

ChildFund Australia Theory of Change



Theory of Change - Components

- Access to assets
- Voice, Agency and Power
- Protection
- Formal systems

Theory of Change – Access to Assets

Access to Assets

ChildFund Australia believes children, youth and adults are poor because they are deprived of key assets, including human, capital, environmental, and social assets.

- **Human assets** include individual's knowledge, education, skills, access to information and people that support people in their development such as caregivers, teachers, nurses and doctors;
- **Capital assets** refers to physical infrastructure, equipment, materials, as well as the financial services and economic opportunities needed to generate income to meet needs and build a future;
- **Environmental assets** include natural resources such as clean water and crops needed for food, income and health;
- **Social assets** refer to culture, norms, attitudes, social institutions and structures, and the networks that support and empower individuals such as friends, families and groups.

ChildFund Australia increases peoples' access to assets by providing physical infrastructure, and supporting marginalised groups such as children, youth, women, people with disability, and ethnic groups to have equitable access to existing services, resources, tools and markets. It also improves the quality of local support systems and networks. ChildFund Australia's projects seek to ensure people have the physical resources and materials they need, and works to provide access to information, knowledge and skills to develop their capacities and fulfil their potential.

Theory of Change – Voice, Agency & Power

Voice, Agency & Power

ChildFund Australia believes children and youth are poor because they lack opportunities, experience discrimination or marginalisation in their societies and are prevented from contributing to decisions which affect their lives.

Children and youth can be excluded due to power differentials in their families, communities, societies, and across nations, and experience discrimination and exclusion due to gender and sexuality, disability, minority status, language, legal status, ethnicity and other exclusion factors. They may be excluded because they lack:

- **Opportunities** – children and youth may not be given opportunities to express their views and be heard and engage in informal and formal decision making;
- **Confidence and capacity** – children and youth may not have experience in expressing themselves and may lack the confidence and ability to engage effectively;
- **Safe spaces to speak up** – children and youth, particularly minority groups, may be denied the opportunity to become involved in their communities and give their views in a safe environment, where they are listened to and respected.

ChildFund Australia helps to build the confidence, sense of self-worth and resilience of children and youth (Power within). It also sets up platforms that enable children and other community members to feed into decision-making processes and helps to provide children and youth with the information and skills they need to effectively express themselves and engage with others to bring about the changes they want to see in their lives (Power to). In some cases, it also seeks to promote collective action (Power with).

Theory of Change – Protection

Protection

ChildFund Australia believes some people are more vulnerable due to their exposure to risk from economic shocks, environmental damage, lack of legal protection, civil and political unrest, armed conflict, corruption, and displacement.

Some children, youth and women are also more vulnerable to violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation because others hold more power over them including:

- **Physical capacity** – whereby physical strength is used to harm, abuse, dominate or control others;
- **Financial capacity** – which can leave children, youth and women vulnerable to exploitation, dependency, and in unequal relationships;
- **Decision making** – some people have greater status, connections, wealth and decision-making power which can result in the rights of others being overlooked, ignored or actively violated;
- **Information** – both duty bearers and rights holders may not have access to the information they need to seek and provide protection.

ChildFund Australia seeks to reduce children, youth and adults' vulnerability to disasters through its disaster risk reduction projects and responds, directly or through partners, to help those impacted by natural or human-caused disasters. ChildFund Australia targets and works with different groups that may experience increased risks of abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation as a result of age, gender, disability or social status. It works directly with power-holders and people in positions of authority to raise awareness, promote attitudinal change and prevent abuse. It also seeks to strengthen the systems and networks in place to respond to protection issues and violations.

Theory of Change – Formal Systems

Formal Systems

ChildFund believes children, youth and adults are poor because they lack access to formal systems through which social services are delivered. Services are often:

- **Not accessible** to all, with some people experiencing barriers due to location, ethnicity and culture, language and disability;
- **Low quality** as a result of limited funds, physical, human and technical resources, and lack of training and skills development opportunities for staff;
- **Not responsive to needs** as they are not appropriately designed and delivered to respond to people's needs and circumstances.

ChildFund Australia helps to maintain and strengthen existing formal systems. It increases access to formal systems by working with government, civil society organisations and in some cases the private sector to ensure their services reach marginalised groups. It helps to improve systems by providing technical support to strengthen government policy, improve planning processes, and develop administrative and information management systems. ChildFund Australia provides training to government staff delivering social services such as Education, Health and Child Protection to improve their technical capacity to provide quality services responsive to needs.

Theory of Change - Sectors

Child Protection: strengthens prevention and response mechanisms to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect of children by working with communities, duty bearers, and service providers.

Disaster Risk Reduction: projects support vulnerable communities to reduce disaster and climatic risks and prepare for emergency responses. Areas of intervention include community based risk reduction activities; strengthening of national and sub national systems and climate adaptation and mitigation projects with a focus on agricultural and alternative livelihoods.

Education: projects aim to improve the quality of education by strengthening the capacity of teachers to improve classroom practice and learning outcomes for children. It also maintains and strengthens school governance, and promotes children and caregivers' engagement in school management.

Health: projects aim to bring about equitable access to primary health care with a focus on Maternal Child Health, Nutrition, Sexual Reproductive Health, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

Social and Emotional Learning: projects in this sector are community based and aim to increase young peoples' (aged 11-25) social and emotional skills to build better futures and act for positive change. In an increasingly fast-changing, complex and diverse world, projects aim to build the capacity of young people to adapt, be resourceful, respect and work well with others, and to take personal and collective responsibility.

Theory of Change

Levels at which ChildFund Australia works

Regional to global

Other ChildFund Country Offices
ChildFund Alliance

Subnational and national levels

With provincial and national government, CSOs, NGOs, INGOs, universities and research institutes, and as part of sector collaborations and coalitions

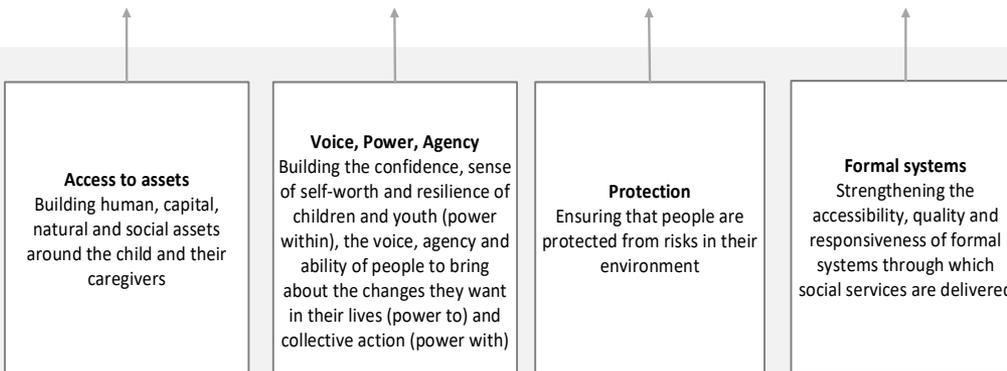
Community level

With families, community leaders and groups including children and youth groups, CBOs and service providers, and village and district level government

Assessing whether and how ChildFund Australia's projects contribute to sector outcomes



Assessment and learning about the effectiveness of positioning & partnerships



Testing and learning of ChildFund Australia's Theory of Change and themes addressed through projects

Common approaches to creating change

Regional to global

- Regional and global advocacy
- Regional sector-based campaigns and programs

Subnational & national levels

- Capacity building of provincial government staff
- Systems strengthening
- Contributing to national policy development
- Advocating to government for wider adoption of successful models for replication implemented at the community level

Community level

- Community based infrastructure
- Awareness raising and capacity building of community members
- Strengthening local networks and referral systems
- Organisational capacity development of CSOs
- Capacity building of people delivering frontline services