



Annual Report 2017

Mission

War Child's mission is to work with war-affected communities to help children reclaim their childhood through access to education, opportunity and justice. War Child takes an active role in raising public awareness around the impact of war on communities and the shared responsibility to act.

Vision

War Child's vision is for a world where no child knows war.



War Child Canada Board of Directors

Michael Eizenga *(Chair)*

Denise Donlon

Nils Engelstad

Omar Khan

Jeffrey Orridge

Elliot Pobjoy

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Cover illustration by Eric Hanson © Eric Hanson

Beneficiary names have been changed for their own protection.

Letter from the Founder and Chair

Dear Friends,

To listen to some commentators talk about human rights, you would think that they represent the most restrictive system of regulations, designed to threaten the sovereignty of democratically elected governments. But take a look at the Universal Declaration and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and it is hard to see where the controversy lies. The right to life, liberty and security. The right to freedom from slavery or torture. The right to free expression. The right to an education. The right to be protected from harm. These are not onerous obligations on government but rather the basic protections one should expect, particularly for children, from a functioning state.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is War Child Canada's guiding document. As you will read in this report, everything we do is in support of the rights enshrined within it. While the Convention is directed at governments, the responsibilities it describes can be equally applied to non-government organizations, community leaders and ordinary citizens. It describes what protections should be afforded to children to ensure their well-being, their security and their freedom to fulfill their potential and chase their dreams. Most importantly it applies to ALL children, in ALL countries, including those who find themselves in the worst possible environment: war.

2017 was another year of consolidation and growth for our field programs. We continued to extend our reach—to nearly 600,000 people—and to retain the trust of major international funders, from the US and Canadian governments to the European Community and the United Nations. Artists from across the entertainment industries, private foundations and philanthropists and our growing donor community continued to demonstrate their shared commitment to our vision.

More than that, though, are the children's lives that are being transformed by our programs. Throughout this report you will find stories of extraordinary children beginning to look to the future with a renewed belief that their aspirations are within reach despite the conflict they have experienced.

This success is due to the dedication and commitment of you, our supporters, as well as to the passion and creativity of our staff and in particular our local teams working in extraordinarily challenging environments. Every day their tireless efforts ensure that our programs give people the power and knowledge to put children's rights at the centre of decision making, creating an environment where children can begin to realize a future free from violence. The work of those local staff inspire us to redouble our efforts to support them. I hope it inspires you to join us.



Dr. Samantha Nutt,
Founder and Executive Director



Michael Eizenga,
Chair of the Board of Directors

2017 was another year of consolidation and growth for our field programs. We continued to extend our reach—to nearly 600,000 people

People reached in 2017



Through education: 200,000



Through opportunity: 120,000



Through justice: 270,000

TOTAL: 590,000 PEOPLE

A young girl at a safe space
in Afghanistan.



THE RIGHT TO **protection and care** for children affected by war

Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

This article is at the very centre of what War Child Canada was set up to do. War has a devastating effect on children. It violates every right they have. It forces them from their home. It disrupts their education. It puts them and their families at intolerable risk of injury or death. It prevents them from experiencing anything that we would recognize as childhood.

But what war cannot take from children is their capacity for hope, their dreams for the future. When we ask the children we work with what they want to be when they grow up, their goals are as lofty as any child in North America: doctor, lawyer, teacher, president! War Child Canada's work puts children's aspirations at the centre of their development. By creating a safe and nurturing environment where they are able to reclaim their childhood, War Child Canada empowers children to take control of their lives and be the authors of their own future.




Above: A War Child Canada staff member in Jordan with a refugee from Syria.

Refugee children in Jordan talking with our Country Director, Lamis Shishani.

South Sudanese refugee children in a classroom in Uganda.

Left: A girl looks in through the window of a safe space in Afghanistan.

A close-up photograph of a young girl with dark hair and eyes, wearing a headscarf with horizontal stripes in white, blue, and red. She has her hands near her mouth, with her fingers slightly curled. The background is blurred, showing other people.

A young girl at a safe space
in Afghanistan.



In 2017, 18,000 children were
able to play, learn and socialize
in safe spaces created by
War Child Canada.

THE RIGHT TO **protection from all forms of violence**

Article 14

When families flee conflict, the root causes of the violence they are running from often follows them. Refugee and displacement camps are notoriously dangerous places and the journey to get there is even more so. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable, with sexual and gender-based violence a constant threat. Meanwhile, boys and young men are susceptible to recruitment—both voluntary and forced—into armed groups. The ethnic, tribal or political tensions that create conflict exist within refugee populations and without serious peacebuilding efforts can break out with the slightest provocation. Poverty and dependence—inevitable for most refugee families—are also likely triggers of violence.

In such an atmosphere a child's chances of experiencing the normal joys of childhood are negligible without a positive intervention.

In 2017, War Child Canada ran safe spaces in Iraq, Jordan and Afghanistan. 18,000 children were given the opportunity to play, learn and socialize with other children, away from the stresses and insecurity of everyday life. These spaces provide children the opportunity to experience activities that characterize a regular childhood. Such a return to normalcy can be transformative for young children.



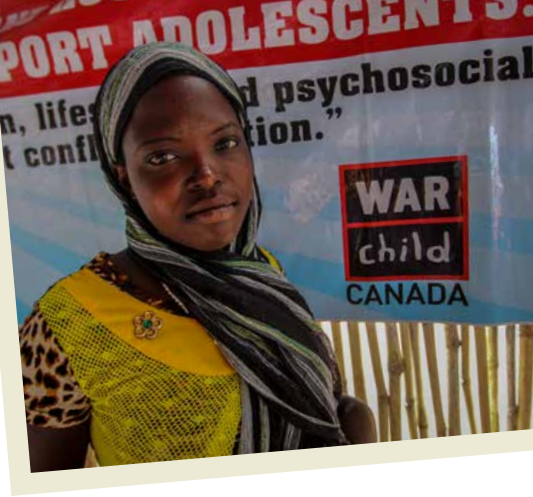
Children at safe spaces in Afghanistan.



During 2017, the number of South Sudanese refugees in Northern Uganda reached the one million mark. While the numbers crossing the border have since stabilized, social services in the region are massively overstretched and tensions have continued to rise between refugees and host communities, and between different groups within the refugee population. Gun-related crimes rose along the border region, with the proliferation of small arms within refugee settlements posing an increasing risk.

To counter this, War Child Canada ran a comprehensive cross-border peace building program that built on a peer-to-peer approach that has been successfully deployed in other situations, most notably in Sudan and Afghanistan. The strategy was based on youth leadership training, community engagement and building up existing and traditional peacebuilding structures and mechanisms through engagement with village elders and community leaders.

200 young people formed 10 Youth Peace Committees and took part in a series of activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of youth to take a lead and make meaningful contributions towards peace and reconciliation efforts in their communities. In total, over 15,000 people were reached by the Committees. With War Child Canada's support, these young people gained skills and knowledge to promote peace and resolve conflict, and design and lead their own peace initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership over the project. Over time, the committees gained greater trust and respect among their peers and community members; many have become the 'go-to' structure for both refugees and host communities for localized peace and security issues.



A youth leader at a War Child Canada program in Uganda.

200 young people formed 10 Youth Peace Committees aimed at strengthening the capacity of youth to take a lead and make meaningful contributions towards peace and reconciliation efforts in their communities.

Children learning about their rights in Uganda.

Zain's Story



Zain is just 5-years-old. He and his family were forced to flee their hometown of Daqouk, Iraq due to ISIS attacks and recently arrived in the city of Kirkuk. Having left their home and jobs behind, his parents now seek to build a life in a strange, new city, but struggle to make ends meet. Beyond the 'typical' challenges faced by refugees, Zain is also a deaf child. Heartbreakingly, in times of conflict disabled children like Zain suffer disproportionately.

War Child is committed to serving the most vulnerable children and helping them recover from the traumas of war. Together with our local partners, War Child Canada is providing Early Childhood Development programming where displaced children can learn, play, and begin to reclaim their childhood. While children attend the sessions, we provide employment training, literacy and numeracy classes, and psychosocial support for their mothers, so they can begin to earn an income and to rebuild their lives.

Zain is now enrolled in War Child Canada's program where he is able to go to school, make friends, and feel like any other 5-year-old boy again. This has not only been transformative for him, but for his entire family. As his mother shared: "I feel happy because Zain started to smile again and draw nice pictures. He made new friends. My wish came true because Zain never feels he is disabled when he's in these classes." Zain now encourages his mother to attend to the program because he wants her to be happy—and he especially loves when he gets to visit her during her training sessions!

The issues we combat involve real people, with real dreams, hopes and fears. Millions of individuals, like Zain and his family, are haunted by questions of survival in war-zones around the world every day. Despite everything he has been through, Zain still dreams about the future, and his place in it. The War Child Canada team asked him what he wants to be when he grows up, to which he replied with a smile, "I want to be an artist."

Afghan women able to establish
start-up businesses:

650

Displaced Iraqi women receiving
Kurdish language training:

400

South Sudanese women
given literacy, numeracy and
agri-business training:

450

A Salon in South Sudan, opened
as a result of War Child Canada's
vocational training program.



THE RIGHT TO an adequate standard of living

Article 27

War and conflict inevitably pushes families into poverty. The drivers of any economy soon collapse under bombardment. Businesses close, supplies are blocked, workers and breadwinners are lost to injury, death or displacement. Traditionally, in certain cultures, women are not encouraged to work. When war leaves them as the sole head of a family, often in situations of displacement, they find themselves lacking even the most basic skills that would allow them to find employment.

War Child Canada has long recognized this problem and has developed programming to unlock the potential of women. We do this by providing literacy and numeracy schooling, as well as basic business and accountancy training. On top of this, the women are given practical skills to set up small enterprises in areas where we have identified commercial possibilities, such as tailoring and dressmaking, preserve and pickle manufacturing, poultry farming and hairdressing. With a small micro-loan, over 600 women in 2017 set up small businesses in Afghanistan alone. The success rate has been astonishing, with over 95% of the women repaying their loan within the year. These women are now able to support their families, they are becoming leaders in their communities and their children are no longer forced to work or go hungry but are able to go to school and look towards building a more prosperous future.



A pickle-making enterprise in Afghanistan.



Neda the dressmaker

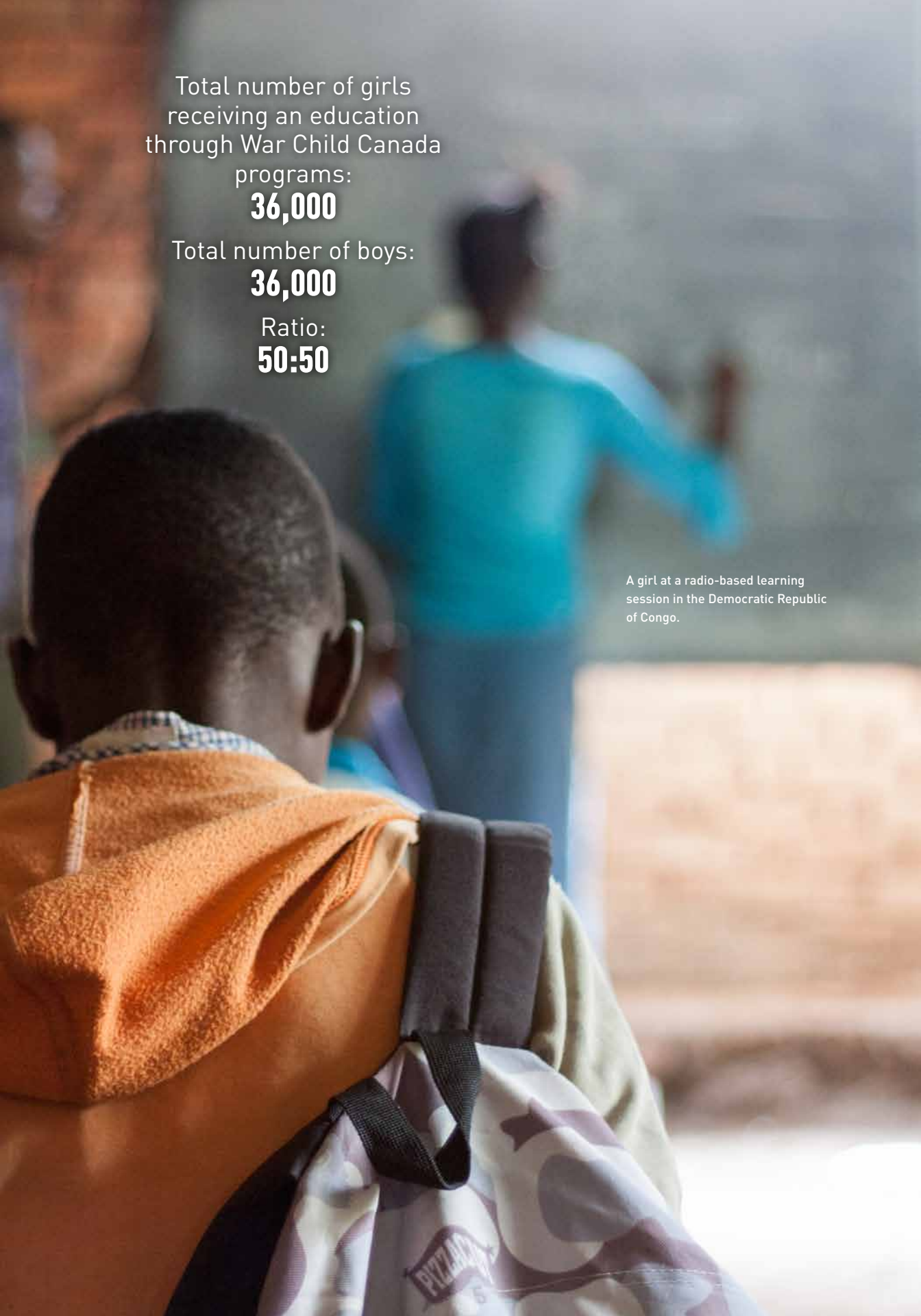


A dressmaker in Jordan.

Neda (not pictured) is a Syrian refugee in Jordan. She used to be a dressmaker in Syria and was not able to pursue her passion in Jordan because of the harsh conditions and because she couldn't afford a sewing machine. Neda lives with her 9 children, her husband who lost his vision due to a stroke and her mother. She is the main source of income for the family. Neda had been working illegally for below minimum wage to support the family. Her older son works in the morning at a coffee shop to support his mother with the home expenses and goes to school in the afternoon, since most schools operate in double shifts (morning shift for Jordanians and evening shift for Syrians). Both Neda and her son are working without work permits putting them at risk of legal trouble from the local authorities.

Neda was one of the first women to participate in War Child Canada's Positive Parenting sessions, where she gained new skills and learned better parenting techniques that changed the way she behaved with her husband and children. Through the sessions she also had the chance to meet new people and make new friends.

Recently, War Child Canada's local partner was able to provide Neda with a sewing machine that was donated by someone from the community. It has made Neda's dream come true and hopefully made her life easier. By having this machine Neda is no longer working illegally for someone else and she will be working safely from her house while happily using her talents as a seamstress once again.

A young girl in the foreground is seen from behind, wearing an orange hoodie and a backpack with a purple and white pattern. She is looking towards a blurred figure in the background, who appears to be a woman in a blue shirt. The background is out of focus, showing a simple outdoor setting.

Total number of girls
receiving an education
through War Child Canada
programs:

36,000

Total number of boys:

36,000

Ratio:

50:50

A girl at a radio-based learning
session in the Democratic Republic
of Congo.

THE RIGHT TO education

Article 28

Education is the cornerstone of childhood and the foundation for life. It is also one of the first systems to collapse when conflict breaks out. Schools are attacked or commandeered by armed groups, teachers are killed or forced to fight, and families are often forced to flee their homes. For children caught up in war, years can go by when they are unable to attend school or receive any kind of education. This leaves them at a terrible disadvantage. Even when they eventually find themselves in a situation of some stability and security, they are so far behind in the education that they are unable to rejoin regular schooling, or are forced to work to help out their parents.

War Child Canada's accelerated learning programming addresses this problem by providing a condensed curriculum focused on core subjects and approved/recognized by the Ministry of Education in the country. This allows graduates of the War Child Canada program to rejoin classes at an appropriate level, maximizing their chances of completing their education. Across Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda, War Child Canada trained approximately 250 teachers in accelerated learning techniques and nearly 20,000 students benefited from the program in 2017.

Accelerated learning programming is flexible enough to be carried out in difficult environments such as displacement and refugee camps, where classrooms need to be fashioned out of tents and other locally available material. For girls in rural areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo, however, it is simply too dangerous to make the long journey to school. Armed militia groups continue to roam the countryside in a country where rape as a weapon of war has become chillingly commonplace. To reach these girls, War Child Canada took inspiration from online courses that are popular in North America. There is no internet access in rural Congo but there is radio. War Child developed a curriculum specifically for that medium, with classes taking the form of radio drama. The girls were able to meet in a community centre, accompanied by a specially trained teaching assistant who guides them through the lessons. At the end of the year, the 350 students sat three Ministry of Primary, Secondary, and Professional Education approved exams. The program had an 80% average pass rate for students who sat all three exams, with some centres' pass rates as high as 95%. This is an exceptional accomplishment given that the students had been out of school for one to three years before joining the program.



A classroom in Uganda.

War Child Canada trained approximately 500 teachers in accelerated learning techniques and nearly 10,000 pupils benefited.



Children studying in South Sudan

Learning to Succeed

This is the story of three South Sudanese refugee children (not pictured) who thought their education was over. Nothing could have been further from the truth.

Of the many hardships that affect refugee children, the interruption of their education can have the most far-reaching impact. This was certainly true for Dhieu, Padiet and Irene, three young people who had been forced to flee the war in South Sudan. Living in refugee settlements over the border in Uganda, their chances to resume or catch up on their education seemed bleak. But after being introduced to the Accelerated Learning Program that War Child Canada is running in the settlements, all three graduate primary school with high marks. With War Child Canada's assistance they were granted full scholarships by the Windle Trust to attend secondary school. This is a fantastic achievement and proof that with the right intervention children can realize their potential, even in the shadow of war.

Our staff in Uganda were able to catch up with them.

War Child Canada: *Congratulations on your scholarships! How does it feel to be moving on to secondary education?*

Irene: Thank you. I am very happy to be in secondary school and feeling okay!

Padiet: I feel very, very excited and happy.

War Child Canada: *How did you find out you had won the scholarship?*

Padiet: I found out from War Child Canada, actually. They encouraged us to complete our education and they linked us up with the Windle Trust for Secondary Scholarship.

Dhieu: A War Child Canada staff member came to my settlement looking for me and gave me a form to fill in. After a few days I was called for interview at the Windle Trust office. After the interview, the War Child Canada staff again came to tell me I was successful. I have positive attitudes to education and that is what I told the panelists in the interview.

War Child Canada: *Are your families proud of your achievements?*

Irene: My guardian is so excited and happy for me. She encourages me to concentrate on my studies.

Dhieu: I am an unaccompanied minor. I lost both my parents to the war in South Sudan. I live with my elder brother, Atem, and my aunt who takes care of us. They are both very happy and proud. My brother always encourages me to concentrate on my education.

Padiet: I was very sad as an elder son in my family for being a school dropout but when I got this opportunity I was very excited and happy and my mother is very happy too.

War Child Canada: *How did the ALP classes help you?*

Irene: When we arrived at the refugee settlement after leaving South Sudan, I joined the local primary school. But because I could not afford to pay the registration fee or buy a uniform, I was sent home. I stayed home that whole year. When the ALP started, I enrolled and I was able to complete primary in those classes. I did not have to pay any money, I was given school materials and the teachers kept encouraging us to work hard. This helped me pass and get the scholarship.

Padiet: Having dropped out of schooling, I was confused and had no hope for education. War Child Canada provided me with ALP, which enabled me to complete primary school. They gave me a free education and provided me with enough materials. The teachers encouraged me a lot. This way I passed well at the primary level.

War Child Canada: *What do you hope to do after you graduate?*

Dhieu: I want to be a doctor. That was my dream.

Irene: I want to be a nurse.

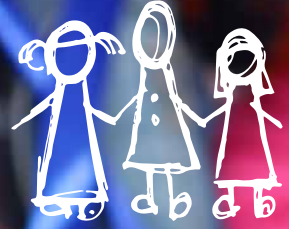
Padiet: I want to be a pilot. That was my dream from childhood.

War Child Canada: *What would you like to tell our donors about the ALP program?*

Dhieu: I want to tell them to continue giving to education. My experience when I came to secondary school was that I was scared but now I am liking it. I want to tell my teachers to keep encouraging those students in Primary, so that they also succeed.

Padiet: They should continue giving support to children like me, so that we can achieve our dreams. There are many children here in the settlement who cannot pay school fees because of the war. To my fellow children in the ALP classes, I want to encourage you to work hard and succeed, so that War Child Canada can also help you get to secondary education.

Irene: I only want to say thank you for the support given to me and others and request that they do the same for other children like me.



Over **500** children attend
the early childhood
development program
in Jordan.

Half of them are **girls**.



مرام النهار

THE RIGHT TO play

Article 31

Play is recognized as fundamental to early childhood development. It allows children to use their creativity and develop their imagination. It increases dexterity. It is the primary way in which young children build physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. Play is how children at a very early age engage and interact in the world around them.


IKEA and the IKEA Foundation have long believed in the importance of play, which is why they are funding a joint Time To Be A Child program by War Child Canada, War Child Holland and War Child UK, through their Let's Play for Change campaign. The program provides safe spaces for Syrian refugee children in Jordan and Lebanon. Within the spaces, a broad array of Early Childhood Development activities give children learning and play opportunities to establish a healthy and secure platform on which to rebuild after the traumas of war in their home country. Over 500 children took part in War Child Canada's programs, with parents reporting a big change in their behaviour and outlook as a result of this slice of normalcy and the chance to socialize with kids their own age.

Per Heggernes, CEO of the IKEA Foundation explained the importance of the program: "Many children around the world lack safe spaces to play. War and disasters are forcing more children than ever before to flee their homes and make difficult and dangerous journeys. Many more miss out on the chance to play because of poverty and prejudice. Children suffer the most in a crisis situation, and we are committed to upholding and raising awareness of their rights."



Children at the Time To Be A Child program in Jordan.





South Sudanese women at a community outreach session in Uganda.

In Afghanistan, number of survivors of gender-based violence receiving legal aid counseling, court representation and mediation:

5000

In Uganda, **60,000** people received awareness training on sexual and gender-based violence and their legal rights.

100,000 community members were reached by our outreach teams in Afghanistan, learning about prevention of sexual violence.

THE RIGHT TO **protection from sexual exploitation and abuse**

Article 34

Rape as a weapon of war has long been a staple of modern conflict. It is a particularly brutal way of terrorizing and subjugating civilian populations. The complete breakdown in the rule of law that comes with war, allows sexual violence to go unpunished. In many cases, the impunity with which attacks are carried out continues long after the fighting stops. Once rape has become normalized during conflict, it is difficult to reset societal and judicial attitudes to the understanding that women and girls should be protected from sexual violence.


Justice for the survivors of sexual violence is a cornerstone of War Child Canada's work. To maximize our impact, we are now a registered law firm in both Uganda and Afghanistan. We provide free legal representation to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. We have established confidential toll-free helplines, so that abusers can be safely reported. We work with community leaders and conduct large scale community outreach activities—including radio broadcasts—to establish a broad understanding of the right to protection from abuse for girls.. And we work with judges, police officers, prosecutors and probation staff to reinforce their responsibilities under the law to protect women and end the culture of impunity that leaves women and girls with nowhere to turn.

In Afghanistan, 5000 survivors were provided with free legal services during 2017, while over 7000 took advantage of psychosocial support. Meanwhile over 100,000 members of their communities were reached by our outreach teams.

In Uganda we are working with a refugee population living in settlements. It would not be possible for survivors to travel to a static law office and so we take justice directly to them. A unit of lawyers and counsellors rotate between the settlements on a regular basis to promote legal rights, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence and encourage community members to come forward to report incidents, ask for information or request legal advice. These mobile lawyers helped over 2000 women and girls in 2017 and took over 500 cases to court.



Girls learning about their rights in Afghanistan.

A young girl with dark hair in a braid, wearing a red sweater, stands behind a young boy in a purple sweater. They are both looking at the camera. The background is a dusty outdoor area with other people and structures in the distance.

The rights of children can
only be up protected if
adults understand what
they are.

Displaced Iraqi children at a camp near
Kirkuk in Kurdistan.

THE RIGHT TO know their rights

Article 42

The rights of children can only be protected if adults understand what they are. This is why we spend a lot of energy talking to communities about them. This can take many forms, from the radio broadcasts on girls rights to legal protection, to youth led community initiatives to promote peace and conflict management within refugee settlements in Uganda. We also seek to empower children with the skills and knowledge to advocate for themselves. Building the capacity of the community to be the champions of children's rights is the most sustainable and powerful way of ensuring that the Convention on the Rights of the Child becomes a bedrock on which a more peaceful and secure future can be built for and by children in the aftermath of armed conflict.



Top: Young women recording a radio broadcast in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Children in Uganda hold up their work at a rights awareness program.

Left: Syrian refugee women learn about their children's rights in Jordan.

Samir Knows His Rights



Young Iraqi boys near
Kirkuk, Kurdistan.

"I am not only a child, I am a member of this society. Children can also bring changes and solve problems."

We couldn't have said it better, Samir.

As War Child Canada's programs continue in Afghanistan, our impact grows exponentially as more and more community members become involved. In conflict-afflicted areas, investment in children's empowerment is the key to change.

Thirteen-year-old Samir lives with his parents and five siblings in Kabul. They fled from their home in Helmand Province three years ago due to the conflict between security forces and the Taliban. Samir has been a member of the Child to Child peer group within his local Child-Friendly Space for about seven months. He joined after hearing about the work other local children were doing in the community. Samir explained to his father that this was an opportunity to help other children in a similar situation to him. The Child to Child methodology used by War Child Canada allows children to identify and prioritize the issues affecting them and then develop action plans within the community to help resolve their concerns.

Samir has taken an active role in a number of campaigns to disseminate messages of child protection and children's rights. His father says, "I feel proud to see my small son looking around to find solutions for the problems in the community." Samir now dreams of becoming a doctor and serving the people of his community.



"A right delayed is a right denied."

– *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Financials


Statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017

\$	2017	2016
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	2,204,329	1,248,553
Short-term investments	580,183	838,490
Grants and other receivables	2,592,627	1,605,373
Prepaid expenses and deposits	143,180	102,809
	5,520,319	3,795,225
Long-term investments	475,000	–
Intangible asset	117,568	125,202
Capital assets	79,096	27,656
	6,191,983	3,948,083
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	886,034	353,270
Deferred contributions	3,378,881	1,736,722
	4,264,915	2,089,992
Guarantees and commitments		
Net assets	1,927,068	1,858,091
	6,191,983	3,948,083

Statement of operations and changes in net assets
year ended December 31, 2017

\$	2017	2016
Revenue		
Grants	16,341,496	11,572,539
Foundations	543,216	547,329
Donations	1,235,293	844,981
Special events	635,718	200,510
Corporate	63,504	107,906
Other	7,765	38,034
Donations-in-kind	318,250	634,368
	19,145,241	13,945,667
Expenses		
Program		
International programmes	16,735,048	11,715,295
Programme support	729,838	727,252
Operations		
General administration	495,966	328,166
Fundraising	779,998	618,569
Donations-in-kind	318,250	634,368
	19,059,100	14,023,650
Excess of revenue over expenses before the undernoted	86,142	(77,983)
Less: amortization	(17,164)	(10,403)
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	68,977	(88,386)
Net assets, beginning of year	1,858,091	1,946,477
Net assets, end of year	1,927,068	1,858,091

The statement of financial position as at 31 December, 2017 and the Statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended have been extracted from the 2017 audited financial statements of War Child Canada.

A photograph of Sarah McLachlan performing on stage. She is seated at a black grand piano, wearing a dark, sleeveless dress and purple gloves. She is looking up and to the right, singing into a microphone. The background features a large, stylized mural with the word "Child" in a large, yellow, cursive font, and a red diamond shape. Below the word "Child", there are colorful, stylized leaves or petals in shades of yellow, orange, and purple. The stage is dimly lit, with a spotlight on the piano and a warm light source visible in the upper right corner.

"I love what War Child Canada does, I think they are an amazing organization. That 95% of all the staff are on the ground and in the countries and communities where they serve – I think that's really powerful and important."

– *Sarah McLachlan*

Sarah McLachlan.

Celebrating the Promise & Power of Women

What if...?

What if women in war zones were empowered, not pitied?

What if children in war zones could thrive and not just survive?

What if award winning artists Sarah McLachlan, Chantal Kreviazuk, Ruth B., ET Canada's Sangita Patel, Dr. Samantha Nutt and other strong voices could come together to show the world that compassion has no borders?

That is exactly what happened on November 6th, 2017, at War Child Canada's inaugural What if...? Gala.

500 guests – including Margaret Atwood, Bruce Croxon, Gary and Donna Slaight, the Honorable Bill Morneau and Nancy McCain, Honey and Barry Sherman, Maria Schneider, Cheryl McEwen, Sarah Harmer, Olympian Daniel Nestor, actresses Catherine Reitman, Sheila McCarthy, Tara Spencer and more – came together to enjoy performances from all three artists, along with stories of powerful women told by Dr. Samantha Nutt and War Child Canada's Iraq Country Director, Galawezh Bayiz. The event raised \$425,000 towards our programming.

what
if...?

An Evening to Celebrate the
Promise & Power of Women

Chantal Kreviazuk and Sarah McLachlan



Sarah McLachlan, Chantal Kreviazuk
and Ruth B

“Empathy is feeling
someone else’s pain
and that’s amazing.
But compassion is
moving on it.”

– Chantal Kreviazuk





Ruth B, Chantal Kreviazuk, Samantha Nutt and Sarah McLachlan

Denise Donlon, Chantal Kreviazuk, Margaret Atwood and Samantha Nutt



We would like to thank the following partners and supporters, without whom the Gala would not have been the great success it undoubtedly was.

Performers:

Ruth B.
Chantal Kreviazuk
Sarah McLachlan

Rosario Cartagena
Bonnie Gould
Martha Grant
Barb Heffler
Yasmine Hussain
Sandra Pierce
Alberta Stringham
Liz West

Host:

Sangita Patel

Media Sponsors:

ET Canada / Corus
The Globe & Mail

Committee Members:

Jan Frolic, Co-Chair
Tim Burgess, Co-Chair
Bryan Bean
Melissa Bubb-Clarke

Auction Partners

Margaret Atwood
Oviinbyrd
Beau Lake
MAC Presents
Aeroplan
Quail's Gate Winery
Tiffany & Co.

"Everybody is surely aware of all the civil wars and wars that have been going on and all the children who have been affected by it. [Samantha Nutt] has been doing this for a while and she really does deserve support for it."

– Margaret Atwood



Partnerships



Music has always been a vehicle for social change, a universal language that inspires us to imagine a better world. Our partners at PLUS1 (plus1.org) know the transformative power of music and the collective energy concerts create. Founded by Arcade Fire's Marika Shaw, PLUS1 connects artists and fans to the causes they believe in by adding \$1 to every ticket sold and donating 100% of these funds to support organizations that are working on some of the most important social issues of our time. Organizations like War Child Canada.

In 2017, artists that partnered with PLUS1 to tour in support of War Child Canada included Billy Talent, Sam Roberts Band and Glass Animals, raising over \$50,000.

Going Further With The Help Of Aeroplan



With each year, War Child Canada's relationship with Aeroplan grows stronger. The generosity of Aimia (Aeroplan's parent company), and from Aeroplan members across the country, never ceases to amaze us. The support goes far beyond Miles though. Skills-based volunteering, education offerings, and networking are a sampling of other ways this partnership has strengthened our ability to deliver on our mission to protect children in war zones. War Child Canada is proud to be partnered with a corporation that is a model for corporate citizenship, philanthropy and volunteerism in North America. If you want to donate Aeroplan miles, you can do so at aeroplan.ca/donate. Every mile helps support our work by reducing operational costs, meaning your cash donations go further.

Fundraisers



Lillian Osborne High School, Edmonton

Our star high school fundraisers in 2017 were the pupils of Lillian Osborne High School in Edmonton. Their Rock-A-Thon event raised over \$51,000 for our work.

Harnoor Kochar, 2017 Rock-A-Thon Chair, explains: "Rock-A-Thon brings together a community of spirited and engaged students at Lillian Osborne with organizations doing important, life-changing—and often lifesaving—work across the globe. Over the three years that I've been involved as an organizer, it has only grown to encompass the drive of the school's students to make an everlasting, positive impact—locally, nationally, and globally. We were ecstatic to partner with War Child Canada this year and hope that our donation can support children lead better and more empowered lives."

355 students divided into 30 teams participated in raising the most funds in an all-night event that included an opening ceremony, minute-to-win-it games, a midnight dance party and a 2 AM dodge ball tournament. The gym turned into the ultimate sleepover party with air mattresses and video games, and with the students raising money through the night.

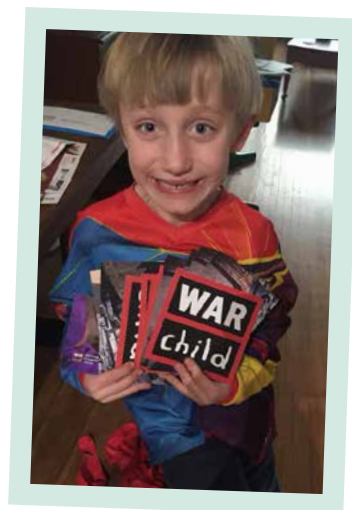
Thank you to the students, teachers, staff and supporters of Lillian Osborne High School for this incredible event.

Liam's Birthday Dance Party

Liam wanted to celebrate his 7th birthday in style: a glow-in-the-dark dance party themed after Martin Garrix, his favourite musician. More importantly, Liam wanted to help other children. In lieu of gifts he asked his guests to make a donation to War Child Canada. Liam's mom Sherrie said, "He also has more toys than he needs and would like to help others instead!"

At his party, Liam and his friends learned new dance moves from a professional dance instructor, enjoyed lots of pizza and cupcakes, and practiced their dancing, all while being able to support War Child Canada. Six months later, Liam is still talking about his birthday.

Thank you to Sherrie and Liam for sharing their experience with us and for your continued support. If you would like to donate your birthday or special occasion, email events@warchild.ca for more information.



A Future Where No Child Knows War: War Child's Legacy Is Your Legacy

Your Will is your ultimate expression of the values and beliefs you hold in life. It is about your interests and passions, not merely your assets. We believe that taking care of your loved ones in your Will and leaving a gift for the causes that have a significant impact on your life are not mutually exclusive. We respect and embrace the fact that your family and loved ones come first in your estate plan.

Since 1999, with the support of donors like you, War Child Canada has helped over 2 million people affected by conflict around the world. We are proud of our shared accomplishments and effectiveness, and we promise to invest your gift with that same high level of integrity and accountability.

We encourage you to contact us to learn more about our programs, so that you can ensure your gift is directed to the area that interests you most.

For more information about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact:

Brock Warner, CFRE

brock@warchild.ca

(866) 927-2445



“Working in education, I’d seen children come to our schools from war-torn countries, and my heart went out to them. I couldn’t even imagine what they had been through. I heard about War Child Canada, I did some research and I really admired the work they do. I’ve been giving monthly ever since. And I feel that in my own way, I’m making a difference. That feels good. When my husband went into care, I realized I needed to make my Will and I knew it was a chance to remember War Child Canada.”

– Bonnie, Legacy Donor

Thank yous

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“There can be no peace without development,
no development without peace, and no lasting
peace or sustainable development without
respect for human rights and the rule of law.”

– *Jan Eliasson,*
Former UN Deputy Secretary-General



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