

Issue 1 Autumn 2009

HELPING KIWIS TOUCH THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN NEED

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Library in a Box



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Library in a box Transforming children's lives...

If you're a child in Timor Leste, chances are you've never owned a book of your own.

And no wonder. You live in the newest nation in the world, a country full of hope and passion... but a country that has suffered enormous pain, and still struggles with being one of the 10 poorest countries in the world.

Of the 150,000 children aged 6 – 11, only 30,000 are in school at any given time. Even when children get to school, the roof leaks, teachers have few resources, and there's rarely a book in sight.

That's why the 'Library-in-a-Box' is so urgently needed.

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How you pack a Library in a box!



Children choose books from their new Library in a Box

The idea for the Library-in-a-Box began with a problem!

Books are so scarce in Timor Leste, and are so highly valued, they had a habit of disappearing from schools.

What made things worse is that the roofs of many schools leak. When the afternoon monsoonal rains start, the water pours in.

The solution to the problem began when a ChildFund educator saw the metal boxes that used to deliver aid, were no longer being used. She came up with the idea of turning them into mini mobile libraries!

But what's a library without books?

That's where Kiwis like you can help. Through ChildFund you can now provide books to fill the Library-in-a-Box. You can even provide the complete Library! Along with pens, pencils, school bags and school shoes.

For a new nation like Timor Leste children really are the future. An education is the key for these children to break free from the poverty they face.

Through ChildFund you can be part of it. To help pack a library in a box, simply choose from the ideas on page 5, then call 0800 223 777, visit www.childfund.org.nz/urgentappeals or mail the Reply Slip with your donation in the Freepost Envelope provided.

Education in Timor Leste

- one in 5 school-age children have never attended school
- of the 150,000 children aged 6 – 11, only 30,000 are in school at any given time
- only 2 in every 5 children receive Early Childhood Development
- 78% of people don't have enough income to meet basic needs, let alone support their children through school
- 60% of adults are illiterate
- To combat these problems, ChildFund is working on a complete educational programme for the poorest children in Timor Leste. The Library-in-a-Box is one of the first steps towards making it happen!

Introducing Timor Leste

We interviewed a child from New Zealand and child from Timor Leste so we could find out just how different their lives are.



Hannah
Age: 10

Home: Auckland, New Zealand

Life Expectancy: 82.2 years

Wealth: \$26,340*

Chores: "I get myself ready for school, make my bed and make my own breakfast."

Hobbies: "Watching Sky TV and playing games on the computer. I have my own bike. We also have a swimming pool and a trampoline. I also have an ipod."

Pocket-money: "I get \$1.00 per week and I spend it on lollies - if Mum lets me!"

Education: "My classroom is big with lots of windows. There is a big book-case full of books. We have 4 computers, a whiteboard and share a mimeoboard with another class."

What I like in books: "I love reading, as much as I can. I like classic children's stories, adventure and funny books. I get them from the library or my parents buy them."

When I grow up: "I want to be either a Vet, an Actor or a Silver Fern Netball player."

*Gross National Income per capita at purchasing power parity, expressed in International Dollars.



Luzina
Age: 9

Home: Dili, Timor Leste

Life Expectancy: 62 years

Wealth: \$3,080*

Chores: "I help my parents as much as I can."

Hobbies: "I would like to read. But we have no books. Even our teacher has no book to read us. She only can use the blackboard."

Pocket-money: Nil – she is one of 41% of population in Timor Leste who live on less than \$1 a day

Education: "All the walls are empty. There are no posters or pictures or nice drawings. The windows have criss-cross wire on them. It is very hot. When the rain comes, the roof leaks and we must shift the desks. Sometimes it floods."

What I like in books: "I would just like any books to read. My wish would be a book about the human body, and also about animals. One day I would like to have toys."

When I grow up: "I want to be a nurse, or perhaps a teacher. I would like to help people."

Timor Leste – the youngest nation in the world!

- 28 November 1975: East Timor declares independence from Portugal
- 7 December 1975: invaded and occupied by Indonesian forces
- 30 August 1999: East Timor votes for independence from Indonesia, following this Indonesia-supported militias kill 1,400 Timorese and force 300,000 into West Timor as refugees
- 20 September 1999: an international peace-keeping force brings violence to end
- 2002: East Timor internationally-recognised as independent state
- 25 May 2006: New Zealand is one of the countries to send troops to help quell violence, in the city of Dili thousand flee to makeshift Internally Displaced People camps
- 11 February 2008: assassination attempt on President and Prime Minister Jose Ramos-Horta
- 2009: More peaceful times, Timorese families return home to begin to rebuild their lives

How education in Timor Leste affects people

The student



Novario is 7 years old. He loves going to school because: "I want to be a good boy, and a clever one." His favourite subject is reading, and he also likes Maths. Novario wishes his school had more books on these subjects.

Novario's message to Kiwis: "Please help me read better by sending books for me to read."

The teacher



Maria Al Cina Martinez has been a teacher for 38 years. Yet the only text-book she has is a battered old book given to her by a nun. She has no other books for children to read. The only way she can teach reading is by writing on the black-board.

Maria's message to Kiwis: "We are so grateful to the people of New Zealand for all of the help they have already provided. However it is 20 years since our school has had repairs. The roof is broken and the rain comes in. Please help us."

The parent



Jose de Cruz never got to finish primary school. Now Jose has children of his own. One is very sick, and he struggles to afford medication. Jose works as a security guard at the local school. He dreams that his children will have a better life than him and says books will allow them to increase their knowledge, and understand more.

Jose's message to Kiwis: "As security guard I see children come to school without books. I would like to see them with books so they can learn better, and do more in the next generation."

The teenager



Eufrasia is 15. She lives with her aunt and uncle, helping to run the tiny shop they own. Because she was sponsored through ChildFund, Eufrasia has reached 12th grade of school. She wants to go to university and become a doctor or nurse – "I want to help people." Eufrasia says education helps her understand things and will help her get a job.

Eufrasia's message to Kiwis: "Education is important. It can help you contribute to the community and be respected. With the help I have received I see a future that is positive and bright."

Read all about it... Change these children's lives today!

Children in Timor Leste are some of the poorest children in the world. What they need is the best possible start in life – a good education! That's where the unique Library-in-a-Box can make such an impact. Through ChildFund New Zealand, you can provide everything a child needs to start school!



Complete Library-in-a-Box

Provide a complete portable library for a poor school in Timor Leste. Can serve a whole school.

- metal box, shelves, and fit out
- 100 x reading books
- 10 x text-books

\$1,430

Reading Book Library

You can provide a complete set of reading books for a school, that will be stored in the safe and secure Library-in-a-Box.

- 100 x reading books

\$650

School Starter Kit

You can provide everything a child from a poor family needs to get started on an education that can change their life forever.

- School shoes
- School Bag
- Reading Book
- Text Book
- Note-Book (sturdy)
- 1 pack x 12 pens
- 1 pack x 12 pencils

\$130

Book set

Any book is precious to a child in Timor Leste. Help provide the books that can stock a Library-in-a-Box.

- Reading book
- Text book

\$33

Please choose your gift and send your donation today! Call 0800 223 777, visit www.childfund.org.nz/urgentappeals or mail the Reply Slip with your donation in the Freepost Envelope provided.

REPORT BACK: 554 students in Zambia benefit from kiwi help



"Everybody joined in as we built the classrooms and teachers' houses. Before there was nothing. Now we have good classrooms and even VIP latrines. I think this has helped us perform well in our examinations, especially in grades 9 and 7."

- Kapinda Namuswa, a pupil at Mukupi Basic School

Before Kiwi help through ChildFund started at Mukupi in Zambia three years ago, the local school was a ruin. Villagers called it a 'deserted and haunted place'.

Working in partnership with the local community ChildFund experts developed a plan to renovate and restore the school. The key to success was partnership – between ChildFund and the local community, and also with generous New Zealanders like you.

The results look like this:

- Early Childhood Development Centre roofed, and plastering commenced
- plastering of 3 classrooms completed to stage where students can use
- 2 further classrooms fully renovated
- 4 teacher's flats under construction
- school library substructure completed
- 10 VIP (Ventilated Improved Pit) latrines completed (reduced incidents of cholera)

This success at Mukupi Basic School is thanks to the generosity of Kiwis through ChildFund. On behalf of the 554 children already benefiting – thank you!

A Passion for Education

Kate Findley, a teacher from Reporoa College, partner-taught at Mukupi in Zambia through ChildFund Global Schools.

What was the biggest thing you learnt?

How hard things are for teachers in Zambia. They have no resources, they get paid so little, yet they are passionate about education. They taught me the true meaning of education, and its importance. I thought I knew before, but I can see now that I didn't.

How did you feel having the **Zambian Teachers come to your school?**

Global Schools is about creating awareness and building links. Having the teachers here completes the circle. It helped us take what we've been talking about in the classroom and turn it into action that can change the lives of children living poverty.

• STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS •

- In July, another 14 teachers from across New Zealand will travel to Zambia with ChildFund Global Schools to share their skills and teaching methods. Later this year Zambian teachers will come to New Zealand to share about their world with Kiwi students.
- If you are a teacher interested in joining Global Schools, phone Sally on (09) 366 2278 or globalschools@childfund.org.nz

CRISIS UPDATE: Ethiopia Hunger Crisis

Before Christmas, we shared how the drought in Ethiopia was threatening children's lives. Your emergency help is saving children like Bedhatu.

"Thank you for not allowing death to snatch my daughter away. She is now alive."

Bedhatu was a year old when the drought and food crisis in Ethiopia took hold.

Thanks to the support of people like you, the ChildFund medical team fed Bedhatu with F-100 - a mix of milk powder, food oil and vitamin complexes. The mix is very high in energy, fat and protein.

Bedhatu's weight quickly increased, her hair grew back, and she is well on the way to recovery. Her mother Kortu says thank you to all who have helped her family:

"I realise that beauty enters through the mouth. A well-nourished person is the most beautiful one."

Delivered!

- 27,000kgs of therapeutic F-100, Famix (1,992 children under 5 benefit)
- 80,000 kgs maize grain (2,666 adults benefit & new mothers improve so they can breast-feed infants)



Bedhatu before ChildFund 3 Step Hunger Action Plan



Bedhatu after receiving help from ChildFund

- 15 rainwater harvesting & storage systems
- drought-resistant crops (Enset) for 200 households
- 500 sheep, 30 oxen and 15 donkeys and carts for vulnerable families

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Hunger Crisis Appeal.

SPONSOR'S STORY: Sponsorship, School and Shyness!



Greg Taylor has been sponsoring Ganapathy, a young Indian boy, for 4 years. Last September he visited Nilgiris where Ganapathy lives and went to the Pre School in the ChildFund Project.

"It was a real joy to meet Ganapathy, his father and mother, along with the translator of all the letters between Ganapathy and me!"

I stayed in the community 4 days, and came away convinced that through ChildFund Kiwis like me are making an impact upon an overlooked tribe of people way down in the south of India.

The school is nearing the completion of a new block of 4 classrooms. The support of sponsors has encouraged children to attend school, and go on to higher education. With a 400% increase in attendance, 3,820 children have completed primary education, 922 have completed high school and 22 have completed university."

- Greg Taylor



Paul in Timor Leste

Thank you!

You only have to see the smiles on children's faces as they bounce into school to know how much your help means. Laughter. Energy. Enthusiasm. They overflow as children soak up everything they can. Without your help through ChildFund, they wouldn't have this opportunity. The education you give is the foundation that enables children to build a strong happy life, free from poverty. In these difficult economic times your continued support is valued all the more. Yours is a gift that lasts a lifetime – on behalf of the children you help, thank you!

Paul Brown
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ChildFund New Zealand

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Why we are passionate about education

Education fundamentally influences who we are, what we know, what we believe, how we think and what we can do. The children of today are our future leaders and teachers. They deserve an education that enables them to realise their true potential, create new opportunities for themselves, and build a bright future free from poverty.



ChildFund invests your support in education to achieve 4 goals for children:

1. **Equitable access to education** – expand access to educational opportunities by targeting vulnerable children and families
2. **Quality in learning experience** – emphasise a holistic learning approach to enhance the quality of a child's education
3. **Local capacity to manage the process** – build and strengthen the local capacity of schools, communities, and districts to influence and support educational processes
4. **Sustainability of outcomes** – empower key actors and institutions with the essential learning attitudes, programmes, services, management systems, and policy framework necessary to achieve education targets.

Through ChildFund you support programmes that help 15.6 million children. In education, you give help like:

- Constructing facilities such as schools, classrooms, and early child development centers;
- Helping families meet the direct and indirect costs of education;
- Equipping schools with textbooks, furniture, and teaching and learning materials;
- Training for teachers and school administrators;
- Strengthening the capacity of community associations and parents to participate in and support education efforts;
- Education alternatives for girls of all ages and out-of-school youth.

Thank you for the education and hope you already give children through ChildFund! The children of Timor Leste desperately need this hope right now. Please help them today by calling 0800 223 777, visiting www.childfund.org.au/urgentappeals or posting it in the Freepost Envelope provided.