

**Statement of ChildFund Alliance: Annual Session of the UNICEF Executive Board
29 June 2020
Agenda Item 4: UNICEF Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Ms. President, Executive Director Fore, and Distinguished Members of the Board, I begin by offering my appreciation for the opportunity to address you today and to thank UNICEF for its leadership during these most challenging and uncertain of times.

As Secretary General of [ChildFund Alliance](#), I speak on behalf of 11 child rights and development organizations. At the onset of this pandemic, our members joined together in a unified global appeal to help children and their families in the 60+ countries where we operate.

We immediately adopted measures to ensure the well-being, protection and safety of those we serve by:

- Developing campaigns on handwashing and hygiene
- Checking that water and sanitation facilities are disease-free
- Working with partners to deliver medical supplies, masks and food, and
- Ensuring the continuity of education in the wake of school closures.

These actions are vital if we are to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, which could jeopardize decades of progress in child health in vulnerable locations. In [Papua New Guinea](#) for example, ChildFund Australia reports that due to a shortage of health facilities and staff, communities face sacrificing other life-saving health programs because of COVID-19. No country should have to decide between COVID-19 responses and other essential child health programs.

As ChildFund puts support measures in place, our field offices are actively engaging children and youth who want to help overcome challenges in their own communities.

- In Indonesia, our youth facilitators are helping to address social distancing regulations, are disseminating information on hygiene and sanitization, and are distributing masks and handwashing supplies.
- In Paraguay, global youth ambassadors helped deliver more than 1,000 food and hygiene kits.
- And, in Myanmar, youth ambassadors are visiting communities and using loud speakers to share critical instructions and to distribute cotton face masks they made.

During this unprecedented time, it is imperative we come together to protect the world's most vulnerable. We thank UNICEF, our young participants, and all partners for working tirelessly to help those in need.