



**2022**



# Annual Impact Report

**WAR CHILD CANADA**

# A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

In the nearly 25 years since I founded War Child, there has rarely been a year as challenging as the one the world experienced in 2022. We witnessed a decline in the security situation in almost all our areas of operation, from the continued fallout of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan to a resumption of conflict in South Sudan, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We are living through the worst refugee and displacement crisis since World War II, with 100 million people displaced from their homes – 80 percent of whom are women and children. Fully one fifth of the world's children now live in conflict zones. Those living within areas of armed conflict are also more vulnerable than they have been in the last 30 years, as 2022 ended with the world heading into the worst food security crisis it had seen in decades.

The work we do is getting harder. However, that is why War Child exists. We offer lasting alternatives to the brutality of conflict and its often soul-destroying impact. We strengthen the capacity of local communities to be their own agents of change. We invest in the knowledge and skills of local staff and partners who know much better than we ever could what their communities need to stop the suffering.

We are on the ground in the hardest, most neglected, most impoverished and overlooked places working with the most vulnerable children to say, as consistently as we can, that we are here for you. Our mission is to ensure children, especially, find a way through the fog of grief, despair, and helplessness.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us and invested in us so that we can continue to prove that even though the world may be messy, we are far from powerless.

With sincere thanks and appreciation,

Dr. Samantha Nutt  
Founder & President





# CONTENTS

About War Child	1
Vision, Mission	2
Our Program Work	3
By the Numbers	3
Afghanistan	4
The Democratic Republic of the Congo	5
South Sudan	6
Sudan	7
Uganda	8
Yemen	9
Individual Impact Stories, by Country	10-12
Images from 2022, by Country	13-19
Donors and Supporters, Board	20

# ABOUT WAR CHILD



## OUR WORK

**T**he legacy of war stays with people for years – and so do we.

War Child was founded to foster the capacity of people within communities to find long-term solutions to the problems caused by conflict. War Child supports the most vulnerable people living in the most complex humanitarian environments around the world.

We are globally recognized for our grassroots, community-driven model of humanitarian action rooted in collaboration, wholly led at the local level, and focused on long-term impact.

Thanks to our supporters, War Child's programs continue to empower children and families to build brighter futures for themselves and their communities through access to high-quality education, legal services, and job opportunities.





## VISION

Accelerating peace by disrupting the cycle of violence

## MISSION

Driving generational change for the hardest hit by investing in the power of local communities

## OUR PROGRAM WORK

**A**s the world began to reopen after widespread pandemic lockdowns, new and protracted conflict rekindled, and hundreds of millions of people around the world, many of them women and children, went hungry in the face of a rising global food crisis.

War Child's in-country teams adapted and responded to these crises as they evolved. By maintaining a focus on access to education, access to legal justice, women and youth empowerment, War Child was able to create opportunities for hundreds of thousands of people around the world.

The following pages highlight each country, showcasing some of our global results over the last year.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 1,227,141 PEOPLE** WAR CHILD PROGRAMMING REACHED
- 607,118 PEOPLE REACHED** EDUCATION 
- 163,981 PEOPLE REACHED** OPPORTUNITY 
- 456,042 PEOPLE REACHED** JUSTICE 
- 91,646** GLOBAL SUPPORTERS







## AFGHANISTAN

**W**hen the Taliban took over Afghanistan in August 2021, the country faced the onset of a devastating humanitarian crisis. As foreign troops withdrew and the Taliban advanced, people left their homes to seek refuge in safer places, like cities, straining resources already stretched thin.

The Taliban's increasingly regressive policies towards women and girls – including banning women from working for non-governmental agencies, coupled with the suspension of international aid in 2022 caused a near collapse of the banking system and affected the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance.

Beset by slow growth, extreme poverty, decades of conflict, climate change, and the impact of COVID-19, Afghanistan descended into the grips of one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters, with a resounding two-thirds of the country facing hunger and food insecurity.

Despite these challenges, in 2022 War Child delivered aid through interventions in immediate humanitarian response, education and child protection, women's livelihoods, and access to justice.

To respond to the critical need for children's access to education, War Child established temporary learning spaces and community-based education classes. We also hired and trained teachers to work in these spaces. In addition, the project focused on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by ensuring that boys and girls, teachers, and parents were protected from being sexually exploited and abused by engaging with and strengthening existing community-based protection systems.

In the aftermath of a 5.9-magnitude earthquake which shook southeast Afghanistan on 22 June 2022 and caused extensive casualties and damage throughout the already vulnerable and undeveloped districts of Paktika and Khost provinces, War Child responded by providing emergency response cash assistance to families for essential household items such as blankets, containers for water, cooking items and soap, and to help rebuild their livelihoods.

War Child also worked with women and girls from some of the most vulnerable families affected by the humanitarian crisis – including survivors of gender-based violence and women with children at risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse such as child labour and trafficking – helping them to earn an income through micro-businesses to help address their food security, to provide them with other basic needs, and to empower them socially.





## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**T**he Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to be one of Africa's most complex and long-standing humanitarian crises. In 2022, 5.7 million people were displaced within DRC and over one million refugees and asylum seekers from across the country had fled to neighbouring countries.

In 2022, the DRC witnessed a resurgence of conflict when the M23 rebel group led a campaign of violence in the country's northeast, committing unlawful killings, rape, and other apparent war crimes. Deadly attacks on civilians have also damaged infrastructure and exacerbated an already alarming humanitarian crisis.

In situations of conflict, children's education is often disrupted. Schools can become dangerous places, putting children at risk of violence. In DRC, War Child has delivered educational radio programming that delivers lessons from the country's national curriculum, allowing youth and children to continue to learn in the safety of their communities.

War Child staff further organized training sessions for local organizations, families, and community members on child protection in school settings, raising awareness and teaching techniques to strengthen community-based child-protection initiatives.

To achieve a greater understanding of children's rights, War Child led discussions and dialogues that shape a common understanding of how communities can ensure children feel safe and are afforded basic rights, including the right to an education.





## SOUTH SUDAN

**A**fter decades of conflict, the humanitarian situation in South Sudan deteriorated again in 2022 when severe flooding, the result of a changing climate, sent traditional pastoralists fleeing south, their presence fueling tension and contributing to mounting violence in the region.

South Sudan has also been hard-hit by the hunger crisis unfolding in the Horn of Africa, with more than 7.8 million people in South Sudan projected to go hungry in 2023, an increase of 1.5 million over 2022.

To counter the impacts of the global food crisis in South Sudan, War Child's food security and livelihoods work focuses on reducing inequalities in how women and men have access to and control over food resources. We worked towards enhancing women and girls' skills and leadership in managing threats to food production, such as drought, flooding, and conflict, further providing women with agricultural and business training that will help them to generate more income for their families. We also engaged in projects that reduced the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence, which normally prevents women from participating safely in agricultural activities.

War Child also worked to build women's leadership and actively included women and girls in peacebuilding efforts, empowering them to be leaders in their communities and active participants in shaping the future of their country. We provided training sessions that focused on life skills, self-awareness, problem-solving, gender roles, and conflict resolution. The group developed dispute and conflict resolution action plans to implement in their local communities.





## SUDAN

**B**y the end of August 2022, Sudan was host to more than 3.6 million displaced people, including 2.5 million people displaced internally as well as 1 million refugees from neighbouring countries, including 73,000 who fled Ethiopia during the recent conflict in its northern Tigray region.

In 2022, War Child led programming with Ethiopian refugees in El Gedaref state, incorporating a variety of activities designed to restore a sense of normalcy for refugee youth, enabling their recovery and helping them re-engage with their lives and their communities. War Child developed activities such as English and Arabic language classes, computer training and cooking classes, peer support groups, art therapy, and business training for young women and unaccompanied youth.

War Child also incorporated opportunities for play into our programming for refugees in El Gedaref, a valuable tool that supports children in the development of their emotional well-being and recovery from trauma. In addition to providing a safe space for indoor games, we also established a soccer team made up of youth from the refugee camp and the neighbouring host community.

In West Darfur, where War Child has provided services for almost two decades, we continued our work focused on child protection, locally led peacebuilding initiatives, as well as water, sanitation, and hygiene projects. We rebuilt and repaired schools destroyed or damaged as a result of the state's ongoing tribal conflict, as well as providing educational opportunities ranging from accelerated learning programs for youth to teacher and parent/teacher association training and teaching materials.

Finally, War Child created economic opportunities for youth and women including literacy and vocational training, youth engagement grants, sustainable farming training and associations, and small business support.





## UGANDA

**W**ar Child has been supporting refugee and host communities in Uganda since 2005, focusing primarily on education and access to justice. Uganda hosts more than 1.5 million refugees – more than any other country in Africa. Focusing on both refugee and host communities, War Child has supported accelerated learning programs for tens of thousands of students, providing access to quality and relevant education and skills development.

In 2022, War Child also established new daycare centres as part of our accelerated learning programs, providing an opportunity for refugee mothers of young children the ability to return to their studies and reap the benefits of education for themselves and their young families.

War Child also continued our support of young social entrepreneurs who aspire to become a force for positive social and economic change, by providing them with the training and financial support to identify challenges in their communities and create entrepreneurial solutions to address them.

As a registered law firm in Uganda, War Child continued to provide vital legal services to women and children who have experienced gender-based violence and are seeking justice, building awareness about legal protections and rights. Our staff conducted mobile legal-aid clinics and court sessions in refugee settlements, offered community awareness sessions, and provided hundreds of survivors and community members in Uganda with legal representation.





## YEMEN

**A**fter years of disease, disasters, and displacement, one of the world's worst – and most neglected – humanitarian crises continues to unfold in Yemen. Reeling from seven years of civil war, compounded by natural disasters and COVID-19, nearly 4 million people have been displaced, 80% of them women and children. In March 2022, a ceasefire was declared between the warring parties – however, the legacies of conflict persist and over 23 million people need humanitarian assistance.

Twenty-five percent of Yemen's schools were either destroyed, partially damaged, or being used for non-educational purposes because of the war, which is why War Child has prioritized their reconstruction.

Our initial programs were focused in the south of the country, working with a local partner to rehabilitate war-damaged schools, which included repairs to the ceiling and walls, painting, and the distributions of furniture for teachers, hygiene kits, and cleaning supplies. We also fitted one of the schools with eight solar panels with a capacity of 300W to provide a stable electrical supply for the school.

War Child also ran school-based campaigns on issues involving child protection and improving access to education. We established volunteer-led child protection committees to help drive community-based child protection awareness, training, and reporting.

In 2022, we began working in schools in the Houthi-controlled north of the country. Thanks to War Child's initial investment, children who had dropped out of school were able to return and the quality of learning had greatly improved. A refurbished school helps create a safe environment for learning, however, children and their teachers also need resources. That is why War Child distributed teacher kits as well as recreation kits containing school supplies, balls, and other play items.

War Child is now continuing to build upon our successes in Yemen and grow our programs with an emphasis on improving access to children's education, child protection, and food security.





### AN EDUCATION FOR MARWA - AFGHANISTAN

When the Taliban denied women and girls the opportunity to pursue their education, first in secondary school and later in university, Afghan women descended into the streets to protest their exclusion from school and from the right to learn and thrive.

For Afghanistan's youngest daughters, education remains a right for some, but not all girls. When seven-year-old Marwa stopped going to school, her teacher noticed her absence, and together with War Child staff, met with her father to discuss children's right to education.

Marwa's father had decided that girls' education was not necessary – but with support from the girl's teacher and War Child staff, he agreed to let her continue her lessons.

"I really love to be in the class and continue my schooling," says Marwa.

In the hopes that she will one day be allowed to pursue her secondary and university studies, War Child is supporting girls like Marwa with every opportunity to shine.



### LUCY'S PRIDE - DRC

Lucy is proud.

She has learned how to read and write – and now, she dreams of a better life.

Through War Child's programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the 14-year-old has received the opportunity to continue her education.

"In our community, studying is not easy when you are a girl," says Lucy. "With these skills, I could be a trader and earn a living for a better future."



### BUILDING COMMUNITY - SOUTH SUDAN

Young leaders from the small town of Baggari wanted to make a difference and improve the lives of their community's women and girls.

They had recently received transformative support from War Child – including training in life and problem-solving skills, development of self-awareness, and building their awareness of gender roles – and they wanted an opportunity to put their budding leadership skills to work.

Together, these young people led a campaign to challenge negative social norms that contribute to sexual and gender-based violence and held an event attended by many leaders and members of their community, fueling dialogue around sexual and gender-based violence.



### HILARY'S AMBITIONS - SUDAN

In 2020, armed conflict broke out between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front, a regional rebel force, worsening the already challenging famine conditions in the Tigray region, where nearly 40% of the population suffered from extreme lack of food. Nearly 60,000 people from Tigray fled to safety in Sudan.

As she fled her home and her community with her mother and four siblings, Hilary witnessed the horrors of war, traumatized by the violence and hunger. She would find refuge in the Um Rakuba refugee camp in Sudan, where War Child was running two youth centres.

Today, as the seventeen-year-old Hilary recovers from the trauma of conflict, still struggling with hunger, she nevertheless continues her studies.

"Since I have joined English classes with War Child, my communication has improved," says Hilary. "Currently, I do presentations in English by acting as a journalist and providing Tigray and Ukraine news."

Hilary's dreams are boundless. She hopes to study medicine in Canada – so that she too might one day play a role in assisting others who find themselves at the heart of global humanitarian crises.





### GALEN CATCHES UP ON LEARNING - UGANDA

“The rebels came,” says Galen. “They said that they want our firstborn. My father said that you wait for five minutes. I will go to take him and bring him. My father took us and we ran away.”

Galen fled the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) when she was just 4 years old, arriving in Uganda as a refugee with an uncertain future. Denied an education, Galen stayed home with her family, until the day when she learned that there was a school that would give her the opportunity to study. She joined one of War Child’s accelerated education programs in Uganda.

“I thank my teachers because they take care of me,” smiles Galen. “They teach us life skills. They teach us how we girls can protect ourselves from HIV disease.”

“Thank you very much for giving us hope of studying. I hope that this love will never end.”



### ZUBAYR BUILDS PEACE - YEMEN

When war broke out in Yemen in 2016, Zubayr was a university student who left his studies in order to support his family. As he watched the impact of the war on the children in his community, he became increasingly concerned for them.

“The situation was bad,” said Zubayr. “Students would not attend school because there was no school.”

When War Child offered his community child protection training, Zubayr took part, learning about children’s rights and how to work with children. He became a passionate volunteer, going door-to-door sharing what he learned with his neighbours and encouraging them to treat children with respect.

“My investment in knowledge and awareness has made me more aware of the protection of children at home, schools, and at the community level.”

# 2022 IMAGES: A SNAPSHOT

## AFGHANISTAN





# 2022 IMAGES: A SNAPSHOT

## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO





# 2022 IMAGES: A SNAPSHOT

## SOUTH SUDAN





# 2022 IMAGES: A SNAPSHOT

## SUDAN





# 2022 IMAGES: A SNAPSHOT

## UGANDA





# 2022 IMAGES: A SNAPSHOT

## YEMEN





# 2022 IMAGES: A SNAPSHOT

## GALA 2022: THE WORLD THAT'S POSSIBLE





# DONORS & SUPPORTERS

**T**hank you to our many supporters for your continued generosity and commitment - without you, War Child Canada's critical work wouldn't be possible.



**Chair of the Board of Directors: Michael Eizenga**

**Board of Directors: Denise Donlon, Nils Engelstad, Anna Gainey, Omar Khan, Adrian Lang, Bob Richardson**

## Gala 2022: The World That's Possible

### \$25,000

- Mantella Corporation
- Slight Family Foundation

### \$15,000

- Air Canada Foundation
- Generation Capital
- Mattamy Homes
- Tory's LLP
- Bennett Jones LLP

### \$10,000

- Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
- BMO
- Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
- CIBC
- Deloitte
- Espresso Capital
- Gainey Foundation
- Jalynn H Bennett Foundation
- KingSett Capital

### \$10,000

- Mainstreet Research
- Gordon Scott Paterson Foundation
- Margaret Atwood
- Maverix Private Equity
- Michael and Penny Eizenga
- Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP
- Peter Cundil Foundation
- Schneider Family Foundation
- Shilpa Mishra
- Staples Canada
- Strikeman Elliott LLP
- TD Bank Group
- The Feldman Agency

### \$5,000+

- Boxfish Group
- Denise Donlon
- Dexter John, Morrow Sodali

### \$5,000 +

- Douglas Knight
- HBC
- Heather Jessiman
- HUB International
- High Tide Inc
- John Ruffalo
- Karen Hannaford
- Kelli Preston Devry Smith Frank LLP
- Mona Singh, Syra Group Holdings
- Rick Mercer
- TD Bank

### In Kind Sponsors

- Blackjet Inc.
- ET Canada
- Global TV
- Globe and Mail
- Pomp and Circumstance
- Scarlet Lens Productions