

BROADENING IMPACT

EXPANDING FROM CENTER TO COMMUNITY



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

ChildVoice)))

“...we are currently witnessing levels of conflict-based displacement the likes of which the world has never before seen.”

**68.5 MILLION PEOPLE
WORLDWIDE FORCED TO
LEAVE THEIR HOMES**



FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dear Friends of ChildVoice,

This year has been a time of transition and growth, at multiple levels. For the past twelve years, the Lukome Center in northern Uganda has stood as ChildVoice’s flagship program. This center has served as a beacon of healing and hope for hundreds of adolescent girls who suffered emotional and physical trauma and abuse at the hands of the Lord’s Resistance Army and from the South Sudan civil war. Whether they were formerly abducted or lived in fear of abduction, whether orphaned or partially orphaned, sexually abused, pregnant or with children, they found love, acceptance and help here.

Yet, as time went on, we recognized that there were serious constraints with a singular, center-based approach. Although the impact of this program has been remarkable and life-changing, we only have 48 beds, it is staff intensive, and it is costly to operate. So three years ago, our team began to explore new strategies to expand the support and services to more war-affected girls who desperately need ChildVoice’s comprehensive array of services.

We began to explore community-based options, understanding that by doing so, we could broaden our reach to many, perhaps even thousands more, girls in the conflict regions in which we work. As these community programs meet the needs of many girls, they also serve to identify girls who need higher levels of support who can then be referred to our center-based programs. In December of 2017, a large grant from one of our partners provided the funding for us to launch a pilot program in one of the camps in Northern Uganda – Imvepi Refugee Settlement, which hosts an estimated 130,000 South Sudanese refugees. By the end of June 2018, over 800 adolescent girls were registered in our programs.

This strategy is now being tested in northeast Nigeria as the lead strategy for new countries where ChildVoice is beginning work. Because of the nature of this approach, it allows ChildVoice to quickly establish a substantial footprint with scale and impact among other humanitarian actors in the region

This is a significant breakthrough for ChildVoice given the fact that we are currently witnessing levels of conflict-based displacement the likes of which the world has never before seen. According to the annual Global Trends report released by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, 2017 saw 68.5 million people worldwide forced to leave their homes – a number roughly equal to the populations of California and Texas combined. More than half of these displaced people are vulnerable, at-risk children. Just five countries accounted for more than two-thirds of all refugees, with South Sudan experiencing the greatest rate of increase. With the rise in displacement currently outpacing the number of refugees returning to their homes, the work ChildVoice does in building community-based development programs – in conjunction with our center-based services – has never been more crucial.

Conrad Mandsager
Founder and President



*...the impact of
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WINNIFRED'S STORY

In developing countries, adolescent mothers like sixteen-year-old Winnifred are all but guaranteed to be forced to drop out of school, and are at significantly heightened risk of sexual exploitation and violence. The UN estimates that over the next decade more than 90 percent of adolescent girls living in developing countries will be vulnerable to exploitation and abuse due to a lack of education and training. "Winnie," now a student at the Lukome Center, is one such victim of sexual violence.

The youngest of nine children, three of whom have sadly died, Winnie lives with her mother and siblings in a village in Paicho sub-county in northern Uganda. Because she was the youngest child, and the family was so poor, Winnie was forced to drop out of school after Primary 5 (fourth grade), putting her at a serious disadvantage. To complicate her situation, Winnie started suffering significant hearing loss at the age of 12 – a condition viewed as putting the family at a social disadvantage and making it more difficult for her to find a husband in the future.

Winnie's already troubled life utterly collapsed one day when she went to a shop in her village to buy supplies for the family farm; the shop owner sexually assaulted her. The family went to the police to file a criminal complaint, and the man was arrested, but as so often happens, he was never prosecuted, denying Winnie any sense of justice. To make matters even more painful and difficult for her, she became pregnant as a result of the rape, immediately stigmatizing her in her local community. Consequently, her father decided to try to make her live with the family of her assailant. But because they had been forced to pay his bail to get him out of jail, they treated her abusively.

It's hard to imagine Winnie's situation getting even more painful. But when she was finally ready to give birth, the family was too far away from a hospital and she was forced to endure an emergency C-section without anesthetics. (The trauma from that experience has haunted her to this day.) Meanwhile, her father, who also has a co-wife, largely abandoned the family, putting enormous strain on her mother, since putting food on the table for the large family was already a constant struggle. The constant stress fed significant domestic violence within Winnie's home.

When Winnie was selected to come to the Lukome Center, she was thrilled at the prospect of being able to learn valuable skills like "salon" (hairdressing), knitting, auto mechanics, and driving. She's also making friends and for the first time in her life, feels loved and cared for by others. Perhaps best of all, she's learning to love and care for her child, Blessing – even though he came into her life in a very painful way.



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MARY'S STORY

In South Sudan, thousands of girls like Mary have been left adrift in the aftermath of civil war violence and forced to cope with such heart-wrenching issues as violent displacement, sexual exploitation, and pregnancy in adolescence. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 16 million girls aged 15 to 19 years and 2.5 million girls under 16 years give birth each year in developing regions, severely impacting their ability to attend school.

From the start, Mary's family life was incredibly unstable because of ongoing conflict in South Sudan. Shortly after she was born in Imvepi Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda, the family returned to South Sudan. When Mary was just two months old, her father died, and she was left in the care of her grandmother by her mother, who abandoned the family and disappeared.

Life in Yei, South Sudan was difficult for the tiny family, and by the time Mary reached Primary 4 (third grade), Mary's grandmother could no longer afford to send her to school. Mary became despondent over losing any hope for a better future for herself. She became pregnant at the age of 13. But she and her baby's father had no work, and life became even more difficult.

Not long after Mary's baby was born, violence erupted in South Sudan again, and she was forced to flee with her child to Imvepi, where she reunited with her grandmother. For Mary, it was a moment of serendipitous good fortune in her otherwise tumultuous life.

When ChildVoice began working with child mothers in her vicinity at Imvepi, Mary was selected to join her local Girl Empowerment Group, through which she is receiving counseling and vocational training like baking. She's also enjoying positive social activities such as music and dance. However, her counselors have decided that she ultimately would benefit from the additional services available at the Lukome Center in Gulu District – an exciting prospect for the young mother.

**"I'M EXCITED FOR THE FUTURE,
BUT I KNOW I WILL HAVE TO
WORK HARD AND FOCUS ON THE
THINGS THAT I AM LEARNING AT
THE LUKOME CENTER."**

Mary



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JUSTINE'S STORY

When Fulani herdsmen came to raid their village in northern Nigeria, Justine and her brother did the only thing they could think of doing: hide. Fortunately, having learned to be good swimmers as children, they were practiced at holding their breath, so they went to the river and sank beneath the surface, coming up only to catch their breath before submerging themselves again. Terrified and alone, they waited beneath the water in absolute terror as the Fulani raiders took their parents. An hour later, it was over. The Fulani herders were gone, and their parents were dead. They had saved themselves, at the terrible cost of having to bear witness to their own parents' murders.

Utterly distraught, the now-orphaned siblings had little choice but to leave their violence-shattered village and seek the relative safety of one of Nigeria's IDP camps. They had become two of the nearly two million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria in 2018, over half of which were children and adolescents under the age of 18.

Justine and her brother made their way to Pare Camp, an informal settlement that is neither officially recognized by nor receives assistance from the Nigerian Government. Not long after they arrived at Pare, her brother returned to their village to see if he could salvage anything from the wreckage of their former family home, leaving her stigmatized and alone in an alien environment, and spurned by relatives in Numan Township.

"She has tried to reach out to relatives within the Numan Township," explained Nari Welye, ChildVoice Country Director for Nigeria. "But she has been rejected. . . There were a lot of accusations that her grandmother was a witch."

Justine still struggles with the tremendous loss she has faced. But through ChildVoice's local Girl Empowerment Group at Pare Camp, she is receiving therapeutic counseling and is enjoying the social activity programs that bring her together with other girls who have experienced similar heartbreaking trials. Perhaps most importantly, Justine is grateful that ChildVoice is helping her recover hope for her future.

**JUSTINE AND HER BROTHER DID
THE ONLY THING THEY COULD
THINK OF DOING: HIDE**



*Justine still
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FACTS:

173,800

The estimated number of unaccompanied and separated children worldwide who sought asylum in 2017 *(2017 UNHCR Global Trends report)*

354,796

The number of newly displaced South Sudanese arrivals in Uganda in 2017 *(2018 UNHCR Regional Update)*

24,000

The estimated number of internally displaced persons in Uganda by end of 2017 *(according to the IDMC Global Internal Displacement Database)*

1,707,000

The total number of internally displaced persons in Nigeria by the end of 2017 *(according to the IDMC Global Internal Displacement Database)*

7,300,000

The number of girls in developing countries under the age of 18 who give birth annually, accounting for roughly 11% of all births worldwide *(according to a recent UNFPA report)*

279,000

The number of newly displaced people in Nigeria in 2017 due to ongoing internal violence perpetrated by groups like Boko Haram *(according to the IDMC Global Internal Displacement Database)*

63%

The percentage of South Sudanese refugees who were children under the age of 18 as of end of 2017 *(UNHCR South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan, 2018)*



The Lukome Center, Uganda

2017-18 GIVING REPORT

2016-2017

Gifts Received
\$906,585

Expenses
\$720,545

2017-2018

Gifts Received
\$1,207,782

Expenses
\$1,096,798

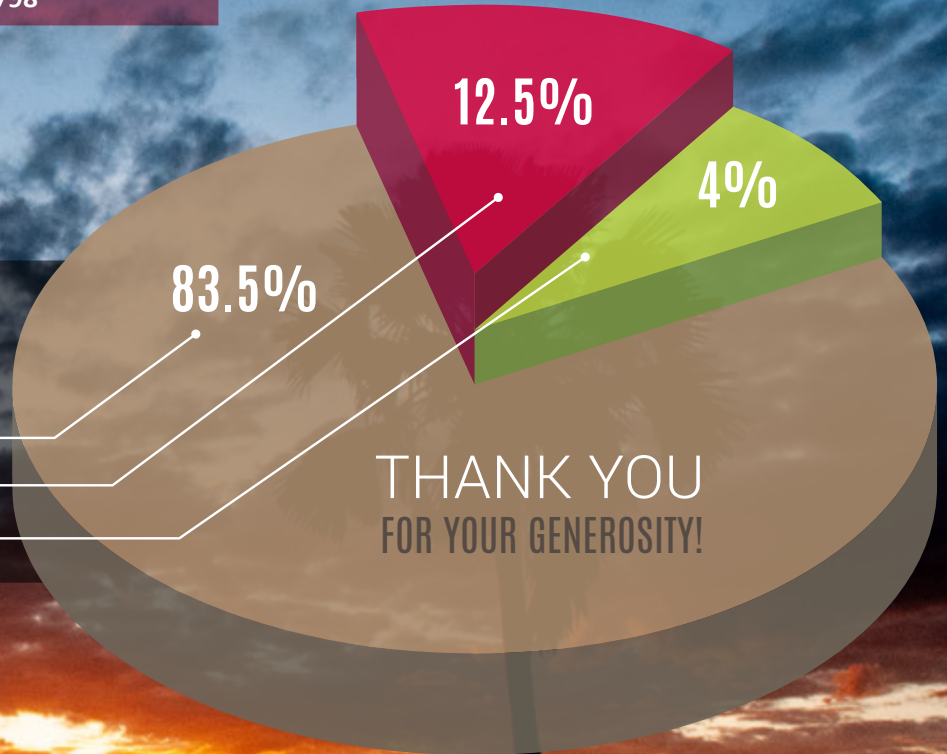
2018-2019 CHILDVOICE PROJECTED BUDGET

Total Budget: \$1,375,915

Program Expenses: \$1,148,889

Management & General: \$ 171,989

Fundraising: \$ 55,037



Restoring the Voices of Children Silenced by War

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www.childvoice.org



*To request a copy of our most recent audit statement, please contact ChildVoice: info@childvoice.org (603) 842-0132