ChildFund Uganda

CAPACITY STATEMENT

# DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE




www.childfund.org



## Overview

**ChildFund has contributed to building the resilience of children, families, and communities affected by crisis and disaster through various programs, including protection and engaging vulnerable populations in practicing environmentally friendly, disaster-resilient, and climate-smart sustainable livelihoods.**

Uganda is a highly disaster-prone country exposed to all types of natural hazards, such as floods, droughts, landslides, and hailstorms in addition to disease outbreaks including COVID-19, Ebola Virus Disease, Cholera, and sudden refugee influxes. As such, basic social and economic services are over-stretched and compromise the quality of services for both refugees and host communities, posing additional threats to children's well-being and viciously exposing communities to vulnerabilities.

Over time, ChildFund has contributed to building the resilience of children, families, and communities affected by crisis and disaster through various programs, including protection and engaging vulnerable populations in practicing environmentally friendly, disaster-resilient, and climate-smart sustainable livelihoods. ChildFund works alongside government and NGOs to strengthen the capacity of disaster management committee members to provide effective action to prevent and mitigate the negative effects of disasters and ensure timely and appropriate provision of the most needed humanitarian assistance to children, families, and communities in disaster-prone areas.

**Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness and Response**

## Our Programming Approach

**To improve the resilience of adolescent girls, women, men, and children affected by disasters, ChildFund works towards strengthening district, sub-county, and community structures in disaster-prone program communities, and ensuring that core programs are gender and disability-inclusive and responsive.**

### Multi-Sectoral Approach

ChildFund believes that effective disaster and emergency preparedness and management depends on multi-sectoral planning and programming. Hence a participatory approach for assessing disaster risk analysis is done together with a selected district-level team to determine the community's vulnerability. A plan of action is then drawn and undertaken at all levels; from the national to the village level to enable communities to be always prepared for disasters.

### Community Participation

ChildFund works with community focal point persons who share knowledge and resources on the possibility, triggers, and effects of disasters. They participate in decision-making on matters that affect their lives and are called upon to prepare for and respond to disasters. ChildFund works with local governments at all district levels to provide appropriate mechanisms and space for participation in all disaster preparedness and management processes.

### Community Awareness and Education

For inclusive participation of communities in disaster planning and management, ChildFund equips the District DRR Structure with updated knowledge and information on the likelihood of disasters and the appropriate ways of responding to them. Occasionally, ChildFund supports community leaders and other stakeholders to create awareness of DRR through different platforms, including traditional and social media.

### Capacity Strengthening

ChildFund continually reviews and updates the capacity of Local Government DRR structures to cope with disasters at the community level in terms of equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to undertake Disaster Preparedness and Management.

### Vulnerability Analysis

ChildFund conducts regular mapping of vulnerability and susceptibility of communities to have accurate information for disaster preparedness and management.

Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness and Response



# Projects Portfolio

**Over the years, ChildFund has implemented several humanitarian and development assistance interventions for disaster and emergency response. These include:**

## Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE)

Through the Building Resilience and Protection Systems Project (BRePs), ChildFund in partnership with The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), works with government, NGOs and UN agencies to:

- strengthen case management services through capacity development, enhanced identification, prioritization, and referral of children at risk;
- enhance the provision of alternative care arrangements (family-based foster care) for unaccompanied children and train foster parents on positive parenting and providing them with livelihood support;
- strengthen child protection coordination through regular meetings of Child Protection Sub-Working Groups in settlements and at the national level;
- strengthen child protection community structures through training, mentoring and support to identify, monitor, and refer children for case management services;
- provide children with spaces for playing, socializing, and building resilience by establishing child-friendly spaces and providing ECD services;
- strengthen psychosocial and mental health services for children identified as having psychosocial distress and conduct awareness raising through dialogue sessions, media campaigns and advocacy.



## Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response in emergencies

Under the BRePs project,ChildFund collaborates with UN agencies, the Office of the Prime Minister, and other CSOs to implement the Start Awareness and Support Action (SASA) approach (by raising voices) and capacity enhancement of the existing structures to lead SASA campaigns in the community. This is done to change community attitudes, norms, and behaviors around gender, violence, and the risk of and vulnerability among girls and women. In addition, ChildFund applies the male engagement strategy by working with boys and men to prevent gender-based violence.

## Stopping transmission of COVID-19

At the onset of COVID-19, ChildFund prioritized interventions aimed at cubbing the spread of the virus. Thus, multi-channel mechanisms of community

mobilization, raising awareness, and distribution of messages and supplies were adopted.

This involved use of mass media through radio and drama series, community sensitization and door-to-door campaigns. In addition, ChildFund supported community volunteers such as Village Health Teams (VHT) and Child Protection Committees with assorted IEC materials and tools (job aids, booklets, and posters with prevention messages) to mitigate the spread of the virus.

ChildFund also distributed assorted supplies such as face masks, hand sanitizers, and IEC materials to communities and hotspot areas.



## Early Childhood Development

Over the years, ChildFund has supported ECD interventions both at home and early learning centers across the country, with over 80 ECD centers being supported.

As part of the COVID-19 response, ChildFund and its implementing partners worked closely to ensure that children continued to be stimulated and learnt even when early learning centers remained closed. Parents were supported to keep children in good health through cash transfers, income-generating activities, supporting community systems to protect children from violence, and ensuring that children and families are protected from COVID-19 infections.

With the government's uncertainty on the re-opening of the early learning centers at the time, ChildFund partnered with the LEGO Foundation to implement interventions to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on children less than 8 years of age.

The project focuses on providing parents and children with strategies on playful parenting and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Hybrid approaches including contextualization, development, and broadcast of culturally relevant radio spots that enhance existing indigenous knowledge and practices on child stimulation and learning.

## Building Resilient Livelihoods

Amuria, Dokolo, Katakwi, and Serere districts in north-eastern Uganda have active hazardous environments that routinely result in disasters. Endemic hazards include floods, drought, food insecurity, environmental degradation, and bush fires. Increasingly, these hazards are due to both climatic changes and harmful human activity such as charcoal burning, wetland reclamation and brick making.

ChildFund with support from BMZ is supporting youth in these districts with incentives to adopt sustainable land management and climate-smart agriculture practices.

The project targets 800 farming households and 400 youths. The project is also training DRM structures to effectively engage communities to implement DRM preparedness activities. Under the same project, 400 youth are being trained in demand-driven basic and technical skills to obtain enhanced ability and opportunities for employability.







## Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness and Response

Through previous partnerships with AuSAID and other stakeholders, ChildFund implemented various interventions to build household resilience for improved child wellbeing. Key achievements include:

- **300** youth trained in and practicing vocational skills.
- **1,311** caregiver and youth groups trained in selected agricultural / livestock production and equipped with crop and livestock inputs based on their enterprise selection.
- **110** VSLA kits procured for 2,151 VSLA group members;
- **1,311** caregivers and youths trained in Disaster Risk Reduction.
- **2,151** youth and caregivers trained in micro-enterprise development and earning from their enterprises.

**Consequently, 80% of the supported youth and caregivers ably accessed credit from VSLAs by the end line period; 99% of youth and caregivers engaged in crop farming and 89% of them in livestock farming reported increased productivity and sales up to 115.2% and 83% of businesses initiated by youths and caregivers survived after initiation phase lived to 1 year and beyond. Ultimately, this project contributed to building sustainable livelihoods and resilience to climate change.**

## Donors and Partners

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

KOICA Korea International Cooperation Agency

The LEGO Foundation

Australian Aid

ChildFund Alliance




ChildFund Uganda

ChildFund Uganda
Plot 71/72 Namirembe Road
P. O . Box 3341, Kampala
256-414 345 353 +256 393 260 069/70
LinkedIn: ChildFund Uganda
Facebook: ChildFund Uganda
Twitter: @ChildFundUganda
**www.childfund.org**