

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING



BETTER
TOMORROWS

Christian Children's Fund

Member of

ChildFund
Alliance

BUILDING



BETTER TOMORROWS

CONTENTS

Message from the Chairman	2
Message from the President	3
Serving as a Global Force for Children	4
Early Childhood Development	6
Education	8
Emergencies	10
Health and Sanitation	12
Nutrition	14
Sustainable Livelihoods.....	16
Grants Support	19
Where We Work	20
Financial Statements	22
CCF Around the World.....	24

www.ChristianChildrensFund.org

©2008 Christian Children's Fund Inc.
All rights reserved.

On the cover:
Children in 31 countries receive critical services to offer hope and lasting change, creating a foundation for better tomorrows.
Cover Photos: Mary Arnold, Margrit Coppe, Rebecca Janes



CCF exists to:

- Help deprived, excluded and vulnerable children have the capacity to improve their lives and the opportunity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change in their communities.
- Promote societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting and advancing the worth and rights of children.



Dear Friends,

As I complete my second term as Chairman of the Board for Christian Children's Fund, I see an organization that is accelerating its work in serving children. The end goal is to give children the skills to improve their lives and the opportunity to become leaders who bring lasting change to their communities.

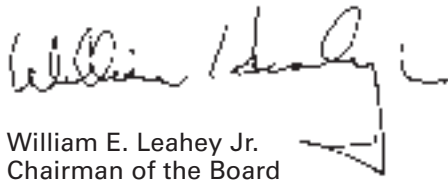
CCF has expanded its reach to children as a member of a global alliance – the ChildFund Alliance. All 12 members strive to eradicate the root causes and the effects of poverty on children by implementing meaningful, sustainable solutions resulting in positive futures.

As you will discover throughout this report, significant progress was made in each of our program areas. For example, CCF provided loans enabling parents to start small businesses; established alternative schools for children who must work to support their families; raised greater awareness of malaria and AIDS; introduced families to proven methods for improving the quantity and quality of locally grown foods; and responded to emergencies in Ethiopia (drought), Indonesia (floods), Afghanistan (heavy snows) and Kenya (presidential election aftermath).

All of this was accomplished through good stewardship of the funds entrusted to us by our donors. Both fiscal accountability and quality services to children are always at the forefront of CCF's programs, enabling us to use funds wisely while also having the greatest impact in serving children.

In a world where more than 1.5 billion children live in poverty, much more work remains to be done. With your ongoing support, Christian Children's Fund will continue to meet the many needs of the world's children.

Sincerely,



William E. Leahey Jr.
Chairman of the Board

Our 70th Year

Founded in 1938, Christian Children's Fund began its work assisting children in China, many of whom were orphaned by the Second Sino-Japanese War. Our 70 years of service to children has established a solid foundation by which CCF has become a global, dynamic organization, touching the lives of 15.2 million children and family members in 31 countries. Our work has been possible because of thousands of caring donors.



1930s

CCF was founded by Dr. J. Calvitt Clarke as China's Children Fund, serving children in China affected by war.

CCF extends its services to children elsewhere in Asia and in Europe after WWII.

1940s



1950s

China's Children Fund became Christian Children's Fund because its work had extended beyond China.

Dear CCF Family,

Throughout my life I have lived in many countries working to improve the lives of children. My experiences led me to conclude that there are two things shared by people everywhere – regardless of their race, nationality, culture or socioeconomic status. One is the hope that their children will have a better life. The second is the desire to be involved in decisions that affect their lives. Christian Children’s Fund (CCF) works to make both a reality.

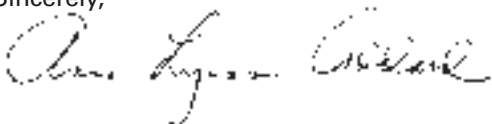
Through its programs and training, CCF empowers children to help change the realities of poverty both today and into the future. In too many parts of the world, children are seen as laborers, objects for sexual abuse or soldiers. We at CCF, however, see them as a key part of the solution to their and their communities’ problems. We are working with children and youth to help them acquire skills and confidence to raise their concerns and to offer solutions with the proper authorities. But perhaps most importantly, as these children grow into adulthood, they will have the capacity to become the young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change to their own lives and to their communities.

This year – our 70th – also has been one of reflection on our many years of service and what the future holds. What started as an emergency relief fund for Chinese children displaced by conflict has grown into an international organization at work on five continents and in 31 countries. We are now reaching 15.2 million children and families each year. And we are not alone in our efforts. We are proud to be a member of the ChildFund Alliance, a family of 12 like-minded “sister” organizations that provide development and humanitarian assistance to children in 56 countries around the globe.

Our work will continue and even be strengthened in the coming year as we finalize strategies to sharpen our focus going forward. CCF will continue to evolve to meet new and changing needs; however, we will never lose sight of our main goal – to protect the world’s most deprived, excluded and vulnerable children.

Thanks to your generous support, our efforts are paying off. Children are better equipped to improve their lives and the lives of those around them. We invite you to read in the pages of this year’s Annual Report about the transformation in their lives and the communities in which they live. We hope you will be as inspired by their stories as I have been.

Sincerely,



Anne Lynam Goddard
President and CEO, Christian Children’s Fund



By 1985, more than 325,000 children were being sponsored through CCF. Sister organizations had been established in Denmark, Germany and Australia.



CCF became one of 12 international children’s organizations to form ChildFund Alliance, expanding its reach to serve children in 56 countries.

CCF officially opened an office for its work in Africa. CCF also adopted a strict “Code of Fundraising Ethics.”

CCF began addressing emergencies through its Child Centered Spaces program.



SERVING AS A GLOBAL FORCE FOR CHILDREN

All children — even the most deprived, vulnerable and excluded — have dreams. They want to play and have fun. They want to go to school — not because they necessarily enjoy homework, but because they want to grow up and have a better life than their parents.

Unfortunately for many children and youth around the world, obstacles prevent them from playing, being healthy or attending school.

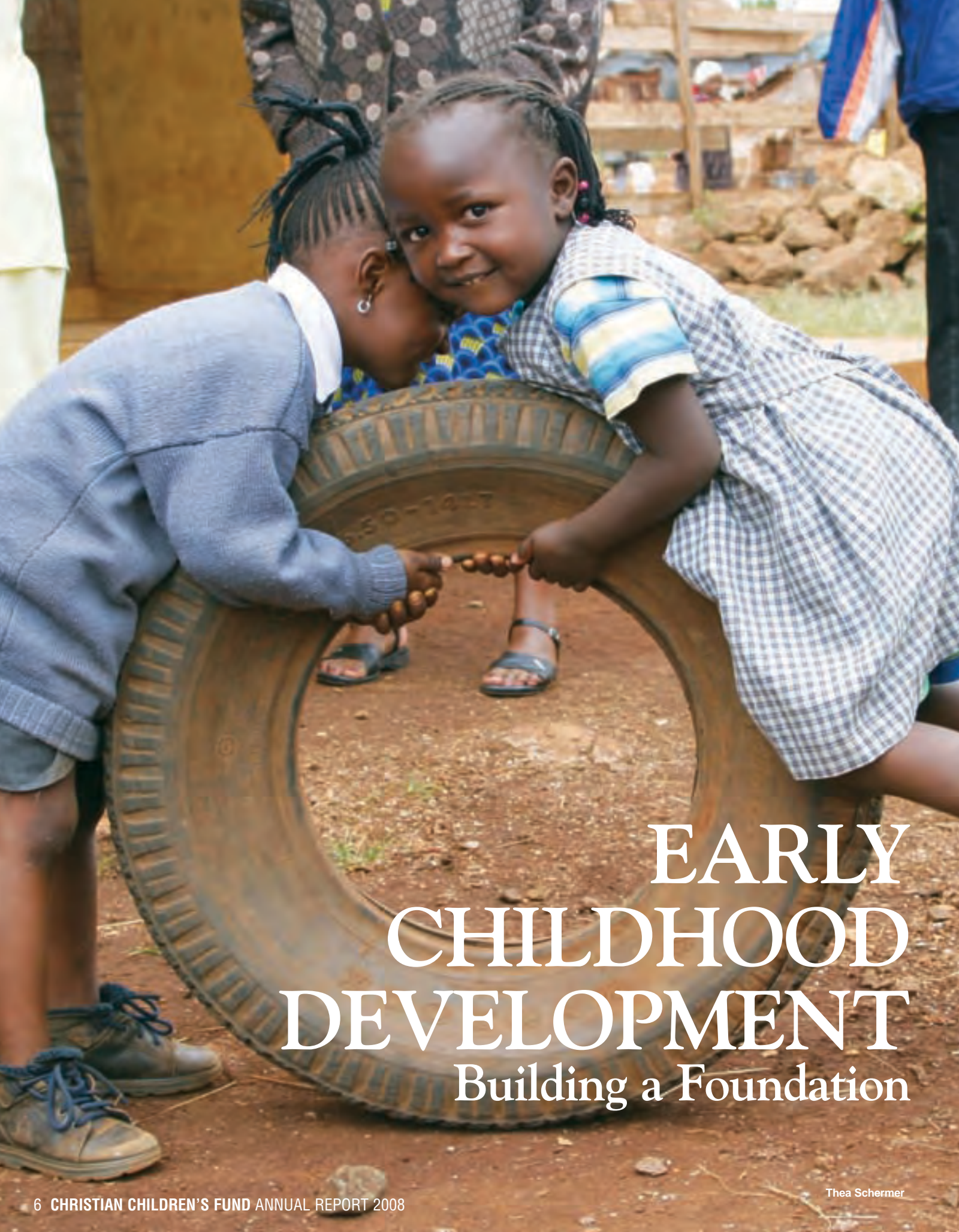
That is where Christian Children's Fund steps in. CCF is a dynamic global force for children, supporting programs within an environment of protection, hope and respect. One distinctive aspect of CCF's work is our practice of ensuring that children are given opportunities to participate in and contribute to their own development. CCF asks them for something most adults never think to ask them for: their opinions. They share their answers in many settings, often through child and youth federations. Their answers enable CCF to offer programs and solutions that contribute to their successful development.

Efforts include preventing and responding to gender-based violence as well as sexual exploitation, abuse, addressing drug and alcohol dependency and harmful practices such as child labor. It includes finding ways to allow children to attend school. In times of natural disaster and armed conflict, CCF establishes safe havens for children, who are susceptible to a multitude of threats.

Asking, listening and then acting on their answers promotes the concept that children are major catalysts for improving their lives, and that they should be consulted with and involved in implementing actions to make their communities, schools and homes better places. By providing them with leadership opportunities and the chance to form and participate on youth committees, CCF believes they will become better equipped adults with the skills to improve their lives and the lives of those around them.

That is why since 1938, CCF has provided more than \$2.9 billion in services to families and communities, and that is why we will continue to grow and provide services, opportunities and a voice for the children.

◀ *CCF believes that youth have the capacity to change their own lives and become future leaders. As they become more involved, they bring positive substantial change to their communities.*



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Building a Foundation

Nurturing children at the earliest stages of development provides them with the foundation to succeed in life. For those living in extreme poverty, however, the stakes are much higher and the resources much fewer. Many parents and caregivers lack a basic understanding of or appreciation for the benefits of early childhood development (ECD) activities, in part because they themselves were never exposed to the benefits.

CCF is working to erase that lack of understanding through programs that focus on pregnancy and childbirth and the early stages of development. These programs address instilling good health practices and basic educational skills so important to children as they grow and develop physically and intellectually. Providing guidance and support to parents, caregivers and preschool teachers protects children and helps them get the best possible start in life.

According to Maria, the work is hard, but the results encourage her and other Guide Mothers to put forth their best efforts to teach families about malnutrition and healthy childhood development.

BABY IRENE

Concern for the integral well-being of children under age 5 led CCF to introduce the Child Development Scale. Where often only a nutrition scale is used to detect malnutrition, this cost-effective, user-friendly tool also addresses the overall issue of identifying children's specific developmental needs. Last year, CCF organized, trained and monitored a group of community Guide Mothers in Brazil who then visited the homes of more than 1,200 vulnerable children under age 2. After one year of community interventions, demonstrable progress is being made with children like Irene.

Irene's first evaluation with Maria, her Guide Mother, revealed numerous health concerns including severe malnutrition. Irene also suffered from diarrhea, acute respiratory infection, anemia and visible signs of emaciation. In short, Irene did not meet any of the minimum developmental indicators for a child her age.

*“When I met Irene,
I understood my mission.”*

— Maria, a Guide Mother for Christian Children's Fund

As Guide Mothers are trained to do, Maria reported the case to the local health center, which followed up with a field visit. The mother was given medicine and instructions for how to better care for Irene. The Guide Mother continued to work with Irene's mother. One year later Irene's development has improved significantly. Although she is still small for her age, her weight is adequate for her size, and she meets three of the five age-appropriate development indicators. And Irene's mother now is aware of what she must do to help her child grow and thrive.

◀ *For children to be strong enough for play, critical needs of proper nutrition and health must be addressed at an early age. CCF Kenya gives children a healthy start to life through its early childhood development programs.*

MORE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

For more information on CCF's early childhood development activities, please visit our Web site at

www.ChristianChildrensFund.org



EDUCATION

Quality Learning
and Achievement



Scott Phillips

The quality education these children receive is adapted to their needs and offers them a chance to end the cycle of poverty.

Children living in poverty understand its effects on an intimate level, and CCF is giving them a voice. When asked what they wanted most, their resounding answer was education. CCF believes that education is one of the most powerful tools to fight poverty and protect the world's children. Therefore, CCF's education programs strive to create environments that are conducive to learning, enabling children to build skills needed to improve their lives. CCF has embraced a "child friendly school" approach while also building other meaningful educational opportunities.

Getting children into school is only half the job. Schools must also be adapted to children's needs. The most at-risk children, such as child soldiers and young girls, face unique challenges. Often, they don't have schools to attend. Cultural practices also favor the education of boys. In these cases, CCF responds with innovative, flexible solutions.

QUALITY EDUCATION TO END EXCLUSION

Ensuring that no child is excluded from receiving a quality education is a major focus of CCF's education programs. Often, parents lack money for school fees, children live too far from a school and others miss out on getting an education as they are engaged in child labor for survival.

CCF advocates for children in all of these circumstances. In Dominica, an 18-year-old girl was not allowed to return to school due to social stigmatization. Another young girl did not have her mother's help to enroll in school. Yet another dropped out of school as his mother could not afford the required brown shoes. CCF Dominica staff addresses education issues through politicians, courts and community leaders to ensure that these children, and others like them, are returned to school. For example, CCF organized the New Secondary Level Program, which enables young people to earn a high school certificate. Taking this one step further, CCF is educating Dominica's leaders on the importance of giving all children access to a quality education.

"I really need to go back to school."

— An 18-year-old girl from Dominica

Another major roadblock to education is child labor. Working with agencies such as the U.S. Department of Labor in the Philippines and Angola, CCF is making progress. Educational opportunities and incentives are offered to encourage school attendance. The initiative also involves sensitizing local leaders on ways that education can combat child labor and improve their quality of life, bringing about a brighter future for all.



READING IS A FUNDAMENTAL SKILL

In Sarguia, one of the most undeveloped districts in the Chhattisgarh state of India, the school system is known for its poor quality lessons, an inadequate number of teachers and inferior infrastructure. Combined, these elements prevent children from reaching their full potential. Some children don't even learn to read and write in the early grades, quickly falling behind in their educational development.

To combat this, CCF India launched the Reading Skills Improvement Program during fiscal year 2007-08. The 14-week pilot program, conducted in 20 schools, aimed to improve the reading levels of primary school students through the oral tradition of learning, which enables children to acquire correct pronunciation, stress, rhythm and intonations.

In its first year, the program reached 495 children, children like 7-year-old Bhim. Already two grades behind in school, he was sent by his mother to attend the program. In the beginning, he did not even know the alphabet, but his mother and teacher encouraged him to stick with it. Gradually, Bhim started learning and now enjoys reading. He is happy and has become not only a leader of his class, but also an inspiration to other children in his village school.

Following RSIP's pilot test, the program was expanded to other districts with equal success. Bhim and others like him are helping break a generations-old cycle of family illiteracy.

EMERGENCIES

Reaching Out in a Crisis



In emergencies, it's the children whose needs are often overlooked as their parents struggle to survive.

In communities torn apart by war or natural disasters the delivery of life-saving services is critical. Christian Children's Fund is quick to respond, providing immediate necessities and conducting services to begin the road to recovery.

CHILD CENTERED SPACES SUPPORT CHILDREN

To help mobilize communities on behalf of children during and after emergencies, Christian Children's Fund developed a child protection approach that uses diverse tools, including Child Centered Spaces (CCSs), to promote the protection and psychosocial well-being of children during crises. This approach enables communities to create safe spaces where children and youth can play, socialize, learn and express themselves in a caring, supportive and normalizing environment.

Through their participation in CCSs children feel greater hope for the future and communities become better organized to support their children.

Starting Up Child Centered Spaces in Emergencies: A Field Manual (May 2008) draws from the knowledge and experiences of CCF child protection specialists who have implemented CCSs in 12 countries since 1999. This manual offers guidance to child protection workers to help children in the aftermath of a war or natural disaster.

REUNITING FAMILIES

Children are supposed to play, but in Chad rebel groups and military forces had forced them to serve as child soldiers. The signing of an international agreement not to use or recruit child soldiers led to the demobilization of more than 450 boys in July 2007.

CCF was one of the NGOs that established interim care centers in Chad and worked to reunite the boys with their families. In 2007, CCF also expanded its activities for children to reach an additional 2,000 underserved refugee and local Chadian children.

HARSH AFGHANISTAN WINTER

Frigid temperatures and the heaviest snows in recent memory affected more than two-thirds of the provinces in Afghanistan in January and February. Many families did not have the resources to stay warm. Some became trapped by snow.

Fortunately, ChildFund Afghanistan (a partner organization with CCF) responded to the immediate needs of 1,500 children in the Takhar Province thanks to the financing of CCF Kinderhilfswerk and the German Foreign Ministry.

ChildFund Afghanistan also provided support to 500 families to help them through the winter. Items distributed included 1,000 blankets, 1,500 pairs of shoes, 3,000 pairs of socks, 1,000 mattresses, 250 kilos of wood for each family, a traditional Afghan stove and basic food supplies.

UGANDA FLOODS

Twelve-year-old James Olinga from Aguyaguya village in the Teso region of Uganda watched as the “rains kept coming and coming. Everything was so wet,” he said, “but CCF brought many things to our village.”

Last fall, Uganda, recovering from a devastating 20-year civil war, was hit by another disaster – this time in the form of severe flooding in the northeast of the country. Homes, latrines, educational infrastructure, roads and water sources were damaged or completely destroyed. Crops that are often a family’s only source of income rotted in gardens.

With your assistance, however, CCF Uganda was able to respond quickly, distributing substantial amounts of chlorine tablets, insecticide-treated mosquito nets, blankets, soap and tarps. Basic farm implements, along with quick-growing garden seeds and cassava cuttings also were distributed once families were able to plant again and recover.

Mothers and children gather following the aftermath of Kenya’s presidential election to learn how to cope. CCF worked with the Kenyan government to help restabilize affected communities.

MORE EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

For more emergencies information,
please visit our Web site at

www.ChristianChildrensFund.org



HEALTH AND SANITATION

Healthier Lives Enable a Brighter Future

Childhood immunizations, access to clean water and proper sanitation systems are things most people in the United States take for granted. But in many parts of the world, diseases caused by the lack of these necessities continue to take away children's lives and hopes for the future. Christian Children's Fund improves access to clean water and proper sanitation. CCF also is addressing a health issue that has left thousands of children orphaned – HIV/AIDS. Many of these programs are implemented through specially trained community health providers, touching the lives of families in hundreds of communities throughout the developing world.

HEALTHY WATER, HEALTHY LIVES

In Sri Lanka this past year, CCF supported the completion of water and sanitation facilities for schools and early childhood development centers. In all, 16 water systems were completed along with the installation of 735 toilets and 80 wells. To follow up, CCF conducts health awareness activities. Teaching children and youth the importance of using these facilities is an integral part of the program's success. With the provision of clean drinking water and an emphasis on the importance of hand washing, many illnesses are prevented, enabling children to lead much healthier lives.

COMBATING MALARIA RISK

When Elizabeth's 3-year-old son complained of fever, chills, pain and a headache, she treated him with natural herbs, a common practice in Kenya. When he did not get any better she took him to the hospital where, sadly, he was pronounced dead upon arrival. "I could not believe [my son] was no more ... It was because of my ignorance ... I should have rushed him to [the] hospital."

Situations like this are common in Kenya where more than 34,000 children younger than age 5 die from malaria each year. In addition, pregnancy reduces women's ability to fight infection. Pregnant women are four times more likely to get sick, and twice as likely to die. During the last trimester of another pregnancy, Elizabeth began showing symptoms of malaria. This time, because of the education she received from CCF, she knew to get help quickly.

Malaria is avoidable, and a key prevention method is the use of specially treated mosquito nets. In one area of Kenya, CCF distributed 1,000 mosquito nets — 800 were given to help children under 5 and 200 were distributed to expectant mothers. In collaboration with the Zambian government, people are learning the importance of using mosquito nets, which is leading to breakthroughs. One Zambian mother, Nchimunya, said, "I have seen a big difference in the quality of my health." And she is not alone — these efforts have reduced Zambia's malaria mortality rate.

FATHERING A COMMUNITY TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS

For CCF combating HIV encompasses prevention, basic treatment and education. In some communities, programs offer expectant mothers free testing to help curb the transmission of HIV to their unborn children. In others, trained care providers take over.

As a trained care provider, 48-year-old Charles is no ordinary father. With nine children of his own, Charles adopted his four nieces and nephews who are orphaned because of AIDS. Although he earns the equivalent of only \$11 US per week selling fruits and vegetables, Charles has become a force in his community's fight against AIDS and the shame and suffering it causes.

"None of my family wished to disclose that they were dying of AIDS. The community was full of stigma ... I knew after my brother's death that I wanted to stop more people from dying." So Charles responded to CCF Uganda's call for volunteers to participate in a home-based care training program. Charles uses his training to raise awareness of HIV prevention while helping families care for their HIV and AIDS patients. Charles is considered a "lifesaver" in his community.



Providing a source of clean water prevents many illnesses, which are often life threatening. These wash basins in a community in Ecuador allow children to lead healthier lives.

Nicole Duclaux