

ChildFund®

CLIMATE ACTION

CAPACITY STATEMENT

Simeon Oleku (20) is a former sponsored child from Kajiado County, Kenya. He is now the youth representative for ChildFund's Regreening Africa project which is helping build climate resilience in Kenya.



ChildFund International, USA

2821 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294

<https://www.childfund.org/>

ABOUT US

ChildFund is a child-focused global nonprofit that works to connect children in vulnerable communities with the people, resources and institutions they need to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe.

“

[Indigenous] people have their own traditional knowledge on climate change. It's only that we have not really tapped it. It's something amazing when you try to understand it.

”

— Simie Oleku, 20, youth advocate in Kenya

OUR COMMITMENT

Founded in 1938, ChildFund works within marginalized communities facing climate change across 23 countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Our child-centered, locally-led, and systems-based approach aims to include children and youth in all climate adaptation and mitigation efforts and financing, ensuring that climate actions benefit both children and the planet.

This approach supports our vision of a world where children are healthy, educated, skilled and safe. Recognizing climate change as a major risk, we aim to make our programs climate resilient and advocate for positive adaptation at all levels so families can recover from climate-related disruptions to their livelihoods, education and health.

We strive to create a better world – for and with children and youth.

14.8 Million

children and family members were reached by our programs in 2023

100%

of partners engaged in co-creation

Over 70%

of our operating countries rank high for children's exposure to climate & environmental hazards

<https://www.childfund.org/our-work/climate/>

OUR APPROACH



Drawing from a 13-yr-old boy in Kenya on how climate change is impacting his community.

Child and Youth Centered

ChildFund prioritizes children's rights, particularly in relation to climate action and the right to a clean and sustainable environment (CRC/GC/26). Children and youth help lead our climate action efforts through established youth advisory boards and networks, community and school-based initiatives, and participating at national and international climate forums. We work to improve access to climate and environmental knowledge and solutions within our existing community and school-based programs. We aim to help prepare a generation that is equipped to handle the climate crisis and participate in creating solutions. Our climate action focuses on protecting children and ensuring they have access to clean air, fresh water, and healthy environments, enabling them to attend school, play and thrive.

Local Leadership

ChildFund has been actively partnering with local organizations since the 1980s to improve children's lives, and currently works with more than 200 grassroots organizations. These local partners lead over 80% of ChildFund programming because they are best positioned to effect local change. Our decentralized operating model ensures that funding and programming decisions are made locally. Nearly 70% of our staff members are based in country or regional offices, meaning they collaborate with partners in the communities where they live and work. ChildFund and local partners work together to integrate local knowledge, strengthen capacity, advocate for local priorities, and build system-based climate solutions that address child-specific risks and needs.

Strategic Partnership for Systems Transformation

ChildFund is well positioned to bring the perspectives of children and youth to climate action. We seek to expand partnerships with climate and environment-focused organizations working in climate adaptation, just transitions, climate tech, and regenerative ecosystems approaches. By leveraging the local knowledge, enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication of children and youth, we can mobilize systematic change to achieve global climate goals. Together, we can ensure both children and the planet thrive.

Doing Our Part

ChildFund is actively implementing climate-smart solutions, doing our part for future generations. For example, in Sierra Leone and Brazil, we have adopted solar power, ensuring clean energy operations. In the Philippines, we have a zero-waste kitchen and have participated in the Global Coastal Clean Up for almost a decade. Additionally, in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, our offices have started transitioning to using hybrid vehicles.

Climate Action in Practice

AFRICA REGION



Philipa Cride-Dole and peers living in Koinadugu District participating in child-led World Environment Day tree planting campaign to support the #GenerationRestoration movement.

With over **65 years of experience working across the region in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Zambia, The Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Senegal**, participants in ChildFund Africa programs experience extensive climate challenges. Climate Action is a flagship program for ChildFund in Africa. We aim to enhance programming across the region on child and youth-centered climate action initiatives, from core programs such as health, education, protection, and livelihoods, to advocacy.

ChildFund supported over 200 children and youth to amplify their voices in the climate change discourse at the **2023 Africa Climate Summit and led the first ChildFund delegation to COP at COP28 in Dubai**. Each August, ChildFund collaborates with local partners to mobilize over 7,000 youth for the Youth Day of Service, a week-long Pan-African, youth-led campaign focused on climate action.

In Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and Sierra Leone, ChildFund is integrating climate-smart solutions into existing health, education and livelihood programs to help communities combat drought and transition from harmful land-degrading practices. Examples include energy-saving stoves, solar water pumps, and solar lights for schools and partnering with climate-tech startups to enable access to innovative solutions for just transition within rural communities. Particularly in Ethiopia and Kenya, our climate-smart agriculture techniques and alternative livelihood solutions support local adaptation to harsh drought periods and act as a child protection mechanism.

In The Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Senegal, ChildFund is mainstreaming nature as a solution via reforestation and afforestation in existing child development programs. This is achieved through different strategies, including agroforestry, youth-led skills building in nursery techniques, “tree growing” programs with the premise that planted trees are protected and grow healthy like our children. Recognizing the importance of nature's role in contributing to child development, tree planting provides multiple benefits to communities, children, and economic opportunities for youth through regenerative land practices.



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For more information about ChildFund's Climate Action portfolio, please contact Keeva Duffey, Senior Climate Action Advisor, at kduffey@childfund.org

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Climate Action in Practice

ASIA
REGION



Imasha (5, L) and her friend, Ishel (4, R), play together on a playground at a ChildFund-supported ECD center after receiving a meal at the Community Kitchen in Monaragala District, Sri Lanka February 2023. Photo by Jake Lyell.

With over **70 years of experience in the region**, ChildFund's work has focused on building resilience among vulnerable families at the forefront of multiple challenges, including climate-related risks in **Indonesia, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam**.

ChildFund recently launched an **Asia Pacific region Comprehensive Child-centered Climate Action Theory of Change**. This regional cross-border approach involves ChildFund Australia and ChildFund New Zealand. Together, we aim to build child, family and community resilience, include children and youth in policy and engagement, and champion environmental and climate justice and equity across systems.

ChildFund's programs in the **Philippines, Sri Lanka and Indonesia** have established child and youth environmental clubs (Eco-Scouts and Nature Lovers and YVN) which aim to build capacity and skills in advocacy, environmental conservation, and climate change. Youth have led local campaigns to end plastic waste in their communities among other harmful land degradation practices, working with elders in the community to mobilize community change.

In India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, ChildFund enhances climate-smart livelihoods practices in communities. We train small holder farmers, particularly women and youth, to raise their climate-smart awareness and knowledge on best practices, including kitchen gardening, organic composting and other food systems strengthening practices in and around schools to cope with harsh periods of food scarcity.



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Climate Action in Practice

AMERICAS REGION



This year's drought in Sierra Puebla de Norte limited Salvador's family's corn harvest, but they maintained a productive kitchen garden and chicken coop to provide staple meals and some income through the challenging times. With chickens, seeds, supplies, and training from ChildFund, they were able to lessen the drought's impact.
Photo by Jake Lyell

With almost **60 years of experience working across the Americas in Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and the United States**, ChildFund strives to support children growing up healthy, educated, skilled and protected. Our work in the region has primarily focused on combating poverty due to the challenges of social inequality, of which climate is an important contributing factor. Children and families already at high risk of social inequality are some of the most vulnerable to climate risks, therefore managing climate risks for environmental protection can help overcome some of these challenges.

In Bolivia the “Guardians of Water”, a youth-led- environmental campaign produced over 60 videos created by students from various public schools on sustainable water management and led to mobilizing community awareness on improved water management practices. **In Mexico**, ChildFund is working with our local partner organizations on strategies to scale investment in local knowledge and experiences regarding climate action to support locally-led climate initiatives that will benefit children and youth.

In Brazil, ChildFund has led the Youth Network in Defense of their Social Rights (Rejudes) for almost 10 years. Rejudes is a network for youth aged 15-24 with programs to build youth development capacity on their social rights, with a particular focus on environmental rights and entrepreneurship in the green and circular economy. In Brazil, we also implemented climate change mitigation and environmental education projects in highly socially vulnerable territories.

Across all regions, ChildFund is working to reduce climate risks and improve disaster response by enhancing community preparedness to safeguard vulnerable communities against climate-induced risks and strengthen resilience as part of our disaster risk management efforts.



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