

A photograph of a man lifting a baby into the air. The man is looking up at the baby with a joyful expression. The baby is laughing and has its arms outstretched. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green trees and a clear sky. A green diagonal banner is in the top right corner.

ChildFund
Kenya

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2025**

www.childfundkenya.org

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COVER: John (28), shown with his son Justin (20 months) has become a more active husband and father in his family since he joined a male caregiver parenting group through the Nurturing Care Project.

Penina (10), enjoys a drink of clean water collected from the newly-installed water kiosk by ChildFund in her village in Kajiado County.



Abbreviations

ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CAC	Children Advisory Committee
CBT	Community-Based Trainers
CBC	Competency-Based Curriculum
CHA	Community Health Assistant
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CPiE	Child Protection in Emergencies
CP	Child Protection
CPIMS	Child Protection Management Information System
DCS	Directorate of Children Services
ECD	Early Childhood Development
eCHIS	Electronic Community Health Information System
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
EPP	Emergency Preparation and Planning
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FY25	Fiscal Year 2025
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IGAs	Income-Generating Activities
IYC	Infants and Young Children
KCA	Kenya Children's Assembly
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
LIP	Local Implementing Partner
MIYCF	Mother, Infant, and Young Child Feeding
MOH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memoranda of Understanding
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCSEA	Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
OFSP	Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potatoes
P&G	Procter and Gamble
PET	Participatory Educative Theatre
PLWDs	People Living with Disabilities
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
RPP	Responsive and Protective Parenting
Safe CLICS	Safe Community Linkages for Internet Child Safety
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
RHR	Reproductive Health Rights
TWG	Technical Working Group
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Our Vision

A world where every child realizes their rights and achieves their potential.

Our Mission

HELP children to have the capacity to improve their lives and the opportunity to become young adults, parents, and leaders who bring lasting and positive change to their communities.

PROMOTE societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting, and advancing the worth and rights of children.

ENRICH supporters' lives through their support of our cause.

Country Director's Note



Notably, our health and nutrition programs contributed to 13% reduction in cases of malnutrition from 16% in some of the most vulnerable arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) counties, including Turkana, Samburu, and Marsabit.

The 2024/2025 fiscal year marked a renewed commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of children and young people across Kenya.

With a total program budget of USD 10.24 million, we reached over 1.2 million children and caregivers across Kenya. Through our integrated core program initiative in early childhood development (ECD), education, health and nutrition, child protection, environmental sustainability, online safety and youth development, we have helped lay strong foundations for children's growth, development, and long-term resilience.

A total of 8,352 children under five received essential healthcare services, including immunization and nutritional support, which are critical to their survival and development. Our education program ensured that more children, especially girls, stayed in school.

Through the distribution of learning materials, the construction of safe and inclusive classrooms, and teacher training in child-centered learning approaches, over 200,000 children gained access to quality education this year. In partnership with community leaders and local organizations,

we continued to advocate for children's rights and protection, enabling them to participate in decisions that affect their lives meaningfully.

The year also saw the successful expansion of our youth development initiatives, focusing on vocational training, entrepreneurship, and digital skills development.

Over 2,000 young people are now better equipped to secure livelihoods, support their families, and contribute positively to their communities.

In our advocacy work, we made considerable progress by engaging Parliament to strengthen the Victim Trust Protection Fund and ensure survivors of abuse receive comprehensive support. We also advanced advocacy for increased budget allocation by the Government of Kenya toward online child protection programs, recognizing the urgent need to keep children safe in digital spaces. In addition to strengthening systems we supported in the development and dissemination of the Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) Child-Friendly Outreach Tool

In collaboration with children and young people, we presented the priorities they identified to Members of Parliament for inclusion in the FY 2025/ 2026 National Budget. Their voices highlighted critical issues and shaped our ongoing policy engagement. We remain committed to ensuring these recommendations translate into real accountability and tangible outcomes for children.

Our young representatives continued to make their mark globally, participating in forums such as COP16 and other regional and international forums, ensuring that the perspectives of Kenyan children and youth continue to shape global discussions on environmental sustainability and children and youth participation.

A key milestone this year was our progress in advancing localization for sustainable development in Kenya. We deepened our collaboration with 11 local partner organizations, ensuring that leadership, decision-making, and resources increasingly rest with communities themselves.

This approach reflects our belief that sustainable development can only be achieved when local actors drive change, designing and delivering programs that reflect their realities and aspirations. These achievements would not have been possible without the steadfast support of our sponsors, donors, partners, children and communities. Your trust and generosity continue to power our mission and bring hope to millions of children. On behalf of the entire ChildFund Kenya team, we extend my most profound appreciation for your commitment.

As we look ahead to the next financial year, we reaffirm our dedication to strengthening community resilience in the face of environmental changes, economic uncertainty, and social challenges, and to supporting the building of systems that protect, nurture, and advocate for the wellbeing of every child.

Together with our partners, the national and local governments, and the children and young people we serve, we will continue to champion a Kenya where every child's voice counts, and every child's right is protected.



Issa Athuman Kipera, PhD

About ChildFund: Our Global Footprint

ChildFund is a child-focused international development and humanitarian organization that works throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas to connect children with the people, resources and institutions they need to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe, wherever they are.

Our programs address the underlying conditions that prevent any child and youth from achieving their full potential. We place a special emphasis on child protection throughout our approach because violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect can reverse developmental gains in an instant. In 2024, we reached 24.3 million children and family members in 23 countries.



Years of service



Program countries



Million lives changed



Local partner organizations



Million invested in championing locally led development over the past decade.



About ChildFund Kenya

ChildFund Kenya is a registered non-governmental organization that has been operational since 1960. We work across 28 counties in partnership with 11 local partner organizations and 2 direct implementation programs to improve the well-being of children and their families.

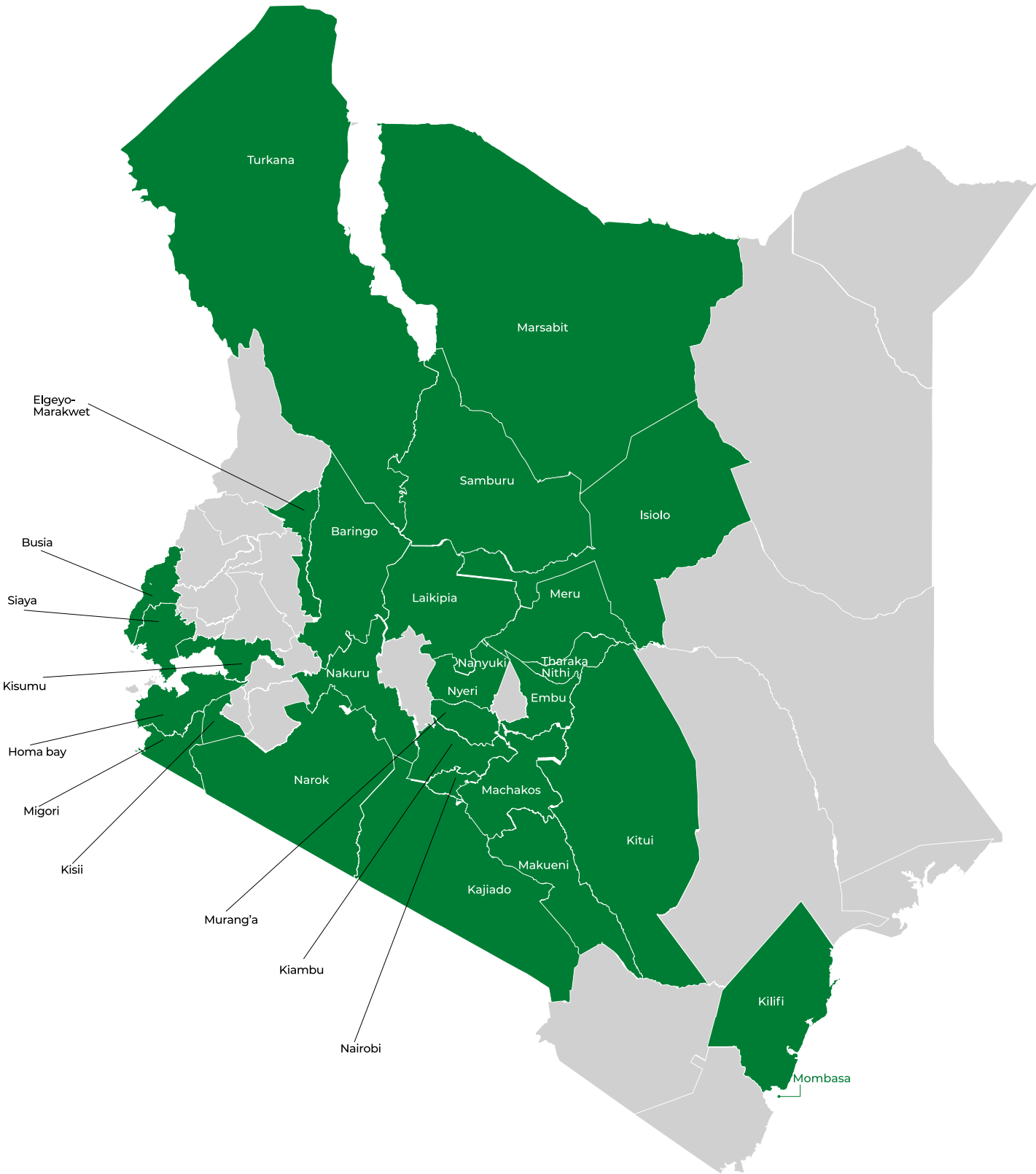
Our key program areas include Health, Education, Early Childhood Development (ECD), Livelihood Strengthening, Protection, Humanitarian Action (Children in Crisis) and Building Sustainability.

In FY 25, we invested \$10.4 million in our programs, reaching over 1.5 million children, youth and their families.

We demonstrated our commitment to addressing evolving challenges in child well-being and safety in Nairobi, Kiambu, Murang'a, Kajiado, Narok, Makueni, Machakos, Kitui, Tharaka-Nithi, Embu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Baringo, Nakuru, Siaya, Busia, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii, Nanyuki, Meru, Laikipia, Nyeri, Kilifi and Mombasa.

ChildFund has cultivated longstanding relationships with civil society organizations (CSOs) and collaborates with national and county governments to deliver sustainable, child-focused development programs across Kenya.

Our Presence





Children from Mukuru pose for a group photo, elated after a clown show by Buttercup during our international board visit in Kenya.

FY 25 Highlights



Over 1.5 million
children, youth,
families and
community members
reached and
impacted through
various programs



Working with
**11 local
implementing
partners**



USD 10.4 M
total funds invested
in programs and
operations



2
Direct
implementation
programs



39,990 children
enrolled in sponsorship
program



Operating
in **28
counties**



**Influencing national
and county policies**
on online protection and
early childhood development



EDUCATION

In FY25, our education program reached 48,773 learners across Kenya, focusing on strengthening access, retention, and transition at every educational stage. Through bursaries, learning materials, caregiver engagement, and improved school environments, we ensured that children and youth had the opportunity to learn, grow, and reach their potential. These enhanced learning environments have removed key barriers to attendance and learning outcomes, enabling sustained and lifelong learning for children.

Our impact directly supports global education priorities, advancing the goal that all children complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education by 2030.

Caregiver Support for Children's Education

Caregivers play a significant role in a child's academic success. To strengthen this support system, 109 caregivers were sensitized on strategies to help children achieve better learning outcomes. These sessions promoted supportive learning environments at home, improved communication with teachers, and encouraged active participation in school activities.

Foundational learning and Provision of Learning Materials

Strong foundational skills begin with access to the right resources. In FY25, 7,507 children received essential scholastic materials including textbooks, clipboards, calculators, logarithm tables, and geometry sets reducing learning barriers and boosting classroom participation.

In addition, 7,332 learners benefited from solar lamps, extending study hours for children in off-grid communities and thereby improving academic performance.

Financial Literacy and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Developing life skills and confidence is essential for learners to thrive beyond the classroom. In FY25, 1,012 children participated in Aflatoun clubs, where they learned financial literacy, social skills, and responsibility.

An additional 5,872 children benefited from comprehensive life skills training delivered through mentorship forums, workshops, and school club activities. The programs strengthened the adolescent's self-esteem, decision-making, and resilience, equipping them with the confidence and capabilities needed to succeed in school and in life.

Access and Retention

Ensuring that children remain in school and transition successfully requires both financial and structural support. In FY25, 2,332 learners overcame financial barriers to secondary and tertiary education through bursaries and scholarships, reducing dropout risk and expanding their prospects. At the same time, 3,718 children benefited from improved school infrastructure and new uniforms, fostering safer, more inclusive learning environments and reducing absenteeism.



IMPACT



93% of children and young adolescents had at least one family member actively involved in their school affairs, highlighting the crucial role of family support.

Nearly a third of children and young people demonstrated fluency in reading and basic math.

98% of children of mandatory school-going age were actively attending school in our program areas.



Grade 7, 8, and 9 learners at a school in Kajiado County, excited after receiving solar lamps, supported by the Watts On Lighting Students' Lives Program, funded by Econic Earth Foundation.

SOLAR LAMPS ARE POWERING EDUCATION IN MARSABIT, KAJIADO, NAROK, AND ISIOLO

Access to reliable energy remains a persistent challenge across Kajiado, Narok, Isiolo and Marsabit Counties, particularly within the education sector. Many schools operate without electricity, leaving students to rely on kerosene lamps, firewood, or borrowed solar lights to study, methods that pose serious health, safety, and financial risks.

In response to this urgent need, Ewangan Child Development Programme and Nawiri Child Development Programme (NCDP), in collaboration with ChildFund Kenya and supported by the Watts On Lighting

Students' Lives Program, funded by Econic Earth Foundation, we launched a solar lamp distribution initiative targeting over 3,000 students across 4 counties.

The project aims to improve educational outcomes, student health, and overall well-being by providing sustainable lighting solutions.

Informed by the assessment, the partners developed a multi-phased solar intervention strategy focused on immediate relief, infrastructure improvements, and sustainability.



8,451

Learners received solar lamps across 36 schools in four counties

The initiative aims to provide solar lamps to underserved students, extending study hours and improving academic performance; reduce reliance on harmful lighting sources; enhance student safety by mitigating risks such as wildlife threats and respiratory issues; and promote gender parity by ensuring equitable lamp distribution, especially in schools with higher female enrollment. These objectives contribute to improved educational access and health outcomes.

The project has reached 8,451 learners across 36 schools in four counties. Of these, 22

schools are in Kajiado County, 4 in Narok, 6 in Marsabit, and 4 in Isiolo County. The distribution of solar lamps was guided by a strategic approach that considered factors such as student population size, infrastructure needs, and dropout risks, ensuring resources were allocated effectively.

A deliberate focus was placed on learners in Grades 6 and 9, recognizing their critical transition periods as they prepare for national examinations. This strategic focus aims to build confidence in the project's targeted impact and planning.



WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) PROGRAMS

In FY25, our health programs reached 58,414 community members through targeted interventions in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and in maternal and child health and nutrition. These initiatives increased access to safe water, improved hygiene, and reduced waterborne disease, resulting in better health outcomes for children and families.

19,156 individuals received water purification sachets, including 2,000 school children in Embu and Tharaka Nithi who were supported with P&G sachets. In Kisumu County, 1,000 people in flood-prone areas received household water filters to maintain safe drinking water during emergencies. Additionally, 6,840 individuals in Baringo, Nakuru, Elgeyo Marakwet, and Laikipia benefited from the Solvatten solar safe water system, offering a sustainable household water treatment solution.

To improve water availability and storage, 2,476 individuals received plastic water storage tanks and jerrycans ranging from 1,000 to 10,000 litres, supporting rainwater harvesting in Kisumu, Kajiado, Isiolo, and Marsabit. Construction, rehabilitation, solarization, and pipeline extensions from boreholes, shallow wells, hand pumps, and protected springs provided over 6,830 children, youth, and adults with safe water in communities and schools across Tharaka Nithi, Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, and Turkana.

Capacity-building initiatives complemented infrastructure investments by strengthening community ownership and sustainability. Twelve water user committee members in Kitui County were trained in water services management.

Thirty community health promoters from Hula-Hula and Dirib Gombo were trained on safe water use with P&G water purifiers. In Kajiado West Sub-County, 70 caregivers from Saikeri and Olmeroi villages were trained on safe water practices, indirectly benefiting 243 additional household members.

With the expansion of sustainable water sources, communities moved from relying on distant or unsafe water points to using cleaner, more reliable systems. Water user committees managed maintenance, resolved breakdowns, and ensured equitable distribution, strengthening accountability and long-term sustainability.





Moses (6) washes his hands with clean water at a water station installed by ChildFund at his school in Kajiado County.

Shifts In Sanitation and Hygiene Practices

4,504 children, youth, and adults were reached through sustained community mobilization activities that promoted safe hygiene practices. Dialogue days, action days, and engagements during world menstrual health and hygiene day encouraged both youth and adults to adopt healthier menstrual hygiene behaviors. These efforts strengthened understanding of menstrual health, safe water use, and disease prevention, with increased participation across counties reflecting growing community commitment to improved WASH practices.

IMPACT



9 ventilated improved pit latrines

were constructed in communities and ECD centers across Narok, Marsabit, and Samburu counties, improving sanitation for 484 people.



Sensitization activities reached **4,504 children, youth, and adults** across Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii, Nairobi, Muranga, and Kiambu counties, contributing to more informed and health-conscious community.



Improved health outcome for 98% of children and families' households in Tharaka Nithi and Narok



Increased adoption of safe water practices as **91% of households treat their water with P&G water purifiers.**



I am grateful because our lives have changed immensely.

We are now free from waterborne diseases, and my children no longer suffer from diarrhea. We no longer visit the clinic as often as before because our water is now safe.

*Caregiver,
Tharaka Nithi County*



Joy (4) enjoys eating the orange-fleshed sweet potato that was introduced in their school as a nutritious meal supplement by ChildFund's OFSP project.

NUTRITION

This FY, our nutrition program improved the health and well-being of 14,914 young children and their caregivers by addressing malnutrition, promoting improved feeding practices, and working closely with the Government of Kenya and key partners.

Our goal is simple and urgent: to ensure every child enjoys good nutrition, the foundation of healthy growth and long-term development. We placed particular focus on the first 1,000 days of life from conception to two years, a critical period that shapes a child's lifelong health outcomes.

Our community-level work was supported by strengthened coordination with health facilities, referral pathways for severely malnourished children, and consistent messaging through local health promoters.

Addressing Child Malnutrition

Working through seven local partners, ChildFund conducted routine growth monitoring and nutritional assessments for children aged 0 to 5 years. These efforts allowed early identification of malnutrition and timely support for affected children. With the assistance of our well-wishers and donors, we provided supplementary feeding in both Early Childhood Development centers and in surrounding communities.

Through these interventions, 8,352 children in Marakwet, Nakuru, Baringo, Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado, Turkana, and Samburu counties accessed nutrition services. Families reported improved appetite, increased energy, and better overall health among children enrolled in the program. Early detection and consistent follow-up also strengthened caregivers' understanding of how daily nutrition choices affect child growth.

IMPACT



A reduction in the proportion of children under five identified with severe acute malnutrition, **decreasing from 16% to 13% during the FY.**

Improving Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

To build lasting behavior change, we invested in strengthening caregivers' knowledge on safe and nutritious feeding for infants and young children. Awareness sessions on mother, infant, and young child feeding (MIYCF) equipped caregivers with practical guidance on breastfeeding, complementary feeding, food hygiene, and responsive feeding.

Celebrations during World Breastfeeding Week further encouraged exclusive

breastfeeding for the first six months and continued breastfeeding up to two years and beyond.

These efforts reached 6,562 caregivers across Muranga, Turkana, Nairobi, Kiambu, and Migori counties. Reports from health workers indicate a positive shift in caregiver practices, including increased commitment to exclusive breastfeeding, better meal planning for young children, and improved household food hygiene.



Children in Turkana County eat a breakfast of sweet potatoes harvested from their dads farm.

IMPACT



92% of children born in the last 24 months were breastfed.



83% of children aged 0-23 months were breastfed within one hour of birth well above the national average of 60% (KDHS, 2022) ensuring early initiation and improved health outcomes for newborns in the project area.

96% of children aged 0-23 months received only breast milk for the first two days after birth, far surpassing the national average of 60% (KDHS, 2022). This high rate of exclusive breastfeeding supports stronger immune systems and better early nutrition for infants.



We supported

754

children and youth
access referrals and
specialized medical
services

Nurse Jacinta conducts a medical check-up on Manganoi (6 months), who is being held by her mother, Jacklin.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Access to Specialized Healthcare

We supported 754 children and youth, including 80 persons with disabilities, to access referrals and specialized medical services across Nakuru, Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado, Nairobi, Murang'a, Kiambu, Samburu and Busia counties. These referrals ensured timely diagnosis and treatment for chronic illnesses, disabilities and other complex conditions.

This investment has contributed to lifelong transformation for children and their families. With their health needs addressed, caregivers are now better able to focus on household economic activities while also experiencing improved psychosocial wellbeing.

Community Health Education and Outreach

Through targeted community outreach and maternal and child health campaigns implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health, we delivered immunization, child assessments, and birth registration services in hard-to-reach areas. This initiative reached 21,623 caregivers and children across Baringo, Machakos, Kajiado, Homabay, Migori, Kisii, Marsabit, Isiolo, Nairobi, Murang'a, and Kiambu counties. The increased turnout reflected growing trust in community-based health programs.

Our community-level work was supported by strengthened coordination with health facilities, referral pathways for severely malnourished children, and consistent messaging through local health promoters.



Nkoiye (60) brings her granddaughter, Nashipai (2), to a health screening by Charles (R) during a health outreach in Kajiado County.

Strengthening Knowledge on Primary Healthcare

A total of 1,330 caregivers of children under five years attended awareness sessions on primary healthcare in Kisumu, Busia, and Siaya counties. These sessions emphasized early care-seeking, nutrition, immunization, and hygiene practices to reduce childhood illness.

Renovation of Health Facilities

ChildFund funded the renovation of the Kubi Bagasa community health facility in Marsabit County enabling 1,191 patients to access improved healthcare services. The upgraded facility now provides a safer, more functional environment for maternal, newborn, and general outpatient care.



26% of female caregivers of children under 5 years are nearly 4 times more likely to experience good psychosocial well-being than 7% their male counterparts, underscoring significant gains in women's mental health and resilience.



95% of children under 5 years in Marsabit County now have access to high-quality healthcare within their communities, giving them a healthier start and improving their long-term developmental outcomes.

IMPACT

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

In FY25, we provided 11,603 adolescents, youth, and caregivers with knowledge and resources to support informed reproductive health decisions.

Through comprehensive reproductive health education and enhanced access to essential health products, we enabled young people to navigate adolescence with greater confidence and dignity.

Reproductive Health Education

We trained 7,659 children, adolescents, and youth on reproductive health rights improving their understanding of body autonomy, safe practices, and available health services across 19 counties, including Baringo, Nakuru, Makueni, Kajiado, Narok, Turkana, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii, Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Nairobi, Murang'a, Kiambu, Busia, Siaya, and Kisumu.

Menstrual Hygiene

A total of 2,414 girls received dignity kits that included sanitary towels, underwear, and other essentials across Baringo, Machakos, Kitui, Nairobi, Murang'a, and Kiambu counties.

Access to dignity kits aided the girls to attend schools regularly and improve their school performance.

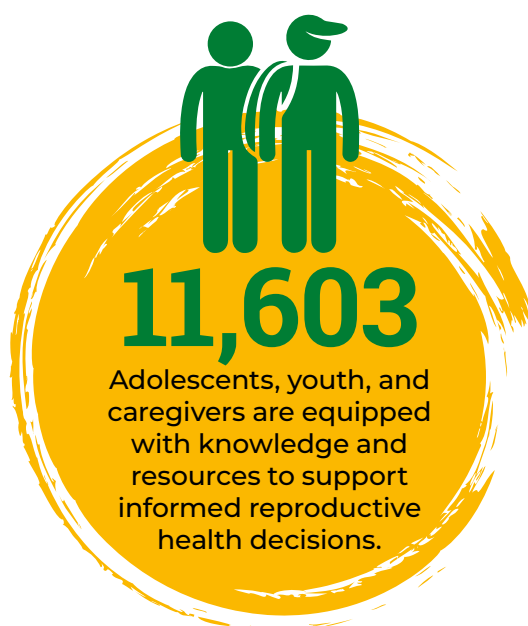
Strengthening Community Health Structures

We trained 30 community health promoters, youth peer mentors, and staff in Migori county using the approved Reproductive Health and Rights curriculum from the Ministry of Health. This created a stronger, community-based support system for adolescents and youth.

Additionally, 1,500 community members were reached during World AIDS Day commemorations in Samburu County, increasing awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, and stigma reduction.

♂ 7,659

Children, adolescents, and youth trained on reproductive health



♀ 2,414

Girls received dignity kits

30

Community health promoters trained



Margaret* and Jane* receive reproductive health products during a reproductive health outreach forum in their school in Laikipia County.

IMPACT



58% of youth enrolled in ChildFund programs gaining improved access to youth-friendly reproductive health services in their communities, equipping them with the resources and support needed to make better health decisions.



46% of adolescents and young adults now benefit from living in homes and communities that actively support their reproductive health rights, creating safer and more enabling environments for young people.

Infectious Disease Control for Children Under Five

In FY25, our infectious disease control initiatives directly protected 2,670 children under five from life-threatening illnesses, giving them a stronger start in life.

By detecting diseases early, providing prompt treatment, providing caregivers with knowledge, and building resilient community health systems, we supported reducing the risk of preventable diseases.

Access to Malaria Prevention and Treatment

In Tharaka Nithi county, 2,570 children under five were protected from malaria through the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets. This intervention significantly lowered the risk of infection for vulnerable children in a high-risk region, contributing to healthier, stronger childhoods.

Additionally, 152 individuals (including 52 children under five) accessed vital malaria testing and treatment services.

STORY

EMMA AND MARLIA: A JOURNEY OF HEALING THROUGH NURTURING CARE



Emma and Marlia during a moment of bonding and care.

In the heart of Homabay County, 28-year-old Emma juggles the demanding roles of farmer, entrepreneur, and mother. By day, she tends to her farm of maize and beans, and she sells clothes to help make ends meet. Her husband Nicholas, a steadfast partner, ferries passengers on his 'Boda boda' motorcycle, working long hours to provide for their family. Together, they raise two spirited children Randy, 9, and Marlia, 2. But beneath the surface of their busy lives, Emma carried a silent struggle. A struggle for responsive parenting.

Everything began to change when Emma joined the Rarage Twaweza caregiver group meaning "We can" as part of the Strengthened Partnership for Nurturing Care project. This innovative initiative is dedicated to enhancing developmental outcomes for Kenya's youngest children by fostering nurturing care environments. At its heart is an evidence-based parenting program that strengthens caregivers including adolescent mothers with the knowledge, attitudes, and practical skills needed to support children aged 0–3 years.



Before the parenting sessions, I thought harsh discipline was the only way. Now, I see my children not just as kids, but as cherished individuals. Our love has grown stronger than I ever imagined.

Emma shares, her voice brimming with newfound warmth.

Through supportive group sessions and community engagement, caregivers like Emma are equipped not just with advice but with hope and proven strategies to help their children thrive. The group, a tapestry of 9 women and 1 man, became her support network and a source of transformation.

Emma's journey into motherhood began when she was just 19, a teenager facing the unknown without a guiding hand. Fear and frustration often shaped her parenting her firstborn, Randy, endured harsh discipline and emotional distance. Even after Marlia's birth, the cycle of anger and detachment continued. Emma's stress during her second pregnancy turned inward, leaving her unable to bond with Marlia as an infant. "I used to beat my



Facilitator Oscar leads the Uwezo (“Ability”) Group in a group parenting session.

children before attending the parenting sessions. I am now closer to my kids, and I love them so much,” Emma reflects. Her words echo a profound journey from regret to redemption, and hint at the change yet to come.

The pain in Marlia’s eyes haunted Emma—each time Marlia reached out, Emma pushed her away, asking Nicholas to step in. “Whenever Marlia cried, I would simply hand her to her father. I didn’t realize how much she needed me,” Emma admits, her voice heavy with regret. These raw memories would become the starting point for a remarkable transformation, sparked by the power of collective support and learning through the Nurturing Care partnership.

Emma’s world changed the moment she joined the Nurturing Care partnership program. The parenting sessions became beacons of hope—offering not just advice, but a blueprint for rebuilding trust and affection within her family. Emma learned to truly listen, to celebrate small joys, and to create a safe space for her children’s dreams. Gone was the icy barrier that once stood between them. Now, Randy dashes home after school, his arms wide open for a hug, eager to share his world. Marlia, once shy and withdrawn, clings to her mother with laughter and love.

What was once a fractured household is now a tapestry of connection and warmth—a living testament to the transformative power of strengthened partnerships.



CHILD PROTECTION

CREATING SAFER SPACES FOR CHILDREN AND STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

In FY25, our child protection interventions reached 95,541 children and adults across Kenya, addressing the country's complex protection challenges driven by rapid digital adoption, economic pressures, and limited community awareness. Increased internet connectivity has exposed more children to online risks such as cyberbullying, exploitation, and harmful content, while dangerous practices, including child labor, defilement, neglect, and gender-based violence, persist in many communities.

Limited reporting, stigma, and weak referral pathways further prevent children from accessing timely protection services. Working alongside government agencies, schools, community structures, and national child protection networks, we strengthened prevention, reporting, and response systems.

With a focus on online safety, community-based protection, capacity building for caregivers and teachers, and stronger coordination among protection actors, these interventions directly contributed to safer environments for children at home, in school, in the community, and online.

Elated ECD students Nancy (5, L) and Janet (5, R), in school in Kajiado County.



Online Safety and Digital Protection

In FY25, our child protection and online safety initiatives reached 95,541 children, adolescents, teachers, and caregivers across Kenya. As more children used digital platforms for learning, online safety remained a major priority.

ChildFund invested in building digital literacy, strengthening reporting mechanisms, and raising awareness on online safety, ensuring that children and the adults who support them were better equipped to navigate and address digital risks.



Grade 9 students actively engage with digital learning as they interact with tablets during a classroom lesson.

IMPACT



61% of caregivers of children believe that physical punishment is not needed to bring up, raise, or educate a child properly.



90% of children aged 1-17 years did not experience any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month. This contributes to SDG 16 where we seek to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Training Learners on Online Safety

In FY25, our digital safety training equipped 9,862 students with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate the online world safely. Through interactive sessions on digital learning content and online safety, learners gained the ability to identify online risks, practice responsible digital behavior, and use the internet as a powerful tool for education and personal growth. This initiative helped create a generation of digitally literate and safety-conscious youth, better prepared for the opportunities and challenges of the digital age.

Peer-led Awareness through Kenya Children's Assembly (KCA)

395 children (231 girls and 164 boys) from the Kenya Children's Assembly and peer educator groups took the lead in promoting digital safety and respectful online behavior. Using dialogue books, they facilitated peer-led discussions in 60 schools, reaching 12,554 learners with engaging, child-friendly messages on online safety and responsible digital citizenship.



12 year Mark* speaking on the online dangers posed on children during a sensitization session with the children assembly by the Safe CLICS project.

Participatory Theatre for Awareness

Participatory Educative Theatre (PET) sessions reached 28,667 children (14,437 girls and 14,230 boys), using songs, poetry, drama, spoken word, and art to deliver powerful lessons on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA), safe reporting, and protective behaviors. This creative, child-centered approach made complex safety topics accessible and memorable, advancing children with the knowledge and confidence to protect themselves and support their peers.

Strengthening National Systems on Online Safety

In FY25, we contributed to the development of the child-friendly outreach tools to combat online sexual exploitation and abuse of children through the national online child protection technical working group.

This innovative tool is set to simplify and expand awareness for children across Kenya, enabling more young people to recognize risks and stay safe online. Our efforts to strengthen national tools and systems are creating a broader impact ensuring child protection resources are accessible, practical, and effective nationwide.

Teacher Training on Online Safety

282 teachers were trained on online safety and equipped with effective strategies to guide learners in responsible and safe digital platform use. This capacity building enhanced educators to create safer digital learning environments and ensure that students are better protected and prepared as they navigate the online world.



94.7% of children and caregivers know where to report child abuse, and 96% would actively report cases.



Establishing Standard Operating Procedures and OCSEA products significantly improved service provider operations in awareness, training, advocacy, case management, parental support, community mobilization, psychosocial support, monitoring, education, and collaboration with authorities.



Children now use online services more cautiously, and stakeholders have enhanced their OCSEA support and services.



School clubs have enabled students to champion online safety, share experiences, and lead peer discussions on OCSEA. These platforms also foster creative awareness activities like posters, skits, and performances, making OCSEA prevention more impactful.



Specialized training has equipped teachers with trauma-informed skills to better identify and support children at risk of online sexual exploitation.



Trained teachers report greater confidence in recognizing warning signs, providing emotional support, and reporting cases appropriately.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Safe Community Linkages for Internet Child Safety (Safe CLICS)

In FY25, ChildFund concluded the three-year Safe Community Linkages for Internet Child Safety (Safe CLICS) project with support from Safe Online. The initiative aimed to raise awareness and prevent Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) in partnership with the Government of Kenya's Directorate of Children Services, ChildLine Kenya, and Lifeskills Promoters Kenya.

Implemented across selected sub-counties in Nairobi, Kiambu, Mombasa, and Kilifi, the project equipped 395 children (231 girls, 164 boys) with skills to identify and report

OCSEA risks. Key resources developed include the OCSEA Child-Friendly Outreach Tool, the National OCSEA Manual, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), all now in active use.

The project fostered collaboration through roundtable meetings between government agencies, tech companies, civil society, and children's representatives. Peer dialogue sessions reached 12,544 learners in 60 schools. Notably, the project identified 475 survivors, with online grooming as the most frequent case, followed by child sexual abuse material, sexting, live streaming of abuse, and sexual extortion. All cases were referred to the National Child Helpline 116.

The SafeCLICS project achieved the following: Caregivers' ability to protect children online improved through community-based safety education, with 86.4% sensitized surpassing the target. Many adopted parental controls, monitored activity, and discussed online safety with children, reflecting increased confidence and agency. The project strengthened family dynamics and long-term protection in communities with previously low digital literacy.

By project end, 682 leaders and champions participated in Sub-county (CAC) meetings, raising community concerns and driving local

awareness that reached over 7,000 people. OCSEA referrals rose from zero to 366, and 55.3% of caregivers reported cases up from 3.8% at baseline. Cases were reported through various channels, showing greater awareness and collective action in child protection.

Service providers including law enforcement, judiciary, and child protection agencies collaborated closely to prevent and respond to OCSEA. Joint initiatives, such as task forces and training workshops, improved case response, survivor support, and access to justice, enhancing the effectiveness and speed of legal processes.



Rehema* a community champion leading a group session with parents and caregivers in Mombasa County on keeping children safe online.

“

We actively participated in a series of consultative meetings facilitated by ChildFund, which significantly enhanced our understanding of children's needs, behaviors, and rights. Through these engagements, we gained valuable insights into the numerous factors that affect children's well-being and development. We received specialized training on how to recognize signs of distress or trauma in children. This training equipped us with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to identify children who may be experiencing difficulties and to respond appropriately and sensitively to such cases, ensuring their safety and emotional support.

Teachers in Kiambu County.

Prevention and Response to Harmful Practices

ChildFund's early identification and response efforts led to faster intervention in harmful practices, stronger community coordination, and safer environments for children. These improvements resulted in more cases being reported and addressed, and greater trust in local protection systems.

IMPACT



Strengthening Child Protection Policy Implementation

ChildFund supported 1,036 Sub-County Children's Advisory Committee members to participate in quarterly meetings focused on critical child protection issues, leading to more coordinated community action against defilement, child labor, and neglect. As a result, committees intensified community sensitization and reinforced referral pathways, significantly strengthening local protection systems and ensuring more children received timely support.



Capacity Building for Case Management

Training 34 child protection actors in case management led to more effective, timely, and safer responses for children at risk, thereby directly improving the quality of support provided.



Community-Based Child Protection Systems

Community-led prevention and response efforts led to stronger networks, faster identification of risks, and **more effective interventions for vulnerable children.**



Mass Awareness and Behavior Change

Mass awareness campaigns—including community forums and radio talk shows—**reached 32,474 parents and caregivers**, changing behavior and strengthening families to better protect children from violence and OCSEA.



Identification and Support for Survivors

320 survivors of OCSEA (140 females, 180 males) received critical support services, including psychosocial care, enabling their recovery and reintegration.



Referral Support by Community Child Protection Champions

Community Child Protection Champions **connected 272 caregivers (154 male, 118 female)** to the national helpline, ensuring timely reporting of OCSEA cases and access to psychosocial support.

These referrals supported affected families to receive confidential and prompt assistance, increasing trust in local protection mechanisms.

In FY25, ChildFund's child protection work strengthened the systems that keep children safe. Through partnerships with schools, communities, and national protection networks, we improved digital safety awareness, enhanced reporting and response structures, and expanded access to support services for survivors. These efforts contributed to safer learning environments, equipping children to advocate for their rights, and strengthened community accountability to protect every child.

STORY

IGAMBANG'OMBE COMMUNITY IN THARAKA NITHI COUNTY STANDS UP FOR ITS CHILDREN

In Tharaka Nithi County, the Tujukumike project carries a simple message with powerful weight: let us be responsible. It is a call to bring neighbors, leaders, teachers, and families together to shield children from harm, both online and offline. Through this project, Child Protection Champions walk from homestead to homestead, chiefs respond faster to distress calls, and government officers work closely with communities to prevent child exploitation, abuse, and violence. One child's journey shows how this shared responsibility can turn fear into safety and darkness into possibility.

Loise, not her real name, is the eldest of eight siblings. For most of her young life, home was not a safe place. She watched her mother suffer violence, and behind closed doors, she faced sexual abuse from her stepfather. Silence became her survival. Yet even in her isolation, a web of people trained through the Tujukumike project was quietly strengthening around her. The day her story reached a Child Protection Champion, things shifted.

The champion alerted the chief, who worked with the Children's Officer to intervene. For the first time in years, someone stood between Loise and danger.

She was taken to the Kamarandi Girls Rescue Center, a haven built with support from Chorogusan for Children (ChildFund Korea) and supported by Child Development Foundation of Germany and other partners. Here, Loise could finally breathe. She enrolled in Grade 3 at the nearby primary school, made new friends, and received regular counselling to help her heal from the trauma she caused.

Staff members describe her as bright, gentle, and eager to learn. Reintegration into safe family care is being prepared in line with Kenya's Care Reform Strategy. When asked how she feels today, she smiled and said, "I just thank God. I have been supported to continue with my education, taken through counselling, and I feel blessed."



CHILD PARTICIPATION

Youth civic engagement

In Mulala and Tutini zones, 914 community members and children participated in child-led advocacy campaigns focused on improved water governance and environmental sustainability.

Additionally, more than 35,000 children

were engaged in a wide range of civic participation forums—including the Day of the African Child, children's assemblies, review meetings, dialogue sessions, fun day, and recreational activities such as sports and Kambi ya Vijana—building their leadership skills, awareness, and sense of responsibility in shaping their communities and future.



John* poses for a photo after a successful completion of a sensitization forum on child protection, safeguarding and safety of children through the Tujukumike project.

IMPACT



Responsiveness of child protection systems improved, with 85% of reported child mistreatment cases addressed—up from 72.9% at baseline—demonstrating stronger accountability and support for children.



Toll-free helplines (116 and 1513) enabled rapid reporting of child protection and GBV cases, with increased government follow-up acting as a deterrent to violations and offering families swift support.



Children's participation in their own protection rose from 68.9% to 92% after targeted training on OCSEA, School-Based Violence Prevention (SBVP), and Gender-Based Violence. With greater awareness of their rights, children became more confident reporting violations, making their voices central in the fight against violence.



There is a lot of improvement because before the project started, children were not courageous enough to report, but since they got trained, they can now talk freely about CP violations. Caregivers were also trained and now freely interact with their children.

Community Resource Person/Champion, Igambang'ombe.



STORY

THE MALE CHAMPIONS TAKING ON FGM AND CHILD MARRIAGE IN THARAKA NITHI

What you need to know:



Men hold public barazas, church forums and use school meetings to sensitize parents, students and locals to teenage pregnancy.

When we make our way this chilly evening to Gaceraka Chief's Camp in Chuka Igamba Ng'ombe, Tharaka Nithi, we find Geoffrey Gitonga addressing a gathering of men and women.

They are all attentive and occasionally nod their heads in concurrence with Gitonga. On listening keenly, we learn that Gitonga is creating awareness of child protection. He is in particular taking them through human rights for the girl, the most vulnerable in the Tharaka Community.



As a man who is a father of girls, I could not understand how a man could defile his own daughter. Through the joint efforts of the community, the man was arrested, arraigned and jailed.

From that time, he has never looked back and has been leading initiatives at the grassroots aimed at taming retrogressive cultural practices. The father of five (three girls and two boys) says he has been a male champion for the past 15 years.



As parents, guardians and caregivers, it's important that you know the human rights that your children and more so girls enjoy. If your girl is, for example, violated, you need to know the reporting pathways to ensure she gets the justice she deserves," *Gitonga tells the forum.*

When we later get a chance to speak to him, we learn that he is among male champions who have taken charge of the fight against FGM and child marriage. These harmful practices are rampant in Tharaka Nithi. Gitonga opens up that he started his activism against harmful cultural practices after learning of a girl who had been defiled by her own father.



In the course of my work, I have been trained by organisations, including Men End FGM and Child Fund. My passion for activism emanates from seeing girls discriminated against, including being subjected to retrogressive cultural practices like female genital mutilation, defilement and being denied education.

To create awareness of the rights their daughters enjoy, Gitonga terms it important to do capacity building on human rights and reporting pathways.



There is a need for more awareness so that the people know what human rights entail and the rights their children enjoy.

The male champions engage fellow men and recruit them as allies to discourage retrogressive practices. James Njeru, a senior assistant chief, supports efforts by Gitonga and his colleagues, saying girls must be protected.



We must ensure girls enjoy their rights and, among others, have access to education by making sure they go to school. It is also our duty to ensure girls are shielded from harmful cultural practices like FGM and child marriage.

Tharaka Nithi is the only county in the Mount Kenya region where FGM is still rampant. According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2022, it has the highest prevalence of 27 per cent. Prolonged droughts have been blamed for driving families to “sell off” their girls as a survival strategy.

The area is also known to witness a surge in child marriage during December holidays, as girls who undergo FGM are deemed “ready” for marriage. These holidays expose girls to unsafe sex, contributing to rising teenage pregnancies and unsafe abortions.

Dennis Mutwiri, the Igamba-Ng’ombe children’s officer, is another male champion spearheading an effort to fight for the girl. Citing statistics, he says girls are more vulnerable because of their gender. He acknowledges that FGM is being practised, though secretly.



FGM prevalence in the area has really gone down because of the robust campaigns to eradicate the vice that we have been undertaking. Many perpetrators, including mothers and relatives, have been arrested and charged in court.

He notes that the Anti-FGM Act, 2011, has greatly helped reduce FGM. “The arrests and subsequent arraignment of several perpetrators have made the locals who were still practising FGM to fear. A famous cutter was recently convicted and is currently serving a jail sentence, which has acted as a deterrent to those who were abetting the vice.

This year, we have not recorded any cases.” The children’s officer, however, observes that Kangaroo courts have been the biggest hindrance to war on FGM and children marriage. He adds that they are conducting awareness to educate residents on the dangers of FGM and child marriage and what the law says about the vices.

Dennis notes that teenage pregnancy remains their main challenge, with 249 cases having been recorded in 2024. This was, however, an improvement from 500 in 2022.



The teenage pregnancy prevalence is coming down because of awareness campaigns. We have been holding public barazas, church meetings and using school meetings to sensitize parents, students and locals to teenage pregnancy. The challenge is that many survivors shield and fail to disclose the perpetrators.

Due to high cases of FGM and child marriage, the is benefitting from a project named Tujukumike. This is funded by Child Fund and implemented by Child Rise.

Faith Wambua, a child protection specialist at Child Fund, says the project is fighting FGM and child marriage. “In conjunction with the Children’s Department, we have trained 105 teachers, 210 pupils, 105 board of management members and 90 community members as champions who can identify child abuse cases, more so those that touch on girls.

They have been trained in referral pathways in instances where girls or boys are violated.”

She adds that they have also trained 36 child protection actors across the county.

“

Our training has focused on duty bearers, with the Tharaka-Nithi County Children Advisory Council benefitting from training in gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and school-based violence protection.

The officer reveals that they have refurbished five gender desks in police stations across Tharaka Nithi with a view to making them child friendly. The project also spearheads operations to rescue girls at risk of FGM and child marriage and provide shelters for them.

They are conducting family sensitization, which entails educating families on their role in safeguarding girls and supporting them to achieve their full potential.

Coupled with persistent challenges such as child marriage, teenage pregnancies, and unsafe abortions, these issues have entrenched cycles of violence against women and girls.

ChildFund has been at the forefront of addressing these challenges through rescue operations, in collaboration with the Department of Children’s Services, providing at-risk girls with safe spaces and support and community capacity building, working with child protection champions to challenge harmful practices. They have also been engaging male champions to discourage retrogressive norms and promote gender equity.

“

As parents, guardians and caregivers, it’s important that you know the human rights that your children and more so girls enjoy. If your girl is, for example, violated, you need to know the reporting pathways to ensure she gets the justice she deserves,”

Gitonga tells the forum.





LIVELIHOOD



In FY25, the livelihood program reached 44,484 people across 51 partner communities through food security support, smart environmental production, and household income strengthening.

A total of 3,964 farmers received hands-on training in livestock management. It was supported with dairy sheep, dairy heifers, improved kienyeji (local) chickens, camels, and galla goats, which indirectly benefited 16,526 community members. To cushion the most vulnerable families, 1,184 households in Nairobi and Turkana received multi-purpose cash transfers, supporting 12,310 individuals.

Another 1,094 households across Baringo, Nakuru, Marakwet, Kajiado, Homabay, Migori, and Kisii received assorted crop seedlings, including maize, beans, avocado, mango, pixy orange, and coffee, reaching a further 4,612 people indirectly.

The program also strengthened long-term livelihoods by building skills, improving production systems, and expanding access to financial inclusion. Seventy caregivers were trained in environmental-smart agriculture and sustainable agribusiness across Murang'a, Kiambu, and Siaya. In comparison, 213 caregivers and group members received

Farmers in Laikipia County learn about efficient irrigation systems during a SPOWDI-led demonstration.



productivity-boosting equipment, including solar-powered posho mills, hydroponic units, and farming tools.

To expand savings and household resilience, 1,650 group members from 56 community groups were trained in the Village Savings and Loan Association methodology. These combined efforts increased household income options, improved food security, and strengthened families' capacity to sustain their livelihoods year-round.



3,964

Farmers received hands-on training



1,094

Households received assorted crop seedlings



1,650

Members trained in the Village Savings and Loan Association



Faith promotes moringa as a nutrient-rich food to Ms. Mary Muriuki, Principal Secretary for Public Health, during a regional health conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

IMPACT



4,034 farmers trained in livestock management including preparing feeding and supporting them with doper sheep, dairy heifers, improved kienyeji chicken, camels, galla bucks/goats, and smart agriculture. As a result, 16,526 people indirectly benefited.



12,310 individuals supported with multi-purpose cash transfer in Nairobi and Turkana counties.



1,094 households supported with assorted seedlings such as maize, beans, avocado, mango, pixy orange and coffee for crop production in Baringo, Nakuru, Marakwet, Kajiado, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii counties. Indirectly reached 4612 members.



213 group members/caregivers supported with assorted equipment e.g., solar powered posho mill, hydroponic units, farming tools, etc.



1,650 members of 56 VSLA groups equipped with financial and small business management skills.

YOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In Kenya today, youth unemployment is still a significant obstacle to social and economic development. According to the latest data, the youth unemployment rate (ages 15–24) stood at 11.93% in 2024. At the same time, many young people are still outside formal employment or training, with a large share working in informal, unstable, or low-skilled jobs that offer little economic security or opportunity for growth.

Given that Kenya's youth population represents a growing proportion of the national demographic, the mismatch between labor supply and quality employment opportunities puts thousands of young people at risk of economic exclusion.

In FY25, our livelihood intervention aimed to address this challenge directly. We reached

6,232 youth through life-skills training and mentorship, covering the prevention of drug and substance abuse, career guidance, personal development, and sexual and reproductive health rights. In addition, 1,140 youth accessed resources through community centers and a digital hub for online learning and exploration of work opportunities. Through on-the-job mentorship, we engaged 41 youth volunteers, giving them practical work experience.

On the entrepreneurship front, 1,100 youth received business-skills training and start-up kits; 978 youth received bursaries to pursue vocational training in colleges; and 1,265 youth established household-level orchards or vegetable gardens after smart agriculture training, creating livelihood options aligned with environmental sustainability.



Kennedy (19), a sponsored youth at a vocational training school, received a scholarship from ChildFund so he could learn masonry.



71% of participating households experienced little or no hunger in the past month during the survey, reflecting a significant **reduction in food deprivation**.



Household dietary diversity improved from 6% to 17% among supported families, promoting better nutrition.



46% of households reported **higher monthly incomes** due to livelihood support, strengthening family resilience.



6,232 youth trained and mentored on life skills (including prevention of drugs and substance abuse, career guidance, life skills, and reproductive health).



1,140 youth accessed resource centers and a digital hub, expanding their opportunities for online learning and employment.



41 youth participated in an on-the-job mentorship program, gaining practical experience and skills in safe, non-exploitative workplaces, paving the way for decent employment opportunities.



1,100 youth were trained in entrepreneurship and received start-up kits, facilitating the youth to launch their own businesses and improve their economic prospects.



978 youth received bursaries for vocational training, equipping them with practical skills for gainful employment and self-reliance.



1,265 youth established vegetable gardens and trained in environmentally sustainable agriculture, supporting food security and sustainable livelihoods.



80% of youth graduated from basic business and technical skills programs, equipping them with practical skills for employment and entrepreneurship.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

CHILDREN AND YOUTH LEAD ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In FY25, children and youth took an active role in protecting their environment, becoming environmental champions and agents of change within their schools and communities. The project strengthened environmental clubs by linking young environmental champions with more than 600 school children to build their knowledge of environmental care.

Through mentorship, hands-on activities, and peer learning, these young leaders inspired a culture of environmental responsibility and helped embed conservation awareness in daily school life.

To support schools in building resilience, the project expanded green infrastructure and strengthened smart practices across multiple counties. A total of 39 tree nurseries with a combined capacity of 700,000 seedlings were established in Kajiado, Makueni, and Nairobi. These model nurseries were fully equipped with shade nets, potting soil, manure, polytubes, and essential tools such as watering cans, wheelbarrows, and rakes.

Through the Regreening Africa Initiative, children, youth, community members, and the public planted more than 140,000 trees and mapped them using the Regreening Africa App, managed by World Agroforestry

Centre (ICRAF). School engagement grew significantly with the formation of 28 environmental clubs, bringing together 1,105 active club members, 40 patrons, and 415 teachers, reaching a total of 7,655 learners.

The program also promoted environmental smart food production by equipping and training 25 women, youth groups, and 5 school clubs in Kajiado and Makueni with kitchen-garden kits and multi-storey garden equipment. This led to the establishment of 200 productive kitchen gardens, which now support improved food security at both household and school levels.

The project further strengthened public participation in national environmental events, supporting National Tree Growing Day, World Water Day, and World Environment Day. Across these events, 800 participants planted 14,100 high-value tree seedlings.

An added 3,100 fruit and indigenous trees were planted to enhance biodiversity and support the greening of school grounds. These efforts show how children, youth, and communities are taking ownership of environmental sustainability and building ecosystems that can withstand harsh climatic conditions.



During the Youth Day of Service funded by Dow and LEAP Africa, children engaged in tree planting and environmental advocacy alongside Mumbi from Dow.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

REGREENING AFRICA

Regreening Africa project phase 1, which concluded in March 2025, marked a transformative journey toward environmental resilience and sustainable livelihoods in Makueni and Kajiado counties.

Launched with the goal of countering the impacts of environmental sustainability, the project equipped youth, women, and children through innovative approaches to reforestation, environmental stewardship, and enterprise development.

Supported by Kshs. 13 million investments from Dow and implemented in partnership with local communities, Regreening Africa directly increased green cover, improved household nutrition and income, and advanced environmental education in schools. Youth and women were equipped with skills to manage sustainable nursery businesses, supplying thousands of seedlings to households, schools, and communities. Environmental clubs flourished, and children were trained as ambassadors for environmental sustainability and conservation.



Youth in Kasarani take part in a tree planting exercise under the Regreening Africa project, supporting environmental restoration and the one million trees initiative.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

LISHE BORA NA MAMA SILAGE

Lishe Bora Na Mama Silage Project provided hands-on training to 339 smallholder farmers, including 226 women and 113 men, on environmentally smart dairy practices, fodder conservation, and silage-making.

The project established 12 demonstration plots and prepared 230 Mama Silage Bags to support feed security during dry seasons and serve as ongoing training resources.

In addition to technical training, 202 farmers received financial literacy instruction. Of these, 122 joined a revolving fund, and 94 actively saved and accessed in-kind loans for farm inputs. These efforts improved farm productivity, expanded access to credit, strengthened environmental resilience, and empowered women to lead in sustainable agribusiness.



Margaret at work, preparing silage to ensure reliable feed for her livestock during dry seasons.



Youth and women participation in green enterprises soared

from 75.7% to 99%, with most adopting at least three sustainable livelihood practices. Top choices included fruit tree farming (26%), tree nursery enterprises (24%), and conservation agriculture (19%).



Access to tree nursery facilities among youth and women surged to 83%, up from 40.5%. Many benefited from advanced infrastructure such as greenhouses, shade nets, and irrigation systems.



Over 51% of youth and women increased their monthly

earnings to Ksh 10,000–25,000 (USD 33 per month), surpassing the global poverty line.



146,908 trees were planted, with 133,653 surviving, achieving 103% of the project's tree survival target.



Household food diversity improved dramatically: 45% of participants reported consuming listed food items (up from 14.6%). Grains/cereals (95%) and vegetables (72%) were most common.



Children under 5 in women-headed households consumed at least two food groups

, while those in youth households consumed at least three, meeting minimum dietary diversity standards.



Daily provision of highly nutritious foods to children rose to 45%, doubling from the 22.2% baseline.



Growth monitoring showed 91% (Mukuru, Nairobi) and 80% (Kajiado/Makueni) of under-5 children had adequate nutrition. Half of households reported good access to nutritious food, with only 8% reporting poor access.



20 primary schools boosted their capacity to advance environmental adaptation and ecofriendly management.



99.66% of students participated in environmental activities—tree planting (98%), vegetable gardening (57.9%), and clean-up drives (38.4%)—with 68% engaging regularly.

IMPACT



67.12% of students reported tree nurseries in their schools, and 71.23% planted seedlings at home, indicating strong environmental engagement beyond the classroom.



61% of teachers felt highly confident in teaching environmental conservation and adaptation, actively leading tree planting, gardening, and water management initiatives.



Teachers rated student awareness of environmental conservation as high (39.13%) or moderate (34.78%). Most schools produced about 300 seedlings, with a few outliers reaching 3,000, reflecting varying capacities for seedling production.



Fiona from Emuka Cooperative demonstrates the sun drying process for moringa leaves using a solar drier during a donor visit.



Mulala Primary School children showcasing the award they received at the FLAMA Awards 2025.

STORY

MULALA COMPREHENSIVE PRIMARY SCHOOL WINS THE PRESTIGIOUS FLAMA AWARDS 2025

Mulala Comprehensive Primary School in Makueni County stands as a model of integration of youth and environmental impact.

Through training on club formation and establishment offered by the Regreening Africa Project, a 30-member (17 girls, 13 boys) environmental club was formed in 2023.

Through the apt leadership of the club's patron, Madam Jacinta Mwololo, the club became active and vibrant. Regreening Africa further trained club members on environmental conservation during phase 1. This training encompassed nature-based solutions, water use, environmental advocacy, and biodiversity, among other topics. The project supported the school with fruit tree seedlings such as moringa, avocado, pawpaw, and mango, and with inputs such as watering cans, conical gardens, and hand sprayers.

The school's nutrition-sensitive farming approach, integrating fruit trees with vegetables and maize, ensured year-round food security and motivated pupils to nurture

their environment. Today, the school boasts 309 thriving trees, two flourishing kitchen gardens, and dairy goats supplying fresh milk to students.

In 2025, Mulala Primary School's achievements were nationally recognized when they won the FLAMA "Schools Biodiversity Category" award, receiving a 5,000-litre water tank and 20 rolls of chain link to further their conservation efforts.

Speaking after receiving the award at State House, Nairobi, presented by Her Excellency, the First Lady of Kenya, Hon Rachel Ruto, Madame Jacinta had this to say "This win is historic for Mulala. For the first time since 1954, our school will have a fence. Regreening Africa has transformed our students into agents of change growing trees, managing waste, and championing environmental sustainability at school and at home. This recognition affirms the impact of youth-led environmental stewardship." Madam Jacinta Mwololo, club patron, Mulala comprehensive School.



HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS

Disaster Risk Reduction: Strengthening Resilience in Communities and Schools

ChildFund's integrated Disaster Risk Reduction, school safety, emergency response, peacebuilding, and environment resilience initiatives directly improved safety and resilience for 19,956 people in multiple counties. These efforts reduced disaster vulnerability and strengthened community preparedness.

ChildFund's baseline study on school safety in 7 schools across Marsabit, Nairobi, Makueni, and Kajiado counties revealed critical safety and preparedness gaps. Findings of the study are being used by government and non-state actors to implement targeted improvements and foster coordinated action for safer school environments.

Through collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCs) and MedSwift, ChildFund strengthened 72 teachers and 710 learners with school safety skills—including basic first aid—and established school safety committees in Marsabit and Nairobi. Further, by training 80 community leaders, school representatives, frontline caregivers, and volunteers in Nairobi, Murang'a, and Kiambu on disaster preparedness and first aid, ChildFund strengthened school safety plans and improved coordination between families, teachers, and local responders, resulting in more effective emergency responses and safer learning environments.

ChildFund's support for green schools through environmental and DRR clubs in 21 pilot schools (19 primary and 2 secondary) across Makueni, Kajiado, Marsabit, and Baringo counties built the capacity of 42

teachers and 957 children (474 boys, 483 girls) to champion environmental conservation and disaster resilience. An additional 7,583 children were educated on environmental sustainability and resilience in schools and communities.

When floods struck Marsabit County, ChildFund's emergency response provided safe drinking water to 3,000 people through the distribution of purifier sachets, and restored dignity and safety for 90 individuals from 30 flood-affected households by providing shelter materials. By rebuilding a flooded school in Narok, 257 children regained access to education, while 14 families affected by fire in Nairobi, Kiambu, Turkana, and Meru counties were able to reconstruct their homes.

To address the impacts of drought, ChildFund and partners provided daily school meals to 3,325 children at 19 ECD centers and primary schools across Samburu, Makueni, and Kajiado counties. This intervention alleviated hunger, improved nutrition, boosted school attendance, increased learner concentration and retention.

Peacebuilding initiatives in Marsabit County engaged 2,233 people through workshops, caravans, and sports tournaments in partnership with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA). These efforts reduced community tensions, strengthened social bonds, and created safer environments for children and youth. Training 40 Community-Based Child Protection Mechanism members in

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction further enhanced local capacity for early hazard identification, preparedness, and swift emergency response.

In Samburu County, ChildFund's inter-community youth peace training in Baragoi, Samburu North, united 70 youth (41 male, 29 female) from Samburu and Turkana communities.

This initiative equipped participants as champions of peaceful coexistence, inspiring them to become advocates and drivers of positive change within their communities.

To promote dignity and protection, we provided one-year dignity packs to 2,440 girls from vulnerable families, resulting in improved safety, increased school participation, and greater overall well-being for recipients.



7,583

Children were educated on environmental sustainability and resilience in schools and communities.



3,000

People provided with safe drinking water through the distribution of purifier sachets, by ChildFund's emergency response



3,325

Children provided with daily school meals at 19 ECD centers and primary schools by ChildFund and partners



2,233

People engaged in peacebuilding initiatives in Marsabit County



2,440

Girls provided with one-year dignity packs



Children and communities stepped forward to shape the policies that influence their lives, proving that meaningful participation can spark real change. More than 3,560 people joined the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, turning public spaces into platforms for awareness, solidarity, and action.

In Turkana County, the International Teachers' Day celebration brought together over 200 people to honor educators while highlighting the essential role teachers play in child protection and safe learning environments.

Children also played a significant role in shaping tools that protect their own well-being. Two child participation sessions brought together 86 children, whose insights guided the development of an outreach tool designed to raise awareness on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Their voices ensured the tool reflects real experiences, real concerns, and real solutions. Community-led advocacy continued at the grassroots level, where 914 children and adults in Mulala and Tutini held joint campaigns calling for better water governance and more decisive action on environmental sustainability.

STRENGTHENED POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR CHILD AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

ChildFund advanced critical policy dialogues and collaborations that strengthened systems protecting children and supporting community resilience throughout FY25.

In Makueni County, 25 stakeholders from the county's WASH forum engaged in meaningful deliberations to address persistent water scarcity. These discussions helped shape stronger water policies that will safeguard access to clean, reliable water for thousands of households.

In Samburu County, 20 key factors contributed to formulating the Early Childhood Development (ECD) meal policy, an essential step toward ensuring that young learners receive adequate nutrition, remain in school, and thrive during their foundational years.

A significant milestone was achieved through ChildFund's collaboration with the Directorate of Children Services, during which the national OCSEA manual and standard operating procedures developed in the previous reporting period were widely disseminated.

Through county and sub-county forums, the project reached 531 social service providers (242 men and 289 women), equipping them with the knowledge and tools to prevent, identify, and respond to Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Achievements:

- Led the development and national rollout of Kenya's first Guidance and Counselling Policy for the Ministry of Education, driving successful implementation across 10 counties.
- Drove the development, approval, and validation of both the National Children Policy and the National Safeguarding Policy.
- Strengthened partner capacity for county-level advocacy through regular forums, enhancing skills and sharing best practices.
- Represented all CSOs at the Interministerial Conference in Bogota, successfully advocating for the inclusion of Online Child Protection in the agenda and holding the Government of Kenya accountable for its commitments.

- Integrated community-led advocacy into CBCPM action plans, ensuring grassroots involvement in child protection.
- Consistently engaged by the Ministry of Education and Department of Children Services to design service delivery models, leveraging strong government partnerships to influence national systems.
- Provided sustained technical and financial support to finalize Children Act rules and regulations.
- Offered technical and financial support for the Disrupting Harm study and the National Plan of Action on OCSEA (Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse).



MONITORING EVALUATION AND LEARNING

In FY25, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit strengthened ChildFund's commitment to evidence driven programming, accountability and learning.

Through systematic monitoring, rigorous research and evaluations, and enhanced knowledge management practices, the team generated actionable insights that informed programme design, improved implementation quality and supported strategic decision making.

Some of the key M&E achievements and learning milestones delivered in FY25 include:

Research and Evaluation

Guided by the Country Strategic Plan 2022–2026, several research studies and evaluations generated evidence to inform programming, advocacy and organizational learning. These included study on factors influencing learning outcomes for children aged 6–14 in rural and urban settings; research on environmental sustainability impacts on women and children in North Horr, Marsabit; study on the use of artificial intelligence in anticipatory action for children at risk of environmental factors and randomized control trial on child development outcomes for the strengthened partnership for nurturing care project (Homabay and Busia)

Knowledge Management and Learning (KML)

To strengthen organizational learning, the team participated in numerous internal and external learning platforms including peer learning exchange where the findings from the AI in Anticipatory Action study conducted in Marsabit were disseminated.

We also took part in several webinars which covered children and youth participation in environmental sustainability, advocacy on Inclusivity in education and health, digitalizing community health (eCHIS), scale up of parenting interventions, humanitarian response in Gaza and Syria and school safety and resilience.

We participated in a range of national, regional, and global conferences, including the collaborative action on childcare conference, Africa childcare forum, and the comparative and international education society meetings. In addition, we contributed to several coordination and technical working groups, notably Education in Emergencies (UNICEF Kenya), the WASH sector coordination group, the WASH in schools technical working group, and the global alliance for disaster risk reduction and resilience in education (GADDRRES).

PARTNERSHIPS



A panel discussion led by Charter 4 Change, Kenyan chapter, on Advancing Localization for Sustainable Development in Kenya, bringing together donors and partners to share insights, strengthen collaboration, and drive locally led solutions.

In FY25, the Partnership Portfolio Management (PPM) Team remained instrumental in advancing ChildFund's strategic objective of strengthening local ownership, as outlined in the Country Strategic Plan (2022–2026). With a focus on identifying fit-for-purpose, mission-aligned partners, the team prioritized maximizing impact despite operating within a constrained resource environment.

A key milestone this financial year was our progress in advancing localization for sustainable development in Kenya. We deepened our collaboration with 11 direct implementing partners and 2 indirect implementing partners, ensuring that leadership, decision-making, and resources increasingly rest with communities themselves.

This approach reflects our belief that sustainable development can only be achieved when local actors drive change,

designing and delivering programs that reflect their realities and aspirations. In May 2025, we further reinforced this commitment by convening a Localization Learning and Engagement Forum that brought together 52 stakeholders, including donors, partners, corporates, and foundations. The forum provided a platform for dialogue, shared learning, and alignment on strengthening locally led development, fostering partnerships that support locally driven solutions and long-term impact.

Building on prior momentum, ChildFund deepened partnerships and collaborations with over 46+ diverse partners, including technical agencies, County Governments, academic institutions, foundations, private sector actors, and non-governmental organizations—through formalized arrangements such as Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), Letters of Agreement, and Project Agreements.



ChildFund Kenya staff were joined by Childline Kenya leadership for a collaboration meeting to discuss how to protect and support children and ensure they remain safe online.

These strategic partnerships are designed to enhance program quality, broaden geographic and thematic reach, and have the potential to impact up to 9.5 million children and families annually.

To advance the localization agenda and foster sustainable local ownership, we strengthened leadership and governance structures among ChildFund's local implementing partners (LIPs). This was achieved through targeted induction and refresher workshops for Board Members and Senior Management Teams, covering critical areas such as: leadership and governance responsibilities; policy compliance

and donor standards; financial management and accountability; human resources and procurement best practices; fraud prevention and awareness and resource mobilization and partnership development.

In addition, we convened an annual partnership review meeting, bringing together LIP Senior Management and 39 Executive Board Members to reflect on FY25's performance. The meeting culminated in the renewal of partnership agreements, formalized through the signing of Letters of Agreement, witnessed by ChildFund Kenya's Senior Management Team.



CHILD SPONSORSHIP

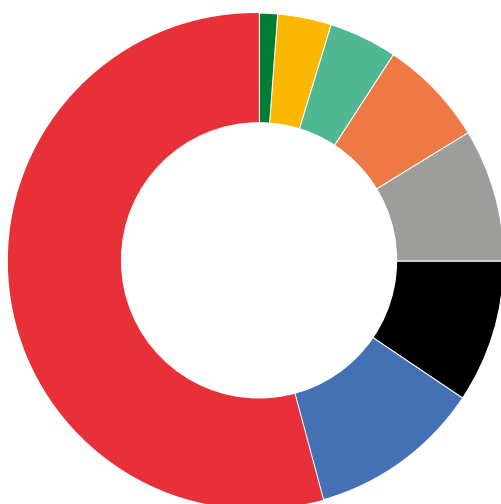
In FY25, ChildFund maintained enrolment of 39,990 children, of which 31,499 were actively sponsored. Our dedicated sponsors, primarily from the USA, Australia, Sweden, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan, Germany, and France, continued to play a critical role in transforming the lives of children, their families, and communities.

With continued sponsorship funding, we implemented a wide array of child-focused interventions across multiple sectors.

These included child protection and safeguarding, household economic strengthening, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), early childhood development, health, and nutrition.

Sponsored children maintained regular communication with their sponsors, sharing updates on their education, well-being, and family life—strengthening the personal connection between the two.

Sponsor by country as at 30.06.2025



1%	France	- 379
4%	Germany	- 1,117
4%	Taiwan	- 1,358
7%	New Zealand	- 2,266
9%	Korea	- 2,901
10%	Australia	- 3,084
11%	Sweden	- 3,581
54%	USA	- 17,333

Key Highlights:

- The Magic App initiative, which enables digital correspondence between sponsors and their sponsored children, was **expanded to five additional Local Partners, bringing the total to seven.**
- **15,232 sponsored children in Kenya are now benefiting from this initiative,** enabling timelier and more meaningful sponsor-child engagement.
- **We facilitated the exchange of over 152,474 sponsorship communication pieces,** including Child Reply Letters, Thank You Letters, Child Progress Reports, and Seasonal Greeting Cards, keeping sponsors informed and engaged in their sponsored children's development.

- To enhance data security and streamline operations for the enrolled children's digitized files, **the system was migrated to DRUVA cloud storage, ensuring more secure, accessible, and efficient data management.**

In alignment with our sponsorship and program strategy, we continued preparations for transitioning out of communities where ChildFund has operated for over four decades and where significant development milestones have been achieved. This is paving the way for our entry into new neighbouring wards and villages that exhibit higher levels of child vulnerability, allowing us to extend our impact to those most in need.



A special moment as Sara meets Jane, the child she sponsors, during her visit, sharing time, smiles, and connection.

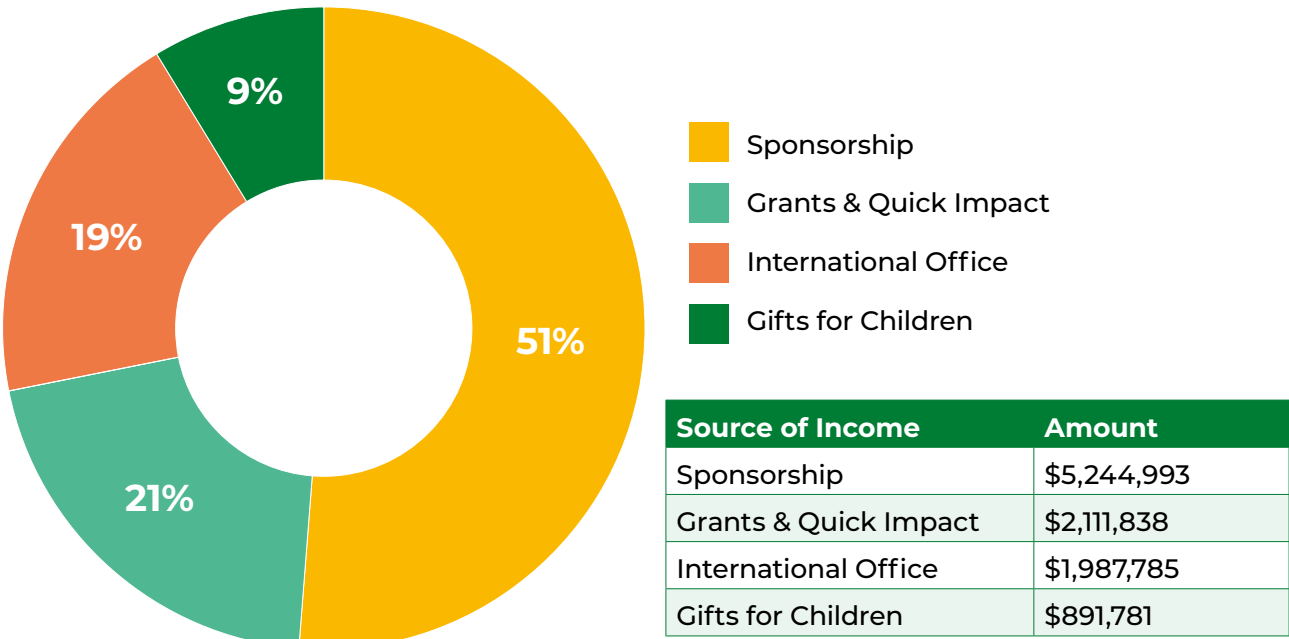


Margaret and Fidel share a moment during their sponsor-child engagement visit, creating memories and strengthening their bond.

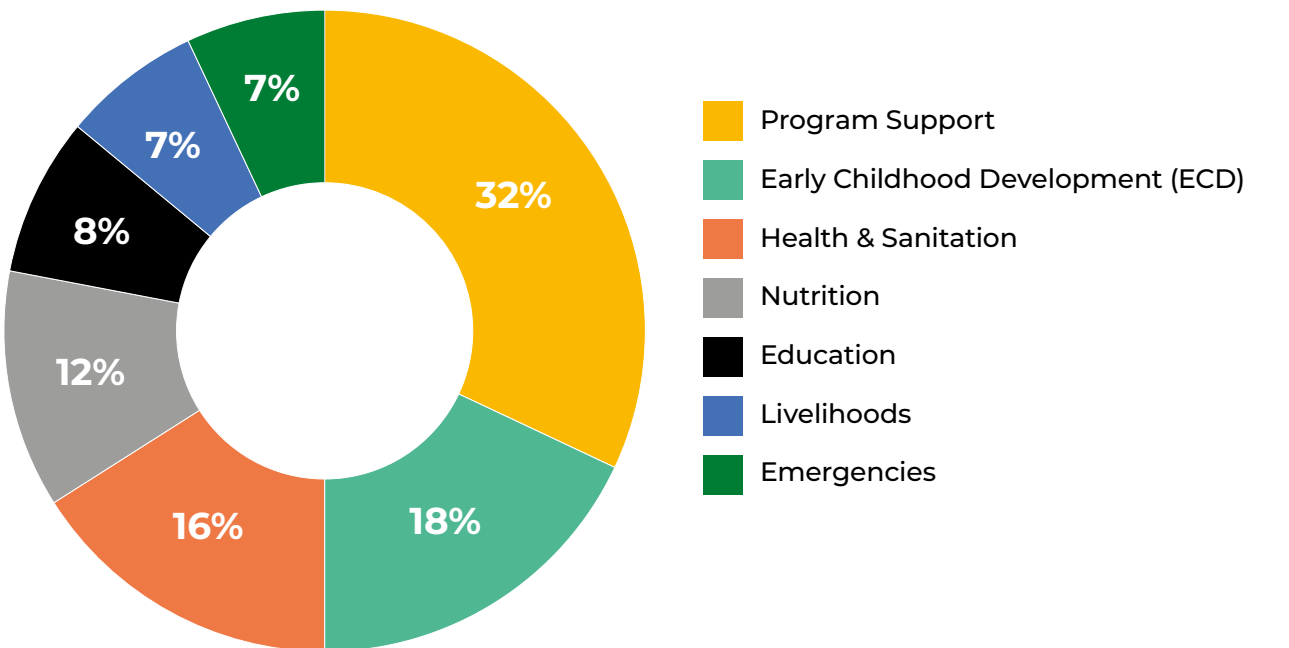


Financials

Sources of Funding



Investment by Sector





Baraka (11) stands with a goat his family received through the ChildFund gift catalog.

Our Team

Our Senior Leadership



Issa Athuman Kipera, PhD
Acting Country Director



Mildred Lwangasi
Human Resources Director



Wanguhu Githiomi
Finance Director - Kenya
and Uganda



James Adede
Grants Acquisition and
Management Manager



Caroline Ngonge
Acting Program and
Sponsorship Director



Cyprian Muriuki
Acting Partnership
Portfolio Manager

Advisory Board Members

1. **Dr. Lorna Sangale**
Chairperson
2. **Dr. David Thuku**
Vice Chairperson
3. **Hellen Omwenga**
Member
4. **Alan Maturu**
Member
5. **Dr. Gladys Mwiti**
Member

6. **Prof George Achoki**
Member
7. **Dr. Geoffrey Muga**
Member
8. **Nyambura Musyimi**
Member
9. **Penina Vulimu**
Member



Our Development Partners

Implementing partners



Technical partners



Corporate partners



Donors









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