Together with Children

Creating sustainable solutions that advance and protect their rights and well-being
ChildFund Alliance

ChildFund Alliance is a global network of 11 child-focused development and humanitarian organizations reaching nearly 36 million children and family members in 70 countries.

Members work to end violence and exploitation against children; provide expertise in emergencies and disasters to ease the harmful impact on children and their communities; and engage children, families and communities to create lasting change.

With 80 years of collective experience, and an annual investment in children of more than US$580 million, our commitment, resources, innovation and expertise serve as a powerful force to help children and families around the world transform their lives.

ChildFund Alliance is a global network of 11 child-focused development and humanitarian organizations reaching nearly 36 million children and family members in 70 countries.

OUR VISION
A world in which all children enjoy their rights and achieve their full potential.

OUR MISSION
Together with children, we create sustainable solutions that protect and advance their rights and well-being.

HOW WE WORK
ChildFund Alliance members agree to work together as one to better help children and their families.

Dignity and worth of every child: We facilitate the creation of a safe environment that promotes the dignity and worth of each child, regardless of ethnicity, race, color, language, religion, opinion, gender, origins, birth status, ability, or membership in a particular group.

Children’s right to participate: Supporting children’s participation is a key aspect of ChildFund Alliance’s work. Children must be able to hold duty bearers, including government, accountable to their commitments. They also must be able to contribute toward identifying solutions to problems directly affecting their lives. To meet this goal, the Alliance developed the Child-friendly Accountability Initiative in 2018. Using a specially designed methodology, children use their voice to identify problems and solutions through informed dialogue with decision-makers about issues of concern to them.

Empowerment: We support children in developing capacities for self-protection and to advocate for issues that directly affect them.

Respect for children's rights: We uphold the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and promote the four core principles of the Convention: non-discrimination; best interest of the child; right to life, survival and development; and respect for views of the child.
We work with local partner organizations, governments, corporations and individuals to help create the safe environments children need to thrive, and the participation of children themselves is a key component of our approach.

The majority of staff who lead our work in developing countries are nationals with in-depth knowledge of the local operating environment and personal understanding of the issues facing their communities.

Member organizations undertake strategic actions to influence public policy and to leverage their collective voice with and on behalf of children. The Alliance advocates for changes at the local, national, regional and international levels, including with member states and agencies of the United Nations and the European Union.

We work to improve the lives of children, to recognize and support children’s rights, and to invest humanitarian and development aid in projects designed to protect and empower them. Our advocacy is based on evidence from our work at the field level in the 70 countries in which we operate.

Through our efforts, ChildFund Alliance harnesses the strength and creativity of children and young people to help them improve their lives and change the world.

Since 1938, ChildFund members have provided access to nutrition, health care, education, and life skills to children, their families, and communities around the globe.

Our Members

ChildFund Alliance is committed to creating measurable change for children by building upon our collective expertise to end violence against children and to collaborate with partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

ChildFund’s work is carried out within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as identified in Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and targets aim to realize the human rights of all, and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The work of the Alliance and its members aligns with many of the SDGs and related targets. In particular, SDG Goals 1, 2, 3 and 13 are closely aligned with our vision and mission for a world in which all children enjoy and advance their rights and well-being, and achieve their full potential.

Also closely aligned are the SDG targets focused on ending poverty in all forms; inclusive and safe education; eliminating all harmful practices and forms of violence against women and girls; eradicating child labor; and combating climate change and its impacts.

Under the umbrella of our ending violence against children (EVAC) work, ChildFund Alliance played a key role in securing SDG target 16.2 calling to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.”

This work is a focal point of our current strategic plan, Working Together to Address Emerging Threats to Children’s Safety, in which we reassert our longstanding commitment to EVAC.

ChildFund Alliance members operate programs in 70 countries and have headquarter offices in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and USA.
Governance

Though united as a global network, each ChildFund member retains its own distinct identity and is governed by a national board of directors. The Alliance holds members accountable to global standards of the highest levels of quality, transparency, and integrity in programming, child safeguarding, finances, fundraising, and governance.

Our members’ commitment and collective knowledge and expertise are a powerful force to elevate the voices of children. The Alliance has a Secretariat team located in New York City and a Europe Office with staff located in Brussels.

The Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day operations and represents Alliance members at the United Nations in New York and before the European Union in Brussels. A board of directors provides the legal and fiduciary oversight and overall leadership responsibility for the Alliance, while a CEO Forum is the strategic leadership team, working with the Secretariat to ensure implementation of key goals and strategies.

Various working groups such as the Advocacy Task Force, Alliance Program Committee, the Humanitarian Action Working Group, and the Communications and Marketing Committee provide leadership and technical support on key Alliance-wide activities.

Each ChildFund Alliance member undergoes an annual independent audit to assess its overall fiscal health. Binder Dijker Otte (BDO), an international public accounting firm, conducts ChildFund’s annual audit and has reported clean audits to date.

Our members benefit from the ability to harness the collective experience, influence, reach, and resources of leading child development organizations. Our combined strength enables us to create large-scale initiatives with sustainable impact on children and families.

ChildFund Alliance member organizations are part of a broader global network of child-focused agencies (CFAs) and civil society organizations that collaborate to ensure child rights remain a part of the global agenda and discussions on human rights issues. We work together to strengthen platforms that hold governments accountable, to increase the participation of children in decisions that affect them, and to share innovative and effective approaches driven by the voices and needs of children. We are one of the six largest CFAs that form the global alliance Joining Forces For All Children.

Within the Secretariat in New York, our Secretary General (SG), United Nations Representative (UN Rep), and Senior Advisor for Advocacy and Policy represent our members with key stakeholders in child rights organizations and within the UN community in New York. The SG, UN Rep, and Senior Advisor work closely with UNICEF and other CFAs to advance the shared priorities of our members. Our Senior Advisor oversees the Alliance’s global advocacy work, including the children’s online safety campaign, WEB Safe & Wise.

The Secretariat’s Senior Advisor for Humanitarian Affairs supports the Alliance’s humanitarian action work with a focus on child protection in emergencies as a result of conflicts and natural disasters. This work is strategically important given one out of four children are impacted by crises.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” – African proverb

ChildFund Alliance members are committed to preventing violence against children at all levels, and to helping children to meaningfully participate in decisions related to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Secretariat in Brussels, our Europe Office (EO), established in 2014, works to strengthen cooperation with European Union institutions. The office advocates with key EU institutions on policies, programs and funding opportunities to promote children’s rights. The EO team also provides guidance on strategy to the CEO Forum and board.
Strategic Plan

Working Together to Address Emerging Threats to Children’s Safety

For more than 80 years the members of ChildFund Alliance have helped children overcome poverty and the underlying conditions that prevent them from achieving their full potential.

We have been united in being a global voice with and for children to highlight issues most affecting their lives and to mobilize effectively to address threats to their safety and well-being.

Following the global COVID-19 health pandemic that devastated the world’s most vulnerable populations, our members committed to a new four-year strategic plan to ensure children are guaranteed their rights and can live a life free from violence and poverty. As outlined in our Fiscal Year 2022-2025 plan, our efforts focus on:

- Protecting Children from Emerging Threats: Strengthen our long-standing commitment to end violence against children and positively impact their lives by tackling threats that are projected to significantly impact them in the future.
- Working Together as One: Operate according to eight principles that inspire us, keep us aligned, and guide our collective decision making to better address the challenges facing children and young people today.
- Building Partnerships for Sustainable Impact & Growth: Develop increased cooperative efforts across the Alliance to create new, long-term partnerships with those who share our determination to create a safer future for children.

Our goal is to leverage expertise across our members to address online threats and provide children with essential tools to navigate the digital world wisely and safely.

1. Protecting Children from Emerging Threats

The right of children to protection from violence is enshrined in the CRC, yet one billion children still experience some form of emotional, physical or sexual violence every year. In the digital environment, the world has seen an alarming increase in threats to children ranging from sexual exploitation and abuse, to grooming, and child sex trafficking. Nine in 10 victims are between the ages of 3 and 12 years.

The number of children participating online has grown exponentially, with more than 175,000 children going online for the first time each day across the globe.

At the same time, there are an estimated 750,000 individuals looking to connect with children for sexual purposes at any one time. Experts point to an alarming increase in this threat during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to increased social isolation and unstructured time online.

In 2022, ChildFund Alliance launched WEB Safe & Wise: Creating a better digital world with children to address this emerging risk. WEB Safe & Wise has two goals: to strengthen laws and policies to protect children from online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and for children to be equipped with the skills and knowledge to safely navigate the internet. Legislation to address the issue of child exploitation and abuse exists, but it is often fragmented, unenforced, or does not cover online occurrences of such crimes, leaving children vulnerable to significant risks. Conversely, children use technology to socialize, communicate, learn, and play – all of which are essential to their well-being and development.

ChildFund seeks global policy action to improve protections, and support digital skills development and citizenship. Our WEB Safe & Wise resources include videos and a microsite with tools for young people and adults.

These include do’s and don’ts when engaging online, a helpful guide on talking to young people about online safety, and key definitions that will help children, parents, caregivers, educators, and other adults understand the many risks to children online.

Our Members in Action page highlights on how ChildFund Alliance members and country offices are actively implementing WEB Safe & Wise.

Members of the WEB Safe & Wise Children’s Advisory Council share their thoughts on the importance of WEB Safe & Wise resources, with one member saying: “WEB Safe & Wise is a incredible tool to help me and my peers stay safe online.”

A Children’s Advisory Council with youth members from across the globe plays a key role in determining how we develop and implement campaign activities. Our Council members ensure young people across borders and continents have a voice through their commitment to help their own peers learn to stay safe online.
2. Working Together as One

Whether advocating for children or delivering services and programmatic activities, our voice and actions are amplified exponentially when we stand united. Alliance members adhere to eight guiding principles designed to build on our lifesaving work for children. These principles inspire us, keep us aligned, and guide our collective decision making so we can achieve increased impact.

1. Focus on the rights and safety of children first: we partner with children, and prioritize their protection from all forms of violence, while elevating their voices and promoting their development, well-being and participation; as evidenced by our collective missions that emphasize inclusivity of all children, their families and their communities.

2. Commit to transparency and responsiveness in our work with each other, and with others: as evidenced by all members conforming with independently audited shared standards, policies and codes of conduct, and accountability to those we serve, our donors, and stakeholders.

3. Leverage our global network to tackle the challenges facing children today: as evidenced by advocating for and with children at family, local, national, and global levels, and we work towards building a world that is safe for children.

4. Respect and listen to our staff and implementing partners, embracing the knowledge gained through diversity: as evidenced by empowering people to make and own decisions so they can more effectively and efficiently deliver impact to children.

5. Grow through experimentation and learning: as evidenced by sharing our best practices, lessons learned, and insights from evidenced-based programs through inter-member working groups.

6. Respect individual identity: and over and above this, we see our combined greater strength when working together as one, as evidenced by honoring consistent messaging and brand guidelines for ChildFund.

7. Care deeply for the earth and how its health impacts children and future generations, as evidenced by programs and shared standards that care for the environment and mitigate against harm.

8. Drive collaboration over purely independent operating models, as evidenced by increasing bilateral and multilateral initiatives amongst members.

3. Building Partnerships for Sustainable Impact and Growth

Through our third strategic priority, ChildFund aims to develop increased cooperative efforts across the Alliance and with external partners. This priority reflects our conviction that strong partnerships and sound financial health are essential to strengthen our efforts to ensure children enjoy their rights and achieve their full potential.

ChildFund members engage and collaborate with public and private sector entities that share or support our values and goals to achieve maximum impact for children in alignment with our mission to create a safer future for children. We also seek efforts that increase and maximize resources for programs focused on addressing emerging threats to children’s safety.

By leveraging our collective strength, and the strength of our partners and collaborators, ChildFund Alliance will continue to provide a voice with and for children, to highlight the issues children care about, and to mobilize effectively to address threats to their lives, safety and well-being.

ChildFund Alliance is a member of the following coalitions:
Changing the world is a team effort

ChildFund Australia manages and implements programs in the Mekong and the Pacific while supporting projects delivered by partner organizations throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Work is funded through public donations and government grants. Flagship programs include Swipe Safe, which teaches children to safely navigate the online world. Sport for Development, through the power of sport, creates more inclusive communities for children and young people and supports them with essential social and emotional skills and knowledge to realize their potential.

ChildFund Deutschland is a child protection organization working to improve the future opportunities of children in need, their families, and their entire environment on an international scale since 1978. Aid and development projects are financed by private and institutional donations and focus on child protection, education, food security, and income-generating activities. ChildFund Deutschland also provides emergency aid in crises. Projects are carried out in cooperation with ChildFund Alliance members and with local partner organizations.

ChildFund International is the Alliance’s member based in the United States. We work throughout Africa, Asia and the Americas to connect children with the people, resources and institutions they need to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and, above all, safe—at home, at school, online. Delivered through over 150 local implementing partner organizations, ChildFund International’s programs address the underlying conditions that prevent any child or youth from achieving their full potential.

ChildFund Japan was established in 1952 as a recipient for ChildFund International sponsorship funds in support of Japanese orphans following World War II. Since 1975, ChildFund Japan has been working in the Philippines and Nepal to help deprived, excluded and vulnerable children, families and communities through meaningful, sustainable solutions. The essence of the sponsorship approach, which connects people one-to-one, is embedded in ChildFund Japan’s organizational culture.

ChildFund Korea has played a pivotal role in enhancing South Korea’s child welfare laws, policies, and system development since initiating relief efforts for war orphans in 1948. As a leading child-centered non-governmental organization in the country, we are expanding efforts to close the gap in the growth environment among children in over 30 countries, including Korea. Leveraging collaborative partnerships with ChildFund Alliance members and local partners, ChildFund Korea is committed to fostering a world where children can thrive and be happy, by supporting child rights-based programs emphasizing direct support, capacity building, and advocacy activities.

ChildFund New Zealand works to create conditions where children and youth are educated, healthy, protected, engaged and resilient. ChildFund New Zealand believes the strongest development outcomes are achieved through work designed, implemented, and evaluated by local partners in their specific areas of need. We work in Kenya, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Zambia using long-term strategic plans unique to each community. We also work children and youth in Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timbilili focusing on child protection, youth social and emotional well-being, and disaster risk reduction.

Barnfonden is a child rights organization based in Malmö, Sweden focused on children’s rights and safety in vulnerable areas that are heavily affected or at risk of being affected by climate change. We work with children to create sustainable solutions that protect and strengthen their rights and well-being through partnerships, local ownership, and a holistic perspective. Through long-term work and innovative solutions, Barnfonden is committed to creating resilience and ensuring children’s right to safety, education, good health, and a life free from violence.

Children Believe is a Canadian independent registered charity that manages and directly funds programs in 14 countries. ChildFund Alliance has played a pivotal role in enhancing South Korea’s child welfare laws, policies, and system development since initiating relief efforts for war orphans in 1948. As a leading child-centered non-governmental organization in the country, we are expanding efforts to close the gap in the growth environment among children in over 30 countries, including Korea. Leveraging collaborative partnerships with ChildFund Alliance members and local partners, ChildFund Korea is committed to fostering a world where children can thrive and be happy, by supporting child rights-based programs emphasizing direct support, capacity building, and advocacy activities.

ChildFund Australia

ChildFund Deutschland

ChildFund International

ChildFund Japan

ChildFund Korea

ChildFund New Zealand

Barnfonden

Children Believe

Educo

Un Enfant par la Main

WeWorld
Abdullah and Alassane, age 5, attend a ChildFund-supported early childhood development center in Senegal.