

ChildWorld

SPRING 2011

SMALL VOICES

BIG DREAMS

ChildFund's Global Survey
of Children



ChildWorld

SPRING 2011



- 1** ChildFund CEO Meets Liberian President
- 2** Small Voices, Big Dreams
- 5** Case Studies: Child and Youth Involvement
- 8** Case Study: U.S. Programs
- 10** Case Study: Education Before Marriage
- 12** Does International Aid Work?
- 14** Donors: ChildFund Supporters Find Community on Facebook
- 17** Becoming a Better Listener
- 17** Gifts of Love and Hope are Perfect for Spring

©2011 ChildFund International. All rights reserved.

ChildFund exists to help deprived, excluded and vulnerable children have the capacity to improve their lives and the opportunity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change in their communities. We promote societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting and advancing the worth and rights of children.

Working in 31 countries, ChildFund assists 15.2 million children and family members, based on our 2007 survey. ChildFund is currently introducing a more rigorous methodology for counting children and families served, and this data will be shared in 2011.

ChildWorld® is a registered trademark of ChildFund International.

2821 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294-3725

Member of **ChildFund**
Alliance

ChildWorld®

EDITOR

Alison Abbitt

WRITERS

Christine Ennulat, Virginia Sowers

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Sachal Aneja, Rebecca Janes

GRAPHIC DESIGN

AURAS Design

ON THE COVER: Children in the Philippines participated in ChildFund's Small Voices, Big Dreams global survey. ChildFund has worked there since 1954. See stories, pages 2-11.



ChildFund CEO Meets Liberian President

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Moves Liberia Forward

“If ever there was a country ChildFund needed to be in, Liberia is it,” said ChildFund President and CEO Anne Lynam Goddard on her recent return from that country. She highlighted Liberia’s 13 years of civil war that had turned children into soldiers, turned thousands into refugees and destroyed the country’s social fabric by the time Liberia finally signed its peace treaty in 2003.

Two months later, ChildFund arrived and began working to reintegrate child soldiers into their communities.

The long recovery continues. Liberia, says Goddard, is a country “slowly crawling back from having been decimated.”

Since 2005, Liberia’s President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has led the way on that difficult journey. A Harvard-educated economist, erstwhile bank vice president and former Africa director of the United Nations Development Program, Johnson Sirleaf is Africa’s first elected female leader. She is known as Liberia’s “Iron Lady.”

Goddard reports having heard again and again from Liberian people how much they admire and believe in Johnson Sirleaf. “We have peace now, and good leadership,” they told her. “That’s what’s moving the country forward.”

At a reception honoring ChildFund early in her weeklong visit to Liberia, Goddard was able to meet with the Liberian president. In addition to reaffirming the longstanding relationship between ChildFund and the Liberian government, their conversation also touched on Liberia’s dependence on foreign aid. The country’s operating budget is a comparatively meager \$0.5 billion.

Johnson Sirleaf has been understandably concerned by pro-

posed cuts in U.S. humanitarian aid. Recent developments in the region serve to deepen those concerns: When fighting erupted in the neighboring Ivory Coast in late February, Ivorian refugees began pouring west into Liberia, adding to the more than 30,000 who had arrived since the Ivory Coast’s embattled elections in November. Johnson Sirleaf told Goddard, “Our worst fears are coming true.”

Still, as fragile as Liberia’s recent progress may be, the country will not turn away refugees, because Liberians were refugees themselves not long ago — tens of thousands fled to Sierra Leone and Ghana during the Liberian conflict. “They won’t say no because they have been hosted themselves,” Goddard says.

Amid the struggle, Johnson Sirleaf continues to lead her country through its long healing process. She spends her weekends visiting Liberia’s far reaches, to see how its people are faring, says Goddard. She even visited one of ChildFund’s Early Childhood Development sites and contributed to the construction of a safety fence.

“If we had leaders like this in every country,” Goddard declares, “the world would be a better place.” **CW**



SMALL BIG D

**ChildFund's Global
Survey of Children
in Developing
Nations Finds Them
Hungry to Learn**

BY CHRISTINE ENNULAT

VOICES REAMS



ChildFund puts the voices of children at the center of its work. We know that children can contribute to their own outcomes as they experience poverty firsthand. Recently, we took time to interview them on an unprecedented scale to gain a deeper understanding of their most important issues.

The Small Voices, Big Dreams global survey involved more than 3,000 children in some 30 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas. It is the result of a collaborative effort within the ChildFund Alliance network of 12 child development organizations, including ChildFund International.

ChildFund staff sat down with 100 10- to 12-year-olds in each country where we work, asking them six simple questions. Their answers were transcribed verbatim. The process was deliberately informal and child-friendly. ChildFund

One by one, 3,000+ children in ChildFund programs were interviewed, seeking their input on poverty. From there, we can identify and address critical needs.

SMALL VOICES BIG DREAMS

then translated the results and turned them over to Ipsos Observer, a global research firm that tabulated and compiled the results.

The importance of education rang loud and clear throughout the survey results. Asked what they would do if they were president for a day, nearly 60 percent of the participants said they would educate all children, build more schools and improve the quality of schools already in place.

Education arose even in response to the question "What do you fear most?" In Indonesia, one child told us, "My worst fear is that I won't be able to go and study at school because of lack of money." Another, in Afghanistan, feared war because it would keep children away from school.

"This emphasis on education among these young children speaks to their wisdom

as well as their understanding that learning holds the key to a better future," says ChildFund International President and CEO Anne Lynam Goddard.

Of course, there were many other fears. Fear of animals ranked high, at 30 percent. One-fifth were scared of HIV/AIDS and other disease. Twenty percent cited war and violence. Also noted were marriage at an early age and starvation.

The survey also sought to quantify what portion of children's days is given to work; it found that more than a quarter spend half of each day or more on household chores or other work. Work was the only area in which U.S. children diverged from the rest. In fact, perhaps the most striking thing about the overall results of Small Voices, Big Dreams is how much

This child in Guinea, along with others representing countries where ChildFund works, participated in a survey on poverty. Asking questions such as "What do you fear most?" helps get at the heart of their daily struggles.



children living in poverty worldwide have in common.

The survey provides exactly the kind of information ChildFund blends with its own best practices and with its wisdom gained through 70-plus years' experience in helping children achieve their potential. These voices show that children know what they need and are fully invested in achieving their dreams. They also affirm ChildFund's work to sup-

port the most salient needs — to promote access to high-quality education, to increase food security, to help communities become environments where children can thrive.

To read more about the survey, visit www.ChildFundAlliance.org/smallvoicesbigdreams.

To view a video about the Small Voices, Big Dreams project in Afghanistan, go to <http://bit.ly/bVrEx3>.



CASE STUDIES: CHILD AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

ChildFund and Youth Work Together

A central premise of how ChildFund functions is that we work in concert with young people to break the cycle of poverty. We listen to children and youth, taking what we learn from them and blending it with ChildFund's best practices, creating opportunities that address their challenges effectively and meaningfully.

When children and youth take ownership in processes that can lead to change in their communities, they get a strong taste of the kind of civic engagement and leadership that ChildFund seeks to encourage. Working this way means that young people themselves become resources rather than objects of programs. And they develop amazing leadership skills along the way.

Some examples of how this can play out:

Uganda: Children Crossing

In Buwenge, a rural community in the Jinja region of Uganda, a long, straight stretch of road — the kind of road that begs drivers to floor it — runs in front of a primary school. And drivers would indeed floor it, sometimes hitting and injuring or killing children walking to school.

The ChildFund-supported Child and Youth Federation in that area banded together to

change this dangerous situation, starting with collecting data on the number of accidents as well as traffic density and speeds. The group knew speed bumps would be the answer to improving safety for students. But who would pay for the installation? Who had the authority to install the speed bumps?

The children and youth approached the local government authority to gain permission to install the bumps, and they got them installed at no cost by negotiating with a local contractor. There have been no further accidents since the installation.

Another Child and Youth Federation in Jinja pinpointed a similar traffic situation, in which five children had been hit and one of them had died. The children and youth, ages 8 to 20, drew up a work plan, and they wrote to district and municipal leaders, the local Red Cross Society, teachers from surrounding schools and the local police departments to highlight the issue and seek support. The federation also called on children from three other primary schools and local communities to join the cause.

Their campaign included street processions led by a children's band to show road safety as a right and child protection as a responsibility of all. Finally, with the support

SMALL VOICES BIG DREAMS

of local authorities, three safe walkways were created by youth, who also erected signs with safety messages at the site.

Since then, only one incident has been reported: A child was bumped by a cyclist disobeying the signage. A community member brought the man to the police.

Honduras: Filling the Gap

When Honduras' President Manuel Zelaya was ousted in a military coup last year, the ensuing political instability brought the closure of hundreds if not thousands of schools in the country. "My Best Vacations" was a project that the Honduras ADACAR/ChildFund Youth Federation organized to fill the educational void left

in the wake of the political crisis.

To provide children and youth with educational and recreational activities to reinforce their skills and knowledge, 52 children and youth went through training guided by education specialists using five specially designed seminars (math and other academics). These 52 then began tutoring 546 children and youth of nearby communities. They also offered recreational workshops in dance, puppetry and theater.

Not only were these young volunteers able to identify and give voice to their needs, but they also showed themselves capable of handling significant responsibility. They took action, and their communities took them seriously.



India: Door to Door

In the town of Musapura, near Indore, India, children and youth formed a committee with the help of ChildFund. Together, they worked to identify the reasons why some parents were not sending their children to school.

When the group conducted a community exercise to pinpoint factors that kept children from school, it found that a primary issue was safety — both on the way to and inside school. Group members then canvassed the homes of the unenrolled children and spoke to their caregivers and parents. The children and youth were eager to motivate all parents and other community members to facilitate school attendance. Their strategy was successful in mobilizing parents and resulted in increased enrollment and attendance.

Zambia: Emerging Voices

What if government officials around the world began listening to children and youth? Would their own views and priorities change? Would the world become better for children?

Zambian youth enrolled in programs operated by ChildFund's Kafue Child Development Agency decided to test the "what-if" scenario. They knew that lack of recognition and respect for children's rights around the globe would make it difficult for their voices to be heard. But after participating in child and youth associations and by working with peer leaders to develop leadership skills and gain

Children the world over understand poverty in a uniquely personal way. While waiting to participate in ChildFund's global poverty survey, these youth have a little fun.

What if government officials around the world began listening to children and youth? Would their own views and priorities change?

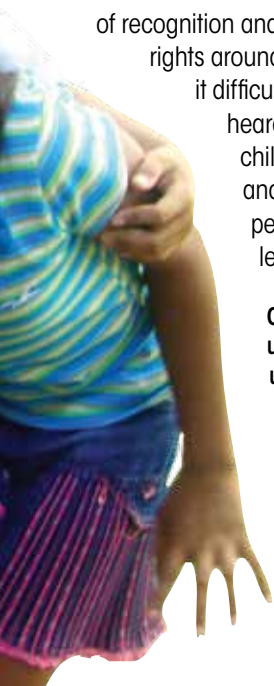
community support for their ideas, they identified practical issues impacting their daily lives. To start, members of the Kafue area youth association developed an action plan and formed a children's advocacy team to secure meetings with government policymakers.

This past June, the advocacy team met with its area member of Parliament, Bradford Machila, to discuss child rights and protection issues. In the minister's entourage were the Kafue district commissioner, the council chairman and the council secretary. The youth called on the government to put a stop to underage patronage in drinking places, a common practice often ignored by adults.

Children and youth committee leaders also successfully engaged with a local government minister, securing permission to make a statement calling for the prohibition of locally brewed opaque alcohol sold in small sachets, called "Tujilijili." The youth pointed out that this alcohol's packaging made it portable enough for children to conceal in their pockets.

Commending the youth advocates' research on these dangers to children, the local council secretary promised to stiffen measures to reduce underage drinking. Specifically, local government authorities have committed to more inspections of beer-drinking places, with the promise to confiscate licenses from owners found to be overlooking regulations.

Buoyed by these successes, members of the youth association are now expand-



SMALL VOICES BIG DREAMS

ing their efforts to bring about additional change in their community. The Kafue Child Development Agency has helped create an information center so more youth

have access to community information and government contacts.

Now, instead of wondering “what if,” youth in Kafue are planning what’s next.

CASE STUDY: U.S. PROGRAMS

Breaking the Cycle in Our Backyard

Americans tend to be proud of their place among the top 25 wealthiest countries in the world. Less well-known, though, is that among that group, the United States is No. 1 in the percentage of its children living in poverty.

Of the 100 poorest counties nationwide, 95 are rural, and child poverty rates range as high as 40 to 70 percent. Having worked with children in the U.S. since 1952, ChildFund today partners with 13 community-based organizations in several of those counties to serve nearly 12,000 children in North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Texas.

The communities where we work are predominantly African-American, Native American and Hispanic. Their poverty traces back to ingrained systems of oppression and exploitation.

Unemployment is as high as 85 percent in some of these communities. Housing is subpar, and alcoholism and domestic violence are widespread. With lack of support at home, children struggle with school and with self-esteem. School dropout rates can top 50 percent. Young people often take refuge in drugs, alcohol or other risky behaviors. More girls get pregnant, and at younger ages. More young people end up incarcerated. The generational cycle of poverty grinds on.

For populations whose poverty is so pervasive and ingrained, dependence on government aid becomes a fallback. This often leads to apathy or, at least, hesitation about trying to improve the status quo. “Histori-

cally, many communities have been pushed by a legacy of discrimination and exclusion into systems of government dependence,” says Rukhsana Ayyub, ChildFund’s national director for U.S. Programs, citing Medicaid and food stamps as examples. “No one denies that those were much needed, but the dependence also takes away the community’s initiative. People in the communities where we work have said that they want to come out of that.”

Because youth engagement is a central focus in ChildFund’s work, children and youth are included in community consultations.

This desire to participate in their communities’ growth is a sentiment that dominated the recent community consultations ChildFund held through its U.S. affiliates. “Communities want to take an active role in what happens in their lives and their communities,” says Ayyub. “We are trying to help them build active roles.”

Because youth engagement is a central focus in ChildFund’s work, children and youth are included in community consultations. They are, after all, the most direct source of information about their own experiences of poverty. From them we learn that young people understand that they are



In the U.S., ChildFund encourages children to celebrate their heritage and find a way back to their traditions. Traditions hold values that are the foundation of effecting change in positive ways. We currently have nearly 1,000 U.S. children waiting for sponsors.

too often seen as a problem rather than as a resource. It's a message that becomes true if it is repeated enough.

"The whole system is set up in a way that is punitive and tells youth, 'You are bad and a problem,' rather than an asset for this community," Ayyub says. "But they want to succeed. They say, 'I want to do good in school, and I want to make my mom proud of me.'"

So, rather than simply providing things — giving young people bicycles, for example — ChildFund adds value by engaging beneficiaries from different angles: training the youth in bicycle repair as well as healthy exercise and diet. Ayyub explains, "They learn about taking care of their own things."

She describes a scene in a Mississippi community center where a small new library has been set up. "Youth come in and

read to the younger ones," she says. "It's not a giveaway; it's a way of engaging the community. If you just give books, you don't know if they are reading or not." Similar programs are offered in ChildFund's South Texas communities.

Because poverty's effects also differ across geography and ethnicity, ChildFund adapts its work to the needs of each area. Among Native American populations, for example, the teen suicide rate is twice the national average, so suicide prevention is a strong focus of ChildFund's work in the Great Plains. Cultural restoration programs aim to reinforce historical Native American values of strength, tradition and family. In Mississippi, where the rate of child obesity is 44 percent — the highest nationwide — nutrition initiatives are key.

SMALL VOICES BIG DREAMS

Recent news from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that 35.9 million people now live below the poverty line in America, including 12.9 million children (one in five nationwide). While shocking, it serves to draw many ChildFund supporters' attention toward the plight of children right here in the U.S. We welcome their increased awareness and willingness to become sponsors of U.S. children.

"Any letter I received from my sponsor, I was really thankful for it. I never really cared if it was money or clothes," says a 19-year-old former sponsored child from Texas. "What mattered was that my sponsor remembered by writing me a simple letter."

To sponsor a child in the U.S., please visit www.ChildFund.org or call 1-800-776-6767. Sponsorship in the U.S. is \$35 per month.

CASE STUDY: EDUCATION BEFORE MARRIAGE

'Booking' Girls to Learn

The U.N.'s Convention on the Rights of the Child, which establishes 18 as the minimum age for marriage, has been ratified nearly worldwide. Still, in many developing countries, the tradition of forced early marriage remains a barrier to girls completing their educations.

In Kenya, for example, early marriage for girls, sometimes as young as 11, is particularly common among the Maasai people. How is it possible to enforce education with a traditional practice that is deeply entrenched in the culture of a nomadic tribe?

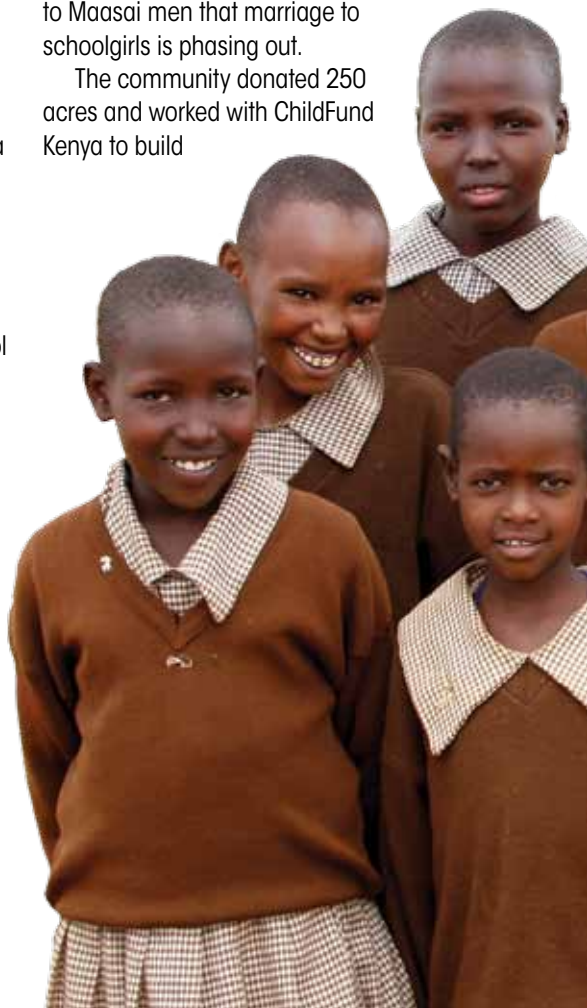
For hundreds of Maasai girls in Kenya's Great Rift Valley, education itself has become the answer. When ChildFund opened the Naning'oi Girls' Boarding School in 1999, it was specifically to rescue girls from early marriage.

The approach ChildFund takes exemplifies the organization's emphasis on cultural sensitivity and, in fact, works by taking a cue from Esaiyata, the Maasai dowry practice of "booking" girls at or before

birth for marriage. Offering the typical dowry of livestock or gifts, ChildFund simply substitutes school as an alternative to marriage, booking the girls instead for education. Naning'oi means, fittingly, "area where cooperation thrives" — a reminder to Maasai men that marriage to schoolgirls is phasing out.

The community donated 250 acres and worked with ChildFund Kenya to build

Educating girls is becoming more the norm in Kenya, where it was once considered a waste of resources. These girls are enrolled in Naning'oi, a school for girls that ChildFund opened in 1999 to prevent child marriage.



SMALL VOICES BIG DREAMS

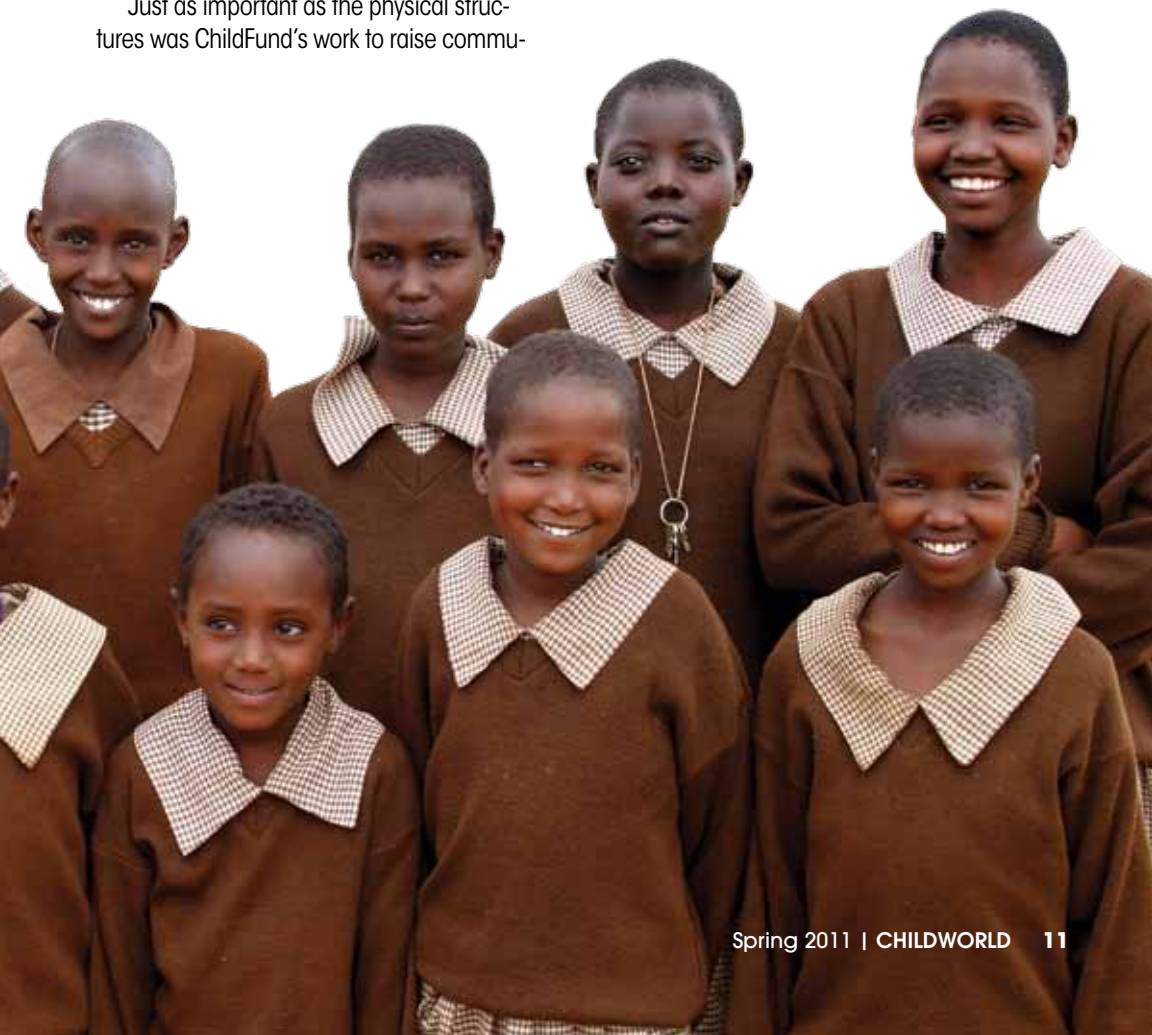
eight classrooms, two dormitories, five staff houses and eight semi-permanent teachers' quarters. Barclays Bank also contributed funds toward additional classrooms, a new resource center and beds and mattresses for the dorms. Since 2000, each parent has contributed a goat to the school's goat-keeping enterprise, which supports the school and feeds the children.

In 2003, the Kenyan government demonstrated its support and instituted free primary education for all children, which led to the provision of educational materials for Naning'oi. In 2005, ChildFund Kenya drilled a borehole to provide fresh water for the school, which then housed 350 boarding students. Later that year, a generator for lighting was put in place. In 2006, solar panels were installed to offset the costs of running the generator. In 2007, a large pit latrine was built.

Just as important as the physical structures was ChildFund's work to raise commu-

nity awareness. Community buy-in led to the growth of the school, which brought further community buy-in. Since the school opened, a number of girls have completed grade eight and have earned places in secondary school. The number of boarders approaches 500, and enrollment is at 900 — remarkable in a community that has traditionally viewed girls' education as a wasted investment.

Stakeholders including parent representatives, the school management committee, ChildFund's Naning'oi Child Development Programme, ministry of education officials and other area leaders have worked together refining a three-year plan to respond to the needs of the school. They know that the longer girls stay in school — the more opportunity they are given to realize their potential — the greater the chance of reversing poverty. **CW**



Does International Aid Work?

BY ANNE LYNAM GODDARD, CHILDFUND PRESIDENT AND CEO

As dollars flow from developed nations to developing nations, the question often comes up: Does international aid really work?

I can give you an example of where it really has made a world of difference.

Recently I visited Taiwan to participate in the 60th anniversary celebration of Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF). ChildFund (then Christian Children's Fund) began assisting orphans, children and families in Taiwan in 1950, bringing nutritional, health and educational services to an impoverished population.

With this life-sustaining support, Taiwan's children began to thrive. In 1985, TFCF became an independent child sponsorship organization. ChildFund had helped for 35 years; yet, more important, we left behind this wonderful capacity. By 1987, TFCF was ready to give back to the world, and Taiwanese citizens began sponsoring children internationally. This compassion has spread to 34 countries in Asia, Africa and the Americas, helping more than 67,000 children along the way. Today, TFCF is a member of the ChildFund Alliance, working in full partnership with ChildFund International and 10 other countries to assist vulnerable children globally.

Within its own country, TFCF continues to do amazing work — from introducing the foster care concept to developing state-of-the-art programs for special needs children, including a light therapy program.

Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, who met with TFCF and ChildFund Alliance members to help celebrate TFCF's anniversary,

noted that TFCF is the oldest and likely the most effective social welfare organization caring for children in Taiwan. In fact, the president is a child sponsor and has sponsored 10 children through the years. He's especially proud that close to 1 percent of Taiwan's population is now sponsoring children.

President Ma pointed out that TFCF's success story mirrors Taiwan's rise as a nation. In the 1950s, the country was on the receiving

ChildFund President and CEO Anne Lynam Goddard and Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou (seen at front, center) pose with the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families delegation at the organization's 60th anniversary celebration.



end of aid provided by foreign governments and other public- and private-sector entities. At that time, President Ma reported an average annual income per person of \$100. By 1965, Taiwan no longer needed international aid as it grew its own economy and expanded its exports. International development works. Taiwan's foreign policy focus on humanitarian assistance is one means of giving back, while also extending the nation's standing in the world community.

At one of the anniversary events, we heard from a former sponsored child. He was young when his father died; his mother had no education, and she had four children to feed. A sponsor's support "changed fate for our family," he said. Today, this man is a bank manager and

President Ma is especially proud that close to 1 percent of Taiwan's population is now sponsoring children.

a child sponsor. For a banker, return on investment (ROI) is always top of mind, yet he personally believes that the highest ROI that you can get is by focusing on a child and the education of that child.

Child sponsorship played an important role in helping Taiwan get back on its feet. Sponsorship is an investment in the capacity of people. That's our focus at ChildFund — providing the greatest ROI. **cw**



ChildFund Supporters



Find Community on Facebook

BY VIRGINIA SOWERS, COMMUNITY MANAGER

Great conversations are happening on ChildFund’s Facebook page every day. Sponsors and supporters are exchanging ideas, asking questions, posting photos and sharing stories about sponsorship and children’s needs around the world.

We asked fans to tell us some of the reasons they sponsor children:

HANNEE C. The opportunity to make a difference and to connect and build a personal relationship with a child and his/her family. It is priceless!

SHERYL D. Getting to see the love in the families of the children we sponsor. These families know what is most important in life.

NATALIE R.S. I love that I can write and send presents to my child and, most of all, that I can have a relationship not just with her, but her whole family. It’s truly heartwarming to be a part of so many people’s lives even though I have never met them.

CHRISTINE W. Meeting and having a warm relationship with sponsored children and their families!!!

ALISON W. Great gift ideas packed into the [Gifts of Love & Hope] catalog. We purchase various items/animals, especially from my husband’s native country, and our daughter writes a letter, colors pages to go along with the gift donation in the recipient’s name. My husband was a CCF sponsored child for many years and has met his sponsor mom since coming to the U.S. Thanks for all you do.

LYNDSAY B. I am currently in Indonesia visiting my sponsored child and family. I spent an amazing and very emotional day with them. Please do not underestimate the value of your sponsorship — it makes an amazing difference to the life of your sponsored child and their family. If you do not yet sponsor a child through ChildFund — I can highly recommend it.

When Lyndsay returned home, she shared more details of her experience:

“I already gave money to a few charities, but I decided to become a sponsor through ChildFund as I felt this was a more personal way to be directly involved with a child and their family,” Lyndsay says. “I looked through all of the children’s profiles on the ChildFund website, and when I

“I love having the Facebook page connection with other sponsors and potential sponsors. It enables us to share views and experiences. It’s also great to get up-to-date news on the latest projects.”

saw the face of Wulan I just melted! I started to sponsor Wulandari (Wulan is her nickname) when she was 18 months old. She is now 8 years old.”

Lyndsay exchanged letters with Wulan’s mother for years. “We developed a very close bond. I always dreamt of going over to visit them, and in their letters they always asked me to visit Indonesia,” she says. Last summer Lyndsay began making arrangements through ChildFund to visit Wulan in October.

“When I walked into the ChildFund office and my little Wulan walked through the door, I recognized her immediately. She was carrying the little white teddy bear that I had sent her over six years ago. I knelt down and she wrapped her arms around me and clung to me. She gave me the longest cuddle,” Lyndsay says. “Next, I was introduced to Warinem, Wulan’s mother. I had managed to stay quite composed up until this point. Warinem hugged me and she started to cry, which then started me crying. We clung to each other for a very long time. It was very emotional, but they were happy tears.”

Lyndsay says the trip felt like a long-overdue family reunion. “We spent the day at the zoo and having lunch. Then I gave

Lyndsay promised her sponsored child they would meet, and they finally did. She contacted ChildFund and arranged to meet Wulan, who lives in Indonesia.



Donors



SEE THE QR CODE? Take a picture of it with your smartphone and it will take you to ChildFund's Facebook page. Most smartphones come with the QR reader or you can download the free reader from the applications for your smartphone (iPhone, Android, Blackberry).

Wulan the gifts that I had brought for her. My family and friends had also sent gifts for her as she is well-known to all of them through the letters and photos. They all love to be kept updated on her progress."

The experience of being a sponsor has been "humbling," Lyndsay says. "For just a small amount of money each month, I get to make a big difference in the lives of not just my sponsored child but also her whole family. This keeps me grounded, no matter what is happening in my life. I realize I am very lucky. Warinem gave me the happy news that she is pregnant — the baby is due in April. Sponsored child number two for me — I can't wait!"

When the visit concluded, saying goodbye was sad for everyone. "I promised to go back to visit them very soon, and I always keep my promises," Lyndsay says.

Meanwhile, Lyndsay, Wulan and Warinem are keeping up their letter exchange. Lyndsay also is finding ChildFund's Facebook site to be a good way to share the excitement of her trip and build links with other ChildFund supporters. "I love having the Facebook page connection with other sponsors and potential sponsors," she says. "It enables us to share views and experiences. It's also great to get up-to-date news on the latest projects."

In just a short time, ChildFund's Facebook site has become an active community of child sponsors and supporters who have a shared interest in the well-being of children around the world. Join the community at [Facebook.com/ChildFundInternational](https://www.facebook.com/ChildFundInternational) and share your sponsorship stories. **CW**

Wulan finally met her sponsor after a number of years of corresponding. While everyone may not be able to meet his or her sponsored child, letters make an important difference.

BECOMING A BETTER LISTENER

ChildFund India has reached a milestone: 60 years of service to children and youth. As part of the planned celebrations, ChildFund India is hosting a four day Youth Summit in April. This summit will offer a forum for the children to tell their stories, share their experiences and from that ChildFund will learn how to best address key roadblocks to their success.

Children's clubs from all over India, which were established by ChildFund to give them a voice, will be participating, and many of the issues that children want to bring to the forefront

have already been identified, including how to:

- ▶ Implement skills training for rural youth with support from the government.
- ▶ Reinforce the quality of skills training and education so that today's youth are prepared for professional employment.
- ▶ Address food security so children don't have to take manual labor jobs just to get enough food to eat.
- ▶ Develop strong leadership skills.
- ▶ Improve health related services and education because current health care is tenuous at best.

Gifts of LOVE & HOPE are Perfect for Spring

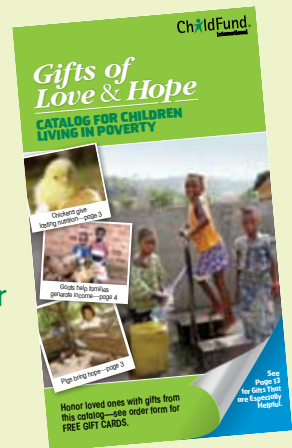
Our Gifts of Love & Hope catalog has more than 100 items for children and families in our circle of care. These items make great gifts this spring for birthdays, Easter, Mother's Day or just because you want to show you care. Remember each item in our catalog has been requested by ChildFund staff in that country to meet a particular need.

We need 13 more Soccer Balls for school children in the U.S., \$35.00 each (#49675).

Our programs in Sri Lanka need 14 more See-Saws for the children in our Early Childhood Development centers \$143.00 each (#49487)


We have twenty families in the Caribbean who would benefit from starting a chicken farm. \$33.00 would let us give 10 chickens to a family (#49469).

If you would like a copy of our Gifts of Love & Hope catalog, just call us at 1-800-776-6767, Monday – Friday from 9:30 am to 7 pm (ET). Or visit our website www.ChildFund.org/Gifts.



ChildFund[®] International

2821 Emerywood Parkway
Richmond, VA 23294-3725
www.ChildFund.org

 Printed on Recycled Paper

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1748
Richmond, VA

