

HUMANITARIAN REPORT

MARCH 2018 - MAY 2019



**End Violence
Against Children**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Globally, one billion aged between 2 and 17 are estimated to experience some form of violence every year. That's half of all children worldwide. To address this preventable crisis, world leaders committed in 2015 to end violence against children as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Less than a year later, the UN Secretary-General launched the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, and an associated Fund, to accelerate progress towards a world in which every child can grow up safe and secure.

The End Violence Fund began implementing projects to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2018, with a generous contribution from the Government of Japan, it also began supporting 12 humanitarian projects delivered by partners in Uganda and Nigeria. An estimated 5 million children are in dire need of humanitarian assistance in north-eastern Nigeria and Uganda. Caught or escaping conflict and living in crisis, these are some of the world's most vulnerable children, regularly subjected to extreme violence, and physical and psychological trauma that often carries life-long consequences. Their experiences range from involvement in active combat and subsequent injury, to the loss of or separation from family, or the more commonplace disruption and insecurity presented by war and displacement¹.

In just over a year², these 12 humanitarian partners have reported significant progress: They have helped strengthen existing child protection systems at sub-national and national levels; created safer and child-centred learning environments; and provided holistic and comprehensive services, including reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups, psychosocial support and mental health counseling, vocational and life skills training, income generation, case management services, and awareness-raising, including mine risk education. Key achievements from these interventions include: **1,911 children** being released from armed groups, almost **70,800 children and caregivers** receiving psychosocial support and counseling, **nearly 4,800 young people and caregivers** receiving vocational skills training, of who **2,585 people** started their own business, **over 696,000 community members** being sensitized to child rights and protection and over **42,600 children and caregivers** receiving mine risk education. All interventions are informed by the INSPIRE strategies³ to prevent and respond to violence against children.

While the projects have made significant advances in creating environments that are free from violence, partners have also learned important lessons that will helpfully inform future humanitarian programming. These include: the importance of engaging local stakeholders early to maximize support, the need for back-up plans to cater for unexpected situations, and the localization of programming efforts, especially in training and awareness-raising materials. The use of technology for innovative programming should also be explored in future humanitarian projects.

In keeping with its remit to grow demand, mobilize resources and equip practitioners to collectively achieve SDG target 16.2 by 2030, the End Violence Secretariat⁴ will maximize opportunities to disseminate these findings and experiences.

¹ OCHA, North-East Nigeria Humanitarian Situation Update, July 2018. UNHCR Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan, April 2018.

² The actual implementation period is from April 2018 to May 2019; whereas the period of the grant awarded by the Government of Japan is from March 2018 to September 2019.

³ The INSPIRE strategies are a set of seven evidence-based measures that have shown results in ending violence against children and are endorsed by 10 leading organizations, namely WHO, CDC, GPEVAC, PAHO/WHO, PEPFAR, Together for girls, UNICEF UNODC, USAID, and the World Bank. http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/en/

⁴ For more information about the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children: <http://www.end-violence.org/>





PROGRESS IN UGANDA AND NIGERIA

Building on the first phase of the project, the 12 humanitarian partners enhanced their programming by applying lessons learned. As a result, caregivers and community members were involved in interventions as and when appropriate, and a proactive effort was made to get local buy-in to create a sense of ownership. A multi-sectoral approach was also taken by many of the partners, looping in Education or Early recovery and Livelihoods, for instance, to maximize impact. More emphasis was also put on building the capacity of volunteer community members to enable them to conduct knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising activities to tackle violence against children in their own communities.



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COMPARISON OF QUANTIFIABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

INTERVENTIONS	MID TERM ⁵			FINAL		
	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL
Psychosocial support and mental health therapy	19,070	16,185	32,255	36,963	33,820	70,783
Life skills training	6,032	6,368	12,400	13,755	13,891	27,646
Vocational training and Income Generation Activities	643	2,309	2,952	1,253	3,542	4,796
Positive parenting skills training	1,786	3,884	5,670	3,433	7,835	11,268
Capacity building of local actors	770	763	1,533	3,319	2,752	6,071
Case management services	7,926	6,726	14,652	17,972	19,946	37,918
Awareness raising activities on children's rights and protection issues	318,786	321,929	640,715	340,722	355,506	696,228
Release of children formerly associated with armed groups	908	147	1,055	1,613	298	1,911
Mine Risk Education	8,586	8,610	17,196	21,323	21,342	42,665

⁵ Some data have been corrected after the mid-term review.

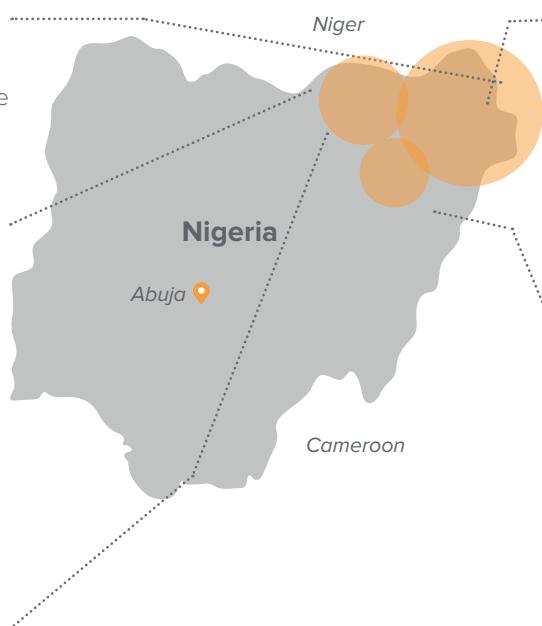




Terre des Hommes (TdH): Almost 4,500 children and caregivers (54% female) were equipped with stress management skills, while awareness-raising activities for 19,700 community members were conducted by 50 Community-Based Child Protection Focal Points to promote a safer community environment.

UNICEF Nigeria (UNICEF-N): 408 out of 1,911 children formally released from armed groups, including 298 girls, received specialized services and over 22,000 community members were prepared for reintegration through awareness-raising sessions. A referral mechanism has been established with ICRC, the Government of Nigeria, and UN Humanitarian Air Service for interstate/international family tracing and reunification processes.

Street Child (SC): 510 caregivers (82% female) sustained regular income after completing vocational skills training, while over 14,866 children (53% girls), including 50 children formerly associated with armed groups, received stress management and life skills training. A referral and response mechanism has been established for smoother interventions.



Mine Advisory Group (MAG): Mine risk education was delivered to over 42,000 children, 50% girls, as well as 565 adults, resulting in heightened awareness. The Remote Contamination Baseline Assessment methodology was piloted to create a contamination map.

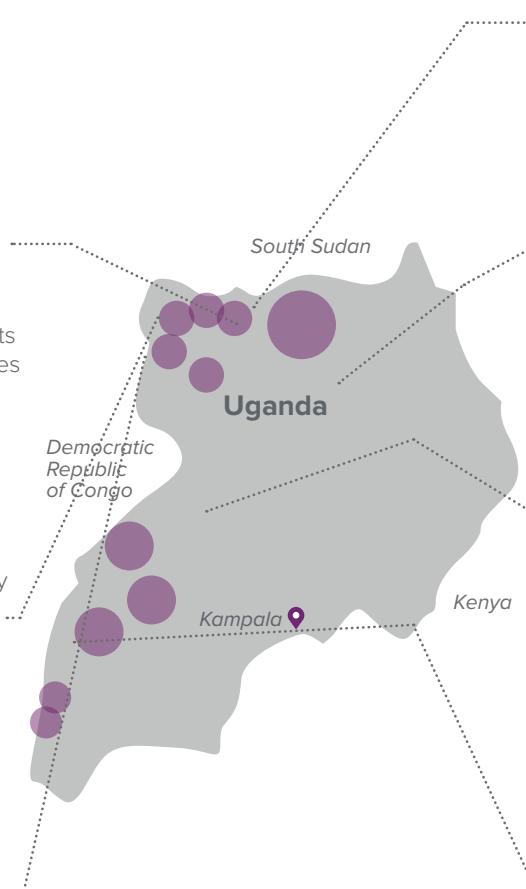
International Rescue Committee (IRC): 2,000 children, 48% girls, received individualized social services support through the use of a case management system, while over 6,200 community members learned children's rights, community-specific protection concerns, and contingency plans for future security threats to enhance community safety. A free telephone line has been established for any community feedback.

Lutheran World Federation (LWF): Children performed drama, music and dance linked to the topic of child abuse, neglect and early marriage at four pledging events, reaching nearly 7,800 people. 20 schools were supported with a child-friendly approach and referral mechanisms. A complaints and response mechanism has been established for anonymous reporting.

World Vision International (WVI): 750 adolescents, including 465 teenage mothers, started small businesses in mechanics, catering, tailoring, hairdressing and carpentry after completing training. These adolescents continue to be supported with starter kits and support groups to share experiences and good practices. A free telephone helpline has been established for confidential reporting.

Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO): Over 16,250 children, 40% girls, improved their ability to manage stress and trauma, including 1,800 children who received advanced therapeutic support. Almost 5,300 parents completed positive parenting skills training sessions to create a positive home environment.

Save the Children (SCI): Almost 4,000 children, 45% girls, were individually followed-up by case workers for their specific needs, while over 10,000 community members actively discussed issues and solutions related to violence against children. A free telephone line has been established for any complaints or feedback.



UNHCR: Nearly 11,000 children, 49% girls, received Best Interest Assessments and subsequent individualized social services support through a strengthened case management system. A new reporting platform, Activity Info, has been established for improved data management.

UNICEF Uganda (UNICEF-U): A Government of Uganda child protection coordination mechanism has been strengthened with clear roles and responsibilities of the government and service providers at sub-country, district, and national levels. This mechanism continues its efforts in unifying tools and referral mechanisms for quality and timely case management service provision.

Association for Volunteers in International Service (AVSI): Almost 16,000 children, 57% girls, were identified for birth registration including 7,752 children who received a birth registration card. Seven schools were supported through the implementation of the internationally recognized Good School Toolkit for child-friendly schooling.





MEASURING RESULTS AGAINST THE INSPIRE STRATEGIES

Children living in conflict and crisis face multilayered risks and challenges. To address children's complex needs, the 12 projects adopted comprehensive and multi-sectoral approaches based on the seven INSPIRE strategies, which include: Implementation and enforcement of laws, Norms and values, Safe environments, Parent and caregiver support, Income and economic strengthening, Response and support services, and Education and life skills.



Implementation and enforcement of laws

UNICEF Nigeria, together with the government, released **1,911 children**, including **298 girls**, from armed groups as the implementation of the Nigerian Bill (2003) to protect the Rights of Nigerian children. Enforcement of the 2016 amended Ugandan Children Act was ensured through **AVSI**'s successful negotiation for the birth certificate issuance for over **7,700 children** and supported additional **8,200 children** for the eligibility of their birth registration. With the leadership of **UNHCR and UNICEF Uganda**, the child protection coordination mechanisms have been strengthened with **a unified tools and referral mechanism** in collaboration with the Government of Uganda at district, sub-national, and national levels.



Norms and values

Awareness raising messages reached nearly **696,000 people** on the importance of protecting children and the roles they might play in creating violence-free environments. In addition, over **18,000 children, caregivers, and community members** actively participated in community dialogues to discuss their concerns and solutions.

IRC, SC, TdH, UNICEF-N, AVSI, LWF, SCN, TPO, WVI



Safe environments

Information on the risks posed by mines reached **42,100 children** and **565 adults** who recently went or returned to areas with explosive remnants of war so that they can identify unusual unexploded devices. Over **1,600 community volunteers** have been trained to form community-based Child Protection Committees charged with identifying cases, mitigating risks of violence against children, and facilitating access to services in collaboration with local authorities.

IRC, MAG, SC, TdH, LWF, SCN, TPO, WVI



Parent and caregiver support

More than **11,200 caregivers** completed a positive discipline course which resulted in noticeable behavioral changes beneficial to children. Over **2,330 caregivers** have been identified and trained to foster children who cannot stay with their biological parents.

IRC, SC, UNICEF-N, AVSI, LWF, SCN, TPO



Income and economic strengthening

More than **2,200 young girls** and children who take care of their siblings learned employability skills and are working in small businesses to gain a sustainable income. With existing or newly learned skills, **2,585 young adults** embarked on income generation activities and finance management to allow for savings.

SC, UNICEF-N, LWF, TPO, WVI





Response and support services

Nearly **70,800 children, adolescents, and caregivers** received psychosocial support and tailored counseling, relieving the stress of their difficult living conditions. Individual needs were assessed for over **28,700 children** who were linked with specific services, including family reunification through the case management system.

IRC, SC, TdH, UNICEF-N, AVSI, LWF, SCN, TPO, UNHCR, WVI



Education and life skills

Over **27,500 adolescents** completed life skills sessions to help them better manage their daily lives and emotions, while over **7,600 children** under 5 participated in early childhood education.

37 schools in Uganda implemented the child-friendly approach including 30 Child Rights clubs in schools and 7 schools with the “Good School Toolkit”.

SC, TdH, AVSI, LWF, SCN, WVI



CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

The implementation of 12 humanitarian projects resulted in learnings and highlighted opportunities to improve the impact of the Fund’s investments, including:

A. Early and sustained engagement with local stakeholders

Child and youth participation

All projects are designed in an age-appropriate way. However, some activities could be more creative and engaging by involving adolescents and youth in activity design, planning, and implementation.

Community co-design and participation

Humanitarian projects are often perceived as foreign or an added burden on communities which can lead to a lack of interest and participation in interventions. It is crucial to involve community leaders in needs assessment, gap analysis, project design, and planning prior to implementation. Communities’ active involvement in planning can also help to set realistic targets and avoid unnecessary delays in project implementation due to seasonal farming and schooling schedules. Meaningful engagement can also build a sense of ownership and sustainability.

Government co-design and engagement

Government officials are usually in agreement with projects in principle. However, partners witness more proactive cooperation when they are involved in the design and planning stages of the projects. This increases their understanding of projects and helps them advocate for accelerated internal administrative processes and legal intervention when needed.

B. Contingency planning for unexpected situations

In conflict and crisis, security situations can change rapidly, and people may move from place to place unexpectedly. Several partners faced implementation difficulties due to inaccessible roads caused by insecurity or extremely heavy rain. However, in some cases, children could continue participating in project activities because trained community members conducted them with remote technical support from partners. This reinforces the importance of contingency plans in unpredictable contexts.





C. Localized training and materials

When communities are learning about new concepts and unfamiliar norms, extra time and effort is required. When working with different cultures, and traditional practices, extra attention is needed to ensure learning materials are culturally and linguistically adapted to suit the community in question. It is standard practice to contextualize materials, but real success is seen when contextualization is increasingly localized to the community, especially in refugee settlements in Uganda where host and refugee communities merge.

PEER-TO-PEER APPROACH

Since the 2016 insurgency in South Sudan, children continue to face serious protection issues, including child neglect, sexual exploitation, and early or forced marriage, to name but a few. A lack of community awareness and engagement within the refugee settlement and wider host communities also means child-headed families, child mothers, rape and school drop-outs are all too common.

To ensure these grave issues are prevented or responded to, LWF has trained and supported 180 out-of-school adolescents to develop peer-to-peer monitoring and counselling, arming them with the skills and knowledge to assist fellow youths within their communities.

After the training, these adolescents represent their fellow youths in community dialogue. They also conduct community outreach where they learn of the issues their fellow youths are facing. In both instances, they ensure that cases of abuse and exploitation within the communities are identified and reported to the authorities, drawing on the existing child protection reporting pathways or the free reporting helplines available.

15-year-old Nancy Akana* is just one girl who's benefitted from the scheme. Having told the out-of-school peer educator that she was being sexually exploited by a shopkeeper in her block, she is now receiving the necessary support. When the peer educator got to know about it, they shared with LWF and proper counselling alongside support was provided.

*not her real name for privacy

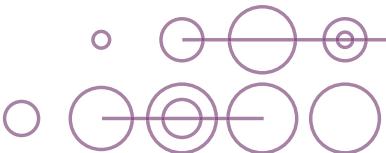
PROVIDING SAFETY FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

James* is a 16-year-old unaccompanied boy who arrived at the Matanda Transit Camp in Uganda. He was always alone, refused conversation and declined invitations to join other children in the child-safety spaces. When others were present, he distanced himself and often tried to hide. After three days of shunned attempts, as caseworker finally managed to get James to speak. He shared that, one day, rebel groups had come to his village with a list of names of people to join them. His name was on that list. He fled into the bus that night to escape them and stayed there for two weeks. He then went to Uganda in search of his mother, who had previously fled to Uganda to seek refuge.

Children captured and recruited into armed groups are often used as domestic servants, sex slaves, or are engaged in direct combat, causing immense physical and psychological harm. James was lucky to escape. In this case, the caseworker reassured him that he was now safe in the transit centre and wouldn't be found there. Calmed by his reassurance and now with warm clothes and some shoes, James at last gained the confidence needed to join his peers in the child-friendly space. A few days before his relocation he was spotted playing with his peers. Soon after he left to join his mother in safety.

*not his real name to protect his identity





RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMING

Taking account of programme successes, the following considerations are recommended for the future

A. Multi-sectoral programming

Ten out of 12 projects provided education and/or livelihood services in addition to traditional child protection in emergencies services, such as psychosocial support and case management services. It is vital to address the complex needs of children through a joined-up approach. Overall, children are better protected from violence when caregivers can meet their basic needs for food, shelter, medical care and education. Considering a child as a whole means addressing their various needs, including protection, health, hygiene, education, self-reliance and employability, and personality development. Establishing normalcy in a child's wider environment, therefore, such as at home, school, in their community, as well as having supportive social welfare and justice systems when needed, can enhance the impact of an intervention. While humanitarian projects that are designed with a multi-sectoral approach are more effective, close and strong coordination and collaboration among relevant actors is key.

B. Sustainability through building local capacities

In line with learnings on the importance of local stakeholders' involvement, their capacity building needs to be one of the main focuses of any humanitarian project. When successful, this can allow local actors to continue efforts initiated by projects when communities are dispersed by unforeseen insurgencies or natural disasters. Local capacity building can involve changing minds and traditional belief systems and can therefore take time. A roadmap which includes risk mitigation measures is crucial. This should include capacity building opportunities and a link between sub-national and national level efforts in strengthening nationwide child protection systems from the beginning of the project. A one-off training or awareness raising session is neither sufficient nor effective for behavior change. It is strongly recommended that humanitarian projects last longer than one year, which is the common humanitarian project duration.

C. Technology and innovation

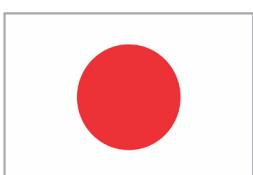
Although all 12 projects contributed to the strengthening of an existing child protection systems in both Uganda and Nigeria, further improvements can be made through the use of technology. For example, a free open-source application, called Kobo Toolbox, is used for accurate and systematic data collection and analysis in remote areas with smartphones and tablets. When the data is linked with government-led child protection interventions, **response and prevention can be much more timely and effective**. Collecting this data can also help **generate evidence** on what works. In addition, humanitarian projects need to be **innovative in implementing specific activities** encouraging the power of young people and using computers and smartphones especially in locations facing prolonged displacement. Older children can be creative in developing simple computer games which help younger children gain awareness, such as on the dangers of landmines. These older children can also be mentors to younger children in creating **artistic materials and lead awareness raising activities**, for example. It could also be beneficial to explore the use of existing and new technologies, such as virtual reality to address trauma among children, adolescents and communities.





CONCLUSION

While the projects discussed in this report focus on the conflict and crisis context, **children face violence everywhere, including in schools and in digital and online environments**. While implementing projects it became clearer that **prevention and response efforts to end violence against children** in different thematic contexts often overlap, and good practice examples can be identified and shared between implementing partners. Recognizing this, the Fund worked to link up active child protection prevention and response efforts operating in humanitarian and online contexts in Uganda. Meanwhile, most of the humanitarian projects were implemented in or near schools to bolster safer learning environments in Uganda. Through its investments to prevent violence against children in humanitarian, online and school contexts, **End Violence is in a unique position to identify commonalities and best practices** across these distinct fields.



**From
the People of Japan**

End Violence is grateful to all partners who have contributed to our work towards ending violence against children. End Violence extends particular thanks to the Government of Japan for enabling the Fund to launch projects in conflict and crisis contexts. The Government of Japan is also a valued member of the End Violence Board and a Pathfinding country, committed to creating a safer world through ending all forms of violence against children.

For more information, please contact

Sally Burnheim, Deputy Director sally.burnheim@end-violence.org

Ayako Kaino, Partnerships ayako.kaino@end-violence.org

Website: www.end-violence.org/fund

Twitter: [@GPtoEndViolence](#)



End Violence Against Children



info@end-violence.org
fund@end-violence.org
secretariat@end-violence.org

www.end-violence.org

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