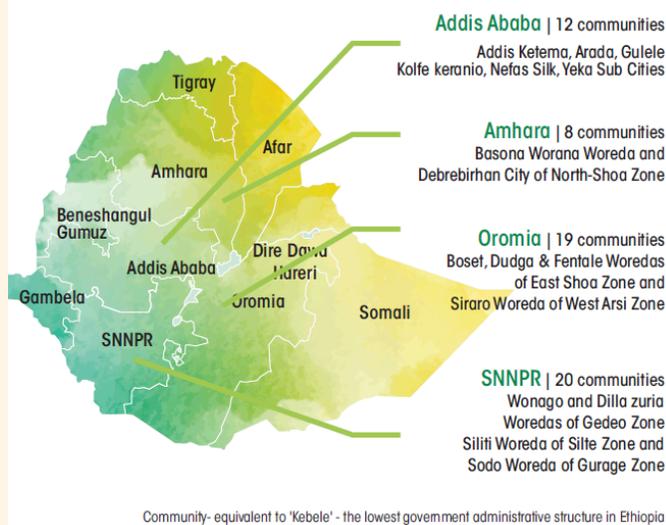


## ChildFund International

ChildFund International ([www.childfund.org](http://www.childfund.org)) is an international non-governmental organization, incorporated and based in Virginia, USA, with over 80 years of experience. ChildFund International works throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas 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 community, and online. ChildFund programs address the underlying conditions that prevent any child or youth from achieving their full potential and place a special emphasis on child protection throughout its approach. In 2023, ChildFund reached 14.8 million children and family members in 21 countries. In the financial year ending June 2022, ChildFund reported close to \$216 million in global expenditure, of which 31% was allocated to early childhood development and education programs. ChildFund has managed nearly \$250 million of US Government resources in the last 30 years, mostly grants and cooperative agreements from USAID.

## ChildFund Ethiopia



ChildFund Ethiopia began working in the country in 1971, and in 2024 reached more than 10 million children, youth, and families through child-focused development projects in education, health, food security, and microenterprise. ChildFund Ethiopia operates in three regions, Amhara, Oromia and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State (SNNPRS), and in Addis Ababa, implementing projects with and through 13 local community-based organizations.

ChildFund Ethiopia's strategic plan focuses on increasing access to quality education for children aged 6 to 14 years, strengthening school capacity to provide quality education services, and ensuring children's overall safety. ChildFund Ethiopia also prioritizes Early Childhood Development and Education to improve early development and learning outcomes of children aged 0 to 5 years, while ensuring safe home and community environments. In FY2024, ChildFund invested over 8.M US\$ to improve the lives of vulnerable children, youth, and their families, working closely with local civil society organizations, peer organizations and networks, and government stakeholders.

## Our Approach to Education

ChildFund International uses a life-stage approach that addresses children's specific developmental and cognitive needs, with three theories of change that guide programming for children in each respective life-stage: 0-5 years of age, 6-14 years of age, and 15-24 years of age. Education programs focus on holistic approaches aimed at improving children's education and protection outcomes and are delivered through 150 local implementing partner organizations globally. Our strategy is to strengthen local capacity to support and improve educational access, quality, and learning outcomes, while leveraging our experience and partnerships to encourage increased investment in education programs.

## Key Education Projects

Through our education program intervention, we were able to reach 150 primary schools. We invested significantly in creating a conducive learning environment in the target schools, including the renovation and construction of classrooms, school libraries, laboratories, and IT centers, as well as equipping them with various materials. These efforts have led to better student achievements in the target schools compared to non-target schools.

***Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) Project, 2021-2024, Donor: International Development Research Center (IDRC).*** Implemented in partnership with Children Believe, Tesfa Berhan Child and Family Development Organization, and Addis Ababa University, this action research project assessed whether subsidized and enhanced quality community-based childcare services can improve women's economic wellbeing and empowerment while promoting Early Childhood Development (ECD). The project also aimed to generate evidence for revising Ethiopia's ECD policy by engaging various stakeholders and policy makers. Main activities included establishment of childcare centers; capacity strengthening of parents/caregivers, childcare workers, and other stakeholders in ECD; women economic empowerment promotion with mothers of children at childcare centers; impact evaluation and qualitative research to generate evidence; and advocacy interventions targeting policy makers at different levels of government.

***Come Play with Me Multi-Country Project, 2022-2023, Donor: LEGO Foundation.*** Implemented by ChildFund Ethiopia and 13 local partners, this project reached over 35,000 children and parents/caregivers in Ethiopia to address the learning and socio-emotional needs of children aged 0-8 years, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project promoted playful parenting strategies through a combination of in-person and virtual approaches, including the adaptation and broadcast of 25 culturally relevant radio spots in four languages, reaching an estimated 1 million people. More than 11,000 parents participated in weekly listenership sessions, impacting 24,000 children. The project supported Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), reaching 4,000 individuals by providing essential supplies and renovating child-friendly spaces.

***Play Matters Emergency Response Mechanism Project, 2022-2023, Donor: LEGO Foundation, IRC.*** This project benefitted more than 10,500 school-aged children and 500 teachers in ten schools of North Wollo Zone, Woldia Zuria, and Mersa woredas with interventions in psychosocial support and capacity strengthening in play-based learning methodology, maintenance and equipping of 64 classrooms damaged by the armed conflict, and maintenance of WASH facilities in all target schools.

***Pilot community childcare centers under the Rural Productive Safety Net Program and Urban Productive Safety Net Program in Ethiopia, 2020-2022, Donor: World Bank Group, UNICEF.*** In partnership with the Children Believe Fund and Tesfa Berhan Child and Family Development Organization, ChildFund Ethiopia implemented pilot childcare centers for beneficiaries of the Rural and Urban Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in 52 communities across the Amhara Region and Addis Ababa to provide safe and developmentally appropriate care for children aged 1-5 years, allowing parents and caregivers to participate in public works without placing childcare responsibilities on school-age children. ChildFund and its partners developed a comprehensive childcare package and trained approximately 1,000 childcare workers, community facilitators, and field coordinators. Despite the project's discontinuation in the Amhara region due to conflict, ChildFund successfully established 45 child-friendly childcare centers, providing ECD services to approximately 800 children. In Addis Ababa, seven centers were established in the Kolfe Keraniyo and Arada sub-cities, serving over 100 children of PSNP beneficiaries.

***Enabling Orphan and Vulnerable Children to Access Quality Education, 2018-2021, Donor: ChildFund Korea.*** Implemented in two woredas within the Arada sub-city of Addis Ababa, this project provided capacity strengthening for teachers and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) to enhance quality education practices, and supplied educational materials and equipment for schools, ECD centers, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), and out-of-school children. The project benefited 3,884 OVCs and 30,252 children.

***Yekokeb-Berhan Program for Highly Vulnerable Children, 2011-2017, Donor: USAID.*** As a sub-recipient to PACT, ChildFund worked with local partners to provide ECCD initiatives across Addis Ababa, Oromia, Amhara, South Nations, and Tigray Regions. By linking project beneficiaries to existing ECCD centers and establishing new community facilities, 75% of children served by the program accessed these services. A significant portion of this growth was driven by investments from community stakeholders. School-age children in the program demonstrated marked improvements, with enrollment rates rising to 91.4% (from 83% baseline), alongside better attendance and performance. ChildFund also addressed financial barriers by covering education-related costs for families, ensuring sustained access to schooling.

## Education Technical Strengths

**Child Protection and Child-Centered Instruction:** ChildFund has extensive experience in interventions in children's rights, protection, and reduction of child abuse, child labor, and early marriage, as well as working with schools, parents, and communities to support girls' education. This includes training teachers in participatory learning methodologies and peer learning, creating platforms for collaboration, sharing of best practices, and enhancing their teaching skills.

**Early Childhood Development:** Child Fund Ethiopia has expertise in the establishment of ECD centers for children aged 0 to 6 years. These ECD centers are used for sensitizing and training caregivers, teachers, and families on creating a protective, nurturing, and stimulating environment that supports children's growth and development. Children who attend the centers receive early stimulation to develop their early language/cognitive, socio-emotional, and motor skills to support a successful transition to primary school.

**Community Engagement & Capacity Strengthening:** ChildFund, in collaboration with local partners, effectively engages primary schools by leveraging community support, including labor, funding, and attendance monitoring through PSTAs to improve school readiness,

retention, reading culture, and learning outcomes, particularly for girls. ChildFund strengthens the education system by supporting school clubs, providing media resources, and equipping libraries and laboratories. This comprehensive approach empowers communities as advocates for quality education and improved access and outcomes for children and adolescents.

**Early Grade Reading:** ChildFund Ethiopia's experience in foundational literacy initiatives include providing teacher training and enhancement of teacher creativity in early grade reading pedagogies and ensuring rich print environments and appropriate teaching and learning materials to motivate and maintain children's curiosity for learning, acquisition of core reading skills, and increase positive interactions between students and teachers.

**School Capacity Strengthening:** ChildFund has ample experience in supporting local governments to increase access and improve retention through the improvement of school facilities. This includes construction and/or renovation of classrooms, libraries/reading rooms, water points, and gender-specific toilets, and ensuring accessibility for children with disabilities. Several schools are considered model schools for the surrounding area in improving children's learning outcomes and setting a benchmark for educational excellence.

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