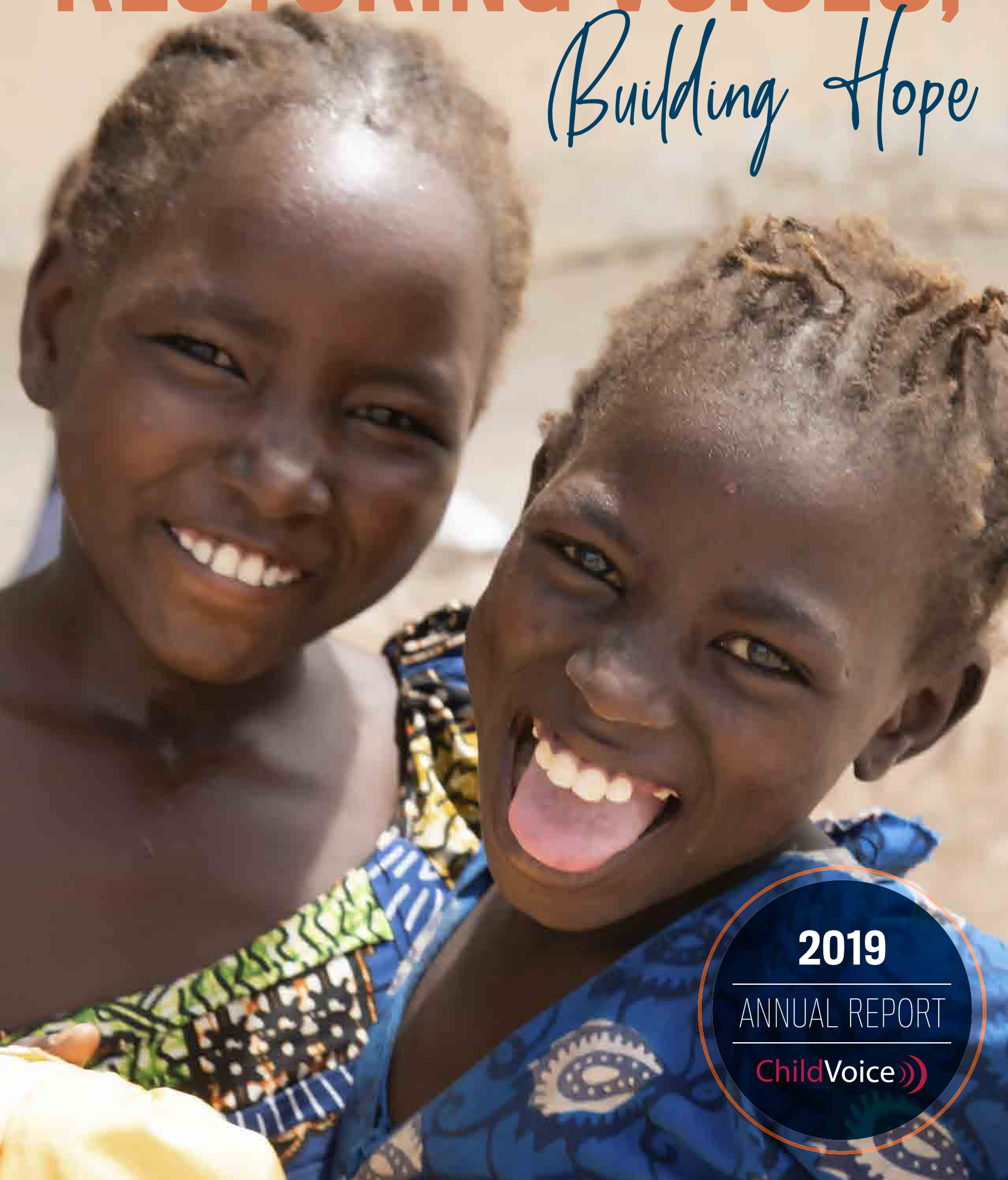


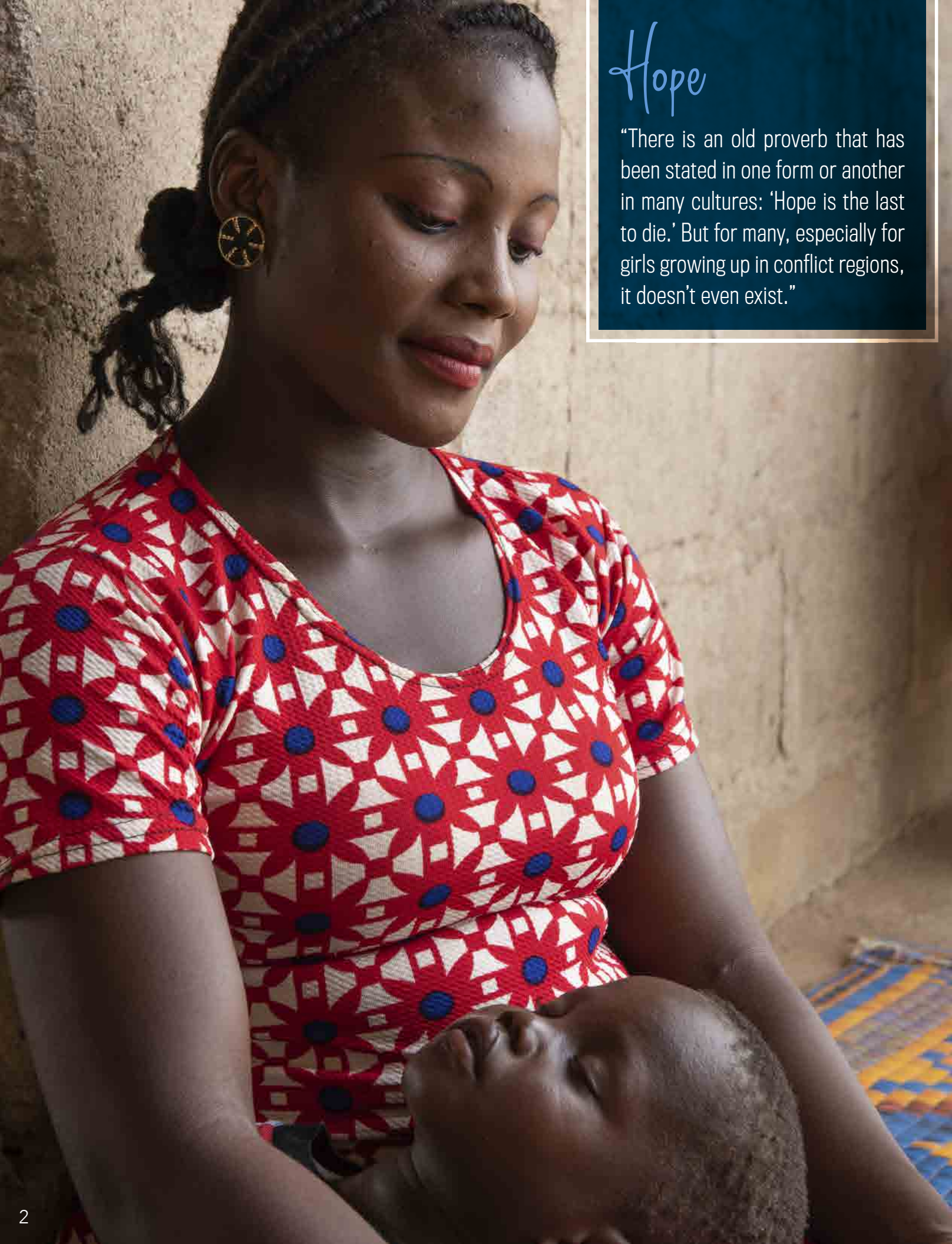
RESTORING VOICES, *Building Hope*



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

ChildVoice 



Hope

“There is an old proverb that has been stated in one form or another in many cultures: ‘Hope is the last to die.’ But for many, especially for girls growing up in conflict regions, it doesn’t even exist.”

From OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of ChildVoice,

The word “hope” is used broadly today in a multitude of contexts. In the process, the meaning is often lost and the word takes on rather flippant connotations. The Collins Dictionary defines hope as a feeling of desire and expectation that things will go well in the future. There is an old proverb that has been stated in one form or another in many cultures: “Hope is the last to die.” But for many, especially for girls growing up in conflict regions, it doesn’t even exist.

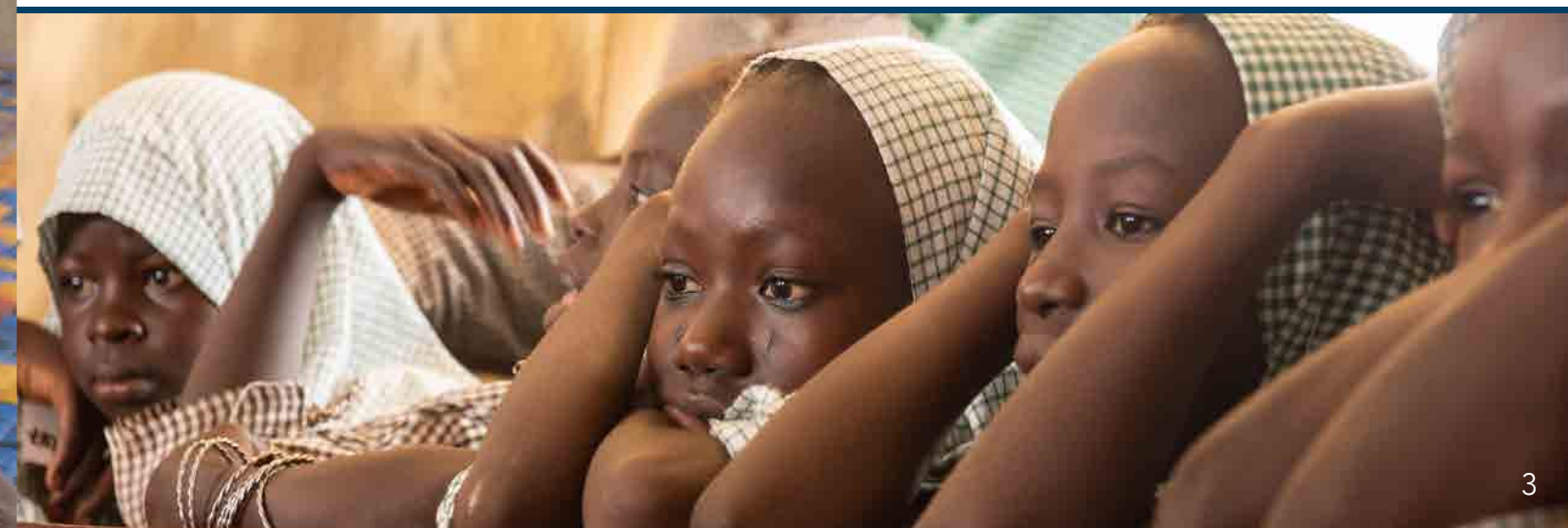
As I look back on ChildVoice’s thirteenth year of serving adolescent girls (and all too often their children) who have been traumatized by war, I can’t help but think about the many stories of horrific abuse, violence, and suffering so many of those that we serve have endured. For these young people, hope has been all but extinguished. At times, it can be truly heart-breaking.

When I founded ChildVoice in 2007, I had in mind one simple goal: to restore the voices of children silenced by war. With the many years of dedication on the part of our international office and field staff, volunteers, and an amazing family of donors, it’s incredibly gratifying to see that our work has become so much more – not only restoring voices, but building hope, as well as providing our beneficiaries with the tools they need to create brighter futures for themselves and their families.

Today, as we continue to build our community-based programs in refugee camps and track the longer term outcomes of the graduates from the Lukome Center in their post-residential lives, we can truly see our work and our dreams come to fruition in the hearts and minds of these young women as they rebuild hope in their own lives – obtaining employment, starting their own businesses, and even returning to refugee settlements like Imvepi to give back in gratitude for what they have received.

Our work is only beginning. According to UNHCR, over 70 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced (<https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018>), and that number continues to grow. As the need for psychosocial care, vocational training, and community rebuilding continues to grow, I truly believe that ChildVoice can and will continue to grow and provide our vitally-needed services to those war-affected girls--and boys--who need it most. We can help even more war-affected children regain their voices and build the hope they need to reclaim their lives.

Conrad Mandsager
ChildVoice CEO and President





The Lukome Center
Center-Based Programming



LUKOME CENTER PROGRAM OVERVIEW

For over a decade, our flagship program has provided a safe and nurturing environment for South Sudanese and Ugandan girls whom our case workers have determined to be in need of the level of care and education that can only be achieved through a center-based approach.

In 2019, the Lukome Center was given full accreditation status by the government of Uganda as a vocational training institution. It was a year that saw a number of recent Lukome Center graduates take Uganda's rigorous Directorate of Industrial Training exam, easing the way for them to pursue employment in their preferred vocations, such as tailoring and salon (hairdressing). And thanks to our automotive and driving program—now in its third year—several students also obtained their driver's licenses.

LUKOME CENTER 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

STUDENTS IN RESIDENCE: 23

STUDENTS IN POST-RESIDENTIAL STATUS: 65

**STUDENTS TO DATE WHO HAVE
COMPLETED THE 5-YEAR PROGRAM: 92**

"When my triplets, babysitter, and I were captured by the LRA, they made us walk for so long that I finally sat down and refused to move. I said, 'Please just kill me and my children and return my babysitter to her village. Let her go, it's not worth it.' But they got tired of waiting for me, and let us all go!"

- Cecilia, Lukome Center Head of Cluster

According to UNICEF, children whose mothers can read are 50% more likely to survive past the age of five. And, girls and women who earn income are likely to reinvest 90% of it into their families. (http://www.ungei.org/resources/index_new_5766.html)

Cecilia's STORY

If there's one member of the Lukome Center's staff that stands out as a model of hope for our students, it's Cecilia. A strong and resilient woman, Cecilia, a native Ugandan, first came to ChildVoice in 2008 to work as a matron. As the widow of a police constable, it's a role she couldn't have imagined herself being in 20 years earlier when her life was turned upside down by war.

Cecilia's husband was taken captive by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in January 2008 amidst the escalating violent conflict between government forces and the LRA. Despite Cecilia's defiant pleas to see him, he was taken away and executed two months later. It was a fate she almost met herself some time later, when she and her young triplets were themselves taken captive. During a forced march, she sat down and refused to go any further, telling her LRA captors to kill her and her children if they must. Miraculously, they simply walked away and let her go free.

Cecilia and her children lived a life of privation for several years before she was able to secure work as a teacher in 1993. Today, she serves as the Lukome Center's Head of Cluster; acting as a matron of sorts, she teaches life skills and mentors girls that are entering a period of transition back to the outside world as they prepare to graduate. She also helps manage the logistics involved in welcoming visiting teams and interns to the center. Through her tireless devotion to helping our beneficiaries at the center, Cecilia found hope for herself and her children being restored. Cecilia's strength, resilience, and unshakable faith in the face of trauma and loss make her singularly well-suited to her position at the Lukome Center.



Selena's STORY

Selena and her sister, Rose, fled civil conflict in South Sudan in 2018, eventually arriving at Imvepi Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda. A bright and hopeful adolescent girl, Selena dreamed of studying law and returning to South Sudan to help end the war in her native country. But as a displaced adolescent girl living in a sprawling refugee settlement, she faced daunting barriers to education.

As the head of her household at Imvepi, Selena's responsibilities made attending school difficult. But even more so, lack of access to basic hygiene items, especially menstrual products, can keep girls from Selena and Rose from being able to attend school regularly. UNICEF recently reported that in countries affected by conflict, girls are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys (<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/27-million-children-out-school-conflict-zones>). Girls who aren't able to attend school are at heightened risk for early marriage, pregnancy, and human trafficking.

That's where ChildVoice's THRIVE program comes in. THRIVE provides girls like Selena washable and reusable menstrual pads made by volunteers and ChildVoice beneficiaries. Through the program, girls also receive health and hygiene education. THRIVE empowers girls like Selena to stay in school, reducing their vulnerability to exploitation while also helping to build pathways to employment – and hope for a brighter future.

IMVEPI PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2019, our staff operated six Girl Empowerment Centers within Imvepi Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda. Along with counseling, our staff provided vocational/skills training in newer areas such as tailoring and salon (hairdressing), as well as baking and agriculture, giving girls a diverse skill set that will help them successfully weather a fluctuating market. Health & hygiene education was also provided through our THRIVE initiative.

During the year, we also expanded into local schools, where we were able to provide some services to adolescent boys as well, including sports activities and health & hygiene education -- the latter being particularly important for boys acting as heads of household who have younger sisters entering puberty.

IMVEPI PROGRAM 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

BENEFICIARIES AT GIRL EMPOWERMENT CENTERS : TOTAL SESSION ATTENDANCE OF 14,754

TOTAL NUMBER OF SESSIONS: 683

NUMBER OF HEALTH & HYGIENE SESSIONS: 77

BENEFICIARIES AT SCHOOLS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE OF 256 SCHOOL-GOING GIRLS AND 314 SCHOOL-GOING BOYS

NUMBER OF THRIVE KITS DISTRIBUTED: 273

According to UNHCR, of the 57,000 refugees (nearly all South Sudanese) living in Imvepi Refugee Settlement in 2019, 85 percent were women or children. (<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/69443.pdf>)

"We are very grateful for the people who have taken the time to come up with this [THRIVE] initiative to help us in Africa, because it's really helpful for girls who cannot afford disposable pads."

- Becky, ChildVoice Child Protection Officer



Nigeria
Community-Based Programming



NIGERIA PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ChildVoice registered in Nigeria as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in 2017, setting up our base of operations in the city Yola, but it was in 2019 that our programs truly got off the ground. Throughout 2019, we sent teams into the Malkohi IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps to work with traumatized adolescent girls and children who had fled Boko Haram and other violent groups. In addition to group and individual counseling—which many of our beneficiaries will need longer-term in order to recover from severe psychological trauma—our Nigeria staff ran training sessions in incense making, pasta making, and life skills, and provided health & hygiene education.

NIGERIA PROGRAM 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

**NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES SERVED:
330 REGISTERED IN TOTAL**

NUMBER OF SESSIONS HELD: 65

*"I know that I'm not the only one who has gone through an ordeal. ChildVoice has helped me to heal. And ChildVoice has helped me to understand that I'm not the only person who is suffering. So even if I have strong feelings of trauma within me, after our meetings at ChildVoice, it calms me down."
- Fatima*

Fatima's STORY

When Boko Haram terrorists came to her town of Gwoza in Borno State, Nigeria, fourteen-year-old Fatima tried to flee, but was captured. She was given as a bride to one of the militants, a cruel man who repeatedly beat and violated her -- a grim fate that all too many adolescent girls in Nigeria have faced. Soon, she became pregnant.

Fatima's child died not long after it was born. Later, her husband also died. But Boko Haram was not done with her. They forced her to marry again, this time to an even more brutal man whose beatings lessened only after she started pretending to take an interest in his extremist views. In the most literal way, her voice and her hope were stripped away.

On the very morning she finally escaped, Fatima was again beaten by her husband before he left to go on a raid. She and another young woman decided that this was their chance to get away. Hiding along the way, they eventually made it back to their village. Not long after, with the help of government soldiers, she was reunited with her father. After three terrifying years in captivity, Fatima was finally free from captivity -- but not yet free from the trauma she had endured.

ChildVoice's psychosocial counseling services play a crucial role in the longer-term recovery of severely traumatized girls like Fatima, who often need years of ongoing counseling to recover from their experiences. For them, building hope begins with a foundation rooted in recovery.

Since 2013, more than 1,000 children have been abducted by Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria, according to UNICEF. (<https://www.unicef.org/wca/press-releases/more-1000-children-northeastern-nigeria-abducted-boko-haram-2013>)

2018-19 GIVING REPORT

2016-2017

GIFTS RECEIVED **\$906,585**

EXPENSES **\$720,545**

2017-2018

GIFTS RECEIVED **\$1,207,782**

EXPENSES **\$1,096,798**

2018-2019

GIFTS RECEIVED **\$1,329,113**

EXPENSES **\$1,251,318**

2019-20 PROJECTED BUDGET

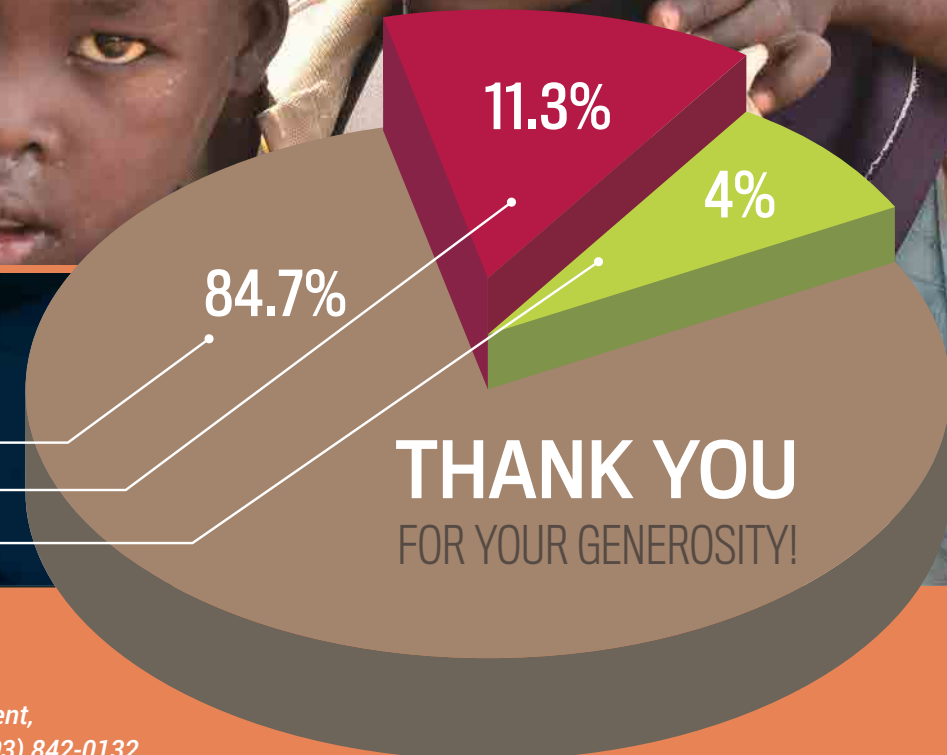
2019-2020 CHILDVOICE PROJECTED BUDGET

Total Budget: \$1,299,124

Program Expenses: \$1,100,358

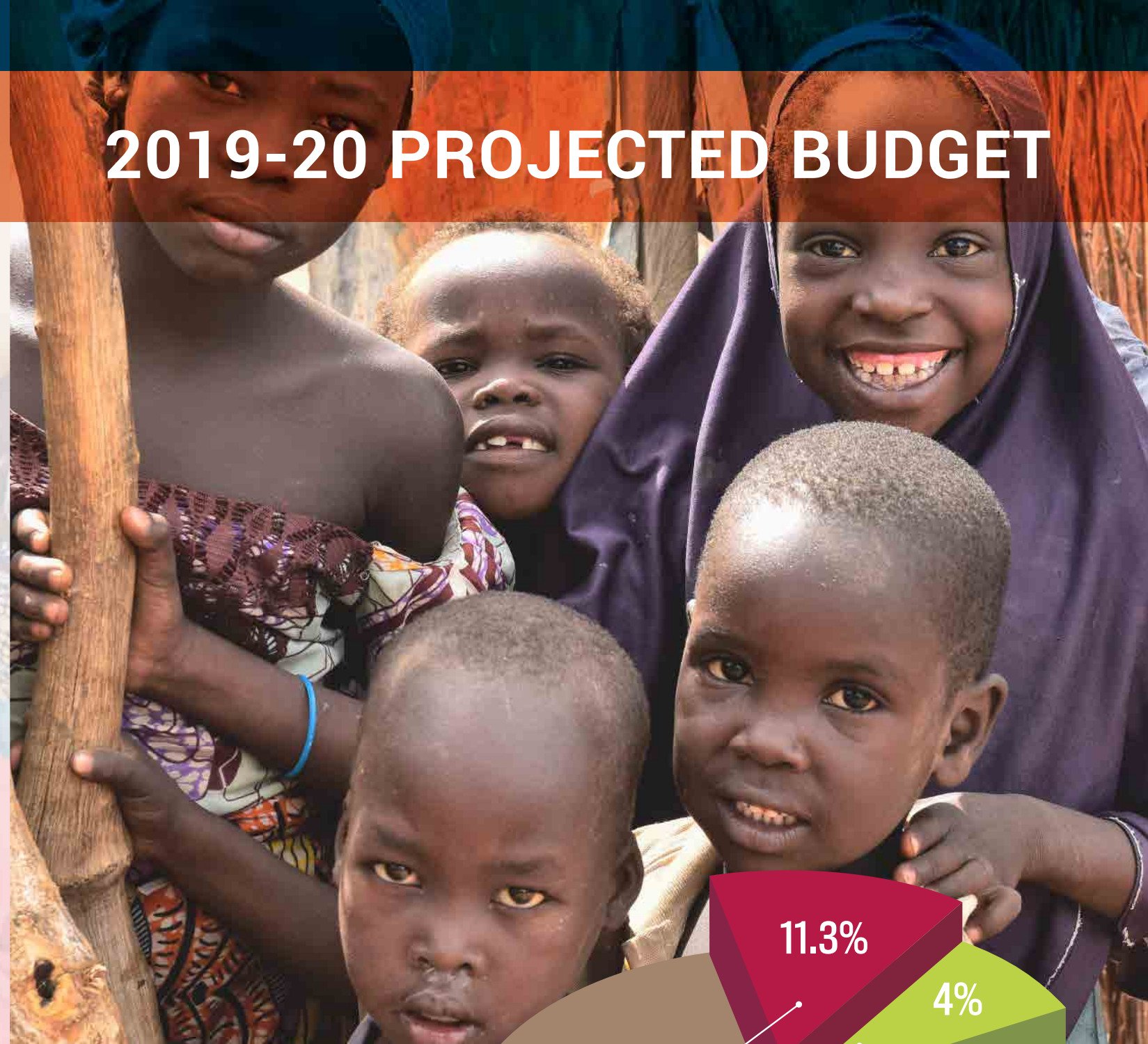
Management & General: \$ 146,801

Fundraising: \$ 51,965



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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





ChildVoice  *Restoring the Voices of Children Silenced by War*

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