ChildFund Uganda

CAPACITY STATEMENT

CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY



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About ChildFund

ChildFund International is a child-focused international development organization that works throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas to connect children with the people, resources, and institutions they need to grow up safe, healthy, educated, and skilled, wherever they are. Delivered through over 250 local implementing partner organizations, our programs address the underlying conditions that prevent any child or youth from achieving their full potential. We place a special emphasis on child protection throughout our approach because violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect can reverse developmental gains in an instant.

ChildFund has had a presence in Uganda since 1960. Through our local partner organizations, we implement holistic development programs supported by our sponsors and donors around the world.

Currently, our programs focus on Child Protection, Education, Early Childhood Development, Advocacy, Emergency Response, Health and Nutrition, Food Security, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), Household Economic Strengthening, Youth Development and Sponsorship.

Child Protection and Advocacy

Our programming Approach

ChildFund aims to protect children from violence and abuse through evidence-based approaches and interventions, including:

Community-Led Child Protection Programming

This aims at strengthening community structures to become less dependent on external resources. Community-owned child protection actions have the potential to prevent risks and harms because the root causes of risk can be identified and addressed from within the community using local understandings, approaches, mechanisms, and resources. ChildFund together with its partners uses its Community-Based Child Protection Mapping (CBCPM) approach, which helps communities to better understand their own child protection issues as well as to take stock of their own resources to address these issues.

Child Empowerment through Child-Friendly Accountability

ChildFund uses the Child-Friendly Accountability methodology to ensure children have safe means to participate in monitoring the performance of child protection systems and holding duty bearers at all levels. Children are supported to build their knowledge, identify protection gaps and facilitate action or advocacy with their communities to address these gaps. Three pillars are used for the field-level application of the methodology: Assessment - focused on knowledge building and fostering understanding; Analysis and accountability - centered on mapping and analyzing the performance of the protection system; and Action for social mobilization, advocacy and corrective action on gaps and bottlenecks identified by the children.

School-Based Violence Prevention (SBVP)

The SBVP model is a comprehensive program model that aims to prevent and reduce violence against children in schools and homes. SBVP enhances the skills of children, caregivers, and teachers to prevent, mitigate and respond to violence against children by participating in a school-based violence prevention program and activities focused on socio-emotional learning, skills and self-protection.

Prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through community approaches

ChildFund implements the Start, Awareness, Support, and Action (SASA!) methodology. SASA! programs assist communities to prevent and mitigate GBV and mobilize communities through a combination of awareness-raising and capacity-strengthening interventions. In addition, ChildFund promotes local activism, community leadership, and strengthening the capacity of referral focal points. In line with the National Male Involvement Strategy for The Prevention and Response to GBV in Uganda (2017), ChildFund utilizes the Male Action Group (MAG) approach to increase male involvement in GBV prevention and response. MAGs are utilized to mobilize, sensitize and equip men to challenge and question gender norms and values that promote male domination and female subordination.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

ChildFund implements Community-Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS) programs. CBPSS supports children and their wider support network to identify and strengthen effective coping mechanisms to adapt to their situations and build resilience. We strengthen the capacity of community members on Psychological First Aid (PFA) to provide immediate assistance to children and youth who have been physically, emotionally, or sexually abused or neglected, and those in conflict with the law. In addition, we implement structured and non-structured PSS interventions in child-friendly spaces. Interventions include psychoeducation and referral to medical facilities. We also implement positive parenting programs for caregivers; life skills training for adolescents and children and provide hospital referrals for specialized mental health services.

Advocacy

We advocate for policies and practices at local, national, and international levels that promote children's wellbeing. Our Advocacy Plan (2016 -2025) aims to increase budgetary allocation to the child protection sector at national and district levels for effective policy and legislative implementation.



Projects Portfolio

ChildFund implements various child-focused programs working with 9 local partner organizations operating in 28 district regions. Since 2018 to date, ChildFund has been implementing humanitarian assistance and Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE) programs in Palorinya Refugee Settlement in Obongi District.

The Joining Forces for Africa (JOFA) Project

This 3-year project, funded by the European Union, is implemented by a consortium including ChildFund, Save the Children and Terre des Hommes. The project aims to protect children from violence during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond, through reducing the level of physical and emotional violence against children that have risen in Uganda. All six Joining Forces agencies (Save the Children, ChildFund, World Vision, Plan International, SOS and Terre des Hommes) are involved in joint actions, such as a national behavior change campaign and several advocacy activities. The total budget for the project is over €2.1 million.

Building Resilience and Protection Systems (BRePS)

Under this project, ChildFund in partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) seeks to address the well-being of children and youth in refugee and host communities of Palorinya Refugee Settlement in Obongi District. Thus, since 2019, ChildFund has been implementing interventions in Palorinya Rrefugee Settlement to address the needs of the refugee children and youths reaching 6,694 children, 296 community-based child protection structures and 19,484 community members. The project aims at strengthening effective and safe community-based child protection mechanisms to prevent and respond to child protection risks and improve the psychosocial well-being of children participating in group-based activities that take place in 3 child-friendly spaces. This project contributes to the achievement of higher-level policy objectives by aligning with the strategic goals of the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan. The project is being implemented based on ChildFund's expertise in establishing and strengthening child protection mechanisms and operating child-friendly spaces in disasters and conflict situations but also on Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE) as a core humanitarian strategy.

6,694
children reached by interventions in Palorinya Rrefugee Settlement

296
community-based child protection structures

19,484
Community members reached by interventions in Palorinya Rrefugee Settlement

Child Protection and Advocacy

Development, Deinstitutionalization of Orphans, and Vulnerable Children in Uganda (DOVCU)

This was a three-year project (2014-2017) funded by USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF). The project aimed to keep and reintegrate children into the care of families. ChildFund led the consortium of project partners, including Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO Uganda), Child's I Foundation (CiF) and Retrak. Together, with the project partners, ChildFund delivered an integrated package of interventions which decreased vulnerabilities for households at risk of child separation and households with children reintegrating from childcare institutions.

The project also strengthened the institutional capacities of government officials and other key stakeholders to adopt the Alternative Care Framework and strive toward family-based care for all children.

Economic Strengthening to Keep and Reintegrate Children into Families (ESFAM)

ChildFund received grant funding under FHI 360's USAID-funded Accelerating Strategies for Practical Innovation and Research in Economic Strengthening (ASPIRES) project to implement the Economic Strengthening to Keep and Reintegrate Children into Families (ESFAM) project.

The two-and-a-half-year project, funded by USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF), was implemented between November 2015 and June 2018, in partnership with the Women's Refugee Commission and Making Cents International in 3 districts: Gulu, Kamuli and Luwero districts. The project's goal was to test the effectiveness and cost efficiency of sequenced and overlapping economic strengthening interventions (integrated with social support services) implemented at household and child levels, to reduce the effects of key drivers of unnecessary family-child separation.

ESFAM reintegrated children in family care and prevented family-child separation and re-separation by providing household-level packages of case management and social support services.

Project achievements include:

- Reintegration of children in family care and prevention of family-child separation/ re-separation with household-level packages of case management and social support services and sequenced interventions.
- Improving children's resilience and status in their families with financial skills, business training, coaching and children's saving groups integrated with appropriate social services.
- The project contributed to the growing evidence base linking economic strengthening interventions to positive child outcomes.

Empowering Communities to Protect Children Project

Funded by the Korean Government, Empowering Communities to Protect Children was a 3-year project (July 2018 – August 2020), that worked through strengthening community structures to protect children from abuse and violence. The project was implemented in two sub-counties - Matidi and Lagoro in Kitgum District, reaching over 3,000 children directly and over 10,000 indirectly. The project worked directly with 10 primary schools, 5 in each sub-county.

Strengthening Child Protection at national, regional, and communal level in northern Uganda Project

ChildFund received funding from the Government of Germany (BMZ) to implement the 2-year project (August 2016-December 2018) in Gulu and Dokolo districts. The project aimed at promoting child well-being and reducing violence against children by supporting effective and functional community-led protection mechanisms. This project complemented previous and ongoing efforts by ChildFund, the government and other agencies that were working to strengthen child protection systems in the region.

10,000

children in Kitgum District supported through community child protection systems.

Community-led Child Protection Project

This project was implemented by ChildFund in Kitgum and Agago districts between July 2014 and June 2017. The project aimed to promote child well-being and reduce violence against children by supporting the effectiveness and functionality of community-led protection mechanisms. The aim empowered duty bearers, caregivers and children; strengthened existing formal and informal systems to work towards preventing and providing response services to violations against children through a strengthened referral system; and improved linkages to address gaps of ineffective implementation of child protection policies and laws, and provide support to survivors of abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Communities Caring for Children Project

ChildFund with funding from IrishAid implemented the regional Communities Caring for Children program (CCCP) in three African countries: Ethiopia, Uganda, and Mozambique. The project reached preschool children and their caregivers with a holistic package of interventions that promoted early childhood health, stimulation, and psycho-social development. The project outcomes included:

- Improved quality of ECD services.
- Strengthened community structures for childcare, protection, and case management; and
- Improved culture of learning and knowledge management of successful ECD approaches and practices.

Child-centered response to the crisis in Northern Uganda

During the widespread violence in Northern Uganda associated with civil unrest and rebel group insurgency, ChildFund established Child-Centered Spaces (CCS). These spaces provided children with a safe space to play and re-establish a sense of normalcy while receiving psychosocial support services. CCSs provide a platform for restarting or building formal education and play a key role in educating children about risks such as disease, hygiene, and trafficking. The CCSs provide additional psychosocial activities by training teachers on how to support disaster-affected children, building capacities of education ministries and community groups to support children and teachers and training parents on positive parenting and psychosocial support for children.

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Donors and Partners

ChildFund has developed and nurtured strategic partnerships to achieve set targets and leverage resources to maximize impact, minimize duplication of efforts, improve knowledge sharing, and advocate for the protection of children. Partners include line ministries like the Ministry of Gender and Social development, networks and coalitions, including The Child Protection in Crisis Network, Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), The National Child Protection Working Group, AfriChild Center and Joining Forces Coalition. All these actors work towards contributing to ending violence against children in Uganda.

ChildFund Alliance

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