Looking Ahead to a Brighter 2021

Happy New Year! With 2020 behind us, we look forward to 2021 with great expectation and hope for a healthier and more fruitful year for ChildFund as well as the children, families and communities that we serve. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested us and it is evident that these challenges have continued into 2021. But because of these challenges, we are stronger and more resilient, and more than ever, we are determined to work harder towards achieving our mission. Our mission is fundamental to our work and I would like to thank all those who have championed it during this unique time. Keeping our eyes on the mission has always helped us navigate difficult circumstances. As you will read in this report, all Country Offices (COs) implemented various impactful programs last quarter that touched millions of lives, in response to the pandemic.

As we embark on this year, we remain committed to supporting vulnerable children, families and communities across our areas of operation in Africa. We will not only continue the implementation of our global COVID-19 Response Plan, but will also work on our respective FY21 Annual Operating Plans that are in line with our Country Strategic Plans (2019-2021). This will enable us to achieve our goals as we set our sights on driving the necessary change to address the challenges that vulnerable children face while remaining cognizant of evolving issues confronting our societies every day. With your unwavering dedication and support, we are inspired to keep moving forward with great expectations of an even brighter future for all.

This year, I encourage all of you to live the ChildFund brand. Let us always remember that our identity is rooted in connection. We create, reinforce and sustain connections in many ways, from the one-to-one sponsorship relationship to the child’s bonds within their family and community and with donors, systems, services, governments and more. Every one of us has an important role to play in bringing the ChildFund brand to life. Do your part.

Staff stability remains a priority. With support from your Human Resources teams, I hope that you will commit to investing in your own physical and mental health, as well as personal growth and development. We need you on this collective journey. Please continue to follow the World Health Organization’s COVID-19 containment measures. Wash your hands or sanitize as frequently as possible, mask up when in public spaces and practice social distancing. Lives depend on it.

We create, reinforce and sustain connections in many ways, from the one-to-one sponsorship relationship to the child’s bonds within their family and community and with donors, systems, services, governments and more.
COVID-19 Data

* Data as of January 28, 2021

**Uganda**
- Reported cases: 39,261
- Recoveries: 14,051
- Deaths: 318

**Ethiopia**
- Reported cases: 134,569
- Recoveries: 121,000
- Deaths: 2,075

**Kenya**
- Reported cases: 100,323
- Recoveries: 83,691
- Deaths: 1,751

**Sierra Leone**
- Reported cases: 3,194
- Recoveries: 2,232
- Deaths: 77

**Guinea**
- Reported cases: 14,379
- Recoveries: 13,798
- Deaths: 82

**The Gambia**
- Reported cases: 4,012
- Recoveries: 3,753
- Deaths: 128

**Mozambique**
- Reported cases: 34,055
- Recoveries: 21,343
- Deaths: 329

**Zambia**
- Reported cases: 47,622
- Recoveries: 40,362
- Deaths: 672

**Guinea**
- Reported cases: 14,379
- Recoveries: 13,798
- Deaths: 82

**The Gambia**
- Reported cases: 4,012
- Recoveries: 3,753
- Deaths: 128

**Senegal**
- Reported cases: 25,127
- Recoveries: 20,870
- Deaths: 592
EMERGENCY RESPONSE STRATEGY

The Africa Region’s COVID-19 emergency response strategy is aligned to the 4 priorities established in the global ChildFund COVID-19 Response Plan. This $56 million plan aims to reach 6.3 million children and family members in 61 countries. These priorities are:

**PRIORITY 1: STOP COVID-19 FROM INFECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.**

To help children and families protect themselves from COVID-19, we are installing community handwashing stands; educating communities about symptoms, hygiene measures and where to get tested or treatment; and distributing soap, hand sanitizer, gloves and masks to families and frontline health workers. For children who are being treated for COVID-19 or are subject to quarantine measures, we are creating child-friendly spaces with age-appropriate toys and reading matter.

**PRIORITY 2: ENSURE THAT CHILDREN GET THE FOOD THEY NEED.**

To ensure that the most vulnerable families can keep food on the table, pay rent and cover other basic needs, we are providing cash for those families most needing this support, such as those who have lost their income because of COVID-19, child or elder-headed households, and/or households affected by disability or chronic illness. Where possible, we are distributing food and basic household items directly, carefully abiding by COVID-19 protection measures.

**PRIORITY 3: KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM VIOLENCE — PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.**

We are supporting community-based child protection systems that identify, respond to and refer cases of abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation. We are also providing virtual, online psychological first aid and counseling, and supporting temporary shelters for children who live on the street, providing hygiene supplies, food and other basics. We are also arranging safe and appropriate care for children who are separated from their caregivers due to treatment or prevention measures.
EMERGENCY RESPONSE STRATEGY

PRIORITY 4: HELP CHILDREN CONTINUE LEARNING.

While schools remain closed, we are supporting children's learning through activities and tutoring sessions online or by radio. We remain vigilant and prepared to address the increased risk of online sexual abuse that accompanies children’s greater exposure to the internet. For students in places where internet access is unavailable or unreliable, we are distributing home learning kits with materials and guidelines for their use.

Cash Transfers: Restoring Hope in the Toughest Times

Cash transfers in Zambia are enabling child-headed households to access basic needs and smile more.

Esnart, a bread winner at 14.

COVID-19 has made life difficult for many people, but it is even harder for child-headed households. 14-year-old Esnart and her younger sister, Grace, are amongst the child-headed households that have been greatly impacted by the pandemic. Esnart took up the responsibility of providing and caring for her 9-year-old sister from the time her mother got sick until she died. She was forced to develop survival tactics to support the family even though she still needed a lot of support and guidance herself.
Cash transfers in Zambia are enabling child-headed households to access basic needs and smile more.

“We lost our father a long time ago, and we lived with our mum who used to sell fruits and vegetables for a living. When she got sick I started helping out after school but unfortunately, the business collapsed when she passed on.” None of the extended family members were willing to take on the two children so they remained alone in their one-roomed house.

“I have been doing odd jobs like selling bananas or helping harvest people’s crops and they pay me something small to buy food,” Esnart explained. However, this came to a standstill when COVID broke out and movement was restricted. “From the time the new disease came, it was difficult to find any jobs, sometimes we would go to bed hungry, other time neighbors gave us some food.” She said.

Esnart’s breakthrough came a few months ago when ChildFund started implementing the cash transfer program aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable households.

She describes being selected as a beneficiary as the hope they needed after losing both parents. “It’s like we now have parents that provide for us. I used the first payment to buy uniforms, books and other school requirements. I also bought food and plates which we did not have. Thank you ChildFund.” Esnart added.

Esnart does not own a phone and depends on a ChildFund volunteer who receives the money on her behalf. She will be doing her last year in primary school next year and hopes to save enough for her secondary school education. She wants to be a nurse after completing school.

The first cash transfers disbursed were from ChildFund International and later from ChildFund New Zealand and ChildFund Germany.
ETHIOPIA

PRIORITY 1: STOP COVID-19 FROM INFECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Handwashing Stations for Schools
- In preparation for the reopening of schools, ChildFund Ethiopia installed 12 handwashing stations in public schools within districts in Oromia and SNNPR regions.
- In addition, 250 jerricans with faucets were distributed to 16 primary and 3 secondary schools in Amhara Region.

Medical Supplies, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Material
- A total of 3,000 meters of HDPE (high-density polyethylene) pipe; 3,600 soaps; and 2000-liter sanitizer were provided to schools located in North Shoa. Surgical gloves (15 boxes) cover-all plastic (15), film gowns (14), eye shields (20) were also donated to Keyit health center and Bassona Worana District Health Office.
- 21,424 pieces of soap, 740 bottles (500ml each) and 2,098 bottles (250ml each) of hand sanitizers were distributed to 5,600 households, while 100 soaps were purchased and distributed to 3,366 beneficiaries located in Fentale District.
- ChildFund Ethiopia through its LP, Aynage Child and Family Development Organization, donated assorted medical equipment including a blood pressure apparatus, oxygen cylinder, radiant warmer, patient monitor and other significant materials, worth 325,707 Birr to Kibet Primary Hospital.

Sensitization Campaigns
- In order to increase awareness on COVID-19 and the containment measures, ChildFund Ethiopia distributed more than 10,000 IEC materials to communities and different offices. An additional 3,000 leaflets and 5 banners with key messages on COVID-19 were also distributed.

Child-Friendly Spaces
- ChildFund Ethiopia working with Tesfa Berhan CFDO (LP) constructed a child-friendly waiting room at Bassona Worana District police office for children and lactating women.
- One child-friendly space located in Metehara Health Center was renovated and furnished with necessary materials.
### PRIORITY 2: ENSURE THAT CHILDREN GET THE FOOD THEY NEED.

**Cash Transfers**
- A total of 187 families living in North Showa region received 1,000 Birr (25 USD) each through ChildFund’s cash transfer program. Funds were used to meet basic needs including food, shelter, clothing and health needs.

**Food and Other Basic Household Items**
- ChildFund Ethiopia distributed food and other basic household items to 1,284 people in Fentale district who were affected by flooding and COVID-19.

### PRIORITY 3: KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM VIOLENCE – PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

**Community-Based Child Protection Systems**
- ChildFund trained 85 Child Rights Committee (CRC) members on child protection standards, referral pathways and service mapping on child protection issues. The CO also trained 39 police officers and other CRC members on case management and referral system on child abuse cases.

### PRIORITY 4: HELP CHILDREN CONTINUE LEARNING

**Counselling Sessions**
- Health Extension Workers working in 9 villages were supported and engaged in providing home-based counselling service on COVID-19.

**Learning Materials/Home Learning Kits**
- ChildFund Ethiopia supported 2,667 children with different learning and scholastic materials in two districts in preparation for the re-opening of schools.
- A total of 155 combined desks were distributed to 7 primary schools in Amhara region to enable children to maintain social distancing in classrooms.
ChildFund Ethiopia distributed handwashing facilities to schools in Dugda District, East Shoa Zone, Oromia Regional State.

Assorted medical equipment donated to Kibet Primary Hospital in Ethiopia.
GUINEA

PRIORITY 1: STOP COVID-19 FROM INFECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Household Handwashing Stations
- ChildFund Guinea in partnership with its LP, Kindia Mounafanyi Federation, supported pregnant and lactating mothers in 9 communities with handwashing kits. This intervention has improved hygiene and sanitation among mothers and infants thus boosting maternal and child health.

Handwashing Kits for Schools
- The CO distributed 40 handwashing kits and 36 boxes of soap (2,520 pieces) to 43 Community Support Centres with 2,588 children in Kindia region.

Sensitization Campaigns
- ChildFund organized a roundtable discussion on Sun FM in Dabola region with health specialists (MCM of the DPS, Communication health Officer and the head of Hamdallaye urban health center) to sensitize the public on COVID-19 prevention measures, prevention methods of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. Another roundtable discussion on radio to remind communities in Dabola region on the need to adhere to the preventive measures against COVID-19 was held by the ‘Children’s and Youth’s Voice in COVID-19’ initiative.
- A total of 26 school authorities (20 school directors and 6 municipal directors of education) in Kindia region participated in a sensitization exercise on COVID-19 prevention followed by the allocation handwashing kits, 1,400 pieces of soap and 560 bibs to 20 schools with 1,694 children.
- 2,500 members of Voluntary Savings and Loans (VSL) groups in Kindia and Dabola regions were sensitized on COVID-19 and malaria prevention measures.
- Elsewhere in Dabola region, 2,256 households in 15 villages were reached with key messages responsive and parenting parenting and COVID-19 prevention messages.

Distribution of handwashing kits to schools in Kindia region.
KENYA

PRIORITY 1: STOP COVID-19 FROM INFECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Community Handwashing Stands
- ChildFund installed 48 community handwashing stations in 4 counties (Migori, Murang’a, Nyeri and Kiambu) in communal areas including health facilities, informal settlements and public facilities.
- In order to increase access to clean water, ChildFund drilled and equipped two boreholes in Migori and Murang’a counties. Health facilities, schools and community members in the area now have unlimited access to safe water leading to improved hygiene and sanitation.

Household Handwashing Kits
- A total of 660 households were supported with handwashing stations in Nyeri County.

Medical Supplies, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Material
- The CO distributed 10,800 face masks, 5,000 pieces of hand sanitizers (500ml each), 5,000 bar soaps in 3 counties – Murang’a, Kiambu and Migori.
- In addition, ChildFund donated 80 COVID-19 clinical and fumigation kits and 25,000 pieces of surgical masks to health facilities in Murang’a, Kiambu and Migori counties.

Community Sensitization Campaigns
- ChildFund distributed 1,300 posters on COVID-19 to communities living in 26 counties where ChildFund operates. The posters which were posted in communal areas, contained information on coronavirus, signs and symptoms, prevention measures and how to keep children engaged during this period.
- Awareness creation and sensitization campaigns on COVID-19 were conducted through local and national radio and TV stations. The radio talks and radio spots contained information on coronavirus, signs and symptoms, prevention measures and how to keep children engaged during this period as well as to caution communities on the rising cases of GBV and use of available referral mechanisms.
- ChildFund trained and supported 968 Community Health Volunteers with PPEs and hand sanitizers to conduct COVID-19 awareness and sensitization campaigns in communities and schools.

Child-Friendly Spaces
- ChildFund continued to support the 4 child-friendly centers and a therapy centre that were established within isolation centres in 4 counties (Nairobi, Kajiado, Machakos and Kitui).
KENYA

PRIORITY 2: ENSURE THAT CHILDREN GET THE FOOD THEY NEED.

Cash Transfers

- ChildFund Kenya provided cash transfers totaling to 73,050 USD to 2,912 vulnerable households in 4 counties (Nairobi, Isiolo, Machakos and Kitui). Households use these funds to meet basic needs including food, clothing and medical aid.

Food and Other Basic Household Items

- In Murang’a, Kiambu and Migori counties, ChildFund completed two rounds of direct food distribution to 5,000 households through a Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) COVID-19 grant. The food baskets (worth 28 USD each) consisted of 10kg maize flour, 6 kgs beans, 5 kgs rice and 3 litres cooking oil, per household. For households with children under 5 years, ChildFund distributed additional complementary food baskets consisting of 2 litres of milk, 2 kgs soya fortified flour, 1kg porridge millet flour and 300 mgs plumpy nuts, worth 14 USD per household.

- In Makueni County, ChildFund supported 5 households with assorted food items (10kg maize, 5kg beans, 5kg porridge flour,1kg salt, half a liter of soap and 2 litres of cooking oil), equivalent to about 20 USD per household.

PRIORITY 3: KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM VIOLENCE – PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

Community-Based Child Protection Systems

- In Marsabit County, ChildFund in collaboration with the County Government, sensitized more than 200 girls on the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriage.

- In Machakos and Kitui counties, ChildFund worked with 42 Child Welfare Protection Committees to sensitize over 4,300 children and community members on Child Protection and Gender Based Violence. Two reported child protection cases were also followed up through focus group leaders in Makueni County.

Menstrual Hygiene Management

- In order to ensure that reproductive health needs and protection concerns of vulnerable girls are addressed, ChildFund distributed dignity kits to 500 vulnerable girls in Murang’a, Kiambu and Migori. Each kit contained 10 washable and reusable sanitary towels, bathing and laundry soap, petroleum jelly, two panties, a towel, bathroom slippers, a torch, a toothbrush and toothpaste.
KENYA

PRIORITY 4: HELP CHILDREN CONTINUE LEARNING.

**Learning Materials/Home Learning Kits**
- In Kitui and Machakos counties, ChildFund Kenya distributed 380 solar-powered radios to enable children access educational programs offered through radio.
- In Isiolo, Marsabit and Samburu counties, 967 children in the most remote areas were supported with solar lanterns and radios so that they can continue their education despite school closures.

**Radio Lessons**
- ChildFund Kenya shared information with parents and children on how to access learning through the media (radio and TV) as provided by the Ministry of Education. The CO also shared child-friendly messages on COVID-19 on its social media platforms.

*Marion, 15, can now study at night while at home after receiving a solar-powered radio with reading light.*
For Alice Njambi and her 8 children, COVID has had a devastating blow on their income and nutrition. “My husband is a casual labourer and so am I. I work at the nearby quarry breaking stone to feed my children and when COVID struck, the quarry was shut down. We have really been struggling to stay afloat.” Alice is one of the more than 3,000 households who received nutritional support, in form of food stuffs, from ChildFund to help children remain healthy and active even as the pandemic continues. They also received masks and hand sanitizers to help keep the virus at bay.
The day 13-year-old Catherine received her solar-powered radio with reading light, she stayed up studying until 11pm. She was elated that she did not have to strain to read or cough because of the kerosene lamp her family used. Kerosene lamps release thick, toxic smoke and fumes that can cause eye strains, chest infections and lead to more serious health impacts.

“Now, my brothers and I can listen to radio lessons and study at home. I love mathematics and would like to be a teacher when I grow up,” she said. Catherine is among more than 700 beneficiaries of the solar-powered radio and reading lamp from ChildFund. With little sunshine, the radio can charge itself and run for almost 6 hours. Besides providing reading light and lowering household energy costs, these lamps protect households against illnesses caused by inhaling smoke from kerosene lamps.
Combating COVID-19 at Border Points

With the public advised to observe physical distancing and good hygiene habits amidst the pandemic, health experts have constantly reminded that the simple practice of proper handwashing with soap and clean water is also one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of the virus.

It is against this background that ChildFund Mozambique in partnership with the government, installed communal handwashing systems in various public places in Zavala District. One of the points was the police-controlled land port of Zandamela. Two handwashing systems were installed there to enable people who enter Inhambane Province to wash their hands properly before continuing with their journey.

The Zandamela police checkpoint is a mandatory stop. Today, thousands of people can wash their hands and proceed with other checks, thanks to the handwashing stations availed by ChildFund. It is estimated that over 1,000 people use these facilities every day.

The initiative also focused on preparedness and readiness for COVID-19 at strategic points of entry as well as referral pathways with the aim of combating the virus.
SENEGAL

PRIORITY 1: STOP COVID-19 FROM INFECTION CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Handwashing Stations for Schools
- In preparation for the reopening of schools, ChildFund Senegal supported 42 primary schools, 19 middle schools, 3 high schools and 12 nursery schools with hygiene kits containing face masks, soaps, antiseptic gels and handwashing stations. This initiative is benefitting over 51,946 children.

Household Handwashing Stations
- In Mbour region, ChildFund supported 263 households with over 2,894 people with hygiene kits and handwashing soap.
- In Dakar, ChildFund distributed handwashing kits to 18 daaras (Koranic schools) that accommodate 815 children.

Community Water Supplies
- Working with Kajoor Jankeen Federation, ChildFund supported the extension of a hydraulic network to make water available to 120 households, thus improving hygiene and sanitation.

Water Purifying Kits
- ChildFund Senegal distributed 481,920 water purifying kits to 4,306 households in Dakar and Ziguinchor regions.

Medical Supplies, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Material
- A total of 66 schools with 8,672 in Mbour region received hygiene kits, hydro-alcoholic gels and face masks to fight the pandemic.

Community Sensitization Campaigns
- Awareness-raising campaigns on non-stigmatization of COVID-19 victims were carried out in Ziguinchor region. Over 740 people were reached during these campaigns.

USAID/Neema Project: Strengthening Community Response to COVID-19
- In its 7 regions of intervention, the USAID/Neema project supported epidemic management committees at all levels and participated in monitoring and evaluating COVID-19 response plans in the regions and districts.
- Community sensitization campaigns using caravans and animated stands were organized during religious events to promote COVID-19 containment measures in Kaolack and Thiès regions.
- In the project areas, community health workers continued to raise awareness on COVID-19 and provide support to community groups.
- In Diourbel region, ChildFund provided logistical support to medical outposts for the delivery of samples to laboratories.
SENEGAL

• 30 traditional Koranic partner schools (daaras) with 3,226 talibé children (boys who have been sent by their families to live and work in a daara, a type of Islamic school) in Dakar, were disinfected and fumigated to make the environments safe from COVID-19.

• 30 community volunteers participated in capacity building sessions on communication techniques and improving hygiene and sanitation in schools in Dakar.

• In partnership with local authorities and the health department, the USAID project organized a free medical outreach in Dakar to offer check-ups for talibé children. A total of 58 people benefitted from this intervention, including 50 children.

PRIORITY 3: KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM VIOLENCE — PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

Community-Based Child Protection Systems

• With the aim of addressing the cases of increasing teenage pregnancies and child marriages during the COVID-19 period, ChildFund Senegal working with its Local Partners conducted a community sensitization exercise on ending child marriage reaching 69 people in Ngoye in Diourbel region.

PRIORITY 4: HELP CHILDREN CONTINUE LEARNING.

Distribution of Learning Materials

• A total of 18,189 school kits (notebooks, pens, black and colored pencils, rulers, rubber, erasers, scissors) were distributed to children across the CO’s areas of operation.

“I would like to thank ChildFund through its Local Partner here in Kolda for the school kits. This intervention has come at the right time, since COVID-19 has affected the purchasing power of families.

In the past, parents used to sell crops to buy supplies for their children. This is a relief for parents, children and teachers.”

M. Diallo, Director, Hamdalaye Elementary School.
COVID-19 has provoked social stigma and discriminatory behaviours against people perceived to have tested positive or have been in contact with the virus.

In this regard, ChildFund Senegal, working with Dindinkafo Association in Ziguinchor region and government health officials, organized community sensitization campaigns to end stigmatization of victims and create awareness on the containment measures. The sessions allowed children and community members to freely ask questions and discuss issues affecting them in relation to COVID-19.
SIERRA LEONE

PRIORITY 1: STOP COVID-19 FROM INFECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Community Handwashing Stations
- ChildFund Sierra Leone installed 250 community handwashing stations in communal areas including markets, Peripheral Health Units (PHUs), schools, public transport motorcycle parks, lorry parks, shops, entertainment centers and restaurants in 20 chiefdoms headquarter towns in 4 districts (Falaba, Koinadugu, Bombali and Kailahun).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Material
- The CO distributed 1,700 pieces of liquid soap and 10,000 pieces of face masks to households and health facilities in 45 communities in 4 districts.

Community Sensitization Campaigns
- ChildFund supported the airing of 21 radio sessions (including a simulcast) and community engagement on COVID-19 in Kailahun and Bombali districts. In Bombali district, expert health workers from the District Health Management Teams (DHMT), District COVID-19 Emergency Response Center (DICOVERC) and the Psychosocial Pillar headed by the Ministries of Social Welfare and Children Affairs in Bombali district, were mobilized to discuss various emerging issues on COVID-19 prevention and response measures, child protection and positive parenting on major radio stations (Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation, Mankneh and Hope Radio). The radio sessions reached over 210,000 people in 4 districts.
  - A total of 3,500 families in 4 districts were sensitized through household outreach programs.

Child-Friendly spaces
- ChildFund provided handwashing kits and indoor and outdoor play materials to 520 infants and young children in early childhood care centers in 4 districts.

Supporting COVID-19 Response Coordination Efforts
- In support of the government’s COVID-19 response efforts, ChildFund provided 3,500 litres of fuel to COVID-19 command centers in 4 districts to facilitate their movement and activities to prevent the spread of the disease.
  - In addition, 30 COVID-19 contact tracers in 4 districts received mobile phone credit to facilitate their work.
SIERRA LEONE

PRIORITY 2: ENSURE THAT CHILDREN GET THE FOOD THEY NEED.

Cash Transfers
• ChildFund Sierra Leone provided cash assistance to 1,865 vulnerable households in 3 districts (Falaba, Bombali and Koinadugu). Each household received SLL 294,300 (29 USD). An estimated 11,910 household members benefited from this intervention.

PRIORITY 3: KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM VIOLENCE — PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

Community-Based Child Protection Systems
• In Kailahun District, 7 cases of child abuse were identified and responded to by community-based child protection structures with support from the Family Support Unit (FSU) Daru division. ChildFund facilitated the movement of the victims to the one-stop center for medical attention.

First Aid and Counselling Sessions
• ChildFund conducted 16 sessions of psychological first aid training for 10 staff and 8 child-led groups of 10 members each in 4 districts.

Medical Assistance
• The CO provided medical assistance to 200 children across the 4 associations at Peripheral Health Units in Bombali District for minor health conditions ranging from malaria, diarrhea, wounds, pneumonia, worm infestations, and major surgical operations. All the 200 children have fully recovered and are back home. This support took the financial burden from parents paying medical bills and has reduced parents resorting to traditional medication that might lead to health-related risks, especially during COVID-19.

ChildFund Sierra Leone provided cash assistance to 1,865 vulnerable households in 3 districts (Falaba, Bombali and Koinadugu).
SIERRA LEONE

PRIORIT 4: HELP CHILDREN CONTINUE LEARNING.

Learning Materials/ Home Learning Kits
- Learning materials (exercise books, pens, pencils and school bags) were distributed to 350 vulnerable school children in 4 districts.
- 934 school-going children were each provided with solar-powered lights for home studies. With their siblings using the lights to study at home, the support benefited an estimated 2,335 school children.

Radio Lessons
- ChildFund supported 4 community radio stations to air 48 lessons of the government’s radio teaching program, reaching an estimated 150,000 children in 4 districts.
- 150 community volunteers in 4 districts were supported to monitor and supervise children’s learning from the radio teaching program and use of the solar-powered radios and lights provided to pupils for their studies at home. A total of 2,115 children’s learning activities were monitored.

Cash transfers improving child nutrition

Baby Christiana was born during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this difficult period, her family had very little to eat. “We had no food. Our only remedy was to search for bush yam to boil and eat,” said Sarah, Christiana’s mother. “If I do not have enough food, Christiana and her siblings will suffer from hunger and starvation. I cannot produce enough milk to breastfeed,” she said. Luckily, Christiana’s family benefitted from ChildFund’s cash transfer program. “This cash transfer is a life saver. When I received the cash, I went straight to the market to buy food. Now there is food in our home. We can eat.” She added. But more importantly, food in Sarah’s home means enriching breastmilk for baby Christiana. Indeed, cash transfer has the potential to improve child nutrition and overall wellbeing.
Months into the COVID-19 pandemic in Sierra Leone, families are still reeling from the shock and effects of the virus. This crisis has not only disturbed education systems worldwide but has also increased the burden of parents to provide their children with the requisite materials for school. Even before COVID-19, many people in rural communities in Sierra Leone could hardly get three square meals a day. Now, they are coping with the painful reality of COVID-19 which has worsened the situation. Food has become the most yearned for commodity. Other things like school materials for children are considered secondary. Salia, a grade four pupil from Kailahun District was heartbroken when he realized his parents did not have money prior to school opening in October 2020. “I thought I would never go to school again. I was distraught and confused.”

ChildFund, through its cash transfer program, supported Salia’s family with a cash of nearly 300,000 Leones (30 USD) in October. “The money came at the right time. We did not even have something to eat that day. With the money received from ChildFund, we bought some food items and school materials for our children,” says Kadiatu, Salia’s mother.

“When my mother received the money from ChildFund, she told me about it, and her plans to buy some school materials. I was very happy. She bought the uniforms, a pair of shoes and other school materials. ChildFund is the reason I am back to school.” He added.

“Salia is a very clever boy. He has a great passion for the sciences. Sometimes he finds solutions to our problems. He recently generated light from a battery and bulb he put together. Sometimes he uses it to study,” said Gibairu, Salia’s father. “Education is the key to success. It makes you stand out. So, we are also looking forward to our children getting the education that will make them stand out in society. We thank ChildFund for the money we used to buy uniforms for Salia.”

Salia believes his problem-solving skills will pay off one day “I want to help solve problems. That is what is driving me to be an engineer in the future. When I become an engineer, I believe I will be of help to my community and nation at large.” He concluded.
When schools reopened in Sierra Leone in October, ChildFund, through its three LPs - Munafa M’patie Federation, Daindemben Federation and N'Domakeh Federation, distributed over 6,000 face masks to children and teachers in Bombali, Koinadugu and Kailahun Districts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Masks can be used for either protection of healthy persons or to prevent onward transmission.
THE GAMBIA

PRIORITY 1: STOP COVID-19 FROM INFECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Community Handwashing Stations
- ChildFund working with its LP, Ding Ding Yiriwa Federation, installed a water point in Siffoe, Kombo South District to ensure access to clean water and improved hygiene and sanitation for vulnerable families.

Medical Supplies, Personal Protective Equipment and Infection Prevention and Control Material
- As part of the 16 Days Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign in December, ChildFund joined other partners in commemorating the International Human Rights Day on December 10. During the event, ChildFund, through the government, donated assorted COVID-19 preventive materials including face masks and hand sanitizers to refugee children and families living in rural parts of the country.

Community Sensitization Campaigns
- ChildFund working with its LP, Saama Kairo Federation distributed posters containing key messages on ‘Parenting during the COVID-19 period,’ and ‘What children can do to stop the spread of coronavirus.’ The caravan visited over 30 villages.

PRIORITY 2: ENSURE THAT CHILDREN GET THE FOOD THEY NEED.

Cash Transfers
- A total of 462 vulnerable families from 50 households in Kombo East and Kombo South benefited from a 20,000 USD cash transfer to help them buy food and other basic needs.

Child-Friendly Spaces
- Through the Dream Reader project funded by ChildFund Korea, ChildFund conducted evening study classes for hundreds of school children in Fonis in the West Coast Region. In addition to studying in spacious and well fumigated classes, children also received books and other stationery. Other COVID-19 preventive measures including hand washing facilities and face masks were also provided to all beneficiary schools.

ChildFund, through the government, donated assorted COVID-19 preventive materials including face masks and hand sanitizers to refugee children and families living in rural parts of the country.
THE GAMBIA

PRIORITY 3: KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM VIOLENCE – PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

Community-Based Child Protection Systems
• In October, ChildFund conducted community sensitization campaigns on responsive parenting in dozens of villages in Saama Kairo Federation’s area of operation. The campaigns were themed “Parenting During the COVID-19 Period.” The CO also trained facilitators on responsive and protective parenting to ensure children are not abused and are continuously protected while at home by their caregivers.

PRIORITY 4: HELP CHILDREN CONTINUE LEARNING.

Distribution of Learning Materials
• ChildFund The Gambia distributed books, school bags, bicycles, and sanitary items to 341 school children across the West Coast Region of the country, through Saama Kairo Federation. The materials enabled children to study during the lockdown period and to prepare for the reopening of schools.
• Children were also provided with face masks, and advised on how to keep safe and healthy at home during this period.
• Through Local Partner Ding Ding Yiriwa Federation, ChildFund distributed 70,000 exercise books and thousands of facemasks to school children in 2 districts.

Cash transfer brings hope to families hit hard by COVID-19

When the government declared a nationwide lockdown in August, many families were left devastated since most of them acquire their basic needs from income generated from activities that they engage in during the day. One family that felt the brunt was that of Jainaba, a mother of four who lives with her husband, a non-regular daily wage worker in Kombo East district.

Jainaba (in black), a beneficiary of ChildFund’s cash transfer program, narrating how the cash donation helped her to sustain her family during the lockdown period.
“All that I was thinking about was how I would provide for my children,” Jainaba told ChildFund staff who were conducting home visits to assess the impact of the cash transfer program.”

Jainaba, like many rural Gambian women, has a small garden where she grows cassava, tomatoes, pepper and hibiscus leaves for sale at the local market. She harvests them every evening and wakes up at 4am the following day to catch a bus to the market where she sells her produce before buying food items to take back home.

The mother of four lived like this until suddenly everything changed. “Initially, I heard people talking about the lockdown, but I did not know what it meant until I heard over the radio that all markets and other public places were closed. Then I wondered how I would provide for my children’s needs,” recalls Jainaba.

“I sat desperately after exhausting all support that I could get from friends and family who gave us food. At this time, my husband and I didn’t think of any other need apart from food for our children,” said Jainaba.

“We were then contacted by Saama Kairo Federation, and informed that we had been identified as beneficiaries of the cash transfer program. I was so happy to hear this.” When Jainaba received the money, she bought food stuff including a 50kg bag of rice, cooking oil and other basic items.

“I used the remaining money to buy uniforms, toothpaste and other items for my children who were getting ready to go back to school. The cash served us until life went back to normal weeks later. This gesture from ChildFund was a saviour because without it, our family would have no food.” She concluded. The government opened markets several weeks later allowing Jainaba to resume her daily sale of vegetables, whose proceeds she uses to sustain her family.
Some of the beneficiaries of ChildFund’s cash transfer program in The Gambia receiving funds.
UGANDA

PRIORITY 1: STOP COVID-19 FROM INFECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Community Handwashing Stations
- ChildFund Uganda installed 150 community handwashing stations in 114 schools and 36 markets in Kampala and Wakiso districts in central Uganda.

Community Water Supplies
- Two 6,000-litre capacity water storage tanks were given out to 2 households in Kyankwanzi district.

Water Purifying Kits
- A total of 453,064 water purifying kits were distributed to 7,000 households and 20 primary schools in Kyankwanzi District.

Medical Supplies, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Material
- The CO distributed assorted IPC material and PPEs, including 900 liters of liquid soap, 110 liters of hand sanitizer, 5,400 surgical masks, 24 hand dispensers, 39 megaphones and 166 infrared temperature guns, to 36 markets, 114 schools and 14 health centers in Kampala, Wakiso, Luwero and Kyankwanzi districts.

Community Sensitization Campaigns
- Approximately 89,632 people were reached with information on COVID-19 prevention and response measures through 3,461 posters and 1,285 banners displayed in schools, markets and trading centers. This happened in 5 districts - Kampala, Wakiso, Kole, Dokolo and Apac in central and northern Uganda.

PRIORITY 2: ENSURE THAT CHILDREN GET THE FOOD THEY NEED.

Cash Transfers
- A total of 4,912 families living in 29 districts in north, east, mid-west, and central Uganda received cash transfers worth 125,207 USD. This was distributed to the caregivers with each receiving between UGX 50,000 to UGX 500,000 (13 -135 USD). Some caregivers were organized in groups and thus received the cash grants in groups. This was to boost their economic enterprises such as petty trade including sale of clothes, vegetables, food items, poultry, and goat rearing to be able to feed their families and meet other household needs.
UGANDA

PRIORITY 3: KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM VIOLENCE — PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

Community-Based Child Protection Systems
- A total of 254 cases of violence against children were identified through the partners in north, east, mid-west, and central Uganda.
- 98 children who had survived violence were supported to access justice, while 31 were referred for further support. The cases identified were majorly on sexual abuse, child neglect and physical abuse. The survivors were supported with transport to access justice, treatment, provision of basic needs like food and clothing. ChildFund further supported the Community Development Services Department (District Probation & Social Welfare officers) to follow-up on these cases.

Counselling Sessions
- With support from the District Probation and Social Welfare officer, 5 counselling sessions were conducted targeting 5 household heads (3 female and 2 males) affected by domestic violence in Lango region, on the provision of appropriate care for their children. Domestic violence can cause great physical and emotional harm to children and young people.

PRIORITY 4: HELP CHILDREN CONTINUE LEARNING.

Menstrual Hygiene Management
- 600 girls and young women in Kiryandongo and Masindi districts received reusable sanitary pads that are durable for a year.

Learning Materials/Home Learning Kits
- In order to keeping school-going children engaged while at home, ChildFund Uganda supported implementing partners to print and distribute learning materials to 7,211 children. Learning materials were obtained from the National Curriculum Development center (NCDC) website, printed and distributed to children in primary grades 4, 5, 6 and senior 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 through community volunteers. The initiative focused on strengthening children’s reading, writing and comprehension competencies.
- With the help of caregivers, older siblings and teachers, children were engaged in learning activities which kept them busy and prevented them from getting involved in risky behaviors.
With funding from Standard Chartered Bank, ChildFund Uganda and its Local Partner, Kampala Area Federation Communities, flagged off items to support the prevention of COVID-19 in high-risk areas in Kampala and Wakiso districts. A total of 114 Universal Primary schools and 36 markets benefitted from the consignment. The items worth UG Shs120 million consisted of temperature guns, jerricans of liquid soap, handwashing facilities and an assortment of Information, Education and Communication materials.
“It is extremely difficult to live in a state of helplessness, wondering when or where the next meal is going to come from, watching your mother forlorn because she has no idea how to fix the situation,” Ronald recalls his family’s ordeal from mid-2020.

The 22-year-old from Acholi Quarters, a Kampala slum, says receiving UGX 80,000 (about 21 USD) from ChildFund to buy food was like a miracle. Like most vulnerable families, Ronald’s was not exempted from the COVID-19 financial struggle. The second born out of 6 children had just reported to Senior 5 when the pandemic broke out. His mother, a stay-at-home single mother was relying on Ronald’s bigger brother to support the family with his earnings from a casual factory job. Unfortunately, he was laid off which halted the family’s only source of livelihood. Ronald was taken away from home together with other youth in the neighborhood during the lockdown and with him not being home, his family missed out on receiving the cash transfer that all children that are part of ChildFund programming were given. When he returned home around October 2020, ChildFund was notified and they sent him the cash transfer through the LP, Kampala Area Federation of Communities.

On top of buying food for his family, Ronald had been thinking of starting a small business to earn a daily income. He used part of the cash transfer to buy wheat flour, cooking oil, sugar, a frying pan, scooping spoon, a bucket and charcoal to use in making half cakes. Ronald has been selling the half cakes in his neighborhood and hawks to shops, garages and offices near his home.

“Now, I can have some little money in my pocket unlike before and can buy food for my family,” he says. His small business is thriving and every day he earns a profit of UGX 15,000 (4 USD). Ronald says he was able to buy himself shoes and clothes. He also bought a phone and continues to buy food for the family. He is now saving up to set up a small retail shop and hopes it will grow bigger despite the humble beginning.
In Masindi and Kiryandongo districts, ChildFund Uganda working with its LP, Masindi Child Development Federation (MACDEF), established that menstrual hygiene management was becoming a big challenge for girls and women in rural areas. In addition to securing daily meals during the pandemic, buying pads was a costly venture for most families, hence girls resorted to using rags from old clothes for menstrual hygiene management.

Recognizing that hygiene supplies are part of the most critical needs for survival, ChildFund through MACDEF purchased and distributed re-usable sanitary pads to 600 vulnerable girls in the 2 districts. The re-usable sanitary pads are durable and easy to use with each packet carrying 5 pieces that can be used for a year.

Nowerin, a 15-year-old, said since schools closed in March 2020, accessing hygiene products like pads has been tough. “Thank you ChildFund for thinking about us during these hard times, girls in my community no longer have to risk getting infections due to poor hygiene practices while managing their periods.” she said.

Nowerin added that schools were the only formal avenue for menstrual hygiene promotion, but with their closure, they no longer get the support with pads. “I know girls that undergo menstruation twice a month, imagine how difficult that can get,” she narrated.

All the girls were also trained on how to use the sanitary pads and equipped with more information on menstrual hygiene management.

“Thank you ChildFund for thinking about us during these hard times, girls in my community no longer have to risk getting infections due to poor hygiene practices while managing their periods.”
ZAMBIA

PRIORITY 1: STOP COVID-19 FROM INFECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Community Handwashing Stations
- A total of 380 handwashing facilities were distributed to schools and health centers in Chibombo, Chisamba, Rufunsa, Lusaka and Chongwe districts.

Household Handwashing Stations
- In Kafue District, 1,000 households received an equivalent number of washing facilities (water buckets), benefitting over 6,000 individuals.

Community Water Supplies
- In order to increase access to clean water, ChildFund repaired two previously defunct water boreholes in Katuba District, that serve over 200 households.

Water Purifying Kits
- ChildFund Zambia distributed 255,704 Procter & Gamble water purifying sachets to 14,174 households in Chibombo, Lunagwa, Mumbwa, Lusaka and Kafue districts.

Medical Supplies, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Material
- The CO through its LPs donated the following assorted medical supplies, PPEs and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) materials to health centers, schools, markets and households in Lusaka, Chibombo, Chisamba, Katuba, Shubuyunji, Kafue, Chilanga, Luangwa, Chongwe and Rufunsa districts: 486 (400ml) cases of hand sanitizers, 1,005 (400ml) liquid soaps, 5,915 tablets of soap, 9,834 face masks, 765 re-usable masks, 26 (2.5lts) methylated spirits and 36 infrared thermometers.

Community Sensitization Campaigns
- In collaboration with Zambia National Information Service (ZANIS), radio stations, District Health Offices (in Rufunsa and Chongwe districts), and churches, ChildFund conducted community sensitization campaigns reaching over 398,099 people with information on COVID-19 in Rufunsa, Chibombo, Chisamba, Chongwe, Lusaka and Luangwa districts.

Child-Friendly Spaces
- A total of 400 community support structures were trained on group parenting to promote responsive and protective parenting in under-resourced communities to empower parents and other primary caregivers with the knowledge and practical skills they need to give children a strong start in life, despite the negative impact of the pandemic.
ZAMBIA

PRIORITY 2: ENSURE THAT CHILDREN GET THE FOOD THEY NEED.

Cash Transfers
- A total of 2,075 individuals received cash valued at ZMW800 (37.59 USD) per person in Luangwa District. Beneficiaries used the money to meet basic needs, primarily food needs.

Vouchers
- In addition, 8,000 e-vouchers, worth 20 USD each, were issued to 8,000 families to purchase water tanks, jerrycans and soaps in Chibombo, Chisamba, Rufunsa and Chongwe districts.

Food and Other Basic Household Items
- Food stuffs including beans, mealie meal, sardines and cooking oil were distributed to 3,856 households in Mumbwa, Chibombo, Chisamba, Kafue, Chongwe, Chisamba and Rufunsa districts.

PRIORITY 3: KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM VIOLENCE – PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

Community-Based Child Protection Systems
- A total of 756 people were reached with key messages on child protection. The CO also trained 12 government staff and 64 community mentors on protecting children from violence during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

PRIORITY 4: HELP CHILDREN CONTINUE LEARNING.

Learning Materials/Home Learning Kits
- A total of 1,296 children participated in the Home-Based Learning (HBL) programs in Mumbwa District, while 12 teachers and 6 community volunteers were oriented on the HBL program.
- 116 solar radios and memory cards loaded with education materials for school-going children were distributed to 116 households.

Radio Lessons
- In addition, ChildFund Zambia distributed 66 radios to an equivalent number of families to enable their children access pre-recorded learning materials.

A total of 2,075 individuals received cash valued at ZMW800 (37.59 USD) per person in Luangwa District. Beneficiaries used the money to meet basic needs, primarily food needs.
All smiles! Elenata Tembo and Joyce Kampila were all smiles after receiving money through ChildFund’s cash transfer program in Zambia. Last quarter, a total of 2,075 individuals received cash valued at ZMW800 (USD 37.59) each in Luangwa District. Beneficiaries used the money to meet basic needs, primarily food needs.
In commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11 in Zambia, girls drawn from different communities gathered at Mulungushi Conference center for a one-day workshop. Various issues that affected girls during the COVID-19 period were addressed including increased cases of teen pregnancies and online abuse as girls are now more exposed to the internet. Stakeholders were called upon to ensure these issues are addressed to protect the future of the girl child.