ChildFund Uganda

CAPACITY STATEMENT

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



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ChildFund has been working closely with the Ministry of Health at the national and subnational partners to support the development of policies, tools, and guidelines for scaling up community-based health and nutrition interventions.

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.

Our health programs comprise maternal, newborn and child health, including nutrition, prevention, support, and linkage to care for persons living with/affected by HIV/AIDS, adolescent health and mental health, and psychosocial support as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). For over four decades, ChildFund has been working closely with the Ministry of Health at the national and subnational partners to support the development of policies, tools, and guidelines for scaling up community-based health interventions.

Health and Nutrition

Our Programming Approach

ChildFund's approach to sustainably improving the health for children, youth and their families' focuses on 3 core elements:

Strengthening National and District Health Systems

ChildFund engages in the development of national health policies and service systems. We actively participate in working groups and task forces under the Ministry of Health, serving as a critical link between the service delivery system and end-users. ChildFund staff at the community level also have established relationships with their District health departments sharing resources and learning between communities and the Ministry of Health. ChildFund is also engaged in capacity assessments, and capacity strengthening activities for district level managers and operational level professional health workers.

Strengthening Community Health Systems

ChildFund leverages its long-term presence in communities to develop sustainable health networks that increase service access and utilization. Working with children, youth, parents, and caregivers – our programs raise awareness and understanding of the importance of child and maternal health and how to prevent common deadly illnesses. Through local change agents, we foster positive behaviors and practices and increase demand for services while engaging with healthcare providers to ensure services are available, relevant, and culturally acceptable. Where formal healthcare service providers are not adequately available, community systems are established to extend the reach of scarce health services through trained volunteers.

Strengthening Linkages between Facility-based and Community Health Systems

We build and strengthen community health management systems that leverage existing systems and emphasize the inclusion of underserved populations. Our programs focus on establishing strong linkages between supply and demand aspects of quality healthcare through strengthening the capacity of community representatives to engage in healthcare needs identification, planning and monitoring of health service provision at both health facilities and community levels.

Health and Nutrition

Projects Portfolio



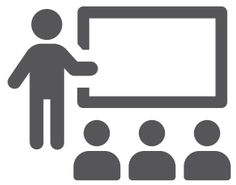
6 million
children countrywide reached with vitamin A and deworming.

Vitamin A Supplementation Project

In 2022, with funding worth USD 2,225,330 from Nutrition International Canada, ChildFund supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to ensure that two-dose of Vitamin A supplementation takes coverage above 66% countrywide. The project that ran from November 2021 to September 2022 was intended to reduce the risk of infant mortality, morbidity, and malnutrition among children under 5 years. The project's main objective was to strengthen high-impact interventions for child survival, development, and well-being of children and women of reproductive age by ensuring that:

- The Ministry of Health rolls out a Vitamin A supplementation campaign to reach at least 80% of children from 6 to 59 months of age and postpartum mothers across the country and
- ChildFund ensures that funds are used effectively and efficiently to support the MoH to roll out the Vitamin A supplementation campaign.

The project reached over 6 million children countrywide with vitamin A and deworming.



District Health Management Teams equipped with knowledge and skills to reduce child illness and death due to malaria, acute lower respiratory infections and diarrhea.

Community and District Empowerment for Scale-Up (CODES)

With funding from UNICEF, ChildFund implemented a USD 4M program from 2011 to 2016 to reduce child illness and death due to malaria, acute lower respiratory infections and diarrhea. UNICEF sub-contracted ChildFund as the prime recipient of the project supported by the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Makerere University School of Public Health and Karolinska Institute.

The project was implemented in collaboration with District Local Governments with oversight from the Ministry of Health. The project identified bottlenecks that prevent the achievement of interventions for malaria, diarrhea, and ARI. Findings from evidenced-based, locally gathered data advised the District Health Management Teams (DHMT) on cost-effective strategies to achieve higher coverage rates. Project staff trained district health teams to utilize Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) methodology to identify and prioritize allocation of resources to address diseases with the highest burden.

After completing the LQAS data sampling activity in each district, leadership teams were equipped with knowledge and skills to use bottleneck analysis tools to prioritize key health systems hindrances to quality coverage of known effective interventions. Because of these workout sessions, district health teams incorporated their findings in the District Health Sector Annual Plans for FY 2012-13.

Improving Care for Children Affected and Infected by HIV

With funding from Korea International Corporation Agency (KOICA), ChildFund implemented a USD 2.1M, 3-year (2010-2013) HIV care and treatment program for children living in Busia, Kiryandongo, Agago and Kitgum. In partnership with Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation-Uganda, the project increased access to HIV and PMTCT services by enhancing rural health outreach services and linking targeted capacity strengthening efforts for primary caregivers, community resource persons (village health teams) and health care providers. Through community-led interventions, the project increased care and pediatric services and strengthened capacities of health facilities to provide comprehensive family HIV & AIDS care services.

Project achievements:

- Enhanced community capacity to support families and children living with HIV;
- Enhanced capacity of health system to provide high quality pediatric HIV and PMTCT services;
- Expanded community and facility linkages to improve service access and utilization.

In total, 38,779 pregnant women and over 14,000 HIV & AIDS-affected children received direct support through project activities. By the fourth year of project implementation, uptake of PMTCT services by pregnant women increased with 90% of HIV pregnant women returning to health facilities after a positive test to deliver. Male partner involvement in PMTCT increased from 15% to 89% in project-supported health facilities. The number of children enrolled in HIV care and treatment increased by 49%.



38,779 pregnant women and over 14,000 HIV & AIDS-affected children directly supported.



from 15% to 89% increase in male partner involvement in PMTCT in project-supported health facilities.



49% increase in the number of children enrolled in HIV care and treatment.



Health and Nutrition

Maternal and Child Well-Being Project (2011 - 2014)

With funding from ChildFund Australia, ChildFund Uganda implemented a USD 700,000 program to strengthen existing district health care systems focusing on MCH service provision at health facility and community level for vulnerable groups because of inadequate and limited access of MCH services.

Project achievements include:

- 20 Community Health Workers (CHW) trained in specialist healthcare including maternal health, pediatric healthcare, and youth-friendly healthcare especially for girls, Preventing Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, and pediatric HIV and AIDS Management.
- Strengthened community and health systems structures by equipping four health centers with 200 birthing kits for mothers, 98 health kits for Village Health Teams, testing kits for Early Infant Diagnosis Units and health awareness materials.
- The ability of the project implementers to integrate physical health, psychological and social well-being of mothers, adolescents and children paved a way for provision of a more holistic package. As a result, health education and outreach to communities with 64 health awareness sessions, 170 village meetings and 490 home visits were completed; 4,320 children were immunized, 3,000 adolescents were reached with ARH information; and 200 children were provided with psychological and social support.

Strengthening Community Efforts for Care and Support to Children and Youth Affected by HIV/AIDS in Gulu District (2015 - 2016)

The project focused on the reduction of HIV-exposed babies lost to follow–up after enrollment into the eMTCT program. The approach applied was peer-to-peer psychosocial support through family support groups, ensuring mothers continue to adhere to their HIV treatment regimens.

An economic strengthening approach was applied using VSLA methodology and income generation support to family support groups to enable them to meet the costs of transport to keep their children on the eMTCT program and meet other medical needs. To further improve access to services, we conducted community outreaches providing HIV testing, immunization, family planning, and antenatal and postnatal care. The project strengthened the structure of village health teams in integrated community case management focusing on malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea.

Malaria Elimination Project in Kiboga District (2015 - 2016)

This research project tested the assumption that when a community is tested for malaria and the positive cases are given malarial drugs over a period, malaria prevalence can significantly reduce and be eliminated. The project approach was done through training village health teams and district local government laboratory staff in rapid diagnostic testing and blood smear examination respectively. Village health team members visited households and tested participants for malaria using RDTs, and those found to be positive were given antimalarial medicines.

Improving Access to Safe Drinking Water (2015 to date)

With funding from Procter and Gamble, ChildFund implements projects to increase access to safe drinking water in Kyankwanzi and Wakiso districts.

Through a network of over 200 community health volunteers, households are sensitized on proper hygiene and sanitation practices and are provided with water purification tablets. In addition, ChildFund conducts sanitation campaigns targeting entire communities.

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH)

ChildFund supports parents and families to meet the evolving health needs of children as they grow and transition into adolescence and young adulthood; provides adolescents and youth access to information about sexual and reproductive health to protect themselves and safeguard their futures and hence reduce early pregnancy and prevent the transmission of diseases. This is done through the delivery of ChildFund's Loving and Taking Care of Myself and Girls' Adolescent and Reproductive Rights Information for Management and Action (GARIMA) program models. Both program models also engage parents to improve how they communicate with their children on issues related to sexual and reproductive health.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Mental health conditions account for 16% of the global burden of disease and injury in people aged 10–19 years. Interpersonal violence is a leading cause of death in adolescents and young people. Violence during adolescence increases the risks of injury, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, mental health problems, early pregnancy, reproductive health problems, and communicable and non-communicable diseases. Given the importance of mental health for adolescents and young people, ChildFund builds socioemotional skills in children and adolescents and provide them with psychosocial support that can promote good mental health and overall well-being.

Safe Motherhood project (2014 - 2016)

This project, implemented in Kiryandongo District, addressed barriers to information and health services among adolescents. The project strengthened community outreach to engage adolescents and used peer educators as mobilization agents in the uptake of adolescent sexual and reproductive services. The project team closely collaborated with the health facility staff to create a youth-friendly service environment, building the capacity of youth peer educators to disseminate messages on HIV prevention, sexually transmitted infections, and family planning messages. The project also strengthened the uptake of health services through community referral system using community managed motorcycle ambulances.

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Donors and Partners











ChildFund Uganda

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