ChildVoice))

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



RESTORING THE VOICES OF CHILDREN SILENCED BY WAR

CHILDVOICE.ORG

# our President

#### **Dear Friends and Supporters,**

After 18 years of serving children and youth traumatized by war, conflict, and exploitation, I am filled with both gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose. What began as a small initiative in Lukodi, Uganda has expanded into a significant mission that now spans across Africa and Eastern Europe, positively impacting lives across generations.

**OUR IMPACT** Over the past two decades, we've witnessed the profound impact of our work not only on our direct beneficiaries but also on their children and communities. Former students—who once saw little hope for their future—are now thriving, with their children enjoying better economic standing, education, and employment prospects. This generational impact is at the heart of our mission to break the cycle of poverty and trauma and bring healing and hope through the love and care of our staff and volunteers.

A NEW CHAPTER This milestone year also marks another significant generational change for ChildVoice. After careful consideration and planning, our board of directors is implementing a leadership succession plan. I am pleased that my son, Nathan, who has been involved with ChildVoice since its inception and has served on our board for many years, has been selected as our new CEO. This executive transition allows me to focus on program and partnership development in new regions urgently needing our services, as well as to spend more time with our donors.

**THE GROWING NEED** Despite our progress, the global need for our work continues to expand at an alarming rate. Currently, 117.3 million people have been displaced by war, violence, and other humanitarian crises – equivalent to 1 out of every 69 people on the planet. This number is projected to reach 120 million by the end of 2024.

**LOOKING FORWARD** As we expand into new conflict regions, we are committed to enhancing our healing and skills training services. We firmly believe that every young life we touch becomes a beacon of hope for others. Our goal is not just to help individuals but to create a ripple effect that uplifts entire communities.

We invite our volunteers, donors, and partners to continue being part of this crucial mission. Your support has been instrumental in our journey, and it will be essential as we face the challenges ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Conrad Mandsager

ChildVoice Founder and President

44

GENERATIONAL IMPACT IS AT THE HEART OF OUR MISSION TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY AND TRAUMA AND BRING HEALING AND HOPE



#### **FATHER AND SON:**

"I am pleased that my son, Nathan, who has been involved with ChildVoice since its inception and has served on our board for many years, has been selected as our new CEO."

## IN THEIR OWN Voices: STORIES OF GENERATIONAL IMPACT

Oliver and Beatrice

Lukome Center, Uganda

Oliver is 24 years old. She was only six years old when her mother, Beatrice, joined ChildVoice's very first class of war-affected adolescent girls. Today, Oliver is a tailoring instructor at the Lukome Center. It's a coming home of sorts for someone who first arrived at ChildVoice with a mother who had little hope for a better future for herself and her daughter. Beatrice, who has worked for Child-Voice as an office assistant since 2009 and is one of our longest-serving employees, continues to express gratitude for what ChildVoice has done for her and her family.

"I was a student in ChildVoice 2007," Beatrice said. "Class number one. I was 15 years old then. I had Oliver with

me. From ChildVoice I learned how to cooperate with people because when I was growing, I was alone. So, I learned how to be with people, to cooperate with people, to work with people. I'm very happy for ChildVoice, what they're doing for us—me and my family."

For her part, Oliver expressed optimism for the futures of the students she is working with today. And she demonstrates great confidence in her own ability to build a better future for herself.

"When I'm with the students, I really feel so amazed when I'm with them," she said. "Because I remember how I was at that time, and how I am right now. So, I have that courage in me that they can also, their kids also, they can also become like me. Because if I see my mom right now, how she is, then they can also be like the way we are. I know these girls also, with the counseling and the guidance that we always give them, they can also make it. Because I always give them myself as a testimony to them. So that's why when I'm with them, we interact. In fact, we talk as sisters."



In the past fiscal year, our program for adolescent girls in Mubi has truly taken root and come to fruition, particularly in three areas: health and hygiene education, agriculture, and our innovative tailoring apprenticeships.

One of our students, Christiana, was happy to express her gratitude for how our Mubi programs are changing lives for the better. Christiana's mother added her thanks, saying that she had no expectation her daughter would benefit as greatly as she has from ChildVoice.

"I'm standing here to say thank you to ChildVoice... for the things you've been doing for us, including helping us to participate in agriculture and teaching us in class, especially hygiene and sanitation and other aspects too," Christiana said. "We also want to say thank you for helping us learn tailoring and opening a workshop for us. I took it upon myself and on behalf of the others to come and appreciate you people for your sup-

## IN THEIR OWN Voices: STORIES OF GENERATIONAL IMPACT

(continued from previous page)

port which includes getting us farming supplies for us to use. May the Lord bless ChildVoice at large so that you people can keep up with the good work. We appreciate you people a lot."

"ChildVoice has been of great help to us and our children," Christiana's mother added. "There are lots of things that we couldn't teach them concerning hygiene and how a girl child can care for herself, but ChildVoice taught them. We are really happy and grateful also for teaching them skills like tailoring, to have something to sustain themselves, and sew clothes for themselves without taking it to another tailor and paying money. Our hearts are gladdened by the impact ChildVoice is having on our children's lives. . . May God bless the organization. We really didn't expect this but you people did it! Thank you."



Hadiza is a recent graduate of our program at Nigeria's Malkohi IDP camp. She is the mother of two young children, including Hassan, a four-year-old boy who has cerebral palsy. ChildVoice provided Hassan extensive medical and nutritional support during 2024 because he was severely malnourished, and his parents were at a loss as to how to care for his needs. Hadiza and her husband were also educated regarding his special needs and how best to care for him. They offered words of sincere gratitude to ChildVoice for helping them learn how to care for their children, especially Hassan, who is now getting the special care he needs.

"We are grateful, and since I graduated from ChildVoice, I am to this day missing ChildVoice a lot," Hadiza said. "ChildVoice days were the best. We were truly happy! Since arriving at [Malkohi], I had never seen an organization like ChildVoice. ChildVoice teaches patience and how to raise our children well at home, and how to take care of them. ChildVoice helps our children when they are sick, so they can regain their health and well-being. We are sincerely grateful to ChildVoice. May God bless ChildVoice and open doors of opportunity abundantly."

Hassan's father added: "I express my appreciation to [ChildVoice] because they helped me a lot. I didn't know what to do to take Hassan to the hospital for treatment, but at that time I was helpless. Thanks to God's blessings, ChildVoice intervened... We never thought our child would reach this point. We are extremely grateful for the help you've given us."

## IN THEIR OWN Voices: STORIES OF GENERATIONAL IMPACT



Our work to develop a customized training program for our partners in Ukraine began in the 2023-2024 fiscal year; it might therefore seem premature to talk about generational impact for the adolescent boys and girls we are helping to serve in the war-torn Eastern European country. But the responses we have received from parents of the children attending ChildVoice-supported summer programs led by Kokhana Krayina (Beloved Country), our partner organization, are encouraging. Below is the testimony of a mother who sees hope for her son amid the heartbreak of war.

"I am the mother of Kostya, who is 11 years old. We live in the village of Vysunsk, Bashtanka district, Mykolaiv region.

"After 22 February 2022, when the war started, our school and kindergarten stopped working. In March, people began to evacuate. When the Russians captured the town of Snihurivka, which is 25 km away, our village came under constant shelling. Our family did not leave, we stayed in the village to this day, hiding in the cellar. We had no opportunity to leave.

"Our kids had been studying online all this time, and they really missed socializing. Then we found out that a five-day children's camp was coming to our village. The children were very excited. The children met, played, and communicated.

"This is the second year that a day camp has been coming to us and the children are looking forward to it. It is so necessary for us in such a difficult time. We are grateful to Beloved Country for providing our children with such an opportunity to meet and communicate. On behalf of every person and child, we are grateful to you all for your humanity and selfless work. May your kindness be returned to you a hundredfold. Peace be with you and God's blessings."

### **UGANDA THE LUKOME CENTER**

## Center-Based Program

The past fiscal year saw Class 16 students preparing to enter the final months of their programs at the center, culminating in preparation for their Uganda Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) examinations. Student graduation and DIT rates continued to be exceptionally high in 2024, with all 24 of Class 15's students graduating and passing their DITs. The majority of students at the center continued to be South Sudanese.

Much work was done at the center during the fiscal year to improve campus infrastructure. The solar power system was upgraded, and new restroom facilities were constructed for visitors, staff, and students.

A medical team from West Virginia University ran a six-day clinic at the Lukome Center in the spring of 2024. The clinicians provided care for 679 individuals, both children and adults. More than half of the patients suffered from malaria, and many needed treatment for multiple ailments.

#### **2024 LUKOME CENTER HIGHLIGHTS:**

- IN JUNE 2024, UGANDA STAFF BEGAN RECRUITING CLASS 17 STUDENTS. THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS BEGAN AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR AND CONTINUED INTO THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR.
- CLASS 16 STUDENTS TOOK THEIR DIT EXAMS IN THE SPRING OF 2024. AS THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED, STUDENTS WERE STILL WAITING TO HEAR THE RESULTS.
- GRADUATES CURRENTLY IN POST-RESIDENTIAL AFTERCARE: 208 IN POST RES. OF THESE, 83 HAVE BEEN IN AFTERCARE FOR FEWER THAN 6 YEARS, WHILE WE HAVE CONTINUED TO OFFER 125 OF THEM SUPPORT FOR MORE THAN 6 YEARS.
- SINCE 2007, INCLUSIVE OF CLASSES 1 TO 16, 263 ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND 269 CHILDREN HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE LUKOME CENTER PROGRAM.

Year-round sessions included the following: individual and group counseling; agriculture; business skills; financial literacy and numeracy; vocational (hairdressing, bakery and catering, sweater knitting, tailoring); parenting skills; sports; music; and spiritual formation.

## **UGANDA IMVEPI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT**

Community-Based Program

Agriculture skills continue to be important for all of our students to learn, both at the Lukome Center and in Imvepi. Farming provides both a vital food source for our students and their families and a source of income. This continues to be of importance because the World Food Programme is currently providing very little in the way of assistance to Imvepi residents, according to ChildVoice's Imvepi Program Manager, Julius Owori.

Mid-March brought rain to northern Uganda, signaling the start of a new growing season for our Imvepi students. At each of our four Girl Empowerment Centers, students (200 in total) began preparing nursery beds for their demonstration vegetable gardens with which they are trained in backyard farming. While planting a variety of vegetables, students focused on one crop in particular – onions, which proved to be particularly profitable to sell at market.

One of the most important developments at Imvepi was the construction of a permanent housing facility for ChildVoice staff—a much-needed upgrade from the aging tents staff members had been living in for some time.

The medical team from West Virginia University that visited the Lukome Center also traveled to Imvepi. There, they were able to provide care for 918 patients over six days.

### **2024 IMVEPI PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

150 AVERAGE MONTHLY ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

22 AVERAGE MONTHLY GIRLS EMPOWERMENT SESSIONS

AVERAGE DAILY BREAKFASTS SERVED

GIRLS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR GEC-BASED TRAINING AT IMVERI ARE NOW IN THE POST-COMPLETION AFTERCARE PHASE OF THEIR PROGRAMS.

Activity sessions at Girl Empowerment Centers (GECs) included the following: agriculture training; vocational training (hairdressing, tailoring, bakery, catering, bar soap making); financial literacy; business training; sports, group and individual counseling; group awareness; health and hygiene education; and spiritual formation.

#### **NIGERIA MALKOHI AND MUBI**

Community-Based Program

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, our Nigeria team expanded programming in two different places. We established a pilot tailoring apprenticeship program in Mubi. Under the tutelage of established tailors in the community, students received immersive hands-on training. The pilot program involved 40 students serving as apprentices under 8 established tailors. Students received a high level of individualized instruction, thanks to the low apprentice-to-tailor ratio.

The fiscal year also saw the establishment of our Nigeria team's presence in the brand-new Labondo community. Labondo, a relocation community project created by Adamawa State in conjunction with UNHCR, is intended to provide a safe and stable environment for internally displaced Nigerians who either cannot or will not return to their places of origin. We extended our services to young people relocating to Labondo—some of whom had moved there from the Malkohi camp in which we have been operating since 2018.

## **2024 NIGERIA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

**NUMBER OF REGISTERED GIRLS:** 

(Malkohi) (Mubi)

**AVERAGE SITE VISITS PER MONTH:** 

Malkohi (Mubi)

NUMBER OF THRIVE KITS DELIVERED:

NUMBER OF MALKOHI GIRLS **GRADUATED IN JANUARY 2024:** 

NUMBER OF REGISTERED BOYS: 58

AVERAGE SITE VISITS PER MONTH: 6

Girls' activity sessions included: counseling; basic literacy/numeracy; vocational training; health and hygiene; sports, music; agriculture; and life skills.

Boys' activity sessions included counseling; basic literacy/numeracy; vocational training; health and hygiene; sports, music; agriculture

(Started May 2024)

#### **84 REGISTERED BOYS AND 108 REGISTERED GIRLS** STAFF MADE AN AVERAGE OF 3 FIELD VISITS/MONTH

We started a new program in 2024: Non-registered but participating preteens ages 7-12, with 80 boys (32 active) and 206 girls (109 active) enrolled. Most are school-going. Our focus for these children is on music, dance and drama, literacy/numeracy, and sports.



#### THE UPWARD TREND OF GLOBAL FORCED DISPLACEMENT

has continued unabated for 12 years. In just one year, the total number of people worldwide who were forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, and human rights violations has ballooned by nearly 10 million, and stood at 117.3 million people by the end of 2023.¹ That is equivalent to 1 of every 69 people on the planet.

**THE TIDE IS RISING. WE MUST RISE TO MEET IT.** As we work to restore the hopes and futures of our beneficiaries, we cannot succumb to despair and lose our own hope. It will take all of us—board members, staff members, donors, partners, and volunteers—to do the work laid out before us. The need has never been greater. Our impact must be greater in equal measure.

#### IN THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR...

**UGANDA** was host to **1,656,423** refugees as of June 30, 2024, the vast majority (1,474,253, or 89% of all refugees in Uganda) from South Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>2</sup>

**NIGERIA** had a total of **3,397,531** internally displaced persons by the end of June 2024. That number continues to grow.<sup>3</sup>





#### **UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA**

**IN 2024,** we began laying the groundwork to partner with organizations within the Eastern European countries of Ukraine and Moldova, in order to bring hope and healing to children and adolescents who have been traumatized by Russia's war with Ukraine, as well as by human trafficking and exploitation.

The situation has grown more dire as the war with Russia continues unabated. As of April 2024, **3,548,000** Ukrainians had been internally displaced by war.<sup>4</sup> And by the end of June 2024, the tiny nation of Moldova was hosting **123,297** refugees from Ukraine.<sup>5</sup>



#### Sources

- 1. UNHCR publications, M. reports and. (n.d.). Global trends. UNHCR. https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends
- 2. UNHCR. (n.d.) Country Uaanda. UNHCR Operational Data Portal. https://data.unhcr.ora/en/country/uaa
- 3. UNHCR. (n.d.) Country Nigeria. UNHCR Operational Data Portal. https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/nga
- 4. UNHCR. (n.d.) Country Ukraine. UNHCR Data Portal. https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/uki
- 5. UNHCR. (n.d.) Country republic of Moldova. UNHCR Data Portal. (n.d.). https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/mda

## FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

## Giving Report

2021-2022

**REVENUE:** \$1,369,331

**EXPENSES:** \$1,091,445

2022-2023

**REVENUE:** \$ 946,690

**EXPENSES:** \$1,182,989

2023 - 2024

**TOTAL REVENUE:** \$1,139,703 **TOTAL EXPENSES:** \$1,290,493

Program Expenses: \$ 1,066,715 Management & General: \$ 137,497

Fundraising: \$ 86,241

10.6%

6.7%

82.7%

ChildVoice's historical IRS Form 990 filings of be obtained at childvoice.org/financials.

To request a copy of ChildVoice's most recent audit statement, please email us at info@childvoice.org or call (603) 842-0132.

# A MESSAGE OF GOMMITMENT MAGNITUME AND THE STATE OF THE





**I FIRST ENCOUNTERED CHILDVOICE** when I visited the Lukome Center ten years ago while working with a different non-profit organization in Uganda—a visit that left such a lasting impression on me. I jumped at the chance to join the board of directors when I was approached last year, and am honored to be a part of ChildVoice's mission.

Every member of the board is likewise honored to serve the boys and girls enrolled in our programs. Each of us has a unique motivation for doing so. For example, Dave Clark, our board chair, was inspired to join the board following a lunch-time conversation with Conrad Mandsager. He was moved by Conrad's impassioned description of the struggles faced by children affected by war, and by the work ChildVoice is doing to restore their hopes for a brighter future.

With nearly two decades of service to war-affected and exploited youth, ChildVoice can now look back and witness the generational impact of our work. We can see the positive impact our programs have had not only on the lives of former ChildVoice students, but also their children.

As we look ahead to the coming years, ChildVoice has begun working on a succession plan to ensure continued strong leadership and direction in the face of an increasingly challenging future. More importantly, we will continue to value and praise God for the ongoing support of our partners, donors, and volunteers throughout the years. None of this amazing work would be possible without you, and we extend our deepest gratitude.

Thank you for your continued championship of our mission.

Erin Leone

Secretary, ChildVoice Board of Directors

"They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated:
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations."
- Isaiah 61:4





202 Kent Place Newmarket, NH 03857 tel: (603) 842-0132









**RESTORING THE VOICES** OF CHILDREN SILENCED BY WAR.