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President's Statement

Aspirations are high at The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF). To put it concisely, we aim to be gold standard in every grant we make, and in every system we put in place. We seek certainty that we are making extraordinary change in the lives of and possibilities for children in developing countries.

Now in our fourth year of granting, CIFF has committed to a deliberate approach that we believe can deliver these outcomes. It is an approach that integrates the experiences of best practice development work with the tools of the private equity world.

Before granting, we rely on rigour of research to determine the most effective investments for impacting children and we search for and work with organisations until we are convinced that we have identified one with the vision and commitment, strength of management and technical capacity to make real and lasting change for children. In addition to our financial investment, we make an ongoing obligation by employing Portfolio Managers who partner with each of our grantees to ensure their operational, financial and programmatic approaches and systems are effective to achieve scale, comprehensive and sustainable outcomes for children and an impact beyond CIFF's investment. Finally, we monitor and assess each of our grants to ensure that we understand the impact each initiative is having on children. We calibrate this against other potential investments, determine whether to expand or exit, and we commit to share our learning, both positive and negative, with others.



We know CIFF has made a winning investment when we have:

- Brought about demonstrable and sustainable improvement in the lives of a vast number of children; and
- Catalysed change beyond our own direct investment.

We have already experienced some extraordinary moments of triumph.

- Through our support of the Clinton Foundation, paediatric antiretroviral (ARV) medications are becoming universally accessible. We anticipate that within two years they will be keeping hundreds of thousands of HIV-affected children alive throughout the developing world. When we launched the initiative two years ago, the drugs were considered prohibitively expensive and too complicated to prescribe.
- Tens of thousands of the poorest children in Malawi survived a drought without hunger two years ago after Save the Children used CIFF funding to support households to diversify crop production, access markets and accumulate savings, and extend the growing season through the use of irrigation. This year, with good rains, some households in the programme which had negligible income prior to the programme intervention, earned more than £500. Among the produce these farmers are now selling are groundnuts and sesame, key ingredients used to make the most effective therapeutic food for severely malnourished children.
- The Speak for the Child initiative in Kenya demonstrated the ability to scale its programme, which improves children's health and education. The programme has also successfully linked caregivers to AIDS care and treatment. In only two years, it has expanded its reach from 250

households to more than 9,000 children.

It is now poised to reach more than 130,000 children with its home based initiative over the next seven years.

- The national Government of India has now adopted several elements of the family care model of AIDS treatment, piloted by the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society with CIFF support, as best practice, and is incorporating these as core elements in its national expansion plan.

Though fewer than we had anticipated, given the degree of risk CIFF has assumed, we have also had some disappointments. The sometimes painful reality is that as an engaged funder closely monitoring our projects, we see every shortcoming magnified to a degree we never would if we relied only on periodic reports.

CIFF is in the incredibly fortunate position to be experiencing a meteoric unforeseen increase in its assets. We are determined to translate this gift and opportunity into the highest returns for children in the developing world. Among our aspirations moving forward are to bring to an end the transmission of AIDS from mother to child, to ensure there is adequate funding for improvement in sanitation and hygiene, the key elements of the water agenda for child mortality and illnesses, and to improve the quality of education in schools and enable universal education to deliver on its promise of improving future opportunities for children.

[Jamie Cooper-Hohn](#)