Adérito gain hands-on experience in the energy sector. Upon completing their internships, participants can apply for positions with the power company, seek opportunities in the private sector, or establish themselves as independent electricians.



Farmers in arid Makueni are turning to moringa to transform their families' lives and their communities. Through the Moringa Value Chain Project, supported by ChildFund working with local partner, Emali Dedicated Children's Agency, **324 farmers** have joined a cooperative where they grow, process and sell moringa and moringa- infused honey.

The results have been remarkable: household incomes have risen by an average of **45%,** farmers practicing moringa intercropping report **35%** higher crop yields, and soil fertility has improved by **20%.**

The moringa harvested by farmers is used as a nutritional supplement in porridge served at **20 ChildFund-supported early childhood development centers,** ensuring children get a healthy start in life. The cooperative also sells value-added products such as moringa-infused honey, seeds, powder, and essential oils.

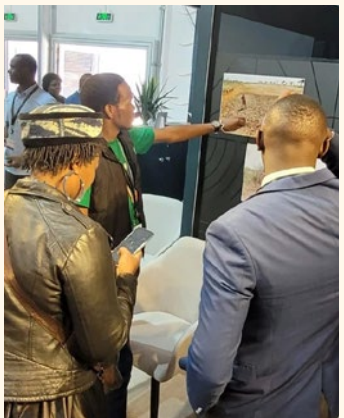














Amplifying the voices of children and youth

Children must have a say in matters that affect their lives. In 2025, we strengthened our commitment to meaningful child participation, ensuring children's voices shape programs, policies, and global dialogues.

At the community level, we engaged children through school-based clubs, life skills programs, sports and arts initiatives, and children's and youth advisory councils. These councils included child representatives who provided feedback to inform ChildFund's strategies, ensuring our work reflected children's lived realities. Through these platforms, children gained the confidence to speak out on issues affecting them, developed leadership skills, and helped co-create solutions for their communities.

ChildFund also elevated children's voices on global platforms. In 2025, children from our programs actively participated in international events such as UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) and UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16), where they advocated for environmental sustainability, and stronger child protection measures.

Their participation ensures that global policy dialogues reflect the perspectives and priorities of those most affected. including consultations at the and summits, amplifying youth voices and championing environmental justice and intergenerational equity.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Where are they now? Meet five exceptional ChildFund alumni

Have you ever imagined what a sponsored child could achieve in the future? Across Africa, and beyond, there are countless inspiring stories of ChildFund alumni who have broken the cycle of poverty.

Here are just 7 remarkable individuals who, thanks to their generous sponsors, are achieving their full potential. A total of 207,035 children were enrolled in ChildFund's sponsorship program in Africa in 2025, ensuring children grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe.



UGANDA



Julius Kamya

Commissioner, Equal Opportunities Commission, and ChildFund Uganda board member

Julius lost his sight as a child to a rare eye cancer, retinoblastoma. Through ChildFund's sponsorship program, Julius shattered barriers as the first visually impaired student to study Mass Communication at the prestigious Makerere University and went on to build an impressive career in journalism, advocacy, and policy. Along the way, he challenged deep-seated biases, overcame heartbreaking losses, and made groundbreaking contributions to disability rights across Africa.

"Imagine if I had been left in Kayunga, what would I be today? But someone stepped in through sponsorship, and now I am a responsible citizen contributing to my country. Supporting children with disabilities may seem like a long journey, but the return on that investment is life-changing, for them and for the communities they go on to serve."

SENEGAL



Assane Dione

Pilot and Air Force Officer

"I grew up in modest conditions in Diourbel, where my mother worked tirelessly to provide for us. When she fell seriously ill while I was in fifth grade, life became even harder. Becoming a sponsored child was a turning point. With school supplies, healthcare, and encouragement from my sponsor, I was able to stay healthy, study, and believe in my future.

Thanks to this support, I completed secondary school, earned my baccalaureate, and studied Physics and Chemistry at Cheikh Anta Diop University. In 2021, I passed the Air Force Officers' entrance exam and trained at ENOA, graduating as a Second Lieutenant in 2023.

Today, I am completing my pilot training. I am proud of how far I've come, and I never forget where I started, or the people who believed in me."

KENYA



Fatuma Ekal

High School Principal

Fatuma found her support system when she became a sponsored child and joined a Catholic school in Turkana. There, the nuns taught her the value of education, a lesson helped her escape early marriage at just 7 years old.

“As a sponsored child, I was able to attend school and be mentored. In my community, girls were only seen as wives, but I stood my ground and chose education,” she recalls.

Today, Fatuma is the Principal of Lodwar Girls. She mentors her students and other Turkana girls, encouraging them to stay in school. Her leadership has helped many girls evade early marriage, improve academically, and believe in their own potential.”

SIERRA LEONE



Isha Kangoma

Military Officer

“Born into a humble farming family in Kailahun District, Isha’s future once seemed uncertain. At 8, her life changed when she joined ChildFund’s sponsorship program and was matched with a sponsor who supported her for a decade. With this support, she excelled in school, passing her national exams which opened doors to further opportunities.

When the Sierra Leone government announced recruitment for female candidates into the Armed Forces, Isha applied and emerged as the top candidate in the military entrance exams. After six months of intensive training, she proudly joined the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces.

Reflecting on her journey, she says: “My sponsorship with ChildFund was life-changing. They lifted me from my remote village and gave me a future I never imagined.”

ZAMBIA



Wampemba Chifunda

Midwife

“I grew up in Chikondwelelo, Luangwa District, herding goats my family received from ChildFund’s Pass-On Goat Restocking Project. Life was tough, but everything changed when I joined the sponsorship program in grade four. My sponsor supported me with school supplies, clothing, and encouragement to value education, and I began to dream beyond the fields and riverbanks of my village.

Even in nursing school, when I lacked a laptop, my sponsor stepped in again. In 2024, I graduated with a diploma in Midwifery and now volunteer at Katondwe Health Centre. One night, I stabilized a pregnant woman who arrived unconscious and bleeding, saving her and her baby. That moment confirmed my calling. For me, it’s not about money. It’s about saving lives and giving hope, just as I was given.”



Resources

$79.9 million invested in locally led development and humanitarian work across Africa

In FY25, ChildFund invested $79.9 million to advance the well-being of children and families. These resources fueled community-driven programs in health, education, child protection, and skills development, all tailored to the unique needs and aspirations of each community.

Beyond programming, ChildFund prioritized strengthening local organizations and providing the support needed to drive sustainable change. By sharing tools, knowledge, and resources, our partners are now empowered to design and lead their own programs, raise their own funds, and measure their own impact.

When we engage with our partners and supporters, they often point to two defining strengths:

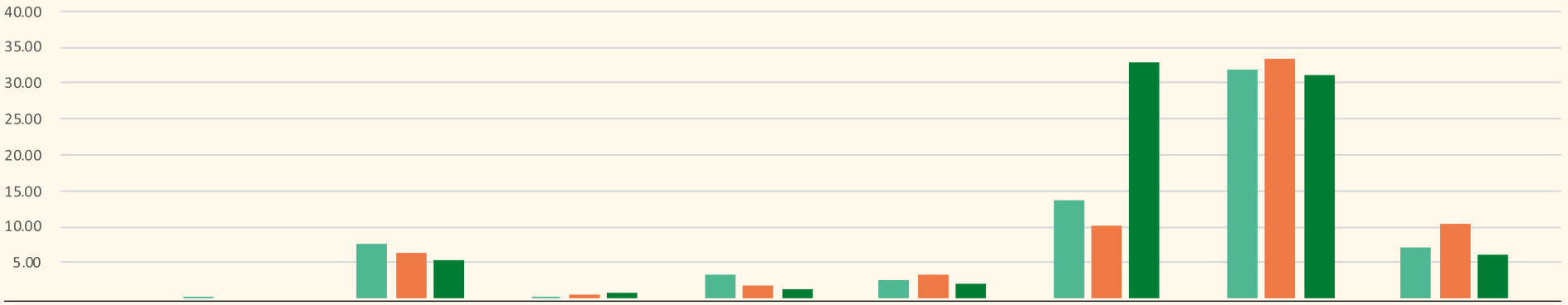
- **our deep-rooted presence in communities and**
- **our strong technical expertise in child protection, education, health and nutrition, livelihoods, and humanitarian response.**

These strengths, paired with trusted relationships with local and national stakeholders, are at the core of how we work and what makes our approach effective.

$79.9 million
invested in locally led development and humanitarian programs across Africa in FY25.

FUNDING

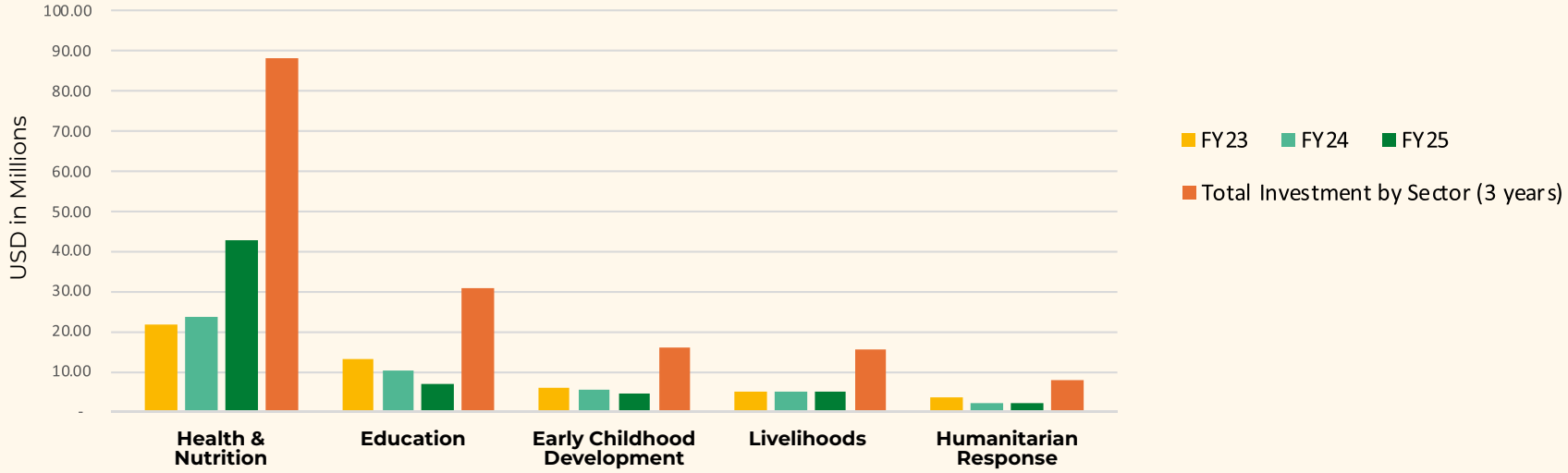
Sources of Funding



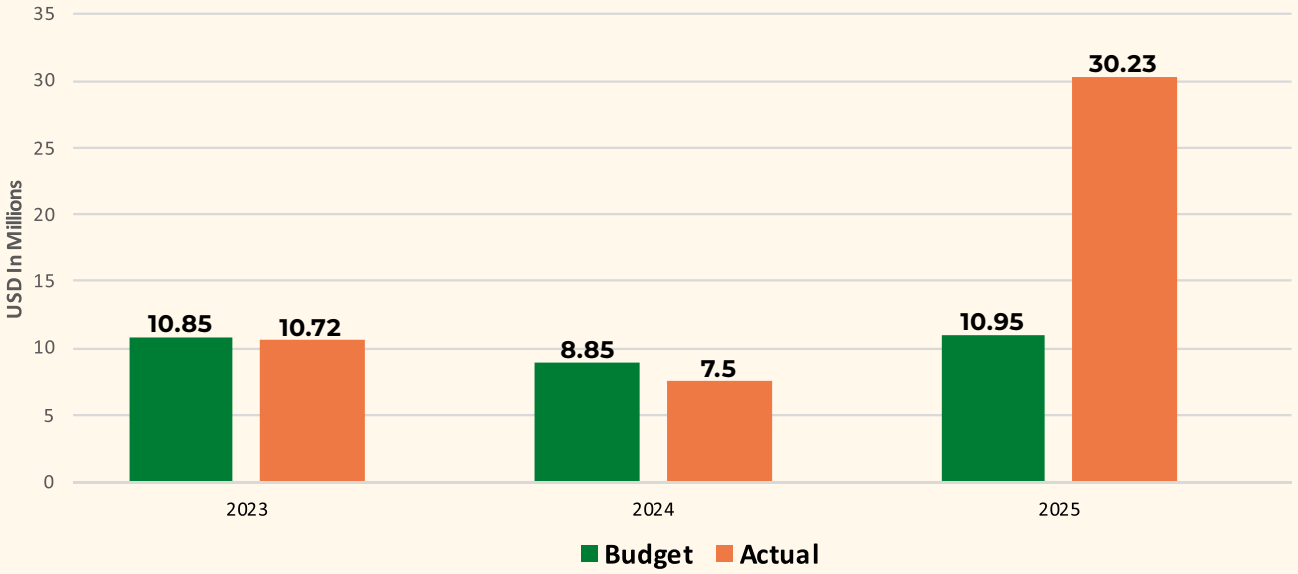
	Governments	Multilaterals and Bilaterals	Private Sector	Foundations	ChildFund Alliance	Non-Sponsorship Funds and Gifts in Kind	Child Sponsorship Funds	Funds Raised by Local Partners
FY 23	0.07	7.52	0.20	3.39	2.54	13.76	31.95	7.14
FY 24		6.44	0.57	1.74	3.41	10.19	33.52	10.37
FY 25		5.47	0.73	1.34	2.10	32.86	31.25	6.19

USD in Millions

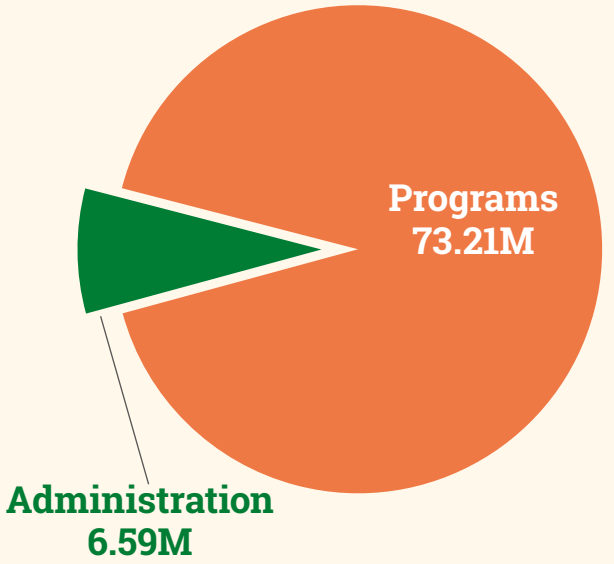
Total Investment by Sector



Gifts-in-Kind (Target versus Achievement)



Programs versus Administration Costs (USD in millions)



Grant Acquisition by Local Partners from Non-ChildFund Sources

2023	2024	2025
$7.14M	$10.3M	$6.19M

Through sustained capacity strengthening, we have supported local partners to secure direct donor funding and implement community-driven programs. Beyond ChildFund's support, they managed USD 7.14M in FY23 and USD 10.39M in FY24, before dropping to USD 6.19M in FY25 amid the global funding crunch. Despite reduced ODA, we remain confident in a long-term upward trend as partners strengthen their capacity.

Key Lessons Learned

1. Strengthening relationships and diversification

Strong and diversified partnerships are essential for navigating a competitive and evolving funding landscape. Building and maintaining relationships with donors, governments, and local organizations enhances credibility, opens doors to new opportunities, and strengthens ChildFund's positioning. Continued diversification and strategic collaboration remain critical to sustaining impact and resilience in a resource-constrained environment.

2. Collaborative program design

Co-creation with donors and local stakeholders has proven effective in ensuring alignment with national priorities and community needs. This approach increases the likelihood of securing significant funding and fostering partnerships that deliver lasting and meaningful impact.

3. Evidence-based positioning

Generating robust evidence to inform program proposals remains vital for competitiveness. Demonstrating measurable results and clear impact strengthens ChildFund's position, builds donor confidence, and reinforces accountability across all program areas.

4. Leveraging internal resources

Strategic use of internal resources for business development, proposal design, and sub-partnership roles enhances agility and visibility in a competitive funding environment. Such investment sustains engagement with donors and partners between major funding cycles and supports long-term positioning.

5. Innovative and forward-looking approaches

Embracing innovation in programming, including research, artificial intelligence (AI), and gender equality, is key to maintaining relevance and effectiveness. Enhanced visibility, adaptive programming, and proactive pre-positioning are essential for sustaining success in future funding cycles.

6. Sector-based approach

In response to the urgent needs of children and communities across Africa, ChildFund sharpened its focus on child protection, education, health, livelihoods, and humanitarian response. This sector-based approach has improved program coherence, strengthened technical expertise, and enabled the delivery of integrated and scalable solutions that promote the well-being and resilience of children and families.

7. Global results framework

The adoption of a well-defined Global Results Framework and the use of outcome-based program design tools have strengthened ChildFund's ability to measure progress, demonstrate impact, and ensure accountability across countries and programs.

8. Blended program model

The adoption of a blended program model integrating sponsorship- and grant-funded projects has demonstrated strong potential to achieve more unified and impactful program design. This approach enhances program effectiveness, optimizes resources, and strengthens local partnerships to drive systems change. Building on these lessons, ChildFund will continue to refine relevant policies, enhance technical support, and leverage local expertise to scale the model for sustainable impact.

9. When communities lead, change lasts

Our experience affirms that sustainable development is most effective when it is locally owned and community-led. Our long-standing partnerships with over 57 local organizations and governments across Africa demonstrate that those closest to the issues are best positioned to drive solutions that endure.

Our continued investment in strengthening local capacity, promoting equitable partnerships, and transferring decision-making power and resources to community-based actors has deepened impact. Empowering local institutions to lead ensures that progress is both meaningful and sustainable.

When communities lead, change lasts.

We work differently, placing children and communities at the center, and co-creating solutions with them alongside governments and partners. Our programs are locally led, sustainable, and designed to strengthen national systems, ensuring change endures and scales over time.

Across Africa, our partnership with more than 57 local organizations and governments anchor this commitment. We continue to build local capacity, promote equitable partnerships, and ensure that decision-making power and resources rest with community-based actors to drive lasting impact.



2025 and Beyond

We are pleased to have received many awards from diverse donors in 2024 and early 2025. In addition, with our own funds we will embark on two significant initiatives this year on the Sahel expansion and launching a global Centre of Excellence for Online Child Protection. Below is a selection of projects that will enable us to deepen our impact in health, education, youth skills development, and child protection.

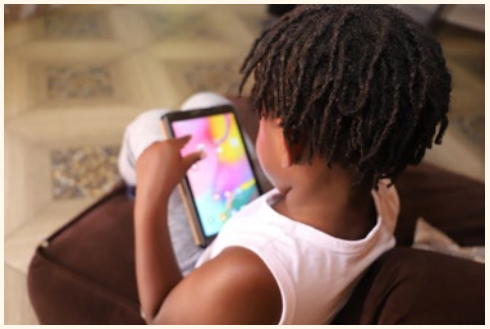


Responding to the Humanitarian Crisis in the Sahel

- **Project:** ChildFund's Expansion to the Central Sahel (Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso)
- **Donor:** ChildFund International
- **Duration:** Longterm

The Sahel is experiencing one of the fastest-growing humanitarian crises globally, driven by conflict, environmental degradation, and environmental shocks. Currently, 37.8 million people in the region urgently require life-saving assistance, including 10.5 million children who need immediate support to survive, learn, and thrive.

In response, ChildFund has committed to reaching 6 million children and their families in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger by 2030, aiming to drive sustainable impact by prioritizing locally led systems-building that supports communities, governments, and civil society to achieve self-reliance. Our focus areas include child protection in emergencies, education in emergencies, food security and livelihoods.



Creating A Safer Digital World for Every Child in Africa

- **Project:** Center of Excellence for Online Child Protection
- **Donor:** ChildFund International
- **Duration:** Longterm

This is a future-facing initiative responding to the rapid increase in digital access in Africa and its implications on online safety with the aim of contributing to a safer digital environment for children.

Building on ChildFund's long-standing presence and experience in Africa, and its partnership with the African Union to develop a Model Law on Online Child Safety to guide national legislation, the initiative aims to enable large-scale reach through policy engagement and collective action, with the potential to benefit tens of millions of children and youth over time.

With an initial focus on Africa, the initiative will advance policy and regulatory leadership, facilitate strategic convenings, strengthen public awareness, engage parents and young people, promote cross-learning among practitioners and partners, and amplify African perspectives in global discussions on online child protection.



Tackling Food Insecurity by Restoring Land and Strengthening Livelihoods for Women and Children in Ethiopia

- **Project:** Scaling up Environmentally Friendly Sustainable Food Security Program in Gurage Zone, Sodo Buee District
- **Donor:** BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
- **Duration:** 5 years

In Ethiopia, rural livelihoods depend almost entirely on rain-fed agriculture, including livestock and crop production, but this is disrupted by erratic rainfall and water scarcity. Land degradation from overgrazing, deforestation, soil erosion, drought, and flooding further reduces productivity. The absence of modern farming techniques drives persistent food insecurity and malnutrition, with women and children most affected.

Food shortages and limited access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities also cause high school dropout rates, especially among girls. Building on earlier successes, ChildFund and its local partner designed this project to improve ecological livelihoods and food security in two districts, aiming to double maize and teff yields and increase income for 75% of targeted households.



Creating a Safer Digital Space for Children in Ethiopia

- **Project:** Child Participation in Safeguarding Themselves in the Digital Environment
- **Donor:** ChildFund Korea
- **Duration:** 2 years

Internet access is expanding rapidly in Ethiopia, offering children new opportunities for learning and connection. However, this growth also increases risks of online sexual exploitation and abuse. A recent Disrupting Harm study found that 1 in 10 internet-using children have experienced online abuse.

Perpetrators often hide behind false identities, with violations including grooming, sextortion, and the sharing of child sexual abuse material. Reporting remains low due to stigma, fear, and limited awareness of services.

In response, ChildFund is piloting a child online safety project in Addis Ababa, training children, caregivers, teachers, and communities, while strengthening reporting systems and legal protections to create a scalable model for child online safety in Ethiopia.



Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) amid Rural Infrastructure Development in Guinea

- **Project:** Développement Agricole Intégré de Guinée (PDACG)
- **Donor:** World Bank
- **Duration:** 1 year

As infrastructure development advances in Guinea under the Projet de Développement Agricole Intégré de Guinée (PDACG), including the rehabilitation of 318 km of rural roads and construction of four bridges, risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEA/SH), are rising in targeted areas.

Funded by the World Bank, the project poses social challenges for women, girls and vulnerable groups. In response, ChildFund, CARE International, the Mounafanyi Federation of Kindia, and the West Africa Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace, and Security are implementing interventions to prevent and respond to SEA, and SH through awareness, grievance mechanisms, survivor care, and participatory, survivor-centered approaches.



Promoting Financial Inclusion and Sustainable Livelihoods for Women in Guinea

- **Project:** Financial Inclusion and Empowerment for Women through Village Savings and Loans Associations in Boké & Kankan prefectures
- **Donor:** Orange Foundation
- **Duration:** 12 months

Many women in Kankan and Boké prefectures in Guinea face structural challenges in economic empowerment, access to financial services, and protection from harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriage. In Kankan, only 37% of women access formal financial services (Central Bank, 2023), while in Boké, 63% of girls undergo FGM before age 15. With female illiteracy exceeding 78%, opportunities remain limited, reinforcing poverty and exclusion.

With support from the Orange Foundation, ChildFund is implementing two projects to strengthen women's autonomy and financial inclusion. In Kankan, 150 women will join five Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) with digital literacy, marketing, and advocacy training. In Boké, 175 women will benefit from 7 VSLAs, support for FGM survivors, cash transfers, and food kits. Both projects include joint monitoring with government services for sustainability.



Transforming Smallholder Agriculture Through Smart Technology and Innovation in Kenya

- **Project:** Spowdi Smart Farming Technology
- **Donor:** Barnfonden
- **Duration:** 3 years

In 2023, ChildFund signed a partnership with Spowdi, a Swedish green tech company, to pilot and scale Spowdi's Smart Farming System among smallholder farmers. The initiative aims to boost productivity, raise incomes, and promote sustainable farming by reaching over 10,000 farmers in Kenya. A pre-feasibility study in Migori and Nyeri confirmed that farmers have land, water access, and agricultural activity to benefit from the technology. It also explored financing, engaging potential financial institutions to support farmers through credit and loans.

Phase 1, "See, Believe and Buy," began in November 2024 with demonstration systems and trainer capacity-building. Phase 2, launched June 2025, targets 470 farmers and introduces savings- and credit-based financing.



Building Safe and Equal Schools Through Inclusive Adolescent Programming in The Gambia

- **Project:** Strengthening mechanisms and capacities of actors and institutions to address discriminatory gender and social norms
- **Donor:** United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- **Duration:** 1 year

Adolescent girls' rights, needs, and voices are often overlooked in national policies. Current debates on repealing the law banning female genital mutilation (FGM) risk reversing protections for girls and women and could undermine rights related to education, gender-based violence, child marriage, and other harmful practices.

Without a transformative approach to gender equality in education, recent gains, such as girls surpassing boys in enrollment, may not last. Sustainable change requires addressing root causes through a holistic approach that challenges harmful norms and toxic masculinities, benefiting all students. ChildFund will pilot an adolescent program in 20 secondary schools in Central River Region North to build leadership and evidence for wider advocacy in The Gambia.



Building Inclusive Communities through Male Engagement to Promote Equality for Girls and Women in The Gambia

- **Project:** Strengthening mechanisms and capacities of actors and institutions to address discriminatory gender and social norms
- **Donor:** United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- **Duration:** 1 year

Despite progress in women's empowerment, persistent gender disparities continue to limit equal opportunities. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive approach, this initiative engages men as agents of change to foster shared responsibility in challenging norms that uphold inequality.

ChildFund will implement awareness campaigns that promote gender sensitivity among men, inclusive community dialogues, advocacy training for boys, and support platforms for girls. The project will also build institutional capacity and create networks of male allies.

Drawing on community-led successes like the Responsive Parenting Program, ChildFund leverages its experience in community engagement, local structures, knowledge management, and collaboration with diverse partners.



Strengthening Child Protection in Uganda's Coffee Supply Chain

- **Project:** Child Rights Monitoring and Remediation System Monitoring (CRMRS)
- **Donor:** The Coffee Coalition Companies coordinated by Terre des Hommes Foundation (TdH) Switzerland
- **Duration:** 2 years

ChildFund is partnering with Terre des Hommes Foundation (TdH) Switzerland and several coffee companies in Uganda to strengthen child protection within the coffee supply chain in the Greater Masaka region. The project focuses on establishing community-based child protection systems and effective case management to ensure children's rights are respected and promoted in coffee farms and surrounding communities. It implements targeted child protection activities through community initiatives and a strong case management system aligned with the Child Rights Monitoring and Remediation System (CRMRS).

Objectives include preventing, monitoring, identifying, mitigating risks, and addressing child rights violations. The project also promotes sustainability by supporting local and national protection structures, creating safer environments and improving children's well-being.



Building Resilient Local Food Systems to Boost School Meals and Nutrition in Zambia

- **Project:** Home Grown School Meals
- **Donor:** World Food Programme (WFP)
- **Duration:** 6 months with possibility of extension

The 2023/2024 El Niño-induced drought in Zambia damaged over 1.8 million hectares of crops and left 9.8 million people food insecure. It also disrupted the Home-Grown School Meals program, with 70% of schools in affected districts reporting food shortages.

ChildFund is responding with a resilient food systems project in 13 schools in Lusaka, Kafue, and Mazabuka, directly supporting 16,498 learners.

The project establishes low-cost irrigated vegetable gardens, installs energy-efficient cookstoves and handwashing stations, and promotes hygiene.

To build resilience, teachers, learners, administrators, and community members will be trained in smart agriculture and nutrition, while smallholder farmers are linked to schools through HGSM.



Strengthening Livelihoods, Education, and Protection for Children and Families in Palorinya Refugee Settlement in Uganda

- **Project:** Integrated Livelihood, Education and Protection (I-LEAP) Project
- **Donor:** Korea International Cooperation Agency and ChildFund Korea
- **Duration:** 3 years

Palorinya Refugee Settlement in Uganda hosts over 150,000 children and families striving to rebuild their lives. Families in the settlement and surrounding host communities face challenges such as limited access to early learning, economic hardship, and protection concerns.

This project addresses these needs by strengthening early childhood education, improving livelihoods, and enhancing child protection and violence prevention services.

Objectives include expanding education and school readiness for children aged 3 to 8 years, boosting livelihoods through farming and livestock, and strengthening community-based protection. Activities involve child-friendly education, caregiver and teacher training, poultry and goat farming, and community awareness on violence prevention. The project targets over 152,000 people in Palorinya and 3,500 in host communities.



Strengthening Community Systems to Improve Essential Services for Children and Families in Zambia

- **Project:** Enhancing Communities for Health and Development (EC4HD) Social Accountability Project
- **Donor:** United Nationals International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- **Duration:** 3 years

Zambia has made progress in expanding access to essential social services. However, rural and underserved areas, particularly Luapula and North-Western provinces, continue to face deep-rooted challenges. In the ten target districts of the Enhancing Communities for Health and Development (EC4HD) project, many households experience chronic poverty, isolation, and limited access to quality education, health, nutrition, and protection services. Community voices are often left out of local governance and decision-making.

ChildFund, through the EC4HD project, aims to close these gaps by strengthening the capacity of both communities and local authorities to work together in improving service delivery. The project focuses on building strong, community-led accountability and coordination systems across all ten districts. It also supports greater collaboration between government ministries and stakeholders at district and sub-district levels. The goal is to co-develop inclusive, locally driven strategies that improve the quality and responsiveness of basic services, especially for children and families living in poverty and remote areas.

OUR TOP DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

For more than 65 years, partnerships have laid the foundation for ChildFund's work in Africa. Together with regional bodies, governments, local partners, communities, donors, the private sector, and civil society networks, we have addressed the most pressing challenges facing children and youth in education, health, livelihoods, protection, and environmental sustainability.

No program, policy shift, or innovation can truly meet the needs of Africa's children without the engagement of those most affected, children and their families, working alongside development partners. 2025 reminded us that our strength lies not only in what we do, but in how we do it: with communities, for children. For this, we are deeply grateful to our partners, supporters, and above all the children and families who continue to inspire our mission.

CHILDFUND ALLIANCE

- ChildFund International (USA)
- ChildFund Australia
- ChildFund Deutschland
- ChildFund Korea
- ChildFund New Zealand
- ChildFund Ireland
- Barnfonden (Sweden)
- Children Believe (Canada)
- EDUCO (Spain)
- Un Enfant par la Main (France)
- WeWorld (Italy)

UN AGENCIES

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- The World Bank
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- UN World Food Programme (WFP)

FOUNDATIONS

- Conrad N Hilton Foundation
- Charities Aid Foundation America (CAF America)
- The LEGO Foundation
- Orange Foundation
- Amy Bell Charities
- Transearch Foundation
- Econic Earth Foundation
- Brother's Brother Foundation
- PepsiCo Foundation
- Sternstunden
- Taiwan Fund for Children and Families

GOVERNMENT DONORS

- The European Union
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development Germany (BMZ)
- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- International Development Research Centre Canada (IDRC Canada)
- New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- Irish Aid

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (AFRICA)

- The African Union Commission
- Federal Government of Ethiopia
- Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- Government of the Republic of The Gambia
- Government of the Republic of Senegal
- Government of the Republic of Guinea (Conakry)
- Government of the Republic of Kenya
- Government of the Republic of Uganda
- Government of the Republic of Mozambique
- Government of the Republic of Zambia
- Government of the Republic of Mali

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- Aflatoun International
- The Global Fund
- Safe Online
- The International Rescue Committee
- Map International
- Lutheran World Relief
- Leap Africa
- Books for Africa

THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- Procter & Gamble
- Dow Chemical
- DuPont
- Davis & Shirtliff
- LongHorn Publishers
- Spowdi
- Solvatten
- Tradin Organic
- BCI Mozambique

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

- African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)
- West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF)
- Addis Ababa University
- AfriChild Centre
- Strathmore University
- Rongo university

OUR TEAM

Africa Regional Office

1. **Chege Ngugi** – Regional Director
2. **Dr. Allasane Drabo** - Deputy Regional Director, Programs and Impact
3. **Henri Noel Tatangang** – Deputy Regional Director, Humanitarian
4. **Olga Marchan** - Director, Finance, Accounting and Grants Management
5. **Anthony Princessa** - Director, Finance, Accounting and Grants Management
6. **Jazer Marcelo** - Global HR and Practice Lead
7. **Lukonde Kapambwe** - Global HR and Practice Lead
8. **Dr. Joshua Ongwae** – Sr. Advocacy Manager, Africa & Liaison to the African Union
9. **Harrison Musyoki** – Sr. Manager, Regional Business Development and Grants
10. **Mohammed Dagane** – Programs Coordinator
11. **Maureen Siele** – Sr. Communications Advisor

ChildFund Country Directors

1. **Titus Tumusiime** – ChildFund Uganda
2. **Lilly Omondi** – ChildFund Ethiopia
3. **Issa Kipera (PhD)** – ChildFund Kenya (Acting)
4. **Victor Koyi** – ChildFund Zambia & Mozambique
5. **Victor Kamara** – ChildFund Sierra Leone
6. **Musu Komma** – ChildFund The Gambia
7. **Sagane Thiaw** – ChildFund Senegal & Guinea (Conakry)

ChildFund International Global Leadership Team

1. **Isam Ghanim** – President and CEO
2. **Karen Hanrahan** – Chief Impact and Innovation Officer
3. **Meg Audette** – Chief Organizational Effectiveness Officer
4. **Adam Hicks** – Chief Development & Marketing Officer
5. **Erin Kennedy** – Vice President, External Affairs & Partnerships
6. **Caroline Brea** – Vice President, Program Resources and Insitutional Learning
7. **Scott Sherman** – Vice President, Global Human Resources
8. **Sudipto Sircar** – Vice President, Information Technology / Chief Information Officer
9. **Laura Meloy** – Chief Financial Officer
10. **James Tuite** – Chief Operating Officer
11. **Amelia Smith** – General Counsel
12. **Chege Ngugi** – Regional Director, Africa
13. **Hanneke Oudkerk** – Regional Director, Asia
14. **Cristina Barrera** – Regional Director, Americas







Our people are our greatest asset.

What do ChildFund staff in Africa say?

86%
are highly satisfied with ChildFund's work environment.

88%
find meaning in their work.

88%
of our staff are fully engaged.















ChildFund


ChildFund






WACHA KUNIPIGA
NAHITAJI KUONGOZWA!






Permavet 2.0






ChildFund



ChildFund®

Because we need each other.

ChildFund International
Africa Regional Office

Located off Waiyaki Way, Westlands

P. O BOX 14038 – 00800 Nairobi, Kenya

+254 020 4444 890/3; +254 020 4444 425
+254 722 236 916, +254 735 429 312

africainfo@childfund.org

www.childfund.org