

Capacity Statement on Health Programs

ChildFund International: Organizational Background

ChildFund International USA (ChildFund) is a global non-governmental organization, incorporated and based in Virginia, USA, with over 80 years of experience.

ChildFund works throughout Asia, Africa and the Americas – including the United States – to connect children with what they need to grow up safe, healthy, educated and skilled. In 2019, ChildFund reached 13.6 million children and family members in 24 countries, including Guinea, Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Sri Lanka, India, Philippines, Indonesia.

ChildFund promotes children’s development at each stage of life to ensure infants and young children are healthy and secure, children are educated and confident and youth are skilled and involved in their communities.

In the year ending June 2020, ChildFund reported close to \$216 million in global expenditures, of which 31% were allocated to early childhood development and education programs, 20% to health, nutrition and sanitation programs, 16% to emergencies and 12% to livelihood programs. Local capacity building, gender equity and social inclusion, children and youth empowerment and community mobilization are cross-sectional topics in our programming.

ChildFund’s programs are consistent with the country’s priorities and with ChildFund’s global approaches and strategies. We work to strengthen child-focused institutions and policies by combining our programs with efforts to influence local and national leaders to prioritize the protection and well-being of children and youth.

While approximately 85% of its funding come contributions from individuals, ChildFund also receives substantial amounts of grants and contracts from the United States Government, World Bank, European Union, the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, bilateral development agencies (e.g. Korea, Australia), private foundations and corporations (e.g. Lego, Caterpillar, MasterCard, Procter and Gamble).

Local Capacity Building is at the Core of ChildFund’s Program Strategy

ChildFund is unique in that we work through local partners so our investment in communities is owned and managed by the people who live there. In its program countries, ChildFund provides capacity building services and sub-grants to locally established NGOs and community organizations (Partners). These Partners implement health, education, emergency and social development programs that are culturally relevant and delivered by trusted local stakeholders.

For each of its 240 Partners in its program countries, ChildFund conducts a yearly capacity assessment using 32 indicators related to compliance, governance, strategy, and programming. ChildFund and each Partner develop and implement an action plan to address any capacity shortcomings. ChildFund also



provides technical assistance via leading experts in their respective fields and opportunities for growth. Sub-grants to Partners are allocated using ‘Letters of Agreement’, and Partners submit annual budget and operating plans that are reviewed and approved by in-country ChildFund staff. Proper implementation is monitored using monthly program and financial reports, and any issues are addressed using .

Prioritizing Health: Ensuring Every Child Achieves Their Potential

Globally, an estimated 22% of children under age 5 suffer from stunting, with 53% and 41% of those affected living in Asia and Africa, respectively. The condition is often the result of poor nutrition in-utero and during early childhood. Access to antenatal care also remains a global challenge; an estimated 59% of pregnant women received four or more antenatal care visits in 2020, with the lowest levels of antenatal care observed in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Additionally, nearly half of all deaths among children under age 5, worldwide, are attributable to undernutrition, which also places children at greater risk of dying from common infections, increases the frequency and severity of such infections, and delays recovery. Poverty and health are closely related; without nearby healthcare facilities with trained staff, as well as access to clean water and nutritious food, people are far more susceptible to disease, malnutrition and infections. Improving children’s health is a key component of ChildFund’s work, because without good health and access to medical care, children can’t achieve their full potential.

We work to improve children’s health from several angles including maternal health, reproductive health, and prevention of infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV, and COVID-19. Malnutrition, which is common in children under the age of 5 in low- and middle-income countries, also plays an important cross-cutting role in many of our health programs, as does water, sanitation and hygiene. Ensuring a holistic approach to improving children’s health that is tailored to each stage of life means we can design more impactful interventions that have co-benefits for education, childhood development, and beyond.



Our maternal and child health programs often focus on ensuring women have access to high-quality prenatal care and adequate nutrition during pregnancy, which can be a challenge for women living in poverty. They may not have a nearby health center with trained nurses, midwives or doctors, and in some places, they may lack the nutrients necessary to deliver a healthy, full-term infant. We provide training for healthcare providers and work to scale community-based services so pregnant women can access what they need closer to home. We also deliver necessary supplies and provide health education to women on the importance of care-seeking behaviors. A 2020 initiative carried out amongst 10,000 community members in Uganda increased awareness of key healthcare practices such as exclusive breastfeeding and immunization by 29%.

Our reproductive health programs are geared toward providing young adults with the knowledge and services they need to live healthy lives and make informed decisions about their health. We also work to ensure there is community support for adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights. A 2019 assessment by ChildFund’s global monitoring and evaluation team conducted a youth perceptions and access survey on reproductive health services. It was determined that while the majority of respondents are comfortable asking questions about their sexual and reproductive health (SRH), only 34% of respondents globally—and 20% in Asia—had visited a health facility for SRH information. ChildFund is working to

increase this number through innovative approaches in community-based health interventions. We're working to not only increase access to services but also decrease stigma, raise awareness for the importance of the issue, and bolster community support.

Finally, our infectious disease prevention programs address a range of dimensions including access to treatments, linkage to services, and prevention education. In 2019, ChildFund served seven high malaria burden districts in Sierra Leone. The initiative reached nearly 1,200 community health clubs with information on the importance of intermittent preventive treatment for malaria during pregnancy. Additionally, our staff and partners trained nearly 1,000 traditional birth attendants on the importance of promoting malaria prevention during pregnancy.

Introducing ChildFund Zambia



In Zambia, ChildFund works through 6 Local Partners spread across 10 districts serving approximately 800,000 children, families and community members. We implement programs in child protection, household economic strengthening, early childhood development, education, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food security, emergency response, health and nutrition, climate change and resilience building. Local community-based partners include Child Development Agencies from Mumbwa, Chibombo, Chongwe, Kafue, Luangwa and Lusaka. ChildFund Zambia's key strength lies in mobilizing communities and empowering them to play an active role in their own development efforts through community-based interventions.

ChildFund Zambia's Approach to Health Projects

Integrated approach to health interventions: ChildFund's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for all MCH efforts. It promotes the integration of health interventions that support existing programs and advance achievement of Government MCH goals. It also emphasizes strengthening health systems, including human resources for healthcare and health service delivery.

Supporting Local and community actions and solutions: ChildFund believes that lasting improvements in MCH can only be achieved through coalitions, collaboration and various forms of partnerships with a wide range of actors and stakeholders. ChildFund designs, implements and evaluates its programs in close collaboration with its strategic partners in order to ensure shared ownership and joint learning. We are committed to meeting national and international standards of quality and accountability in health by ensuring that communities have a say in planning, implementing and evaluating our responses.

Awareness and evidence-based advocacy: Overcoming the root causes of poverty and social exclusion that impact MCH means addressing the policies, norms, and barriers that vulnerable women, girls and communities face. ChildFund uses awareness raising, sensitization and advocacy dialogues with key decision makers and stakeholders to discuss barriers to access and accessibility for MCH and family planning (FP) activities. ChildFund also promotes community dialogues with women's groups and

influential community members to build knowledge about common health issues and disseminate information about where relevant services can be accessed.

Training and capacity building: ChildFund relies on partners, volunteers and community support structures who are trained on cross cutting issues that impact of health. ChildFund uses the Government's curriculum to provide refresher trainings for health extension workers (HEW) on FP, safe institutional delivery, improving access to pre- and post-natal services, breastfeeding techniques and immunization.

ChildFund Zambia - Highlighting Our Past Successes

Accelerating Towards Epidemic Control II (ATEC II): ChildFund is currently implementing a 3-year Global Fund financed project through CHAZ (2021-2023). The principle objectives are to increase knowledge and awareness of HIV risk, promote sexual behavioral change including condom use, and scale access to sexual and reproductive health services among adolescents and young girls.

Clean and Safe Drinking Water Promotion Project Phase III: With funding from Proctor and Gamble (P&G), ChildFund has been implementing a clean and safe drinking water promotion project since 2015 in 3 district in Central and Eastern Provinces. The overall goal of this project is to improve and enhance the sustainability of the health and well-being of nearly 74 thousand people through improved access to clean and safe drinking water and improved sanitation and hygiene practices. We have trained community health workers and technicians and integrated the project's activities into existing government efforts.

Advancing Partners and Communities Family Planning Project (APC): ChildFund Zambia implemented a two-year project in 2016 funded through a USAID sub-agreement from JSI. Under this award, ChildFund expanded community-based provision of FP services to Mumbwa and Shibuyunji. Education on condom and oral contraceptive use were scaled to 20 health facilities using 55 community volunteers.

Sexual and Reproductive Health for All Initiative (SARAI): From 2015-2017, ChildFund Zambia implemented a project funded through a sub-agreement to the Society for Family Health. The project aimed to increase the modern contraceptive prevalence rate by 2% annually through increased access to and improved quality of FP services. ChildFund worked to scale injectable contraceptives and trained nearly 190 community-based distribution agents to promote their use within pilot districts.

Chibombo HIV and AIDS: ChildFund Zambia led a 2-year project (2012-2014) funded by ChildFund Deutschland to promote HIV prevention, testing and counseling services for pregnant women and orphans and vulnerable children. The project reduced the prevalence of HIV and STIs in the enrolled group and improved treatment and testing outcomes for 7,000 young people.

Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH): The Maternal Newborn and Child Health project was implemented in Chibombo, Masaiti, Nyimba and Mumbwa from 2007 to 2014 with support from IRISH AID and USAID. The integrated approach combined community mobilization through training of community-based volunteers to provide awareness raising of standard MNCH caregiving practices.

ChildFund Zambia's advantage in the CDC call

Scaling Case Detection and Linkage to Care

Using a comprehensive community-based HIV service delivery and case management system, ChildFund can support:

- Link children whose parent(s) are living with HIV to testing services.
- Support the identification of HIV infection in vulnerable populations.
- Link those who have HIV to treatment by facilitating effective and local referrals.
- Support layered and differentiated package of HIV diagnosis, treatment and support services.

- Cultivate peer support for information sharing, counselling and testing.
- Leverage existing Community Child Protection Mechanism (CBCPM) structures.

Supporting Care and Treatment Services

ChildFund can provide information and options to help women, (children and adolescents) girls and boys make an informed choice, irrespective of the treatment regimen including:

- Rapid optimization of ART to all PLHIV (adolescents and women of childbearing potential)
- Create awareness to support effective transition to other treatment (first and second line) regimens for children.

We are adept at:

- Training peer escorts and establishing community support systems to achieve a 95-95-95 target.
- Supporting ART retention using community-based methods
- Strengthening PMTCT by encouraging institutional deliveries and developing strategies to identify and screen infants who were delivered outside a health facility
- Supporting all eligible PLHIV, including children, to complete TB preventive treatment (TPT) and support its integration into the HIV treatment community processes.

Promoting HIV Prevention

ChildFund has experience:

- Facilitating HIV prevention messaging delivered through extracurricular platforms in the assigned districts, communities or schools.
- Supporting peer-led sessions and mentorship to increase acceptability of HIV and SRHR/CSE for children and adolescents.
- Scaling up sexual and reproductive health education through community groups
- Building capacity of peer educators to promote prevention best practices; and
- Introducing layered SRH and HIV services in children, adolescents and young women.

Our Income Generation Activities (IGA) support

- ChildFund builds the resilience of households to care for children and adolescents living with, and affected by HIV/AIDS through strengthening economic support groups, trainings and establishment of groups
- We support households through Community Action Groups that provide forums for PLWHIV and or caregivers with children and adolescents to come together and support one another
- We support vulnerable families with “Pass on Gifts” with the aim to strengthen resilience and food security for the families of the registered vulnerable children through the Pass on Gift Committees.
- The organization builds the capacity and skills of families to run specific production ventures, and entrepreneurship in general as well as business and marketing skills.
- We establish and strengthen Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) for households' resilience and social status to address the needs of children and adolescents.
- Through IGAs and SILC groups, we create linkages and referrals to other psychosocial and emotional building services that promotes adherence to treatment and influence case finding and management in the communities.

Health Systems and Policy strengthening

USAID - Advancing Partners and Communities Family Planning Project (APC): 2015 – 2020: (USD 967K)

- ChildFund Zambia implemented an HIV/AIDS project focusing on the introduction of FP and Contraceptives in partnership with FHI, JSI and the Ministry of Health (MoH) in 3 districts (Luangwa, Mumbwa and Shibuyunji).
- Supported policy change in FP, by training CBDs and influenced government to introduced CBDs in the distribution of Injectables.
- Established a learning site in Luangwa district and scaled FP services to Mumbwa, and Shibuyunji districts.
- Introduced and expanded method mix by adding DMPA SC and Emergency Contraceptive Pill to Community based methods.

Support to the medical supply chain including provision of essential medicines.

- ChildFund supported MoH in strengthening the supply chain by distributing 54,869 units of essential medicines valued at \$1,686,409.98.
- Strengthened the vaccine supply chain through donations to the MoH

Master Card Foundation - Zambia Nurse and Life Skills Training Project (ZNLTP): 2013 - 2020 (USD 7.5 M)

- Working in partnership with Amref and MoH, ChildFund implemented the e-learning program in all the Nurse training colleges to help the government **Match health Supply with Demand**.
- Provided lessons for health policy shift, as an alternative to government, NGOs and others interested in sustaining the HRH support and training health providers.

Contact Person:

Luis Tam

Director, Business Development

ChildFund International, Washington DC

ltam@childfund.org

ChildFund International

2821 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294, 800.762.9593, www.ChildFund.org