

Sustainable Livelihoods

THE CHALLENGE

Young people make up a huge proportion of the world's population. Roughly 1.8 billion people are between the ages of 10 and 24¹, and the challenges they face today are stark: In 2020, more than 1 in five young people worldwide aged 15-24 was not employed², in job training or in school, and this has only worsened since the COVID-19 pandemic. Two out of three of these were young women. By 2030, it's estimated that 250 million children will be out of school, and an additional 825 million children³ will not obtain the basic secondary-level skills necessary to support continued learning, productive employment and civic engagement.

CHILDFUND'S SOLUTION

Our Approach

ChildFund's livelihood programming focuses broadly on youth work and entrepreneurial skills, employability and work readiness. Many of our programs also overlap with youth participation programming and adolescent sexual and reproductive health so we are able to holistically support youth through this life stage, properly preparing them not only for work, but for being able to stay employed, continue their education and remain safe and healthy.

Community-based Solutions

The private sector is critical for youth economic opportunity creation through internships, mentorships, and apprenticeships. We also aim to support collaborations between industries and educational institutions to ensure that young people receive demand-driven skills. We also focus our programming on equipping youth to find jobs that pay a living wage in a non-exploitative environment.

To support sustainable livelihoods, local partners support youth and their families to create economic security and build self-sufficiency through small business development training, startup funding, tools and education. ChildFund's Village Savings and Loans groups help older teens and young adults save together, access small loans, receive financial education, and provide social support. In rural areas, they may also offer agricultural assistance to boost productivity.

U.S. Advocacy Initiatives

A Generation at Stake⁴ is an effort put forth by ChildFund and other like-minded organizations to urge the U.S. government to holistically consider children's and youth's needs – including their economic wellbeing – in foreign assistance funding.

1 <https://agenerationatstake.org/>

2 <https://thrive-coalition.org>

3 <https://thrive-coalition.org/global-child-thrive-act>

4 <https://agenerationatstake.org/>

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Core Outcomes

The Results Framework outlines how our programming produces positive outcomes for Sustainable Livelihoods



Evidence Snapshot

Adolescent Confident in Thinking, Valued in Life and Empowered (ACTIVE)⁵,

Indonesia, 2017-2020: Empowered adolescents (ages 12 to 15) with critical life skills as well as financial and social skills to be confident and active participants in their community. Primary intervention strategies included information sharing, communication, and training through workshops. ACTIVE reached 2,427 adolescents/youth, 300 caregivers, 120 teachers, 120 other community members, and at the end of the project, participants showed improved social skills, enhanced life skills and increased financial skills.



After participating in an ACTIVE session every week, the children are more enthusiastic about going to school, more confident in expressing their opinions, confident in being involved in social and financial activities in the village especially at the Market Day... Children who were shy and did not recognize their talents, nowadays, they are able to show their talents at the art performance in Paswitan and get extra money for their group activities from selling their handycraft.

— ACTIVE facilitator

Our Partners and Memberships

Globally, ChildFund works through approximately 169 local partner organizations to provide services and implement programs. In addition, we partner with a multitude of public, private and corporate partners and donors, coalitions, working groups and academic institutions across all the sectors in which we work.

For Sustainable Livelihoods, some of these include:

- [The Alliance for International Youth Development](#)
- [MasterCard Foundation](#)
- [USAID](#)
- [Trading Organic](#)

Further Reading

To Learn more, visit: [ChildFund.org](#) and our [latest Impact Report](#).

⁵ <https://www.childfund.org/globalassets/uploaded-files/newcf/impact/impact-2020.pdf>