

WAR CHILD
ANNUAL REPORT 2005



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Letter from the CEO

Over the last year War Child has delivered an impressive portfolio of programmes. These programmes range from the demobilisation and reintegration of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo to the development of child friendly villages throughout Marsh Arab communities in south Iraq where children are able to go to school for the first time in years and do so on a full breakfast.

During this year we have sought to get much closer to the children themselves in order to understand their situation better and so make our work more meaningful to them. This has involved using a variety of techniques, including sitting under the shade of a tree with street children in Basra and drawing maps with them to explore their view of their security, and developing

timelines with children in prison in Afghanistan to map out what they think needs to happen in order for them to reintegrate with their families after their release.

The learning we have gained has helped us to become more effective. Although we are growing rapidly and would desperately want to help all children throughout all the world's war zones, we nevertheless have limited resources. It is vital that we use the resources we do have to maximum effect. Our increasing closeness to the children we work with has, therefore, helped us to develop a clearer focus for how we allocate our resources.

This focus is on the neediest: those children who are living with poverty and the harsh effects of social exclusion, in conflict and

post-conflict areas. These include ex-child soldiers that are struggling to re-integrate and so turn to crime to survive, street children that have been cast out of their families as child witches or found themselves orphaned by AIDS, and children in conflict with the law sometimes imprisoned for moral crimes such as refusing to marry the colleague of an uncle because of a family drug debt. Their situation has been caused because of the conflicts in their various countries — Afghanistan, Iraq, and Democratic Republic of Congo – which have precipitated the break down in their social infrastructure, the dramatic erosion in family income, displacement, or the emergence of a criminal drug economy.

Our response is based on a combination of practical action,

advocacy and awareness raising. The practical action might be a grant to set up a small business or training. The advocacy might involve influencing local leaders to develop a more positive attitude throughout their community toward these children. The awareness raising might involve working with a government ministry to change policy at a national level for the benefit of all marginalised children. This formula — that links practical action, advocacy and awareness raising — is the multiplier effect that we use to help children beyond the immediate locations we work in.

But still this is not enough, because the most acutely marginalised children:

- Don't appear on the radar of

- many funders and aid agencies — they are largely invisible
- Are very challenging to engage, and so even where there is a will, the way is not immediately available to other agencies
- And because practical action and advocacy are often confined to a specific area and set of stakeholders, limiting impact and sustainability

So we have started campaigning. This last year, our campaigning work has focused on:

- Raising the profile and visibility of children marginalised by conflict through greater awareness and public understanding of their situation
- Using this awareness and understanding as political traction to start examining

how policy and practice can better serve these children in more effective approaches to post conflict programming

This campaigning work has been very well received and we've successfully reached more than a million people in our first year. We are most grateful to all those people who are helping us to make a real difference in securing a protective environment in the lives of children in conflict and post conflict areas. On behalf of these children, thank you.

Mark Waddington



Chief Executive Officer

Get this: some facts

- At least 2 million children have been killed because of armed conflicts throughout the world over the last ten years – that's more than one child dead every three minutes.
- The consequences of many conflicts are under reported: more than 4 million people have died in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1998 because of the consequences of war. This is the single biggest loss of life since the Second World War. In January 2006, the Lancet reported that the mortality rate due to war in Democratic Republic of Congo had reached 1,300 people per day.
- The most marginalised children are increasingly vulnerable to conscription by armed groups and also by criminal gangs. There are currently 300,000 children serving in armies and militia around the world.
- More than 250 million children have been driven to a life on the street – that's a quarter of a billion human beings. This problem is amplified by conflict. Many street children in countries like Iraq are criminalised as they try to find ways to survive.
- Most of the world's war zones are in areas where people are already living with extreme poverty and where they are marginalised from essential services and decision making processes. For example, more than 100 million of the world's children have never been to school. Many millions more have no access to basic health facilities and so child mortality rates in Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan are now higher than 250 per 1,000 (more than 1 in 4), compared to 6 in 1,000 in the UK. That means that children are more than 60 times more likely to die before

- reaching the age of 5 in Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of Congo than in the UK.
- War compounds the situation of the most marginalised children by causing displacement, a more acute and debilitating poverty, and it undermines their survival strategies and leads to further exclusion from their communities.



For more information check out UNICEF's State of the World's Children 2006 report — www.unicef.org.uk/sowc06/

About War Child

WHAT IS WAR CHILD?

- We are a registered charity.
- We were established in 1993 as a response to the effects of the Balkans conflict on children.
- We now work in Iraq, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as post conflict Bosnia, and this year we will be establishing a new programme in Northern Uganda.
- We have established a network of partner offices in the USA, Australia, France and Ireland that co-fund this programme work and campaign against the prosecution of war on children.
- War Child also runs a wholly owned subsidiary called War Child Music, a not for profit company that gift aids surpluses each year to War

Child to fund our programme and campaign work. War Child Music is an online music store that we use to educate young people here in the UK about the lives of children who live in war zones, and raise awareness of what can be done to address this problem.

- War Child is a small but rapidly growing organisation. Last year we turned over about £1.4 million. This year we expect to generate an income of more than £2 million. We have 12 full time staff in the UK, plus interns and volunteers, a further 25 staff overseas, and a growing number of local partner organisations.
- Our friends at War Child Holland and Canada are independent organisations that also run successful programmes in

many conflict and post conflict areas (check out www.warchild.nl and www.warchild.ca)

HOW IS WAR CHILD DIFFERENT?

War Child is different because we:

- Work in areas where security risks and remoteness preclude many other organisations – we are the only child protection agency working in south Iraq and the only international non-governmental organisation operating in northern Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Work with hard core groups of children that other organisations either ignore or overlook. We have unique access to a group of children

for whom the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most relevant: child soldiers, street children and children in conflict with the law in some of the most acute conflict and post-conflict areas in the world.

- Put children at the centre of our decision-making by listening to them and enabling them to shape and influence our work so that it is more relevant, sustainable and significant in impact.
- Have the support and interest of young people here in the UK.
- Ensure that our programmes can be replicated so that through our advocacy we can influence other organisations and so scale up the impact of a protective environment for all marginalised children.
- Have developed a profile much

greater than the actual size of the organisation, which we use as traction in our campaigning work to influence the policies of donor and political institutions and so bring greater benefit to children marginalized by conflict — and so you get more bang for your buck.

- Are successful in keeping our administration costs to an absolute minimum – for the last two years our independently audited accounts have shown this has been less than 8%.

OUR BELIEF

War Child believes it is fundamentally wrong that war is prosecuted on children. We believe that the consequences of war are most acutely felt by marginalised

children — children who are driven onto the streets, conscripted into the army, who come into direct conflict with the law, and children whose families and communities live in extreme poverty.

OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

Firstly, we work to support a protective environment that secures the rights among children marginalised by conflict, through practical action, advocacy and awareness-raising.

Secondly, through our work in the UK we campaign against the prosecution of war on marginalised children by ensuring its consequences are addressed by political and donor institutions.

The children we exist to serve

WORKING WITH THE HARD CORE

In our programmes, War Child seeks to target the most marginalised and excluded children affected by conflict, and to create and support a protective environment that secures their rights through interventions that combine practical action, advocacy and awareness raising.

War Child's focus is on 'hardcore' groups of children that are prone to acute marginalisation and exclusion during conflict and in its aftermath. These children experience a three-fold marginalisation in their lives after conflict where the impacts of war, structural poverty and social exclusion intersect to create a trap from which the children cannot escape. Treated with suspicion by the community, they are

forced to engage in negative or damaging coping strategies that can include illegal activity in an environment where poverty and the continuing effects of war make it almost impossible for them to rebuild their lives. Examples of the children with whom we are currently working include:

In the Democratic Republic of Congo we work with:

- Former child soldiers who demobilised with a partner and a child. They have found it impossible to return to their families because the marriage and the baby are not accepted. They now form precarious 'micro households' which they struggle to maintain
- The kotelengana or 'strays': a word used both by the



community and themselves to describe a group of children who, once demobilised, fail to find a place for themselves in their families or the community and who now operate as semi-criminals

- Those children who are pushed out of their families because of the way in which war has aggravated an already acute poverty — sometimes amid accusations of witchcraft — and forced to live on the streets

In Afghanistan we work with:

- Girls who find themselves imprisoned for 'moral crimes', often the result of a family dispute over marriage and who, upon their release, are unlikely to find a place for themselves in the community

- Children working in the informal street economy as sellers of fixed value goods such as salt or gum and who are vulnerable to extortion by the police, sexual abuse and criminalisation through engagement with the drugs trade. Sometimes these are children who are addicted to opium and other narcotics

In Iraq we work with:

- Street children working to support their families as traders and porters who become involved in semi-legal and illegal activities. They also include children from rural villages who travel to urban centres to find work to support their families and who face hostility from

- other child workers and their adult protectors.
- Marsh Arab children in rural villages that have suffered the persecution of Saddam, the debilitating effects of 10 years of sanctions, the consequences of the current conflict, and an almost total exclusion of access to basic services such as health and education.

War Child's approach

War Child works with and for children marginalised by conflict. Through specific and targeted interventions we deliver effective and responsive actions that help these children to build a future through education and training, and so offer them a future with dignity.

Our approach is founded in a unique and exciting form of participatory action research. All our programme and campaigning work is based on thorough research that places the child at its centre. By using focus groups and informal tools, such as floor mapping, we are able to consult children directly on the issues they face and what they believe needs to be done to address them. Where appropriate, we draw key local decision makers into this consultation directly with the children. In this way, as the

children map out information and analyse it from different view points — with these decision makers — and so develop new ways of seeing their problems, and so can identify new ways of overcoming them. By discussing this with the decision makers they can negotiate and agree on immediate actions that can be taken. In this way, the participatory action research process is itself part of the way in which we support the development of a protective environment for the children. This approach also enables us to work closely with groups of children who are very challenging and often dangerous to engage.

Through the participatory action research a pilot intervention is developed which consists of three core elements:

- Practical action – direct work with a specific group of children (e.g. providing start up grants to ex-child soldiers for small businesses);
- Influencing decision makers (advocacy) — targeted advocacy with local decision makers who influence the lives of these children (e.g. persuading local leaders to promote a more positive attitude toward children marginalized by conflict and so strengthen the protective environment around them);
- Raising awareness — the platform for change in policy, leading to broader, community, regional and structural changes in the environment all excluded children live in (e.g. working with donor institutions to ensure that



children marginalized by conflict are specifically targeted by their funding programmes)

Practical action directly engages with children who need support in dealing with their situation. Through it, War Child is able to bring tangible benefits to the lives of children and develop our understanding of

the challenges faced by them. This understanding often generates new insights and so helps us to be innovative, which leads to a more meaningful impact in the lives of the children we work with.

This practical action — which can include training, provision of grants, or counseling — is a basis

for engaging local decision makers and involving them in ensuring a sustainable benefit. The learning we gain from this work further strengthens our credibility and legitimacy. Working with local decision makers ensures that the subsequent changes that we are able to negotiate with them benefit more children than the ones War Child works with directly.

We combine the practical actions and advocacy at the local level to create a platform upon which lessons for wider, national change can be used, for example, with a Government Ministry or a large multi-lateral donor. This is the multiplier effect that ensures that War Child brings a significant benefit to many more children beyond those supported by our projects.



Democratic Republic of Congo

DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION AND REINTEGRATION OF CHILD SOLDIERS

The problem:

War Child has a history of working with children formerly associated with fighting forces — child soldiers — in the region of Equateur in the North of Democratic Republic of Congo. At the end of 2004, as part of a UNICEF-funded programme of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, we funded our local partners to remove children from the military transport aircraft on their way to the frontline in the East. Through our continued work with these children, we have been able to identify ways of overcoming the significant challenges to properly reintegrating them with

their families and communities. These children return from the war battle-scarred and unwelcome. They do not bring the money back that they are expected to bring (they haven't been paid). They are viewed as dangerous, as an economic burden and live — literally — on the margins of their communities. Many people in their communities believe they are the responsibility of international organisations and blame them directly for bringing insecurity and crime.

These children are not alone: there are thousands of them. They share their experiences with each other — reinforcing the perception of them as a growing threat, which marginalises them further. Because of the remoteness and inaccessibility of these communities, and the actual marginalisation of

the children themselves, they are often invisible to humanitarian agencies and so are overlooked.

What is War Child doing about it?

In 2005 we co-funded (with UNICEF) a disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programme in north Equateur, which saw 500 children demobilised and reunited with their families in the first 6 months. The research we undertook at the end of 2005 looked at what was needed beyond reunification to ensure that they are successfully reintegrated within their families and their communities. We discovered that not all children were going home and that a significant proportion who had been reunited were leaving their family home primarily due to the added economic burden they represented to their families, or because of very negative

Democratic Republic of Congo



◀ attitudes towards them from their peers and other community members. Those most vulnerable to family and community exclusion were the *kotelengana* (ex-child soldiers: literally, the “strays”) and children struggling to reintegrate with their own dependents.

With funding from War Child Australia and War Child USA we are working with child protection community networks that aim to make reintegration more relevant by establishing income-generating activities, giving these children livelihood grants to establish themselves as active members of their communities. Starting with those who have the greatest responsibilities – those who have returned home with young partners and babies – War Child is allocating business start up grants in an effort

to give these children agency in a society which has turned its back on them.

KINSHASA STREET CHILDREN

The problem:

The street children problem in the Democratic Republic of Congo is at crisis levels. According to Human Rights Watch, there are 30,000 children trying to make a living on the streets of Kinshasa. War Child believes the figure could be far greater and nationally could be higher than 75,000. These children are orphans from the war, ex-child soldiers, often with dependents, or children banished from their families and communities because of accusations of witch craft: a spiritual smokescreen that masks

the reality of these children being too great an economic burden for their families, a situation that has been massively aggravated by the war.

In February 2006, The Observer newspaper reported on one such child, Naomi:

“My aunt said I must leave. The neighbours beat me and burnt me. They said either you must admit to being a witch or we will kill you. There is no place for you here. I went to the church, but they gave me water to drink that made me sick. I said to neighbours, let me sleep somewhere, even in your toilet, but they refused. I was caught by some soldiers and they said, you are a witch — we saw you flying with birds. They said they were going to kill me, but I escaped.”

What is War Child doing about it?

Naomi now finds herself in one of the four centres War Child supports in Kinshasa. We have received money from the Diana Memorial Fund, War Child USA and War Child Ireland to rehabilitate the centres, provide training for staff in child care, family reunification and social reintegration methods.

Small income generation programmes will also be established at the centres to enable them to generate a basic source of revenue to ensure the sustainability of the centres and to help cover the significant costs of education and health, and of reintegrating children with their families and communities.

Moses was born in one of our centres. His mother is Josephine, 14 and Moses is her second child. Josephine is struggling to come to terms with her life. She loves Moses but she finds it difficult to care for him. During the day Moses and his older sister Plamedi are cared for by staff in one of our partner centres for abandoned street children. The centre has recently traced the family of Moses’ father and have successfully negotiated for them to take him in and care for him. They are currently following this up with counseling and ensuring open access for Josephine. Josephine can now concentrate on regaining some of her childhood.

Iraq

MARSH ARAB CHILDREN

The problem:

The Marsh Arab community of Dhi Qar Province, southern Iraq, has been systematically marginalised. After the First Gulf War (1991) Saddam Hussein aggressively revived a program to divert the flow of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers away from the marshes in retribution for a failed Shia uprising. The plan also systematically converted the wetlands into a desert, forcing the Marsh Arabs out of their settlements in the region. Less than 5% of the marshes remain today although they are returning: and now the poisoning of the soil by the salts that have infected the surface present real problems in re-establishing agriculture and in developing

livelihoods for families returning from exile in Iran. The region is marked by political instability, environmental uncertainty, high unemployment and dependency on food rations. This has had a disastrous impact on children in the region: increased malnutrition, rising infant mortality, increased exposure to violence, lack of access to basic education and health facilities and limited scope for hope.

What is War Child doing about it?

With funding from the UNHCR, and with a base that provides training and management support in Kuwait, War Child is working with a local partner organisation across 15 villages in the south to establish and develop child friendly communities.

In fostering these child friendly communities we have:

- Provided over 200 grants of \$200 or more and training to help re-establish small businesses and livelihoods throughout these communities, which are now enabling the most vulnerable families to feed and clothe their children for themselves, send them to school and pay for basic medical care.
- Provided child protection grants in each of the villages which have helped to create a more secure environment for the children. These have included training of teachers and law enforcement officials and the rehabilitation of schools.
- Funded five community development projects, including road leveling, footbridge construction ▶



- ◀ on routes to and from agricultural land, markets and schools, which indirectly benefit children and the ability of those they depend upon to care for them.
- Helped to rebuild the links between the communities and their district councils in order to enable them to lever in vital services — not least health and education. This is the only programme of its kind in south Iraq and War Child is now the only child protection agency operating in this region.
- Supported the Legal Defence Organisation and Save the South in providing legal aid to 626 people and their communities. This work was vital in strengthening the livelihoods of those carers children depend

upon, providing children with opportunities to voice their needs and secure their own influence within their communities. The legal aid support that we helped to provide during 2005 has enabled families to re-register as Iraqi citizens and so secure access for their children to education, while at a broader level establishing their community as a legal agent in its own right.

Finally, and in partnership with a small number of like minded organizations, one of our key achievements in 2005 was negotiating the Convention on the Rights of the Child into the new Iraqi constitution. This will provide the basis upon which child protection and the rights

of children can be promoted and secured into the future.

STREET CHILDREN

The problem:

For many children, the streets of Basra and Nasiriyah in southern Iraq are a home and workplace. The risks posed to a child living on the streets of Basra, for example, are profound: on the streets children are more extremely exposed to the threat of violence, vulnerability to drug addiction and soporifics such as petrol.

With many children selling pornography and alcohol in order to make enough money to survive, they become a lightning rod for the frustrations of their community. Frequently beaten

and abused these children also come into confrontation with the law on a regular basis.

What is War Child doing about it?

In Basra and Nasiriyah, with funding from UNICEF and War Child Australia, we have worked with our local partner organisation to establish drop-in centres. These centres offer street children a safe haven. They are now fully operational and currently provide upwards of a hundred children with the opportunity to get off the street and to get the street out of their lives. The centres offer a range of activities from sport and exercise to the development of practical vocational skills such as mechanics. Additionally, those children suffering from the effects of trauma or drug addiction receive counseling from

specially trained staff, who also seek to reintegrate them back into main stream education — a key socialising process that in time can fundamentally overcome their marginalisation. The centres also teach the children about the dangers that surround them on the streets, including the effects of landmines and unexploded munitions.

A 16-year-old boy who attends the Basra centre was recently interviewed for BBC's Newsround:

"The American invasion had a huge impact on my family. The hospital was no longer able to receive medicines so my father died. My brothers returned to look after me, but they were unable to support me. I had to look for a job so I took to working on the streets. I had no time for any entertainment

and little time to eat or the money to buy food; I felt that I had lost my future. In January this year I learnt of War Child's Drop in Centre and have been attending literacy classes there. Since joining the centre I have made some friends and we have taken up football again. I am one of the lucky ones — I'm not working on the street any more, and I feel safer every day."

Afghanistan

CHILDREN IN DETENTION

The problem:

Rejected by parents and family members, many Afghan children try to survive on the streets by the means of petty crimes. Because of the chaos of the judicial system and a poor understanding of juvenile justice, these children are put into adult prisons; an unsuitable place for any child. Upon release, a strong social stigma results in many of these children being rejected by their families, leaving them with no carer. As a result children often re-offend and pass through the detention centre on a regular basis.

What is War Child doing about it?

War Child actively negotiates the release of these children and in 2005 succeeded in separating children

held in detention from adults and housing them in a specific children's detention centre. The centre offers access to educational material, art and sports equipment and they can take English lessons. War Child representatives visit the detention centre on a weekly basis and seek to reunite and reintegrate as many children as possible with their families.

Last year 500 children benefited from the programme, including 20 children who are taken on a regular basis to visit their mothers in prison. Many of the boys have gone on to better things, some work in decent jobs; a few of the better off have continued their education. A recent War Child report revealed that many of the children have ambitious yet practical goals for the future. In response

to children re-offending, War Child plans to establish a family liaison programme and a rehab training centre.

Wahida (14) is still not sure why she is in prison. The police arrested her after a family dispute when her uncle arrived to take her away to marry a man to whom he owed money. She was arrested on a charge of 'moral crime' that can include refusing to honour a marriage agreement made without consent or even knowledge of the girl. She has been in prison for three months and does not know how or when she may be released. When she is released, she has the two alternatives facing girls in her position: "home or the fire" – to return home in shame or to be rejected entirely by her family and have no choice but to kill herself by

14 year old Wahida has been in prison for 3 months for a 'moral crime' She does not know when she will be released but when she is she is likely to face rejection from her family and community.

setting herself on fire. Their families reject these girls. They are assumed to have been ruined and the best they can hope for is to be kept as a servant hidden in the home for the rest of their lives with no hope of marriage or even the chance to leave home to go shopping since the sight of her will provoke gossip.

War Child spent six weeks in November and December last year investigating the lives of children in detention and other vulnerable children with a team

that included children from the centres themselves. The children in detention are often consumed with fear as to what will happen when they are released but with War Child's new family liaison programme now involving Wahida's family, our staff are hoping to persuade them that she can and should resume her life with dignity. We also will be providing training in the prison that will allow the girls to earn money to contribute to their families on release. War Child also shared its

findings with the religious leaders of Herat — no higher authority in the region — who have agreed to advocate for these girls and their return home. From early 2006, the weekly mosque sermons will stress the rights of these children to acceptance and forgiveness by their family and the community.

"These are the children of us all," said the leading mullah of Herat, "and we all have a duty to forgive and welcome them home."



Bosnia and Herzegovina

MOSTAR – CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM SECONDARY TRAUMA AND BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES

The problem:

Eleven years after the end of the Balkans War, Mostar still has problems. Although the Old Bridge has been rebuilt between the Bosniac and Croat enclaves, the city remains terribly divided. Echoes of the conflict persist: anecdotal evidence has illustrated a profound increase in cases of learning difficulties in children born during or since the war, attributed to social problems including poverty, unemployment, and fractured family units, which combine to foster behavioral difficulties among children. The acute challenges

facing their parents in coming to terms with the trauma of the war has been passed onto their children who suffer from secondary trauma.

What is War Child doing about it?

The Pavarotti Music Centre — the only purpose built music therapy unit in a post conflict environment anywhere in the world — has provided help to thousands of children since it opened its doors in 1998. Alongside music and dance classes, it currently houses our local partner organization MUSERS. War Child helped to establish MUSERS during 2005 to ensure that local capability is in place to provide support for children suffering from secondary trauma and behavioral difficulties into the future. Their music therapy programme directed by a War Child specialist, Alpha Woodward, conducts individual

and group therapy with sixty children per month in Mostar and its surroundings – including the Roma camp of Salacovac on the outskirts of the city. MUSERS have also developed a programme of workshops which has now secured the inclusion of children who live with disability in mainstream education, a very significant achievement.

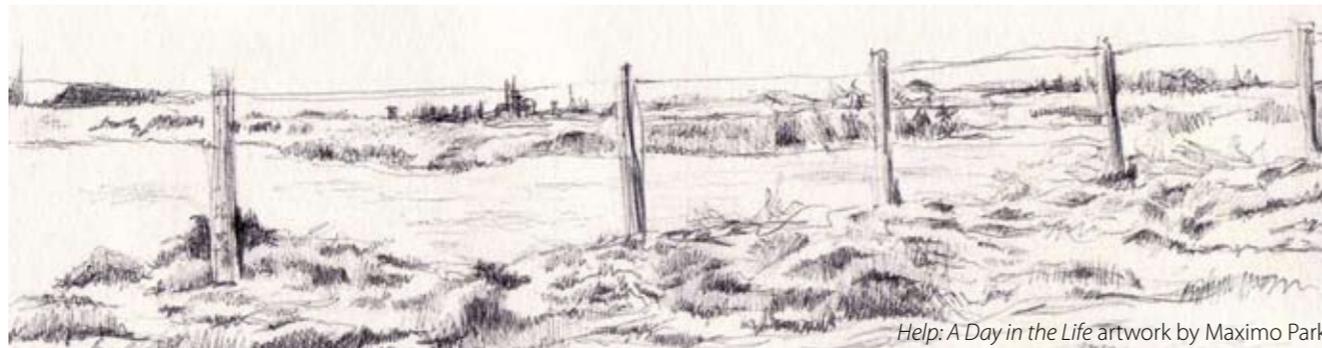
Launching our campaign

WE HAVE TWO CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES:

- We aim to increase the visibility of marginalised children and mobilise concern for them
- We aim to use this increased visibility and concern to influence politicians to make changes to policy that benefit marginalised children throughout all conflict areas beyond those in which War Child operates

The outcome of this will be an increase in the percentage of marginalised children who will be included within the planning and delivery of post-conflict reconstruction programmes.

To achieve this we are targeting a number of important groups here in the UK.



Help: A Day in the Life artwork by Maximo Park

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE UK

Young people are the heart and soul of our campaigning. They identify with the work that War Child does because we put them at the centre of it, whether here in the UK or in Iraq. We value the fact that they are the leaders in adapting new communication technologies. They define what is and isn't cool, and in large numbers they constitute a powerful voice in changing the world we live in. Young people have been prolific in communicating the War Child message among their own peer groups and networks, along the way shaping the media we employ through popular culture. We can communicate just as they do with us cost-effectively using digital media.

Indeed, young people are the platform upon which we are able to communicate with other groups because they increasingly value the opinion, interests and concerns of young people.

This year alone we have achieved monthly visitor levels of 100,000 to 250,000 young people to War Child Music's website (www.warchildmusic.com), with more than 20,000 subscribing to our monthly e-newsletter. That's over one million young supporters reached in our first year of campaigning.

The Help: A Day in the Life album, released online on the 9th September, put the issue of children marginalised by conflict in front of more than 1,000,000 young people. It broke all records on release as the fastest download album ever ▶



War Child album flies from studio to online

The organisers behind War Child succeeded in getting its *Help: A Day in the Life* album available to buy online last Friday afternoon, despite a last-minute hitch involving Mercury Prize winners Antony & The Johnsons.

The band had last filed for their track - a cover of Glen Pease & Chance - last Friday due to a courier mix up, but still managed to finish it and send it to Whitefield Street Studios, where the project was being co-produced.

The album was then delivered to 7 Digital Media, which is running War Child's download store, where it was available to buy by 9pm. It was serviced to digital stores the next day. The album was recorded and released in little more than 24 hours.

Most tracks were completed by the end of last Thursday. Razorlight's song - a new track called *Kerby's House* - even made it to Jo Wiley's *Radio One* show last Friday evening to raise profile for the album. Maccabeh, Gorillaz delivered a new track called *Hong Kong and Golding* came onboard at the last minute to record new song *You See The World In New York*.

Other artists to participate include Hard-Fi (pictured working on their track last week), Blue Party, The Music Street Pressers, Fishwood and the Kaiser Chiefs. In total, the album featured six acts nominated for the Nationwide Mercury Music Prize last week.

The physical version of the album is scheduled for release by Independents on September 26.

Launching our campaign

◀ (24 hours to make and release, and the biggest download album ever (80,000 downloaded tracks in one weekend). It was widely acclaimed throughout the national media and music press receiving five star reviews (NME's compilation of the year). Its astonishing track listing included exclusively recorded music from Coldplay, Keane, Razorlight, Gorillaz and Radiohead. And through the subsequent sales of the CD we raised more than £400,000 to help fund much needed work in Iraq, Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan.

CELEBRITIES

Celebrities directly interact with young people, not least among their own fan bases. Increasingly, celebrities are viewed as credible

spokespeople on the issues War Child is seeking to address.

Big name supporters

In 2005 War Child recruited Billy Bragg and Keane as patrons. Billy introduced our presentation to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Street Children, whilst Keane used their website to raise the profile of War Child's work across their massive fan base. They also contributed two exclusive tracks for download from War Child Music (www.warchildmusic.com) — their track 'The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore' became one of our biggest sellers.

MEDIA

War Child's interaction with the media is targeted. Publications

such as www.bbc.co.uk (one of the biggest websites in Europe), Q Magazine, the Guardian and Independent are very influential, while broadcast media such as the Today Programme, ITN and Sky News are able to increase the scope of this influence.

Putting it about

This year, Sky News ran a feature on our report *your war is not with me* (check out www.warchild.org.uk) — a study into the enduring effects of conflict on children in post-war countries presented from the view point of the children themselves — including an interview with our CEO Mark Waddington, footage from our programmes and the track 'Everybody Hurts' donated to us by massive UK rock band Feeder. The Times and charity trade magazine Third Sector also covered the report

extensively. In addition, we have run interviews with ITN, the Guardian and received front page coverage on the BBC's massive website. This has helped us to raise the profile of the children we work with and has provided us with valuable leverage in influencing politicians and policy makers to place greater attention on children marginalised by conflict.

POLITICIANS, SPECIALIST SUPPORTERS AND CHANGE MAKERS

As the fourth largest economy in the world, the UK is one of the most significant and influential signatories of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This convention binds all its signatories

into securing the rights of children everywhere in the world, including conflict and post-conflict zones. Our reason for working with politicians is explicit: we want them to change policy in a way that benefits children marginalised by conflict. Our public affairs supporters help us to have greater influence in the corridors of power to address War Child's cause and help us bring about that change.

This year our lobbying has already delivered the successful report *your war is not with me*, which has cemented two enviable relationships. The first of these is with the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region and the Prevention of Genocide who we co-fund and who recently visited one of our centres for abandoned children

in Democratic Republic of Congo. The second is with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Street Children. We delivered a successful presentation to this group in November after which the co-chairs agreed to join us on a fact finding mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2006.

The corporate social responsibility partnership that we have established with the PR and public affairs agency Weber Shandwick has been instrumental in positioning the organisation to form these relationships and develop the traction to begin influencing politicians. Their work with us has also seen been recognised in nominations at the PR News Corporate Social Responsibility Awards and also at the Sabre Awards. ▶

Launching our campaign

◀ SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND TEACHERS

By working in schools through the citizenship curriculum we can achieve four core objectives. We raise awareness of the children we work with, we can develop political traction with local MPs, we can grow our supporter base to include schoolchildren (who we hope will remain committed to our cause for the rest of their lives) and schools often fundraise on our behalf.

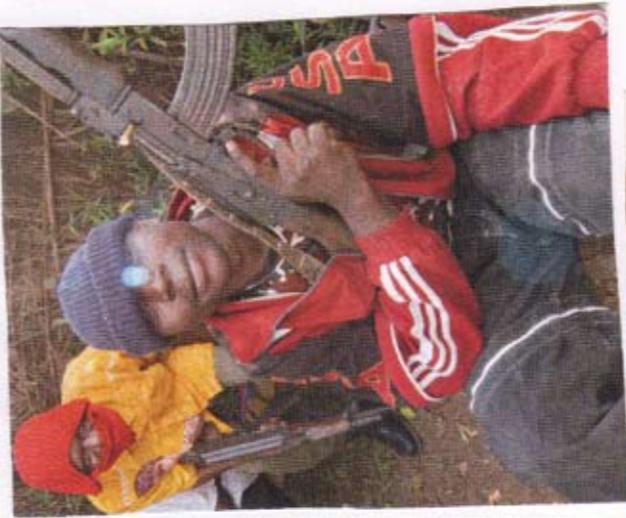
We have developed high quality teaching materials that have been posted on our website and can be downloaded by teachers as supporting resources for their work within the citizenship curriculum. These teaching resources seek to go

beyond telling children what they need to do to be a “good” citizen and helps them explore what citizenship means to them and how they can put this into action. These teaching resources were developed on the back of our flagship report your war is not with me.

Your war is not with me was based on research undertaken by children themselves in Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia into the on-going effects of war in their lives. With the support of the Chairman of the Secondary Head Teachers Association (John Dunford OBE) War Child took this research into schools here in the UK where children were able to develop their own view of the on-going consequences of war and formulate their own call to action, establishing them as potent citizens in their own right. Some

of the children involved in this helped to make the presentation we put to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Street Children in November. Their voice in this presentation was powerful and their recommendations were taken on board by the group. The Co-chairs of the group — from the three major War Child on a fact finding mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo to meet with street children and better understand what they can do to influence policy in a way that will directly benefit them.

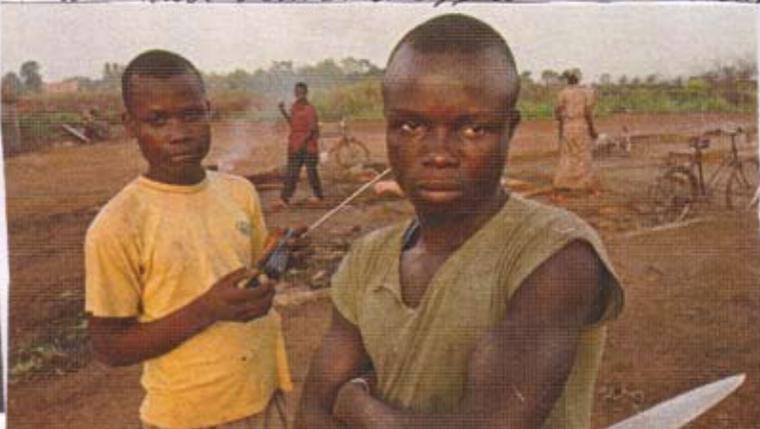
⑤ we have begun to settle in with community, I still see other militia men who have not been as lucky as I have.



⑥ Although I interact with 'n society, they still see me before a ruthless wh from their homes.



⑦ The work on the farms is hard, almost the same as the loads we carried for the soldiers. The land is poor and all the money we get is for food. At least when we were milit, we had some money, but it was stolen.



Trustees' Statement on summarised financial statements

These summarised financial statements contain information extracted from the statutory accounts for the year ended 30 November 2005, and are not the full statutory report and accounts. The full financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 4th May 2006 and subsequently submitted to the Charity Commission. They received an unqualified audit report and copies may be downloaded from our website www.warchild.org.uk or from Julian Carrera at 5-7 Anglers Lane, London, NW5 3DG. The auditors have reported to the Trustees on the preparation of these summarised statements and, with their consent, their report is reproduced below.

On behalf of the trustees



Gillian Avis, Trustee, 4th May 2006

Independent auditors' statement to the trustees of War Child

We have examined the summarised financial statements of War Child

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the charities SORP. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statement with the full financial statements and Trustees' Annual Report. We also read the other information contained in the annual review and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work on accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 "the auditors' statement on the summary financial statement" issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of War Child for the year ended 30 November 2005.

BDO Stoy Hayward LLP
23rd May 2006

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2005

	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2005	Total 2004
Incoming resources				
Donations and similar incoming resources				
Donations	158,078	91,927	250,005	211,228
Grants	-	805,751	805,751	773,263
Income from activities generating funds				
Fundraising events	418,828	1,414	420,242	121,774
Other income				
Bank interest	5,741	7,505	13,246	15,636
Rental income	7,750	-	7,750	2,475
Sundry income	8,171	-	8,171	3,265
Total incoming resources	598,568	906,597	1,505,165	1,127,641
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds				
Fundraising costs	178,053	404	178,457	167,939
Charitable expenditure				
Project costs	73,712	746,575	820,287	1,096,956
Support costs	52,441	84,092	136,533	49,245
Information and campaigns	30,376	10,000	40,376	-
Management and administration				
	128,051	-	128,051	113,105
Total resources expended	462,633	841,071	1,303,704	1,427,245
Net movement in funds	135,935	65,526	201,461	(299,604)
Funds balances brought forward at 1 December 2004	108,013	225,506	333,519	633,123
Funds carried forward 30 November 2005	243,948	291,032	534,980	333,519

All amounts relate to continuing activities

BALANCE SHEETS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2005

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	16,811	21,065	16,811	21,065
Investments	-	-	1	4
	16,811	21,065	16,812	21,069
Current assets				
Debtors	79,617	11,652	72,230	21,044
Cash at bank	504,204	341,041	504,204	340,474
	583,821	352,693	576,434	361,518
Creditors: amounts falling within one year	(65,652)	(40,239)	(58,266)	(37,672)
Net current assets	518,169	312,454	518,168	323,846
Net Assets	534,980	333,519	534,980	344,915
Income funds				
Restricted funds	291,032	225,506	291,032	225,506
Unrestricted funds	243,948	108,013	243,948	119,409
	534,980	333,519	534,980	344,915

At the beginning of the year we put together an organisational development plan. This plan helped us to assemble a very exciting organisational strategy and business plan, re-structure and recruit a new team to deliver it, and grow our income by 33%. This growth has followed a clearly planned fundraising strategy that has diversified our income base and which has had the further benefit of providing increased organisational security.

We also sought to reduce the amount of money that we spend on administration, which is now below 8% of total expenditure – a world class performance indicator.

Fundraising costs were higher than usual as we invested in our positioning for the delivery of the strategic plan, which has programmed growth in income during 2006 at over 50%

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