

2023
ANNUAL REPORT

**The power of
locally led change**

ChildFund®

Because we need each other.



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Our Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility

ChildFund creates a culture where diversity of people, thought and experience is celebrated, and everyone is seen and welcomed equally.

ChildFund is cultivating an inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible environment where:

- Everyone connected with us is free and safe to be who they are, so that we all succeed and thrive.
- Our donors and external partners aspire to experience a deep sense of pride and belonging in our shared commitment to excellence and social responsibility.
- Our global programs increasingly center inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility in our daily work.
- The people of the communities where we work experience concrete evidence of our commitment to these principles in our practices as we work together.

Because we need each other.

Sara (9, in Ecuador) has been enrolled in ChildFund’s programs since she was a year old. The only child of a single mother, Sara participates in ChildFund’s Safe and Protected Children program — “I’ve learned a lot about how to protect myself,” she says. And her mother, Hilda, has been able to create a sustainable source of nutrition and income thanks to support in the form of diverse seedlings and agricultural training.

ON THE COVER:

In Uganda, 3-year-old Angel plays with a homemade ball. Her mother participates in ChildFund’s LEGO Foundation-supported Come Play With Me project, which helps caregivers learn how to promote their children’s development through playing with them — and how to make toys from locally available materials. [Learn more on p. 3.](#)

Photos by Jake Lyell



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ChildFund President and CEO Isam Ghanim visits with elementary schoolers in India.

Dear Friends,

ChildFund’s decades-long history has taught us that children’s well-being depends on the people, resources and systems around them, wherever they live. And this is why, as we aim to reach 100 million children and family members with meaningful impact by 2030, we actively pursue opportunities not only to scale our work but also to facilitate locally led change.

When we engage local leadership, their wisdom and experience strengthen communities’ ability to effectively connect with systems and institutions as they seek to access resources. Indigenous wisdom can serve to enhance the efficient use of those resources toward greater inclusion and equity for children and families.

The idea of localization at scale is not as contradictory as it might seem. In fact, local ownership of social change is an important key to ensuring that any impact we support remains relevant and sustainable. In these pages, we share some examples of evidence-based approaches that ChildFund is adapting and implementing across highly varied contexts, including emergencies. The local organizations that ChildFund partners with worldwide are central to these endeavors as they unlock local resources, connect with local institutions, and build their own innovative partnerships to create impact that helps children grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe — at home, at school, in the community, online, and even on the move.

The great lesson of ChildFund’s history is that well-being is collective, and it demands collective action by children, families, communities, governments, institutions, business — all of us. The lesson of ChildFund is, always, that we need each other. We are deeply grateful to our donors and partners for joining with us — and with the hundreds of communities transforming themselves for children — on the path toward a world where every child experiences their rights and achieves their potential.

Isam Ghanim
President and CEO

Lyn McDermid
Chair, ChildFund Board of Directors

Come Play With Me Program Expands to Multiple Countries

In Guatemala, when COVID-19 halted the in-person delivery of ChildFund’s LEGO Foundation-funded playful parenting curriculum, Come Play With Me, ChildFund and its partners had to pivot and transform Come Play With Me’s messages from interpersonal into virtual.

The team recast the curriculum into 30 short radio dramas, about two families experiencing the challenges of raising young children, which proved to be an effective medium for sharing information on how caregivers can help children achieve their developmental milestones through play. The spots were broadcast via radio, and sometimes by mobile speaker, in Spanish and four Mayan languages. **The initiative** not only went on to multiply its reach by a factor of 10, but it also brought demonstrably positive outcomes in caregivers’ knowledge of, attitudes toward and use of playful parenting in their daily lives.

This opened a door to new possibilities for scaling Come Play With Me, which since 2022 has been adapted and rolled out in Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, Ethiopia and Uganda, again with support from the LEGO Foundation. Meanwhile, Guatemala has scaled Come Play With Me with expanded content, reaching an average of over 100,000 families monthly.

The radio spots were translated into multiple local languages as well as adapted for each specific context, with input from our local partner organizations who would manage implementation. From there, the countries diverged in some particulars in their approach to delivery depending on what made the most sense locally, and others created additional materials in collaboration with ministries of education and other experts. Ethiopia and Uganda also brought the program to children and families who had been displaced due to conflict in Ethiopia, supplementing the experience with in-person listening sessions and flash cards. In all cases, our country offices and local partners worked alongside government ministries and a variety of other collaborators, garnering visibility and voice in important forums where national policy is shaped.



Come Play With Me participant Zoila reads to her daughter, Alexa (3), at their home in Guatemala.

Come Play With Me Highlights

- 30 radio spots
- 5 additional countries
- 20 languages
- 44 local implementing partner organizations
- Delivered by radio, motorbike speaker, WhatsApp, websites, social media platforms, in person, flash cards, books, comics, puzzles, games, 16-hour online course for facilitators
- In collaboration with ministries and other government entities, educators, local organizations

“When I was a child, parents saw play as a waste of time, but now I see that play is instrumental in a child’s growth.”

— Milly, center, mother of six children ages 2–11 in Uganda





A Continuum of Care for Children on the Move

Three Child-Friendly Spaces in the Palorinya refugee settlement play a critical role in providing children with safe spaces to play and express themselves, supporting their psychological well-being and providing learning opportunities. Below, Vivian, 6.



When children are forced to leave their homes, they also leave behind their connections with most of what makes it possible for them to survive, let alone thrive.

“Children on the Move” has become an internationally accepted term to encompass the varied situations of children who experience migration, displacement and the effects of either or both. In 2022, an estimated 43.3 million children worldwide were on the move, nearly 60% of them due to conflict and violence, with others forcibly displaced due to climate change, lack of opportunity, trafficking, domestic violence — often a mix. Some become asylum seekers. Some return to their home countries. Some have documents, others have none. Some are unaccompanied minors, and others travel with caregivers or relatives.

ChildFund’s holistic approach for children on the move aims to address needs related to both immediate and long-term well-being across a continuum of care for children, youth and families in three categories: those who are at risk of migration, those in transit and needing humanitarian assistance, and those reintegrating in host communities or after returning home. Protection is a central element of all our initiatives to support these groups.

Supporting families at home: Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

Much of our ongoing programming in Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico aims to help young people create better opportunities for themselves within their communities, support civic engagement by youth so that they feel included and useful where they are, and, when people make the difficult choice to seek a better life elsewhere, assist them to make informed decisions toward undertaking the journey safely and legally.

Support during transit: Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico

For children and families who have left their communities, we partner with a broad network of shelters in Central America, including shelters supported by governmental and faith-based organizations. Young professionals from local communities provide families with health, protection and legal assistance. A primary goal is to preserve the physical and emotional health of children and families in transit. In Mexico, where families may wait a long time to enter the U.S., we also do outreach in local communities to host the people who stay, fighting xenophobia and supporting local governments to include children and families on the move in their services.



Sofia, a local doctor, tends to children in a ChildFund health brigade at Mexico's southern border.

Reintegration: Ecuador, Uganda

We offer programs for reintegrating children and families in two countries. In Ecuador, now home to about 871,000 migrants, we work with people who have arrived from Colombia or Venezuela; in Uganda, we work in the Palorinya Refugee Settlement to support Sudanese and Congolese people who have fled conflict in their home countries. Local conditions play an important part in defining the design of both countries' programs, but they share core focuses including economic recovery, psychological support, integration into educational systems, rebuilding of social capital and, always, protection.

All categories and then some: Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, pervasive conflict, drought and crop failure have forced the displacement of about 4.4 million people, and more than 3.3 million children are out of school. Migration to seek food and livelihoods have caused humanitarian needs to spiral, with elevated risks of child trafficking, early marriage and child labor. Alongside immediate humanitarian assistance as well as educational and livelihood support, interventions in Ethiopia place special emphasis on child protection, and youth are key players in raising awareness about violations to child rights.



In Ethiopia, Radwa (18), Samira (17) and Hayat (19) hold posters saying, in Amharic, "Stop child trafficking!" "End child marriage!" and "Stop child labor!"

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ChildFund International, USA

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

AS OF JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$42,283,359	\$36,283,224
Investments, at fair value	76,413,243	63,200,966
Beneficial interests in trusts	10,057,925	9,456,870
Receivables and other assets	12,513,473	10,820,383
Gifts-in-kind inventory	3,296,204	6,259,389
Property, plant and equipment, net	27,917,312	29,318,171
Operating leases right-of-assets	600,221	–
TOTAL ASSETS	\$173,081,737	\$155,339,003
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$13,315,977	\$14,848,303
Accrued pension benefit liability	257,514	1,471,404
Debt	270,833	1,895,833
Operating lease liability	612,641	–
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$14,456,965	\$18,215,540
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	\$89,726,432	\$72,188,574
With donor restrictions	68,898,340	64,934,889
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$158,624,772	\$137,123,463
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$173,081,737	\$155,339,003

ChildFund International, USA

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Activities

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

	2023	2022
PUBLIC SUPPORT		
Sponsorships	\$124,605,459	\$127,277,705
Contributions	73,834,167	87,562,768
Grants and contracts	33,010,881	26,115,860
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$231,450,507	\$240,956,333
Other revenue	4,557,089	546,415
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$236,007,596	\$241,502,748
EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS		
Program		
Basic education	\$60,345,898	\$56,488,524
Health and sanitation	29,105,480	36,204,334
Nutrition	11,362,045	14,091,774
Early childhood development	22,074,637	21,580,794
Microenterprise (family income generation)	31,169,853	31,857,388
Emergencies	28,653,896	26,856,016
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$182,711,809	\$187,078,830
Supporting Services		
Fundraising	\$30,070,883	\$35,496,853
Management and general	19,714,045	18,956,192
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$49,784,928	\$54,453,045
TOTAL EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	\$232,496,737	\$241,531,875
Change in Net Assets From Operations	\$3,510,859	\$(29,127)
Nonoperating Gains (Losses)		
Investment return, net	\$3,233,572	\$(8,685,383)
Change in fair value of trusts	518,899	(2,265,181)
Change in accrued benefit liability other than net periodic costs	1,357,015	854,065
TOTAL GAINS (LOSSES) FROM NONOPERATIONS	\$5,109,486	\$(10,096,499)
Addition of newly controlled entity	–	\$167,041
Change in Net Assets	\$8,620,345	\$(9,958,585)

A complete copy of the Consolidated Financial Statements, with a report from independent auditors BDO, is available upon request by calling 1-800-776-6767 or visiting [ChildFund.org](https://www.childfund.org).



Gesandu (4, center) eats a meal of eggs, rice and vegetables at a ChildFund-supported community kitchen in Monaragala District, Sri Lanka. Children and families have faced severe food shortages and extremely high inflation due to Sri Lanka's long economic crisis, which means high rates of malnutrition. Enter ChildFund's thrice-weekly community kitchens, where trained Lead Mothers teach caregivers of young children how to cook healthy food from local ingredients. After each session, the mothers serve the nutritious meal, first to families with children ages 0 to 5 and then the rest.

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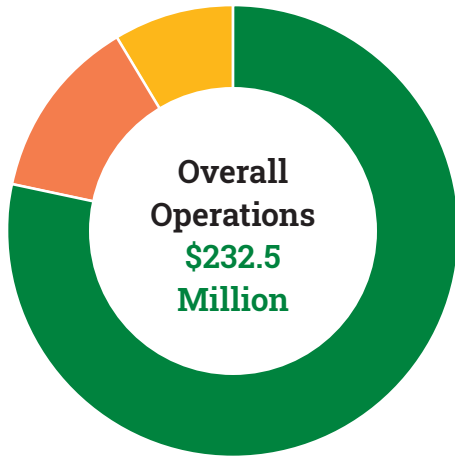
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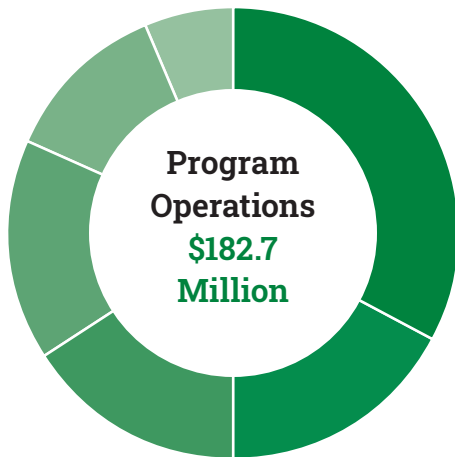
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CHILD FUND'S GLOBAL FOOTPRINT



How Your Gift Helps Children

- 78.6%** Program Services for Children
- 12.9%** Fundraising
- 8.5%** Management and General



Assistance to Children and Families

- 33.0%** Basic Education
- 17.1%** Microenterprise (Family Income Generation)
- 15.9%** Health and Sanitation
- 15.7%** Emergencies
- 12.1%** Early Childhood Development
- 6.2%** Nutrition



The Education for Protection and Well-being program aims to strengthen teachers', parents' and children's engagement and safety related to education. But at two schools in The Gambia, where literacy and numeracy were low even before the pandemic, **teachers and parents went a step further:** With ChildFund and parental support, 28 teachers gave up their summer vacation to help 705 children in grades 2–5 catch up to grade level.

Beyond Academics: Education for Protection and Well-being

In Sierra Leone, 89% of students report that they are flogged in schools. Shocking, yes — but not as unusual as it might seem.

In fact, data that ChildFund collected on child well-being in 2019 on nearly 18,000 children across 17 countries showed that 67% of students saw or experienced violence in school over a three-month period. Our community-based child protection mapping efforts in 360+ communities in 19 countries further showed that violence is an issue children face both at school and at home. In both spaces, children are missing out on key precursors to learning: safety, social-emotional learning (SEL) and psychosocial well-being.

Drawing on our research and prior interventions in education, violence prevention, positive parenting and SEL, the **Education for Protection and Well-being (EPW) Program**, is designed to remedy the gaps we see children facing. EPW targets children ages 6–12, their teachers and their caregivers in an ecological approach to improve child development outcomes by focusing on four components:

- The Child component reinforces children's social-emotional and self-protection skills and is delivered in the classroom through activities, lessons and a comic book.
- The Educator, Caregiver and Bridge components use key strategies to promote behavior change among caregivers and teachers — communication, clear expectations, positive feedback, limits and consequences, problem solving, managing emotions, and adult supervision. The two groups meet both separately and, in the Bridge

component, together, cultivating relationships and establishing behavioral norms.

Currently implemented in Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Uganda, the Philippines, and The Gambia, the program is adapted to local contexts and monitored in collaboration with our local partners and ministries of Education to promote sustainability and community buy-in. ChildFund and our local partners train EPW facilitators — typically teachers or retired teachers in the schools — who then facilitate monthly sessions for caregivers and teachers. Indonesia will start EPW in 2025.

Recent findings from EPW are soundly positive, demonstrating results at child, caregiver and teacher levels. Improvements were made in children's empathy and conflict resolution. At home, caregivers are using less corporal punishment and more supervision, with greater emotional regulation. Teachers are using positive discipline in the classroom, resulting in improved teacher-student relationships and attendance. Teacher-caregiver relationships have improved, with caregivers engaging more in their children's education.

ChildFund's long-term goal is to scale EPW in countries where we work to enhance children's academic and psychological well-being, as well as their protection. With 57% of school-age children reporting in 2023 that they've seen fellow students hit, humiliated or harrassed in the classroom, it is imperative that we do.



Children at a school in Sierra Leone where ChildFund offers the Education for Protection and Well-being program.

Case Study: Sierra Leone

In the last two decades, Sierra Leone has endured devastating, protracted disasters — civil war, Ebola, COVID-19 — that have caused entire generations to miss out on education, leaving more than half the adult population illiterate. Most adults work in farming or trading, and care for an average of five to six children. For most Sierra Leoneans, stress is the norm. And stress is often a precursor to violence.

But the experience is now transformed in the two schools where the Education for Protection and Well-being program was piloted, and we have since scaled to eight schools. Hear from participants themselves:

“I was raised by a parent with a hot temper. I would flog my child and hit harder when others told me to stop. Now I can control my emotions.” — a caregiver

“We have taken all the canes and burned them.” — a teacher

“I participate in class because I like the games.” — a child

2023 Highlights

#TakeItDown: Campaign to Protect Children Online

By 2023, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children was receiving 80,000 daily reports of suspected online child sexual exploitation globally. ChildFund has launched its U.S.-focused campaign to raise public support for legislation forcing tech companies to proactively detect and remove child sexual abuse content from their platforms.

The centerpiece of the campaign, a short film called *Monster*, shows how insidious online child sexual abuse material is and how little is being done to protect children from being abused and exploited on the internet. The film drives people to childfund.org/takeitdown, where the public can use a widget to tweet at policymakers about the problem and ask what they plan to do to protect children online.



A Beacon: More Than a Preschool

Early childhood development (or ECD) services are a rarity in under-resourced communities worldwide, like the one in Mozambique where a new ECD model center opened last year. The project was a collaboration of ChildFund, local partner organization Associação Txivuno Txavanana, and the community it serves, with generous funding from Taiwan Fund for Children and Families. The center is tailored to the local context and is designed to be replicable and function as a learning hub for caregivers, ECD practitioners, community members and others. At the project's end in March 2023, the community took over its operations.

Of the original 62 enrolled, 12 of the oldest children have moved on to first grade. Anecdotal evidence says the center is acting as a magnet for more families.

Silvio, 4, learns about letters at his community's model Early Childhood Development center.



2023 Highlights



A Backpack of Care

In Bolivia's Oruro municipality, teen pregnancy is all too common and comprehensive sexual education is in direly short supply. Health care providers knew clinical care but not how to communicate prevention and healthy decision making, and schools sidelined these crucial topics. Young people needed a way to understand sexual health that could meet both their minds and their needs.

ChildFund's Mochila de AIDA initiative – the name translates to “backpack of comprehensive and tailored care for adolescents” – fills that gap through a gamified, engaging curriculum developed in collaboration with health care professionals to ensure accuracy and thoroughness. In addition to training 40 health care providers as facilitators, the project also trained 50 young leaders as peer educators; created six adolescent clubs within health care centers, building community buy-in; and has reached nearly 7,000 adolescents in Oruro. “It's really fun and it doesn't make you talk about it,” says Andrioly, 20.

Accessible Justice and Support

When a 14-year-old girl in rural Indonesia experienced sexual exploitation and abuse by an adult in early 2022, it was the latest in a series of child-related incidents that exposed the pressing need for accessible legal assistance in her community. Too often, cases would end in quiet agreement between perpetrators and families, leaving young survivors without justice or mental health support.

ChildFund's Village Community Child Protection Paralegal initiative addresses this gap by training standing Village Child Protection Committee members in paralegal skills: understanding child protection law and how to work with law and human rights offices, prepare documents and more. The initiative now reaches 80 villages across five provinces, with 290 VCCP paralegals now at work with formal recognition from Indonesia's Ministry of Law and Human Rights. These community members ensure that even those who can't afford representation receive assistance.





Marissa and Maria, Brazil

When Marissa was 2, she suffered severe malnutrition and life-threatening health issues as a result. A doctor gave her mother, Maria, a list of medication and recommended foods Marissa would need, none of which Maria could afford. So she marched straight from the hospital to ChildFund's local partner office in her community, and they helped with the medical care and food Marissa needed to get healthy. Now 20, she's been sponsored and growing up in ChildFund programs ever since.

"My dream is to be a vet," says the high-school graduate, who has completed a one-year computer course at the local community college. "I love animals, especially dogs. I think I'd be a good vet."

Thank you for your partnership and support — especially now.

When children's needs are met, they can do what children do best: play, learn and grow into the people they dream of becoming.

For 86 years, ChildFund has worked with millions of children worldwide to connect them with the people, resources and institutions they need to thrive, even in the most challenging circumstances. Our Children's Greatest Needs fund — a special fund with the flexibility to be directed where it is needed most — is an important part of that work. We use it to develop and run far-reaching programs and services for and with children, families and their communities. Donating to Children's Greatest Needs is a great way to make a powerful difference in more lives than you might imagine — and all the more so if you make it a monthly gift.

To learn more about this and other ways to help, please contact our philanthropy advisors at philanthropy@childfund.org.

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ChildFund®

Because we need each other.

ChildFund International works throughout Asia, Africa and the Americas to connect children with what they need to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe, no matter where they are. Last year, we reached 14.8 million children and family members in 23 countries.

OUR MISSION

Help children who experience deprivation, exclusion and vulnerability to build the capacity to improve their lives and become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change in their communities.

Promote societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting and advancing the worth and rights of children.

Enrich supporters' lives through their engagement with us.