



**End Violence  
Against Children**  
THE FUND

April - October 2018



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# Mid-term Progress Report Humanitarian Projects

# Executive Summary

Every year, over one billion children experience violence, abuse or neglect. Humanitarian situations, such as armed conflicts, can have devastating effects, often triggering a vicious cycle that includes the loss of loved ones, livelihood, health, education and any sense of normality. These are all hallmarks of a childhood lived in extreme conditions.

Recognizing its devastating impact, in 2015 world leaders committed to end all forms of violence against children by 2030, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. In July 2016, the UN Secretary-General launched the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and its Fund (End Violence) to invest in solutions on the ground. With a generous contribution from the Government of Japan, in March 2018 the End Violence Fund began supporting 12 humanitarian projects to address violence against children facing conflict and crisis in Nigeria and Uganda.

In three of the most affected northeastern states in Nigeria alone, a total of **7.7 million people**, of whom **3.8 million are children**<sup>1</sup>, are in need of protection and immediate humanitarian assistance. A further 1.8 million refugees were expected to be hosted by Uganda in 2018, mainly from South Sudan.<sup>2</sup> To respond to these humanitarian crises, the Fund's partners in these countries have made significant progress in the six months through October 2018. Their projects have provided diverse services including reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups, vocational and life skills training, income generation, case management services, and awareness-raising including mine risk education. For instance, over 37,000 children and caregivers participat-

ed in psychosocial support while over 16,000 children were supported by case workers. All interventions are informed by the seven INSPIRE strategies<sup>3</sup> to prevent and respond to violence against children.

The implementation of these projects has reconfirmed for the Fund the importance of exercising a holistic approach to create a safer environment for children by working directly with them and also with adults who are part of the same environment. Ensuring sustainable interventions to end violence also requires continuous effort to create a sense of ownership of the interventions among community members. Significant challenges due to the difficult operating environment in each country were managed by putting extra security measures in place and flexibly adapting projects. This was seen especially in the face of intensified security and extreme climate conditions in northeastern Nigeria, which resulted in multiple staff evacuations.

Building on the Global Partnership's momentum over the last two years and growing intolerance of unacceptable behaviours, the Fund will maximize upcoming opportunities to showcase results and solutions contributing to the achievement of the strategic goals aligned with End Violence's objectives over the next three years.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> OCHA. *North-East Nigeria Humanitarian Situation Update July 2018 Edition*. July 2018.

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR. *Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan*. April 2018.

<sup>3</sup> The INSPIRE seven strategies are evidence-based measures that have shown results in ending violence against children and endorsed by WHO, CDC, GPeVAC, PAHO/WHO, PEPFAR, Together for girls, UNICEF UNODC, USAID, and World Bank.

[http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/inspire/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/en/)

<sup>4</sup> End Violence: <http://www.end-violence.org/>

# Progress in 6 months

Over **5 million children** are estimated to be in dire need of humanitarian assistance in northeastern Nigeria and Uganda. Some have been caught up in conflicts and forced to serve as child soldiers. Others have been forced to flee for their survival. Most have born witness to devastating events, including the rape and murder of loved ones. The **12 End Violence humanitarian project** partners are working tirelessly to support these children and their families, providing practical and psychological support and a safer space to live, even in the most severe and unsafe circumstances.

**Terre des Hommes (TdH):** Almost 1,450 children and caregivers equipped with stress management skills, while a safer community environment was supported with awareness raising activities for 3,700 community members.

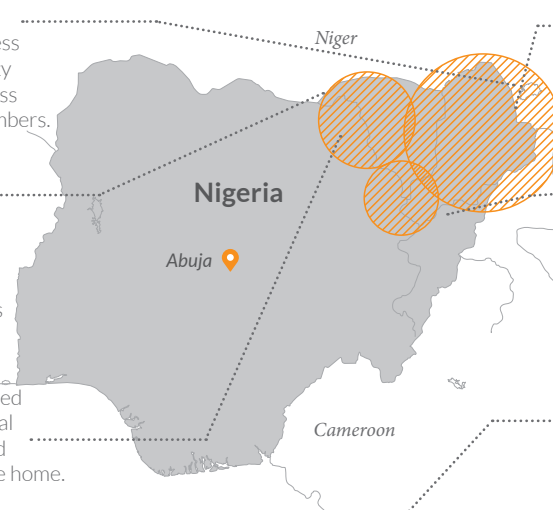
**UNICEF Nigeria (UNICEF-N):** 212 out of 1,047 children formally released from armed groups, including 14 girls, received specialized services and over 90 communities were made ready for reintegration of children through awareness raising sessions for 8,000 members.

**Street Child (SC):** 510 caregivers sustained regular income after completing vocational skills training, while 500 caregivers gained positive parenting training to create a safe home.

**World Vision International (WVI):** 750 adolescents, including 465 teenage mothers, gained employability through life skills and vocational training in mechanics, catering, tailoring, hair dressing, and carpentry. A feedback mechanism established for transparency.

**Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO):** Over 5,100 children and 510 caregivers improved stress management skills and almost 1,000 reduced trauma symptoms, while almost 750 Child Protection actors trained on mental health issues and referral mechanisms.

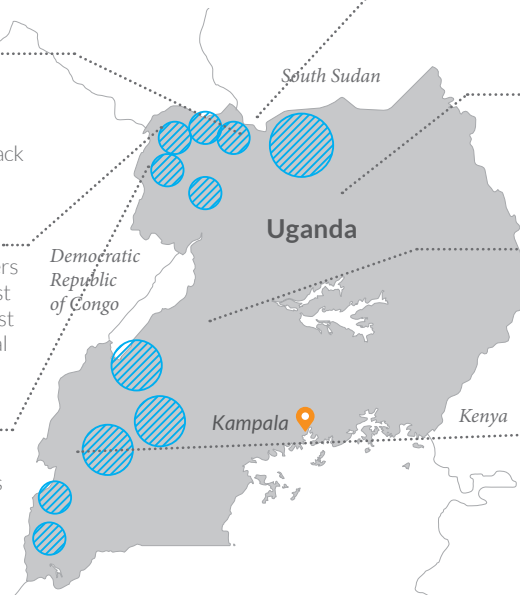
**Save the Children (SCN):** Almost 11,500 children, including 4,700 girls, improved stress management skills, while community's interests in violence against children increased through community dialogue with a total of 3,200 community members.



**Mine Advisory Group (MAG):** Mine Risk Education delivered to almost 17,000 children, including 8,600 girls, resulting in changed community behaviours.

**International Rescue Committee (IRC):** Over 4,700 children improved stress management skills and 300 caregivers gained positive parenting skills, while 1,400 children participated in community dialogue to share their opinions.

**Lutheran World Federation (LWF):** Children performed drama, music and dance on child abuse, neglect and early marriage at a pledge making event where about 10,000 people were reached, while 20 schools were supported with a child-friendly approach and referral mechanisms.



**UNHCR:** Over 7,800 children supported with individualized social services through a strengthened case management system after completing a best interests assessment.

**UNICEF Uganda (UNICEF-U):** Child Protection coordination system with the Government of Uganda is functioning well with clear roles and effective referral mechanisms at sub-country and district levels.

**Association for Volunteers in International Service (AVSI):** Close to 4,000 children, 50% girls, were identified for birth registration, while 7 schools were supported with internationally recognized Good School Toolkit for child-friendly schooling.

# Results against the INSPIRE strategy

In order to respond to the complex needs of every child, and to prevent them from being exposed to further harm, the projects adopt comprehensive approaches and each implement at least one of the seven strategies of **INSPIRE**.



## Implementation and enforcement of laws

Based on the Nigerian Bill (2003) to protect the Rights of Nigerian children, **UNICEF Nigeria**, together with the government, successfully negotiated the release of **1,047** children, including **147 girls**, from armed groups.

Following the amendment of the Children Act in 2016, **AVSI** made almost 4,000 refugee children under 5 eligible for Birth Registration.”



## Norms and values

More than **686,000** children, caregivers, and community members have been reached with messages on the importance of protecting children and the roles they might play.

**IRC, TdH, UNICEF-N, AVSI, LWF, TPO, WVI**



## Safe environments

Almost **17,000** children and **300** adults with access to formerly inaccessible areas due to active conflicts have been equipped to identify unusual unexploded devices.

**585** 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, LWF, SCN, TPO, WVI**



## Parent and caregiver support

More than **5,600** caregivers completed a positive discipline course which resulted in noticeable behavioral changes beneficial to children.

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



## Income and economic strengthening

More than **1,800** 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, **1,100** young adults embarked on income generation activities and finance management to allow for savings.

**SC, LWF, WVI**



## Response and support services

Over **37,000** children, adolescents, and caregivers received psychosocial support with the aim of providing a sense of normality and relieving the stress of their difficult living conditions.

Individual needs were assessed for over **16,000** 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

**2,600** adolescents completed life skills sessions to help them better manage their daily lives and emotions.

**27** schools in Uganda implemented the child-friendly approach including 7 schools with “Good School Toolkit”.

**TdH, AVSI, LWF, WVI**



# Lessons Learned

Because humanitarian settings are subject to quick and unpredictable change, establishing projects with durable impact on the lives of children is crucial. With this in mind, the partners have been adjusting their projects to implement good practice on the ground. These include:

## 1. Adopting a holistic approach to create a child-friendly environment

Preventing violence against children requires the creation of a positive and nurturing environment in which they can flourish. However, establishing this in certain contexts, such as refugee communities, is not always straightforward and requires a sophisticated reading of community dynamics and cultural norms.

For children formerly associated with armed groups, for instance, familiar environments can represent both friend and foe. Returning home, children can be stigmatized and even rejected by their own communities, which can drive the children to return to armed groups where they feel more accepted.

Good programming appreciates that creating a safer and child-friendly environment means involving every single community member – children themselves, caregivers, community members and leaders, teachers, and other government officials.



Picture 1: Girls in group therapy at the transit center in Borno State, Nigeria.

## Knowledge is power

(supported by Terre des Hommes)

An awareness-raising session on early marriage and its consequences was conducted with 25 elderly men in Jere, Nigeria. Mid-session a participant stood up and angrily proclaimed that early marriage did not happen in Nigeria. It later transpired that he had recently completed a marriage payment for a 16-year old girl he was due to marry.

Once the session was over, the health worker conducting the session approached him. He explained that he already had two other wives and nine children he was struggling to support. He also said that, having just learned about the impact of early marriage on girls, he would now not marry-off his teenage daughters. He made a further promise not to get his soon-to-be bride pregnant before she was 18.

When the health worker met the same man during her routine home visits, he and other community members confirmed that he had kept his promises. Indeed, he had taken his bride back to her parents after the marriage until she turned 18. He became an advocate and shares his experience with his friends to expand a circle of ending early marriage in the community.



Picture 2: Awareness raising session on early marriage in Jere, Nigeria

## 2. Promoting ownership to maximize sustainability

When communities recognize the value of specific projects and interventions, they have an incentive to collaborate and invest in a project's longevity and success. Engaging children, caregivers, community leaders, and government counterparts from the very start of a project, including in the design and conceptualization phase, is key to this process, and encourages ownership. Understanding and working with existing community structures is also crucial. Buy-in from respected members of the community, for instance, enhances collaboration, facilitates coordination and maximizes sustainability and impact.

## 3. Flexibility in the face of change

When security is fragile and unpredictable, a flexible programming approach can mean the difference between life and death.

Attacks by armed groups in northeastern Nigeria have been escalating in recent months. This has at times made it necessary for training to be cancelled, staff members to be evacuated, and programming activities either to be cancelled or relocated.

Assessing the risk of danger in insecure environments can mean that sometimes adjusting project plans or even cancelling planned activities may be in the best interests of the child.

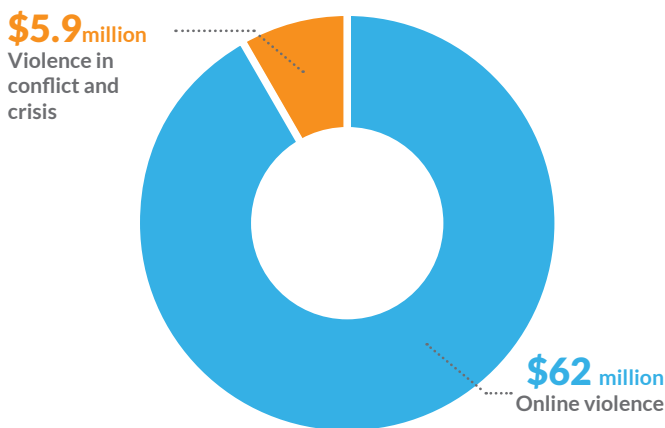
“ The [Good School Toolkit]<sup>5</sup> training changed my personal behavior at home and at school. Now my children and pupils trust me and share with me everything concerning their lives.”  
– Alioni Simon Apangu, participant of AVSI training, Head teacher of St. Mary's Ocia Primary School – Uganda.

<sup>5</sup> Good School Toolkit. <http://raisingvoices.org/good-school/>. June 2011

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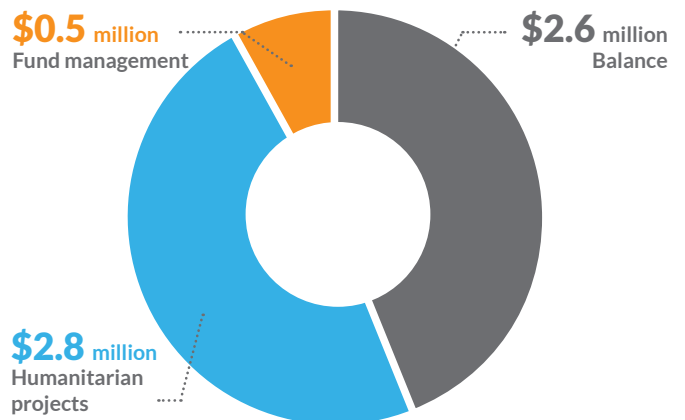
# Financial update

## Overall contributions to the Fund\*



\* The contributions include all funds received in 2018.

## Humanitarian expenditure\*\*



\*\* Amounts are those disbursed; all funds have been committed.

## The way forward

The Fund is evolving. Following the progress of the past six months, the Fund's humanitarian window and its 12 partners continue to support children in conflict and crisis in Nigeria and Uganda to create safer environments. Further efforts will be made to grow demand for change, mobilize resources, and equip practitioners through demonstrating evidences generated by these projects to end violence against children in conflict and crisis.

In addition to the added capacity in monitoring and evaluation within the Partnership Secretariat, the Fund launched a platform accessible to the implementing partners of the current 12 humanitarian projects to strengthen knowledge sharing. The platform allows them to easily access programmatic materials developed and used by partners, exchange innovative ideas, and directly communicate with each other online. Partners are encouraged to share awareness-raising communication tools, guidelines, good practice, and any materials which may benefit others.



Picture 3: Children participating in psychosocial support at a primary school in Moyo District, Uganda.

To help guide the future work in relation to online child sexual exploitation and abuse, the Fund Steering Committee has commissioned national assessments of online child sexual exploitation and abuse in 14 countries in Southern and Eastern Africa and Southeast Asia.

2019 holds a unique opportunity to raise awareness

## I am part of the community

*Maombi, 12-year old girl from Democratic Republic of Congo (supported by Save the Children International)*

"While we were in Congo, the war broke out and rebels raided our home. They slaughtered my father in front of me. I grabbed my younger sister and ran to hide in the garden," says Maombi. She suddenly stopped coming to a Child Friendly Space (CFS) and dropped out of school. When a concerned case worker visited her at home, Maombi disclosed that other children were calling her "rebel sister" because they knew her mother had been gang raped by rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The name-calling was bringing back terrible memories and was also stopping Maombi from going to school and any interaction with other children.

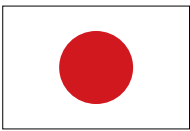
Fleeing from Congo, the family had made their way to Uganda in search of safety and a better life, settling in a village. But the past was hard to leave behind. Not only was Maombi traumatized, unable to play or learn, but her family was also stigmatized by their community. Their neighbors suddenly stopped giving them food and clothes.

The case worker visited Maombi multiple times, gave her and her mother psychological support, and provided her with educational materials. Meanwhile a Community-Based Child Protection Committee were mobilized to discuss the dangers of stigmatizing others and the detrimental impact it can have.

With all the efforts, the situation improved. Maombi started participating in peer group community activities and taking a lead in the group. She eventually returned to school. The name-calling and stigmatization became a thing of the past.

around violence against children, showcase solutions and progress, demonstrate linkages between Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 and other SDGs, and inspire new commitments to end violence against children from governments and other actors. The Fund seeks new investors for tackling online child sexual exploitation and abuse as well as violence against children in conflict and crisis to seize these opportunities. It also intends to expand project implementation aligned with the Safe to Learn campaign.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Safe to Learn – Call to Action. <http://www.end-violence.org/safetolearn/call>. 2018



**From  
the People of Japan**

*End Violence expresses its deep appreciation to all resource partners who contribute to its work on ending violence against children. End Violence extends particular thanks to the Government of Japan which enabled the Fund to begin projects to end violence against children in conflict and crisis. The Government of Japan makes an important contribution as a Board member. End Violence also welcomes Japan's commitment to become a Pathfinding country in ending all forms of violence against children.*

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Designed by: Federico Fontan

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To find out more and to discuss the opportunity of contributing to the Fund, please contact:

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