



*Stories of*

**TRANSFORMATION  
& RENEWED HOPE**

ChildVoice))) **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**



*Teach me to laugh once more  
let me laugh with Africa my mother  
I want to dance to her drum-beats  
I am tired of her cries.*

*- from "Encounter" by Grace Akello,  
Ugandan poet and former refugee*



# FROM OUR *President*

On the Lukome Center campus in Lukodi, Uganda, there is a grove of mango trees. Years before the campus was constructed, this mango grove was used as a base of operations by Joseph Kony's extremist rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The LRA was responsible for horrific treatment of Ugandan youth, abducting tens of thousands for use as child soldiers, camp laborers, and sex slaves. In May of 2004, the LRA launched a violent attack on the village of Lukodi. Sixty people were brutally massacred.

Today, the Lukome Center—built not far from the site of the Lukodi Massacre—serves as a symbol of renewal and transformation. Where people were once robbed of hope and life, students now work to recover from their trauma and look forward to a better future. And in that mango grove where terrorism once reigned, ChildVoice students now gather peacefully to talk and dream of their futures.

If there is one word that encapsulates the essence of what ChildVoice is about, it is “transformation.” Just as the Lukome Center has transformed a place once ruled by terror into one of peace, our students throughout our programs rise up from despair, their lives transformed with renewed hope. Not surprisingly, we hear stories from our Ugandan and Nigerian team members—some of whom are survivors of conflict-based violence—about how their own lives have been transformed through the work they are doing. And we even hear stories from donors who have discovered a renewed sense of spiritual transformation and purpose through their ongoing support of our students.

The past year has been difficult in some profound ways. The lingering effects of the pandemic lockdowns created unrelenting inflation and resulting food security issues. Many of the young people we serve faced extreme hunger. In response, we pivoted our programming in Uganda and Nigeria to place greater emphasis on smallholder farming practices. As a result, young mothers who had once contemplated suicide found their despair once again transformed into hope as they learned how to grow their own crops – and enjoyed bountiful harvests with which to feed their children and families.

The next time you purchase some mangoes at your local grocery store, take a moment. Think about those ChildVoice students sitting in the shade of a mango grove and enjoying moments of peaceful communion. It's a transformation made possible with your help.

Thank you so much for your support in 2023!



Conrad Mandsager  
ChildVoice Founder & President



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# UGANDA:

## *The Lukome Center*

### Center-Based Programming

Hunger in African nations reached crisis levels not seen in decades. Our students at all locations in which we operate were impacted. At the Lukome Center, we responded by strengthening our agriculture training program.

In 2018, the Lukome Center became accredited by the government of Uganda’s Directorate of Industrial Technology (DIT) as a vocational training school. This made it possible for graduates to take DIT exams and become certified in their chosen area of interest. ChildVoice has encouraged graduates from previous years to come to take the exam.

In 2023, we reached a significant milestone as the number of Lukome Center graduates surpassed 100. To date, 100 out of the 101 Lukome Center graduates who took their DIT exam passed – a remarkable achievement for girls who had at one time lost nearly all hope for a better future for themselves.

**99%** of Lukome Center graduates passed their DIT Exams!

## 2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### CLASS 16 STUDENTS:

28 adolescent girls, with 26 children enrolled in nursery and early childhood development center classes. 54 percent of the girls in Class 16 are ages 17-21; 46 percent are ages 14-16.

### ALL 24 STUDENTS OF CLASS 15 GRADUATED.

### GRADUATES CURRENTLY IN POST-RESIDENTIAL AFTERCARE: 101

### YEAR-ROUND SESSIONS INCLUDED:

Individual and group counseling; agriculture; business skills; financial literacy and numeracy; vocational (hairdressing, bakery and catering, sweater knitting, tailoring); parenting skills; sports; and music.

### SINCE 2007:

263 adolescent girls and 269 children have participated in the Lukome Center program.





# UGANDA:

## *Imvepi Refugee Settlement* Community-Based Programming

Hunger—and our response to it—was the biggest challenge at Imvepi this past fiscal year. January 2023 saw our students at Imvepi Refugee Settlement begin to enjoy their first harvest from our new enhanced agriculture training program, which began in earnest in the first half of the fiscal year. The program included daily breakfasts served at Girl Empowerment Centers (GECs), which served to help offset the loss of food rations due to World Food Programme cutbacks. Initiated in response to a rapidly unfolding hunger crisis and increased ideations of suicide, the program ran alongside other vocational training and counseling sessions.

The agriculture program included 200 adolescent girls at four GECs. We provided students with both cereal grain and vegetable seeds of their choice. Each girl planted an average of one acre of land for cereal crops, and maintained vegetable gardens at their homes. The students harvested an average of 200 kilograms (440 pounds) of cereal crops per girl, and they generated additional income through sales of excess vegetable crops. Students were overjoyed at how quickly the program transformed their hopelessness into hope. Meanwhile, due to cutbacks in hygiene supply distribution, we initiated a bar soap making program. This provided students with the much-needed household supply, as well as an income-generating product.

## 2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**AVERAGE MONTHLY ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS: 174**

**AVERAGE GENERAL ACTIVITY SESSIONS PER MONTH: 117**

**AVERAGE PSYCHOSOCIAL SESSIONS PER MONTH: 44**

**AVERAGE DAILY BREAKFASTS SERVED: 95**

**ACTIVITY SESSIONS AT GIRL EMPOWERMENT CENTERS INCLUDED:**

Agriculture training; vocational training (hairdressing, tailoring, bakery, catering, bar soap making); financial literacy; business training; sports; group and individual counseling; group awareness; and health and hygiene education.

**IN APRIL 2023**, the US team delivered 100 THRIVE washable and reusable menstrual pad kits, which were distributed that month to those in need, and 20 birthing kits, 11 distributed to those who are pregnant.





# NIGERIA:

## *Malkohi and Mubi*

### Community-Based Programming

Forgiveness is a central part of our students' trauma healing process. Early in the fiscal year, our Nigeria team took in a cohort of Fulani students amid an increase in conflicts between Fulani herders and agricultural villages in northeastern Nigeria. This was part of an initiative to build bridges of peace among communities in conflict, as many of our students in the Malkohi internally displaced persons camp had been forcibly displaced due to clashes with the Fulani. (See Nigeria Co-Director Becky Malgwi's story about her own journey from heartbreak to forgiveness on page 7.)

While they did not reach the extreme crisis level as in northern Uganda, food insecurity and inflation were nevertheless significant issues in Nigeria this past fiscal year. As a result, our Nigeria team expanded the agriculture program in Malkohi to include both girls and boys, who grew an impressive amount of rice. Meanwhile, efforts to teach income-generating skills such as incense and liquid soap making continued.

The Nigeria team experienced an interruption in services in the past year. In March, Adamawa state officials shut down all camp activities for several weeks amid security concerns following Nigeria's presidential elections. However, in the meantime our new operations in Mubi moved forward, ultimately resulting in the registration of 100 new beneficiaries.

## 2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**NUMBER OF REGISTERED GIRLS: 598 (MALKOHI); 100 (MUBI)**

**AVERAGE SITE VISITS PER MONTH: 17**

**GIRLS' ACTIVITY SESSIONS INCLUDED:**

Counseling; basic literacy/numeracy; vocational training; health and hygiene; sports; music; agriculture; and life skills.

**NUMBER OF REGISTERED BOYS: 31**

**AVERAGE SITE VISITS PER MONTH: 15**

**BOYS' ACTIVITY SESSIONS INCLUDED:**

Counseling; basic literacy/numeracy; vocational training; health and hygiene; sports; music; agriculture; electrical skills.



# FROM THE FIELD

## Stories of Transformation

The young people we serve bring with them burdens of pain, loss, and trauma when they first come to us. The work we do in helping them heal and grow takes patience, love, and dedication. A number of ChildVoice staff have gone through similar traumatizing experiences themselves. As they work with children and adolescents who are affected by violence and exploitation, they often find themselves transformed. Below are some testimonials from both students and staff members who have found their hearts and lives transformed through ChildVoice's work.



### Maryam: Learning to take care of her household

Maryam was forced to migrate to Mubi, Nigeria after a violent attack on her village in Gwoza by Boko Haram militants. She entered an arranged marriage at the age of 18. She and her family then left Mubi for Malkohi internally displaced persons camp, where she has been living for three years. She has one child.

"Before joining ChildVoice, I was careless about taking care of myself and my household," said Maryam. "But now I can't leave the house without taking good care of my children as well as cleaning my house. I've learned how to make traditional pasta, and also learned how to make traditional incense, air freshener, and liquid soap. Presently I am making our local pasta for income."



### Santina: Hope restored through agriculture

Santina is a young South Sudanese refugee and mother of three children. She fled to Uganda to escape violent unrest in South Sudan, only to face extreme hunger in Imvepi Refugee Settlement amid food relief cutbacks. But through ChildVoice, she began to see hope for herself and her children.

"I thought of going back to South Sudan to die there," she recalled. "I could not do anything on my own to generate income, and my children were always sickly with lack of food. I could not even afford soap."

"Upon joining ChildVoice in May of 2022 I took up tailoring because I could have access to repair my children's tattered clothes and my own," Santina continued. "Little did I know it was a golden opportunity to change my life. Then, in July 2022 we were asked to choose seeds for agriculture so that we can produce some food for ourselves. That night I had a sleepless night thanking God for the great opportunity I landed upon that would transform my life and the future of my children."

From her first harvest, Santina not only obtained enough cereal grain and vegetables to keep her children fed – she also was able to sell enough surplus grain to earn 750,000 shillings, enabling her to buy three goats, a mattress and bedding, and clothes for her children.

# FROM THE FIELD

## Stories of Transformation *(continued)*



### Rebecca Malgwi:

#### Transforming hate into love

ChildVoice Nigeria Co-Director Rebecca “Becky” Malgwi has been with ChildVoice for five years now. Shortly after she started with us in November of 2018, her family suffered a devastating blow when her parents were killed by Fulani herdsmen. Becky acknowledges that healing from violent tragedy takes time, faith, and forgiveness. Her journey included requesting to bring a cohort of adolescent Fulani girls into the program in Malkohi IDP camp.

“It’s quite difficult at first,” Becky said. “We live in a state where predominantly, we have Fulani people living with us. You feel hate anytime you see someone who answers to that tribe. But I’ve learned to know that it is not the tribe that killed my parents, but the individuals who perpetrated the act. I have learned to work with children from different communities as well as my neighbors the Fulanis back home. I have learned to heal. And I have learned to love them from deep within. Presently I work with someone every day who is also a Fulani.

“So, when these things happen to you, you do not question why. But in everything, I have learned also to be thankful to God for his mercies. And in ChildVoice, working with these girls has helped me a lot to heal.”



# GLOBAL REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS STATISTICS

Transforming lives one at a time might seem like trying to replenish a dry lake with an eyedropper. But over time, there is a ripple effect in our work that impacts not just those we serve who directly benefit from our programs. Their children and families also benefit. And as students return to their homes, they have a positive impact on their communities as well as they establish their own small businesses, and even take on local leadership roles.

The need to restore hope and transform young lives broken by war has never been greater. Consequently, ChildVoice is working hard to deepen and broaden our reach. Looking forward, we hope to establish a program in Eastern Europe (Moldova and Ukraine) to serve young people who have been displaced or otherwise affected by the war in Ukraine.

## BY THE END OF 2022:



### 108.4 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE WERE FORCIBLY DISPLACED

19.1 million more than in 2021.<sup>2</sup> Of these, 62.5 million people were internally displaced within their own countries,<sup>1</sup> and 35.3 million were refugees hosted in neighboring countries.<sup>2</sup>



### UGANDA HOSTED 894,000 SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES, AND 493,000 REFUGEES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

These two groups alone account for 92% of Uganda's total refugee population.<sup>3</sup>



### OVER 3.6 MILLION NIGERIANS WERE INTERNALLY DISPLACED.<sup>4</sup>

Primary causes of displacement included persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order.<sup>2</sup>



# 108.4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced

#### REFERENCES:

1. Operational Data Portal. Country - Republic of Moldova. (n.d.). Retrieved October 2, 2023 from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/mda>
2. Figures at a glance. UNHCR US. (n.d.). Retrieved October 2, 2023, from <https://www.unhcr.org/us/about-unhcr/who-we-are/figures-glance>.
3. Uganda comprehensive. Country - Uganda. (n.d.). Retrieved October 2, 2023 from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/uga>
4. UNHCR Operational Data Portal. Country - Nigeria. (n.d.). Retrieved October 2, 2023 from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/nga>

# FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

(July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

# Giving Report

## 2020-2021

REVENUE: \$ 851,583

EXPENSES: \$ 952,730

## 2021-2022

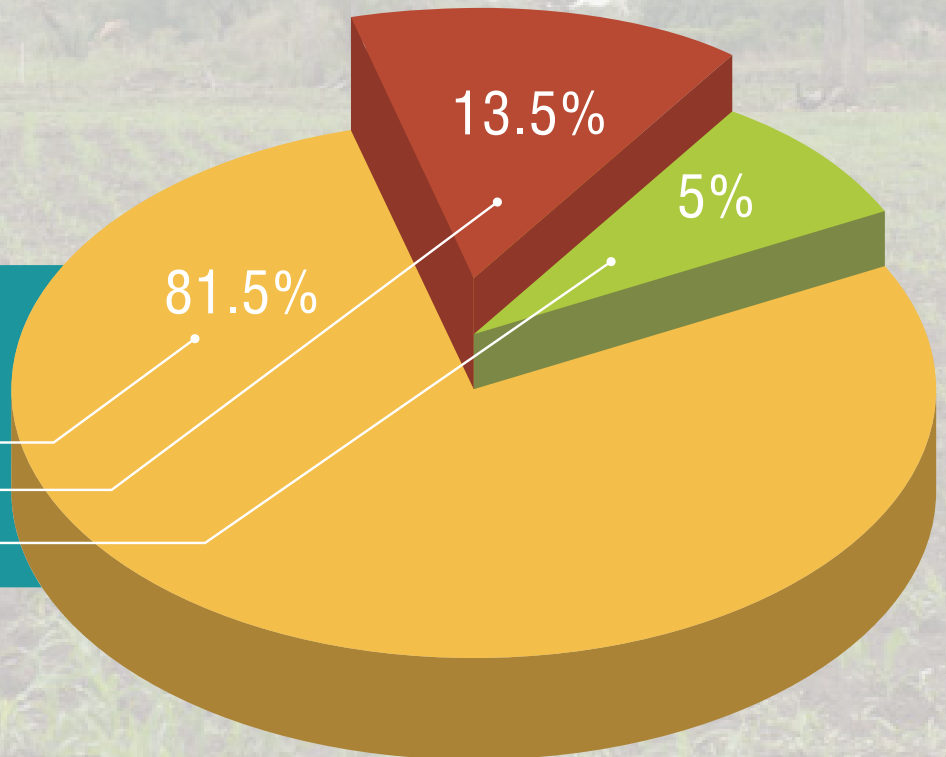
REVENUE: \$1,369,331

EXPENSES: \$1,091,445

## 2022 - 2023

TOTAL REVENUE: \$ 946,690  
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,182,989

Program Expenses: \$ 964,443  
Management & General: \$ 160,175  
Fundraising: \$ 58,371



ChildVoice's historical IRS Form 990 filings can be obtained at [childvoice.org/financials](http://childvoice.org/financials).

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



# A MESSAGE OF *Thanks*

Helping to transform the lives of young people traumatized by war and exploitation is no easy task. The dedication of our teams to walk hand-in-hand with these young people requires love and patience. Most of all, these young people exercise the courage to believe in themselves as they do the work of restoring their own hope, charting a new future.

In turn, it is only through the ongoing generosity and care of our partners around the world that these young people are able to have the safe spaces, the counseling, and the training they need as they work to transform their own lives. We hope that as you reflect on the transformative work your donations have helped to achieve in 2023, that you, too, are encouraged and transformed. As we look forward to the hard work ahead of us in 2024—including the establishment of programs to help young Ukrainian refugees in Eastern Europe—we hope you will continue to walk alongside us. For all your ongoing support, thank you so much!

Nathan Mandsager  
ChildVoice CEO





**ChildVoice**)))

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



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

**CHILDVOICE.ORG**

