



Organizational Overview

ChildVoice’s mission is to restore the voices of children silenced by war by raising awareness, promoting research, and creating effective, sustainable interventions. Focusing on highly traumatized and vulnerable adolescent girls and youth – and specifically targeting child mothers, ChildVoice seeks to transform individuals and rebuild communities, such as those in northern Uganda, northeast Nigeria, and South Sudan where people, families, infrastructure, and cultures have been shattered by years of war and conflict.

Our goal is to build developmental, educational, and vocational assets that will empower these girls to lead productive, economically advantaged, and independent lives, while contributing towards a sustainable and better future for their children, families and communities.

War and Children

Tragically, the effects of war on children are escalating into a global problem of unknown dimensions. The changing dynamics of modern day armed conflict has a number of horrific consequences — killing or maiming of children; recruitment or use of children as soldiers; attacks against schools and hospitals; denial of humanitarian access for children; abduction of children; and the rape and other grave sexual abuses of children.

The traumatizing impact of war on children demands a targeted and comprehensive approach to facilitate successful psychosocial healing and community reconciliation. Of particular concern is the girl child. Increasingly, girls are being exploited at earlier ages and for more brutal uses, such as sexual slavery, chattel for trafficking, and as armed combatants. Tragically, this exploitation of girls often precipitates a two generation impact – the girl herself and the children she bears. The resulting psychosocial and stigmatization impacts require long-term, far-reaching attention to building and developing protective assets. With an emphasis on sanctuary, psychosocial counseling, education, skill building, reintegration support, and access to basic healthcare, girls have the opportunity to develop assets to protect themselves against the vulnerabilities that for so long defined them.



Recognizing that programming for adolescents and youth generally fails to reach girls, ChildVoice’s programs specifically target highly vulnerable adolescent girls. Research shows that participants and beneficiaries of “youth” programs are primarily male, sometimes by as much as 80-90 percent. The most vulnerable girls, such as those who are married young, traumatized, or live in rural areas, are often restricted from participation in education, economic opportunities or psychosocial support because of cultural norms. Development assistance has historically bypassed adolescent girls by grouping them with women or children, but not as a category of their own. Less than two cents of every development dollar goes to programs specifically for adolescent girls, but they are the key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

ChildVoice

ChildVoice is a Christian humanitarian relief and development organization seeking to restore the voices of children silenced by war. ChildVoice's programs recognize that someone must speak for the thousands of children rendered voiceless by horrifying brutality and unimaginable inhumanity. More than speak, ChildVoice acts on the conviction that children broken by war can be restored in safe communities with loving care, spiritual and emotional counseling, and effective education and vocational training.

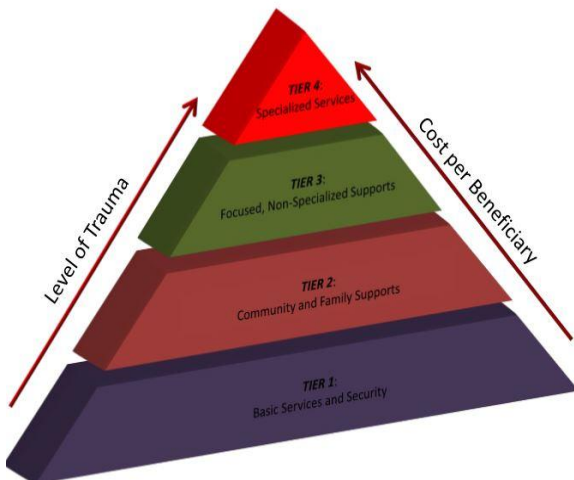
The imperative of ChildVoice is to help restore the future for children broken by the cycles of poverty, abuse, and war. In doing so, ChildVoice will be developing the leaders and workers of tomorrow. Investment in the healing and teaching of children damaged by poverty and other influences outside their realm of control will produce a foundation of young adults equipped with the assets and competencies to enter the workplace and reintegrate within their communities.

Framed by the understanding of the transformational power of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, all ChildVoice programs are rooted in Biblical principles of change and forgiveness. Healing and lasting change must be developed from the inside. Romans 12:2 says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you might discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Led by a team of multi-national experts with more than 35 years of experience in improving outcomes for at-risk populations in the U.S. and the developing world, ChildVoice works in partnership with international and local NGOs, as well as community leaders, to ensure that programs meet the targeted need with efficiency and effectiveness.

Programmatic Interventions

Intervention Framework. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) of the United Nations (UN) created a multi-sectoral, inter-agency framework that enables effective coordination, identifies useful practices, flags potentially harmful practices, and clarifies how different approaches to mental health and psychosocial support complement one another in an emergency situations.



ChildVoice uses this tiered framework to identify gaps in service delivery and to design programmatic interventions for the underserved population of war-affected adolescent girls. A strong understanding of the gender barriers to education, employment and leadership has led to the development of highly effective program strategies to build skills, resilience, and confidence in vulnerable girls and young women.

Community-based Intervention. Within internally displaced (IDP) and refugee populations, high percentages of adolescent girls are orphaned or a part of child-headed households with extremely limited means of meeting their basic needs and protecting themselves against sexual violence and exploitation. Many of those girls in Tiers 1, 2, and 3 can be served through community-based supports designed to promote trauma healing, peacebuilding, livelihood development, vocational skill building, and early childhood development. As part of their community-based efforts, ChildVoice establishes Girl

Empowerment Centers and Clubs within the IDP and refugee settlements. These Centers and Clubs provide an array of psychosocial and livelihood related services, including long term aftercare, for these vulnerable and traumatized adolescent girls and their children to direct and equip them for a life of self-empowerment.

Center-based Intervention. For the most highly traumatized and vulnerable girls (Tier 4), ChildVoice operates a therapeutic community which includes a boarding school, non-traditional educational programs, a vocational center, and spiritual and emotional counseling for those girls who need long-term care in order to actuate the healing process and care for their own children.

The design of the therapeutic components is based on research on children affected by armed conflict and best practices from other long-term rehabilitation centers. Outcome evaluation of these components continues to guide the long-term development and implementation of the program components and the replication of the program in other conflict zones.

Using a phased approach, this two year, 24/7 comprehensive program provides counseling and life-skills development, educational programs, vocational training, and early childhood development programs for the girls and their children. In the final four months, the students enter a transition phase to better prepare them for independent living as they return home.

Reintegration Support. For both the community-based and center-based interventions, the goal is to help girls reintegrate back to their homes of origin whenever possible and take their rightful place with their families and communities. Transition specialists assist the girls over a three year period, providing mentoring, coaching, and support as they begin employment or start small businesses. More than 90% of those who have completed ChildVoice’s programs have been successfully reintegrated, are living independently, and are no longer burdened by extreme poverty.

History of ChildVoice

Lukome Center. The village of Lukodi in northern Uganda, the original site of ChildVoice’s programs, has a tragic and storied past. On May 19th, 2004, more than sixty people lost their lives when the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) launched a brutal attack on the village. A number of children were abducted and hundreds more were displaced in what is now known as the Lukodi Massacre.

In 2007, the heavily damaged Lukodi Primary School was renovated to provide a training center for 30 girls and their young children in a secure setting with access to clean water, sanitation, and land to grow food and raise livestock for themselves and their children. With support from the Uganda military, the first group of 15 girls moved into the Lukome Center the first week of October 2007, followed by four other groups of girls and children over the next five years. In total, 124 girls and their children were served at this facility.



ChildVoice leased 70 acres of land near the community of Lukodi for the construction of a new campus and the new Lukome Center was opened in January of 2013. Guided by a master plan, the permanent facilities provide

more capacity for students and the ability to better integrate the key components of the program including education, vocational training, psychosocial and spiritual counseling, and management and staffing.

In keeping with the desire for a sustainable infrastructure (i.e., energy, agriculture and food, water resources, habitat design), ChildVoice is applying cutting-edge applied technology to construct energy systems, water and sanitation systems, and buildings for the center. In 2018, 60 more acres were added to expand the farm and the livestock production.

Health Care. Although a medical clinic was built near Lukodi in 1998, it was never opened because of the war. In June 2007, ChildVoice opened and operated the Punena Health Centre to provide accessible and affordable health service to this village and the surrounding communities. A new maternity ward opened in the spring of 2008 to accommodate the needs of the many expectant mothers in the region. In five years of operation, more than 50,000 patients were seen by ChildVoice’s team of local health professionals. This clinic was ranked first in Gulu District in the area of service delivery. In March 2012, the health center was returned to Gulu District, which now maintains its operation.



Education. ChildVoice constructed a new primary school in Lukodi in late 2007 for the children of Lukodi. This school opened in February 2008 at the start of the new school year, providing education for more than 500 children – many of them attending school for the first time. As families moved back to Lukodi from the IDP camps, ChildVoice provided a feeding program for the new school to help in the transition back home. In March of 2012, ChildVoice handed back the old Lukodi Primary School to the school-management committee so that it could be used as a boarding school for P6 and P7 students, a new initiative to help rural children finish primary school.



Economic Development. ChildVoice has helped to restart the local economy in the village of Lukodi through several initiatives. A number of full-time and casual laborers currently are in ChildVoice’s employ. In as much as possible, ChildVoice purchases goods and services from local vendors, thereby infusing cash into the local economy. One of the largest trade markets is now operating in Lukodi, demonstrating growing confidence in the economy.

Water and Sanitation. Recognizing the need to restore water points that had been abandoned during the war, ChildVoice has renovated and continues to monitor seven water points in the community of Lukodi and the immediate area. Over the past several years, three new boreholes have been drilled in the community and two others have been renovated. A total of ten water points are being monitored quarterly to ensure clean and safe water. Educational programs are in place to teach people in the local community about safe water and sanitation.

Program Results

Since 2006, ChildVoice’s time-tested program models have been producing long-term, sustainable results to empower highly vulnerable, war-affected girls and young women in Uganda and South Sudan by improving psychosocial health, developing protective assets, and establishing an economic advantage.

In the past 12 years, ChildVoice has provided service or is in the process of providing service to a total of 6,605 direct and indirect recipients.

- Center-based: 1,293
- Community-based: 5,312
- Total: 6,605

Global Expansion

Best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the northern Uganda project are guiding the replication of ChildVoice's concepts and programs in other conflict zones around the world. The first replications are underway in South Sudan and Nigeria and assessments are ongoing in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central Africa Republic (CAR), Iraq, and Pakistan to determine future replication sites.



South Sudan. In August of 2013, ChildVoice registered as a non-governmental organization in South Sudan. Four months later in December, a power-sharing struggle in this fragile new state devolved into a civil war and ethnic conflict that is spiraling out of control. Thousands have been killed and nearly two million people have been displaced both internally as well as to neighboring countries. ChildVoice secured land in Central Equatoria State in southwestern South Sudan to construct a therapeutic center that will operate in concert with the child section of the South Sudan Commission on Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration to help with the massive challenge of demobilizing thousands of child soldiers.

A pilot program for boys was scheduled to open in 2016 in Yei, but the explosion of hostilities in July of that year led ChildVoice to suspend its planned operations within the country. The widening conflict and deteriorating security situation across the country has created one of the worst humanitarian disasters in the world. 2.5 million people have fled South Sudan, over a million have taken refuge in Uganda. Hundreds of thousands remain trapped within the borders and are facing starvation and horrific human rights abuses.

In 2017, ChildVoice launched a large scale community-based program in Imvepi Refugee Settlement in West Nile targeting 2,500 South Sudanese and host community adolescent girls who are either at risk of becoming pregnant, are pregnant, or are already child mothers. Many of these girls are orphaned, partially orphaned or part of child headed households. This program provides an array of psychosocial and livelihood related services, including training in sustainable agriculture.

Nigeria. ChildVoice began work in northeast Nigeria in 2017, joining the NGO community who are providing humanitarian services to Boko Haram victims. Since this conflict began in 2009, it has resulted in widespread displacement, violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, protection risks and a deepening humanitarian crisis. Now in its ninth year, more than 20,000 people have been killed, thousands of women and girls abducted and children drafted as so-called "suicide" bombers into



the insurgency. Up to 2.1 million people fled their homes at the height of the conflict, 1.7 million of whom are still currently internally displaced and close to 200,000 people have fled to Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

In 2018, ChildVoice conducted a survey with 1,040 adolescent girls in the IDP population to better understand the service gaps within this population sector with the humanitarian response in the region. Survey analysis will assist to determine program needs and identify potential IDP camps and host communities for program implementation.

The national and international agencies working in this region of Nigeria recognize the need for targeted programs for war-affected adolescent girls and have shown strong support for ChildVoice's programs.

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