

VOICES

Rising

20 YEARS OF RESTORING HOPE FOR WAR-AFFECTED YOUTH

THIS YEAR, CHILDVOICE CELEBRATES A REMARKABLE MILESTONE: 20 years of dedicated service to war-affected and exploited youth. Since 2006, we have walked alongside young people whose lives were shaped by conflict, exploitation, and displacement—empowering them through advocacy, skills training, and therapeutic programs in some of the world’s most challenging regions. Throughout the year, we will mark the occasion in several ways, but at the heart of our celebration are the thousands of young people—many of them child mothers—whose resilience and determination continue to inspire us. The stories below are just a few examples of lives transformed through partnership, perseverance, and hope.

Mary



MARY’S JOURNEY BEGAN IN SOUTH SUDAN, where her husband was killed by rebels. Fleeing with her four young children, she arrived at Uganda’s Imvepi Refugee Settlement with nothing but the will to survive. Life as a young, single mother there was crushing. Food rations were repeatedly cut and she survived by begging from neighbors or doing exhausting labor for a few pennies. At times, her family lived on less than a single cup of corn per person per day. She nearly lost hope.

That began to change when Mary connected with ChildVoice in Imvepi. Through our agriculture program, she began learning and practicing smallholder farming. For the first time since fleeing her home, Mary was able to grow enough food to feed her children—and earn income by selling surplus crops at the local market. Today, she provides for her family with dignity and stability, and she pays that transformation forward by mentoring other young women in the settlement, sharing the skills that helped her rebuild her life.



Lukome Center Class 17 GRADUATES!

WE’RE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE that in December 2025, the students of the Lukome Center’s Class 17 completed their training and are now ready to integrate into their communities!

The class enjoyed a joyous graduation celebration. The ceremony was marked by singing and traditional dance as well as several speeches by staff and students. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...)



Helen

ACROSS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT in northeastern Nigeria, Helen's story echoes many of the same themes of loss and resilience. Helen was forced to flee her home after a violent Boko Haram attack displaced her family. Trying to start over in Mubi at just sixteen, she survived a sexual assault that left her pregnant and abandoned. To survive, she relied on doing menial chores for neighbors, barely earning enough to feed her infant son. Her circumstances began to shift after she enrolled in ChildVoice's tailoring and agricultural training programs. What started as basic skills training grew into opportunity: Helen launched a small sewing business and later expanded into farming corn, peanuts, and rice. Today, her business is thriving, her son is in school, and Helen has become a role model for other displaced women striving to reclaim their futures.

WHILE CHILDVOICE WAS FOUNDED to serve young victims of the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda and later expanded to bring hope and healing to Boko Haram survivors in Nigeria, our mission has continued to grow. In recent years, we have extended our reach beyond Africa to support traumatized, at-risk youth in Eastern Europe—specifically in war-torn Ukraine and neighboring Moldova. Through partnerships with local organizations, we began to see the same life-changing impact unfold for children and adolescents there—teens like Darina.

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Darina initially believed the conflict would be brief. Instead, bombs soon became part of daily life as the front line settled just 40 kilometers from her home. Food grew scarce, fear became constant, and schools moved online. Over time, Darina found solace and purpose volunteering at youth camps run by ChildVoice partners. Through them she supports younger children, reconnects with friends, and helps organize aid for soldiers and displaced families. By helping others, Darina has discovered a way to cope with the ongoing trauma of living in a war zone—and to offer hope in the midst of uncertainty.



"The world mocked us, mistreated and tortured us physically, socially, and emotionally," graduating student Patience said in her own moving speech during the ceremony. "While at ChildVoice, we have been trained in different vocational and life skills. We are now competent in various skills, strong and determined to face any challenge that comes our way."

We are so proud of these resilient adolescent girls who came out of exceptionally difficult and painful situations to achieve their goals with renewed hope and faith.



As we celebrate this 20-year milestone, we invite you to join us in reflecting on the impact we've made together—and in looking ahead with renewed commitment to transforming the lives of many more at-risk children in the years to come.

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:18

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