

COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT #4

15 April 2020

On 11 March, The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic. As of 15 April, more than 1,956,000 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in more than 190 countries and territories, resulting in over 125,000 deaths and 471,000 recoveries.¹ The pandemic has led to global socioeconomic disruption and unprecedented action as governments and communities across the world work to reduce the transmission of the virus.

ChildFund is closely monitoring the crisis and our objective is to ensure that staff and partners are protected while minimising transmission and that already vulnerable children and families can protect themselves and their communities. The pandemic threatens children’s rights and exposes them to potentially significant disruption to their education and access to basic needs and services. This SitRep will provide an overview of the effects of COVID-19 and the pandemic on ChildFund, our people, operations and programmes.

Total Confirmed Cases				
Country	14 April ²	7 April ³	Increase	
Australia	6366	5844	522	
Cambodia	122	115	7	
Laos	19	12	7	
Myanmar	62	21	41	
PNG	2	1	1	
Timor-Leste	6	1	5	
Vietnam	1072	245	827	
Philippines	4932	3660	1272	
Solomon Islands	0	0	0	
Fiji	16	14	2	

OUR PEOPLE

Currently there are no confirmed cases among our staff. No staff are in self-isolation with quarantine periods completed this past week for two staff members. The PNG state of emergency has been extended for a further two months, but the 14-day lock down period has been eased allowing staff to return to the office. A staff rotation roster is in place with social distancing measures. The SOE remains in place for Timor Leste and a skeleton staff is in place in the office. Increased security arrangements remain in place for both countries given the heightened security risk. In Cambodia, the national assembly passed a law to place the state in emergency, which will be submitted to the Senate and King for final endorsement next week. Proactive measures to provide a supportive working from home environment include online mental health promotion and counselling; regular professional meetings; online staff meetings; personal catch ups; flexible working hours and leave arrangements. ChildFund is committed to working together so that all staff, wherever they live can successfully meet both work and family commitments during this challenging global health crisis.

OUR OPERATIONS

Eleven of our 14 office locations have working from home arrangements in place. With the easing of the lock down restrictions in PNG, staff have returned to the office with a staff rotation system in place to apply social distancing measures. Cambodia’s 3 field offices are the only locations where operations are as normal (with a limited number of staff from Kratie working from home). Country and regional offices have finalised program planning and reforecasting activities for the final quarter of FY1920, and this has been consolidated at Sydney level for ET and board review. This planning also considers transition to Covid-19 response and implications on reduced program activity.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

¹ [John Hopkins University.](#)

² [World Health Organisation, COVID-19 Situation Report – 85 \(14 April\)](#)

³ [World Health Organisation, COVID-19 Situation Report – 78 \(7April 2020\)](#)

- In the third week of March, week 13, ChildFund experienced double (254) the average number of cancellations (135) for regular giving support. The number of regular donations put *On Hold* and *Forgiven* also doubled (108). The next week (week 14) saw the cancellations rate return to slightly below average (128), however *On Hold* and *Forgive* remained high (108). Last week (Week 15) saw the cancellations drop to almost half the average (74) with *On Hold* and *Forgiven* numbers dropping to 57. Efforts to stop cancellations have increased *Holds*, strengthening the long-term position but with short term impacts.
- A global ChildFund COVID appeal will be launched, ChildFund Australia will contribute to the development of the campaign.

PROGRAMS

- Current responses in Cambodia, Laos, PNG, Timor Leste and Vietnam remains focused on the following activities: distribution of COVID-19 related IECs and hygiene supplies; (soap and sanitiser); hygiene promotion; procurement of personal protective equipment for health facilities; and continuing health outreach programs.
- As an essential service, the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain (Helpline) in PNG remains open during the declared national state of emergency to provide essential counselling support and UN Women and UNICEF have confirmed additional funding to scale up operations including support to St John's Ambulance Hotline. St Johns field a huge number of daily calls, many of which are about GBV and family matters.
- Virtual workshops are being facilitated by technical advisors for Country and Regional Office staff on COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement.
- Highlight: an as example of how projects are adapting to COVID-19 restrictions, ChildFund Pass It Back Coaches in Laos are preparing to deliver online fitness classes for young people to participate in and these will be broadcast on local partner (Lao Rugby) social media channels.

CHILDFUND ALLIANCE & CHILDFUND INTERNATIONAL

- ChildFund International (CFI) are monitoring COVID-19 rates and responses in all Country Offices they manage. ChildFund Australia supports thousands of sponsored children across Africa, India and South America.
- CFI have issued *Minimum Standards for Program Implementation During the Coronavirus Outbreak* to their Country Offices, focussed on protection and prevention of the coronavirus for children, communities and staff.
- Senior Technical Advisors in CFI continue to provide technical assistance for developing and delivering a COVID-19 response in the coming weeks, these include webinars and deep dive meetings.
- ChildFund Alliance has launched a joint appeal, instigated regular fortnightly meetings of CEO's and is coordinating joint opportunities for new COVID programming.

Total Confirmed Cases in CFI Country Offices (CFA Group One Priority only)			
Country	14 April ⁴	7 April ⁵	Increase
Kenya	208	142	66
Ethiopia	74	43	31
Zambia	45	39	6
Uganda	54	52	2
Indonesia	4557	2491	2066
India	10363	4067	6296
Sri Lanka	218	176	42

⁴ [World Health Organisation, COVID-19 Situation Report – 85 \(14 April\)](#)

⁵ [World Health Organisation, COVID-19 Situation Report – 78 \(7April 2020\)](#)

COUNTRY	OFFICE	OFFICE STATUS			
		Open, fully operational	Majority of staff WFH	All Staff WFH	Closed, non-operational
Australia	Sydney			x	
Cambodia	Phnom Penh		x		
	Kratié	x			
	Battambang	x			
	Svay Rieng	x			
Laos	Vientiane			x	
	Houaphan			x	
	Xiangkhoang			x	
Myanmar	Yangon		x		

PROGRAM OPERATIONS					UPDATE
75 - 100%	50 - 74%	25 - 49%	< 25%	0%	
		Solomon Islands, Kiribati,	Fiji		<p>8/4 All staff WFH and there is no longer a skeleton team in the office.</p> <p>14/4 Solomon Islands: State of emergency extended until 27th July. Programs activities progressing thorough remote working. Public gathering is still permitted, with certain requirements, which may enable program activities.</p> <p>In Fiji, Suva and Lautoka are still locked down which makes NGO movement very difficult. CFA partners are currently carrying-out assessments and planning for a response to TC Harold and so don't really have the capacity to focus on either COVID-19 or normal programming currently.</p>
x					<p>14/3 The national assembly passed the law to place state in emergency. And the law will be submitted to the Senate and King for final endorsement next week.</p>
x					
x					
x					
	x				<p>14/4 ChildFund has spearheaded a social media campaign with COVID-19 related IEC messaging, in consortium with 12 different INGOs.</p>
		x			
		x			
	x				<p>14/4 The number of confirmed cases doubled in one week, from 21 to 41 with 4 death cases, the majority of cases being in Yangon. ChildFund is working together with other INGOs through Child Protection WG and, is also a part of Health sector coordination groups.</p>

Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby		x							8/4 A second case of COVID has been reported. The State of Emergency has been extended for 2 months, with some easing of restrictions. On 7th April, the ChildFund office reopened following relaxed restrictions and observing limited return to work and team rotation.
Regional Office				x				Laos, Vietnam	Philippines, Timor, Cambodia	8/4 With travel restrictions now in place in all countries, work can only be done remotely through program networks. The focus has moved to support for stronger activation of networks for safeguarding.
Timor-Leste	Dili		x					x		13/4 3 new cases of COVID-19 confirmed, they were students recently returned from Indonesia. ChildFund Timor-Leste moved to a WFH arrangement from March 30th. A skeleton staff is still working from the office. ChildFund has been supporting MoH in the COVID response and we participate in the Pillar 2 taskforce (community awareness and prevention). Together with the INGO Forum ChildFund has obtained permission to go to the municipalities for COVID preparedness activities.
Vietnam	Hanoi		x							13/4
	Hao Bihn		x							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No confirmed cases in ChildFund working areas. Core agencies in the Child Rights Working Group will undertake a Rapid Assessment of the effects of COVID19 and government policies in their operational areas.
	Cao Bang		x							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government approved a package of support for approx. 20 million people. Ongoing WFH mode for all offices with the skeleton team in ChildFund offices.
	Bac Kan		x							
							x			
							x			