After Cyclone Fani battered India’s Odisha state, ChildFund’s Child-centered Spaces offered safe places for children to play, learn and process their experience.
Dear Friends,

A year ago on this page, we wrote about the profound ways that connection matters in ChildFund’s work with children. We would soon learn how profound.

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world, we realized right away that children in low-income countries would suffer the most — less from the disease itself than from the shattered connections around them. We foresaw that the government restrictions enacted to stem the virus would halt their families’ livelihoods, shutter schools and send stress spiraling.

But ChildFund, after our shift to a more virtual way of working and with hundreds of community-based partnerships in place, was well-positioned to pivot with children’s rapidly emerging needs: for food where there was none to be had, for protection against the violence that would rise alongside stress levels, for ways to continue their education with as little interruption as possible, and for means to avoid infection.

In the meantime, children's day-to-day needs continued, and the disasters that tend to afflict the world’s most vulnerable societies kept rolling in. Through cyclones and hurricanes, drought, plagues of locusts, conflict and more, we and our partners found new ways to protect and sustain children’s well-being.

All of this was possible because our supporters — you — rose to this difficult moment amid your own distress and loss. You responded with compassion as the pandemic exposed the inequities that hold back so many of the world’s children from achieving their incredible potential in both the U.S. and abroad. The outpouring of kindness through and well beyond ChildFund was an enormous sign of hope, a beautiful thing to see.

The world will never be the same, nor should it be. It is up to those of us who share it to envision and bring about a future where all children can experience the abundance and bandwidth that is their right. We are so honored and grateful that you have joined with us in this vital task.

Our deepest thanks,

Anne at home.

Anne Lynam Goddard
President and CEO

Ed Grier
Chair, ChildFund Board of Directors

“The world will never be the same, nor should it be.”
FORWARD STRONG:
ChildFund’s Global COVID-19 Response

In March 2020, when the world went on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it set millions of families in the world’s poorest places reeling. Worldwide, 2 billion people make their living from informal work like subsistence farming, selling vegetables or handiwork at the market or from other in-person odd jobs. In low-income countries, that’s as much as 80-90% of the population. What happens to those families and children when their livelihoods evaporate? COVID-19 is a health crisis that brought an economic crisis that has led to further health crises — especially for children and families living in fragile economies like those in ChildFund’s program countries. One particularly devastating result was child hunger. Compound that with added stress from crowded conditions, helplessness and fear, and you have a recipe for violence against children. Children were in danger, and we knew there was no time to lose.

“ChildFund is aiming the full power of our expertise and funding at ensuring that COVID-19 does not deny any child the right to be healthy, educated and safe,” said Anne Lynam Goddard, ChildFund’s President and CEO, introducing ChildFund’s first-ever global emergency response.

“Full power” was no exaggeration. Joining with our fellow members of ChildFund Alliance, we launched a $56 million COVID-19 Response Plan, our biggest emergency response in our 80-year history and our first-ever global emergency response, aiming to support 6.3 million children and family members throughout the pandemic and the recovery to follow.

“If you buy soap, you won’t eat.”
— Ruth, with son Scampy (1) and daughter Ndunge (2), Kenya

“Families are at the center of this plan. If they have the wherewithal to hold on to their stability and keep their children’s development on track, they’ll be able to go forward strong. We’re going to give it everything we’ve got so that they do.”
— Anne Lynam Goddard, ChildFund President and CEO
The Four Priorities of ChildFund’s COVID-19 Response Plan

Stop COVID-19 from infecting children and families. We installed community hand-washing stands; educated communities about symptoms, hygiene and where to get testing or treatment; and distributed soap, hand sanitizer, gloves and masks to families and health workers.

Ensure that children get the food they need. We provided the most vulnerable families with money to help them keep food on the table, pay rent and cover other basic needs. Where possible, we also distributed food and basic household items directly, carefully abiding by COVID-19 protection measures.

Keep children safe from violence — physically and emotionally. We supported community-based child protection systems to identify, respond to and refer cases of abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation. We also provided online psychological first aid and counseling and supported temporary shelters for children living on the street.

Help children continue learning. While schools remained closed, we offered activities and tutoring sessions online or by radio, staying vigilant to the potential risk of abuse that comes with increased internet use. For students in places where internet access was unavailable or unreliable, we distributed home learning kits with materials and guidelines for their use.

ChildFund’s Response in Numbers *

$5,605,938 in direct cash and voucher assistance delivered to 157,514 families to help them fight hunger and meet basic needs.

122,800+ baskets of food delivered.

1,500+ hand-washing stations built to protect children from disease.

93,300+ students supported with educational materials to continue learning at home.

67,400+ hygiene kits delivered.

*as of March 2021

We are honored to work shoulder to shoulder with our ChildFund Alliance partners:
- Barnfonden
- ChildFund Australia
- ChildFund Deutschland
- ChildFund International
- ChildFund Ireland
- ChildFund Japan
- ChildFund Korea
- ChildFund New Zealand
- Children Believe
- Educo
- Un Enfant par la Main
Esnart, 14  
Zambia

When Esnart lost her parents years ago, she and her little sister, Grace, 9, had no one to take them in, so Esnart has been the sole breadwinner for her small family ever since. She kept things afloat by taking odd jobs after school: selling bananas, harvesting other people’s crops. But then COVID-19 hit.

“From the time the new disease came, it was difficult to find any jobs,” she says. “Sometimes we would go to bed hungry. Other times, neighbors gave us some food.”

Learning she was eligible for ChildFund’s cash assistance program was the good news she needed to keep going during the worst of the pandemic. “I used the first payment to buy food, uniforms, books and other school supplies,” she says. “I even got some plates, which we didn’t have before.”

Rafael, 23  
Bolivia

In Bolivia, families raised white flags outside their homes if they were in need of food during the COVID-19 pandemic. Former sponsored child Rafael has been helping these families in need in his community, collecting food items and delivering them himself. He says he was inspired by his mother and his sponsor. “I may not be a millionaire,” he says, “but even a grain of sand can help.”
Ronal, 10
Ecuador

“My mom used to work at a barbecue stand selling roasted chicken wings and cleaning houses,” says Ronal, “but now my mom is not working on anything. Sometimes I look at her and she is sad for not having money to buy things, and because she cannot do anything to help me to have internet and connect with my classmates. Despite everything, she finds ways for the teacher to send me my homework so I can learn.”

Gbassay, 17
Sierra Leone

“I was so scared this school closure was going to affect my education,” says Gbassay, “especially my chances of going to the university next year, when I shall have passed my exams. With school closing, we only had previous notes given to us by our teachers — nothing new to learn from.” The government launched a radio teaching program, but Gbassay lacked a radio, let alone electricity. ChildFund, seeing this issue across Sierra Leone, donated 430 solar-powered radios to students in four districts — including Gbassay. “Learning is so important that it cannot wait,” he says.

Reena, 9
India

“Our children are not used to staying at home,” says Reena’s mom, Neembati. “They [used to] go out and play with other children in the community. We were worried about their safety and mental health during the lockdown, sitting idle at home. Relief came in the form of ChildFund’s learning kit. My daughter is exploring her creative side through drawing, learning crafts and other play activities with her siblings using the learning kit. Thanks to ChildFund for keeping our children happy, safe and engaged.”
Keeping Connected With Texas Families

As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in March 2020, a partnership among ChildFund, Communities in Schools and Texas’ Hidalgo County, with a three-year AmeriCorps grant from the OneStar Foundation, was entering its second year. In 22 schools across Texas’ impoverished Rio Grande region, 27 AmeriCorps members were facilitating literacy and social-emotional learning activities in safe spaces, focusing on culturally relevant, high-interest books. The Dream Corners project offered weekly small-group literacy circles and schoolwide literacy assemblies, activities to involve parents and more. The unifying purpose of the project was to offer relief and increase children’s resilience to the toxic stress they experience in their daily lives due to poverty, violence and the ever-present threat of family separation.

Then schools closed. We knew that we had to pivot — and quickly — to meet children’s needs, especially as COVID-19 would only amplify them. But how to replace all the in-person goodness?

ChildFund’s Texas team took story time and other program content online during the pandemic, also connecting families with the resources available to them.

ChildFund’s school liaisons, community mobilizers and AmeriCorps members called as many families as they could, offering encouragement as well as tips on helping kids manage stress and stay safe. “We were reaching people who really, really needed to talk,” says Julia Campbell, ChildFund’s U.S. Program manager, noting that the pandemic added an additional layer of fear, anxiety and lack of control for families who already had much to worry about.

ChildFund stepped up its role of ensuring that families connect with what they need, creating a Facebook page to communicate about what resources were available and how to access them, pointing toward food drives and giveaways (including ChildFund’s own drive-through delivery of activity packets), testing and vaccination information. We also took Dream Corners online via Facebook, with video readings, demonstrations of activities related to the featured books and more.

An additional planning grant from OneStar funded a Dream Corners “design sprint” that yielded ideas for transforming our program offerings to be more virtual and mobile. The next dream? A mobile “No Pressure Zone”/Dream Corner bus where kids can choose what they do or share and with whom, and just be themselves.
Longtime Partner TFCF Marks 70 Years

Our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families on their 70th anniversary in 2020. TFCF was one of our country offices until 1985, when Christian Children’s Fund Taiwan became independent. Ever since, TFCF has enhanced the well-being of children throughout Taiwan and, since 1987, abroad as well.

That includes continued support for children in ChildFund’s programs today. After cyclones battered India, and after a devastating earthquake rattled Indonesia’s central Sulawesi, TFCF funded relief supplies, Child-Centered Spaces and learning materials. When another devastating earthquake rocked the Philippines’ Mindanao island, TFCF helped us deliver critically needed psychosocial support for children and adults and rebuild damaged classrooms. And when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the Philippines, TFCF helped us support vulnerable families in Manila.

We honor them for their ongoing work to ensure that children, as TFCF CEO Betty Su-Chiou Ho puts it, can “spread their wings.”
Protecting Child Refugees in Uganda

Uganda currently hosts over 1.4 million refugees, most of them South Sudanese who are fleeing ongoing conflict. In northern Uganda, the Palorinya refugee settlement holds over 125,000 of them. Over 60% are children under 18, most of them unaccompanied. Their rights and well-being are at dire risk that is amplified by the pandemic.

With support from ChildFund Korea, ChildFund’s project at Palorinya, Building Resilience and Protection Systems for Children and Youth, has a central aim of protecting children. Last year, working with local leadership in both the settlement and its host communities, we strengthened 15 community-based child protection groups to address and raise local awareness about protecting children and youth against violence; established Child-Friendly Spaces where children can play, learn, make friends and access the psychosocial support they need; and combatted gender-based violence by activating men and boys to advocate for women’s and rights.

When a Pandemic Isn’t the Only Emergency ...

The COVID-19 pandemic halted many things, but not the disasters that tend to afflict the world’s poorest places.

Kenya, for example. After several years of drought, late 2019 and early 2020 brought devastating flooding to dozens of counties. We responded with emergency food and non-food support, construction materials and child protection initiatives.

Then came the worst plague of locusts the region had seen in decades, decimating the crops that families survive on as well as vegetation that sustains pastoralists’ livestock. We responded with financial support, farm inputs and feed.

Then came the pandemic.

Kenya was far from the only ChildFund program country to experience emergencies compounded by COVID-19 in fiscal 2020. In October, a 6.6-magnitude earthquake rocked the Philippines’ Mindanao island, destroying homes and infrastructure; in December, a 6.9-magnitude temblor struck the same region. In May, Cyclone Amphan struck India’s Odisha and West Bengal states. Smaller storms throughout the tropics brought their own devastation.

But, thanks to generous support from individual donors, our fellow Alliance members, corporations and other partner organizations, governments and institutions, ChildFund swiftly addressed children’s and families’ immediate and longer-term needs while sustaining our ongoing COVID-19 support. The COVID-19 “kindness bump” was real — and made a huge difference for millions of children.
CHILDFUND’S GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

13 MILLION children and family members reached worldwide

213 grants

240 local partner organizations

How Your Gift Helps Children

Overall Operations $208.8 Million

79.5% Assistance to Children and Families

10.8% Fundraising

9.7% Management and General

Assistance to Children and Families

Program Operations $165.8 Million

36% Basic Education

18% Health and Sanitation

17% Emergencies

15% Microenterprise (Family Income Generation)

10% Early Childhood Development

4% Nutrition

13 MILLION children and family members reached worldwide
## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

**AS OF JUNE 30, 2020 AND 2019**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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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.
In Indonesia, single mom Sri supported daughter Violin and son Fikri through her small shop until the pandemic halted business. Cash assistance from ChildFund kept food on the table.
Expanding Health for Women and Children in Senegal: The Neema Project

In Senegal, the USAID-funded Neema project, led by ChildFund’s partner IntraHealth International, aims to strengthen health services and make them accessible to all, especially women and children. Also known as “Integrated Service Delivery and Adoption of Health Behaviors,” Neema supports the Senegalese government’s goals of improving maternal and child health and contributing toward a generation free of AIDS.

ChildFund’s focus within Neema is the project’s community-based health component. A few numbers:

- **164** new community health huts and outreach sites were established, with 11,603 community health workers trained in 29 districts across Neema’s seven focus regions.
- **300** additional communities were supported to set up a local emergency referral system.
- **3,285** volunteers working in health huts were trained on an integrated home-based care approach.
- **9,211** community health workers were trained in 3,650 health huts and outreach sites to offer a package of services specifically designed for adolescents and young people.

ChildFund’s component of the Neema project includes efforts to promote the leadership of youth and women in the fight against gender-based violence. Dieynaba, 19, leads her village’s group of young men and women ages 15–19 who meet to reflect and act on the gender-based violence issues that affect them. “Equality contributes to the community’s development,” she says. “People help each other; they participate in their community’s development, they mobilize themselves, and there is more solidarity.”
Online Safety for Children in the Philippines and Beyond

The internet can be a terrifying place for children. In the Philippines, children are especially at risk of online sexual exploitation and abuse (OSEAC) — a horrific crime that damages their psychosocial well-being and development and can lead to sex trafficking. OSEAC is believed to be vastly underreported, although the Philippines Department of Justice’s Office of Cybercrime has received tens of thousands of tips, with only about two-dozen convictions in 2018. Since the onset of COVID-19, OSEAC has burgeoned as children are spending more time at home and online, often unsupervised.

In 2019 and early 2020, ChildFund Philippines, supported by the Out of the Shadows Index Advocacy Fund, launched the #ShutdownOSEC campaign with our partners and hosted an OSEC Summit that brought together youth, policymakers, media and technology companies to learn about and commit to tackling the issue.

Program initiatives included webinars, social media campaigns and new partnerships with governments, peer organizations, foundations and technology companies. ChildFund also organized OSEAC training for media outlets to improve and increase their ethical coverage of the issue. As a result, congressional members in the Philippines submitted OSEAC-focused bills, technology companies reached out to partner with us, and the number of OSEAC-related media pickups nearly doubled over the previous year.

Building on the success of the project and in response to the COVID-19-induced surge of OSEAC activity, ChildFund continues to expand our efforts addressing this issue in many of the countries where we work, including the U.S.

Zsania (10) and her mother, Lizeth, live in a crowded slum in Manila, Philippines. Zsania is a consistent honor student and attends ChildFund-supported activities that teach children about their rights as well as risks like online sexual exploitation and what to do when natural disasters occur.
“[It is] men who make important decisions in the country — we have never had a female president. But this must change, and that is why we must include girls in all the important spaces to create a culture with different and egalitarian thoughts .... Personally, I believe young women and girls are good leaders and decision makers.”

— Astrid

Bringing Girls Into Civic Spaces: The Girls LEAD Act

When girls and women participate in politics, democracies are healthier, economies grow stronger and the world becomes safer. But equitable participation can happen only when civic spaces are inclusive, and at the current rate, it will take over 100 years to reach gender parity. Currently, U.S. government assistance and foreign policy do not address girls’ civic participation and leadership, missing a key opportunity to close global gender gaps.

The Girls LEAD Act is a bipartisan policy initiative that calls for U.S. foreign assistance to promote girls’ leadership and participation in civic and political processes, including increasing girls’ ability to engage in decisions affecting their lives and their communities. Supported by 15 organizations including ChildFund, Save the Children and others, the Act was introduced into the U.S. Senate in 2019, and into the House of Representatives in April 2020. At this writing, the bill remains in committee.

Promoting the Act and commemorating International Women’s Day, the #LEADLikeAGirl event on March 4, held in the U.S. House of Representatives, featured speakers Anne Lynam Goddard and Janti Soeripto, CEO of Save the Children, along with congressmen Jim McGovern and David Trone and USAID’s Michelle Bekkering. But the true stars of that evening were two young women: Astrid from Honduras and Ruwani from Sri Lanka. Both shared their own experiences becoming community leaders, the barriers they have faced, why girls and women make good leaders, changes they would like to see in their own communities, and what support they need to realize these changes.

From left: Janti Soeripto, CEO of Save the Children; Michelle Bekkering, from USAID; Astrid; and Anne Lynam Goddard, ChildFund President and CEO.
Multifaceted Engagement: Partnering With Aryaka

ChildFund has partnered with the tech company Aryaka for the education of children living in poverty worldwide. In late 2019, we launched a three-pronged initiative that is about not only financial support but also opportunities for Aryaka’s employees to engage and raise awareness around the challenges of children growing up on the underserved side of the digital divide.

The centerpiece of the plan was three “SMART” classrooms at three government schools in semi-urban areas of Bangalore, India. These tech-enabled classrooms would connect kids to the digital world via feature-rich portable K-Yan devices, which are full-featured computers with internet connectivity, data projectors, audio systems and DVD players. Our India office was able to negotiate a lower price for the K-Yans, which allowed us to equip six classrooms, doubling our reach to 2,000 children and youth.

In February 2020, ChildFund held the first of four employee engagement activities with Aryaka: Fifteen employees joined 350 students and their teachers for a day of arts and crafts, pottery and gardening. The pandemic hit India soon after, closing schools nationwide and putting the remaining sessions on hold.

A third part of the Aryaka project is the establishment of “Splash Centers” in the neighborhoods around each of the schools served, to provide opportunities for children to engage in all kinds of arts. This was also temporarily derailed by COVID-19.

Children (and Aryaka’s employees) have much to look forward to with the reinvigoration of this initiative as the pandemic releases its grip on their world.
ChildFund donors enjoyed connecting with children and family members in rural Oaxaca, Mexico.

“Everybody is connected, and I can make a difference”: Donors Visit Mexico

Just before the COVID-19 pandemic halted international travel, a small group of donors joined the ChildFund Mexico Vision Tour to learn about the work they are supporting and to meet participating children and families. After receiving an overview of our interventions from ChildFund Mexico staff in Mexico City, they flew to our program area in Oaxaca to experience life there firsthand.

They met with schoolchildren learning about preventing violence. They connected with youth — who would otherwise have no way to continue their education — attending a rigorous online high school. They attended an early childhood development playgroup. They learned from local leaders how ChildFund partners in communities, and they watched presentations from young adults launching businesses. They enjoyed local culture, food, history and natural beauty.

Afterward Roger, one of the travelers, reflected, “The challenges to the dreams of the children and people of Oaxaca include inequality, poverty, violence and lack of opportunities for education and work. My trip to Oaxaca made real to me that every place and everybody is connected, and that I can make a difference. When I support ChildFund, I support children and their families and communities.”
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 over 80 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. These kind gifts have been especially vital for children throughout the pandemic.

To learn more about this and other ways to help, please contact our philanthropy advisors at 804-545-3620.

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 individual and institutions participate in valuing, protecting and advancing the worth and rights of children.

Enrich supporters’ lives through the engagement with us.