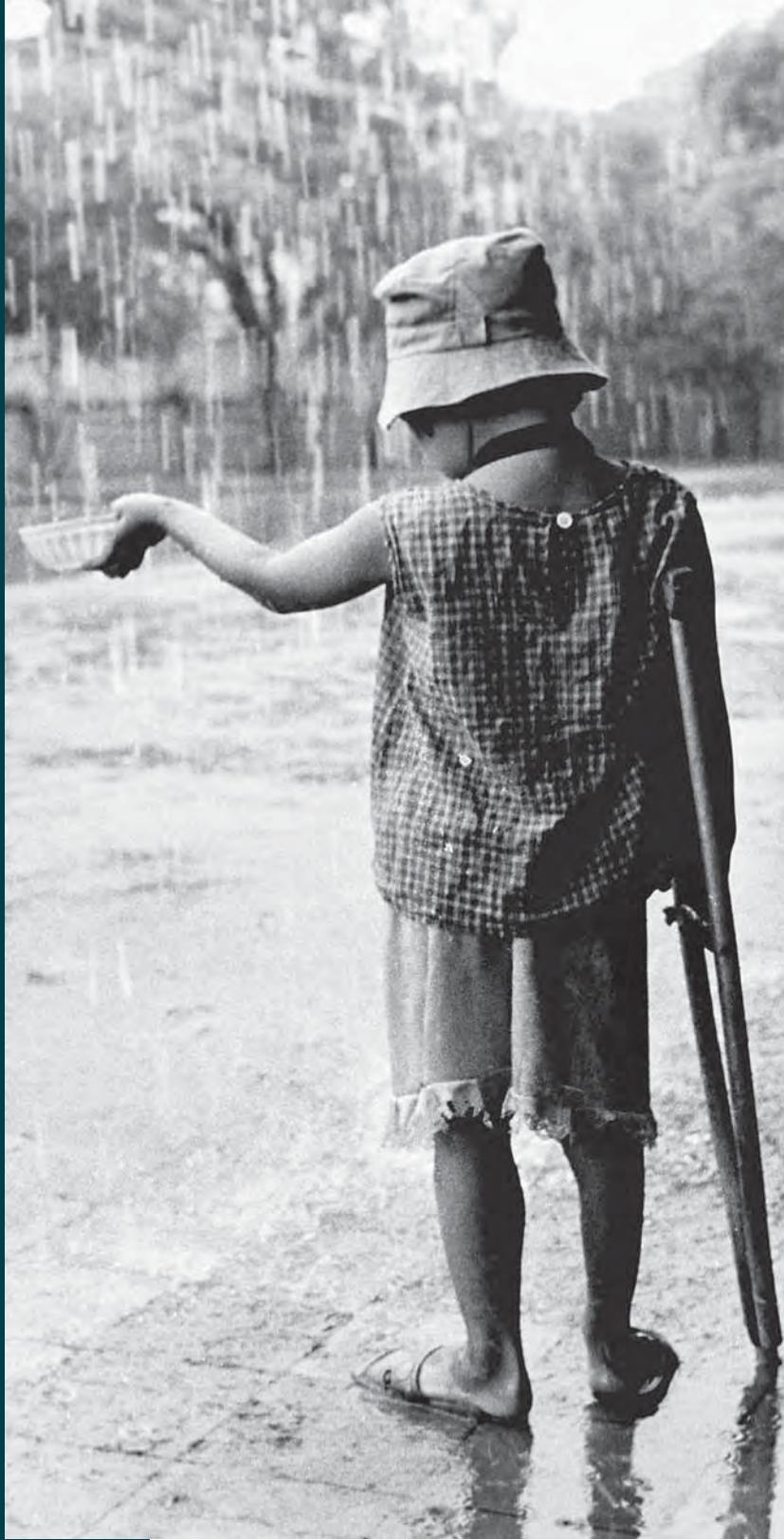




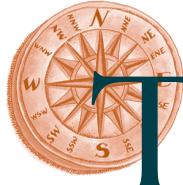
2003
Displaced
Children
and
Orphans
Fund
Portfolio
Synopsis



This publication was produced by
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Cover photo taken with permission, courtesy of Mikel Flamm

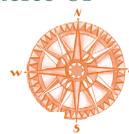


The 21st century has opened with a great sense of despair for the future of many of the world's children. Famine, natural disasters, war, HIV/AIDS, and a pandemic of social and economic chaos are an undeniable reality for an unconscionably large proportion of children throughout the world.

UNICEF's State of the World's Children suggests that 150 million children in developing countries are underweight, more than 2 million children have been killed and 6 million seriously injured in war since 1990, and more than 14 million children under 15 years of age have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS.

However, hope remains. And that hope can be found in two readily available, low-cost, and potentially powerful natural resources.

The first resource is one of the greatest gifts of human nature—the resiliency of the human spirit and in particular a child's natural ability to recover from trauma or overcome the obstacles of living with a disability.



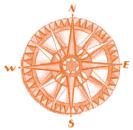
The Building Resilience in Angolan Children and Communities program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) draws from and capitalizes on this natural ability. The children and youth of Angola have simple dreams of going to school, of having a meal with their family, and of playing. Through this program, these dreams are being realized. The results seem modest by American standards, but getting a child to school for the first time and keeping that child in school are huge accomplishments. So are the more subtle effects of the program: children sleeping through the night, parents less anxious about safety issues, and community involvement in caring for their children re-established—or more often, actually created.

In Vietnam, USAID’s partner organizations are going a step farther by assisting children with disabilities in becoming functioning members of their families and communities.

In the Community Support for Children with Disabilities program, Catholic Relief Services is assisting children with disabilities to overcome the prejudice and challenges of obtain-



ing an education. Through teacher training and community sensitization, more children are attending schools and demonstrating that “disabled” does not mean “unable.” And the World Concern Development Organization’s vocational training program has helped to place youth in training programs and apprenticeships that will



help them earn a living and achieve the independence and respect they strive toward.

The second resource is care, affection, and attention. It is the right of every child to grow up in a nurturing environment and it is proven that such nurture and care have a tremendous positive effect on a child. Particularly in the developing world, where the extended family and community are the primary social safety nets, not having such attention can greatly increase the long-term vulnerability of a child. In Burkina Faso, USAID is working with the International HIV-AIDs Alliance to spur communities into action to protect and care for orphans and other vulnerable children. And in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, USAID is working with partners such as Save the Children/UK, Pact, and World Vision

to first address the reason that children may be separated from family and community, to try and prevent such separation, and then to reintegrate children into families and communities.

These programs and many others described in the following pages suggest that, although we have not yet developed a true science of child care and protection that can address the needs of children in all dangerous situations, the state of the art is in fact growing and progressing. Already there are many lessons that have been learned that can lead to hopeful outcomes for children.



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Introduction

The U.S. Agency for International Development's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF), established in 1988, began with the realization that increasing numbers of vulnerable groups of children were slipping through the cracks of larger child-centered programs. These children were losing the care and protection of their natural families, were being affected by war or HIV/AIDS, and were increasingly at risk of or were actually living or working on the street. Their natural resiliency was being developed, but only for basic survival purposes and in ways that posed grave consequences for themselves, their communities, and in the long run, their countries.

The concern for these children has manifested itself in many ways, among concerned citizens, service organizations, and large and small donors. The Displaced Children and Orphans Fund is one of those donors, and in the more than 12 years of its existence, has identified principles, approaches, and methodologies, which it currently supports through more than 28 programs in 18 countries.

USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund program provides technical assistance as well as funding for programs that address the humanitarian and long-term, developmental needs of vulnerable children. Most importantly, it attempts to identify, promote, and



support methodologies and practices that are appropriate and effective, and to avoid and advocate against those that are not.

As is hopefully evident in the program descriptions contained in this publication, DCOF strives to support a number of basic principles. Minimally, these include the following:

- Family and the community are the greatest sources of care and protection for children and should constitute the foundation of all interventions.
- Governments, donors, non-governmental organizations (including faith-based organizations), and private sector groups all have distinct roles to play in the care and protection of vulnerable children.
- Sustainability is an important element to be considered in all situations, but all interventions do not necessarily have to be sustainable in and of themselves.
- Experience—positive and negative—should be shared among programs, locales, and participants.
- There is a growing body of experience on how to appropriately care for and protect children and youth, but much still needs to be learned. Research and analysis need to be decision oriented in these times of limited resources and expanding needs.
- HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention should be incorporated into all programs for children and youth.



- International NGOs should focus on strengthening community capacity. They should avoid the creation of dual economies, social service industry cultures that supplant the government's role, and heightened but unsustainable expectations and long-term dependency.
- Programs, especially those assisting in the reintegration of children affected by armed conflict, should identify and build on non-harmful traditional belief systems, structures, and practices.



Regional Initiative

Africa Youth-at-Risk Initiative

Implementing Partner

Peace Corps

Funding Period

August 1999 – September 2004

Amount

\$300,000

Purpose

Explore successful ways to build youth capacity through education and skills training.

Accomplishments

- Near completion of a draft guide on working with at-risk youth for Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) working on youth and development issues.
- Conducted an assessment of promising child and youth activities in Lesotho, Kenya, Ghana, and The Gambia.
- Convened a workshop in Lesotho to explore ways that the needs of at-risk youth can be addressed. Participants presented and discussed the plight of youth and recommended possible intervention measures to assist them.



In 1993, USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund began collaborating with the Peace Corps on a Youth-at-Risk initiative. The initiative advances the goals of both organizations by combining USAID's financial resources with the human resource capacity of PCVs. Between 1993 and 2002, DCOF contributed more than \$1,600,000 to programs that help the Peace Corps reach vulnerable children. DCOF funding has enabled PCVs to implement small community-based projects that have reached tens of thousands of at-risk children in all regions of the world.

During the remainder of this phase of DCOF support, the Peace Corps will distribute its manual on working with at-risk youth to thousands of volunteers worldwide. DCOF funds will also go toward developing a curriculum for training trainers on how to introduce the content and use the manual. The Peace Corps is using its DCOF-funded assessment of youth activities in Africa to present practical recommendations for Africa field and headquarters staff on increasing their work with high-risk children and their families.

The Peace Corps' Community Development Project seeks to improve the lives of rural communities by strengthening the skills and business-management training capacities of community-based organizations (CBOs), youth groups, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). As a result of work conducted using DCOF funds, the organization is revising and updating its Community Development Project to incorporate youth development priorities.



Afghanistan

Assistance For Afghanistan's Most Vulnerable Children

Implementing Partners

NGO Consortium for the Psychosocial Care and Protection of Children: Christian Children's Fund, International Rescue Committee, and Save the Children Federation

Funding Period

April 2003 – October 2004

Amount

\$2,000,000

Purpose

Assist 50,000 war-affected children and families in North, West, and Central Afghanistan by providing emotional and material support.

Objectives

- Identify threats to children and youth.
- Promote a safer environment for children and youth through material assistance, income-generating activities, and psychosocial support.
- Develop educational, social, and economic opportunities for children and youth.



Millions of Afghan children are suffering the burdens of war, displacement, loss of homes and loved ones, injury from landmines, and severe hunger from the worst drought in recent history. Children in post-Taliban Afghanistan not only require drastic improvements in their basic living conditions, they also need the emotional support that will allow them to build productive, balanced lives in enormously difficult circumstances.



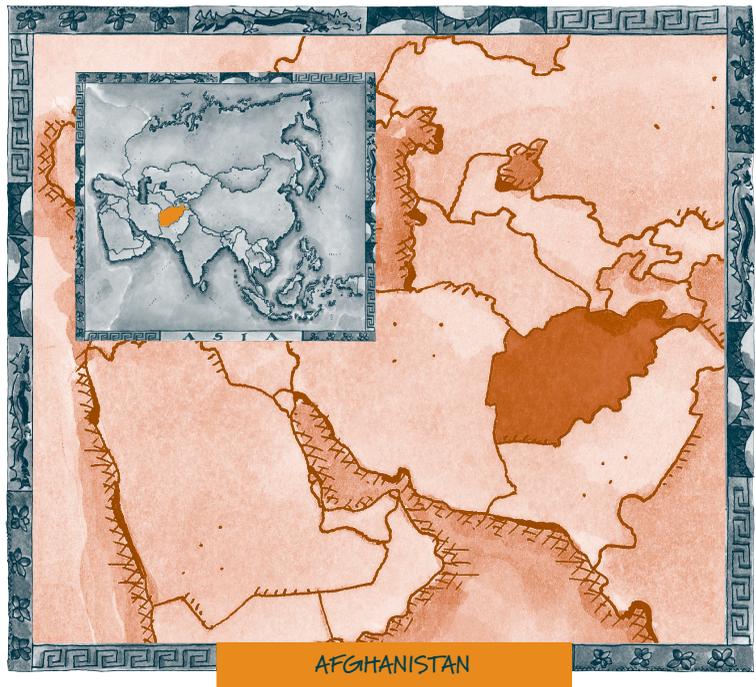
The 18-month DCOF grant represents the first major U.S. government support for children in Afghanistan since the war against the Taliban.

In February 2003, USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund committed \$2 million to assist particularly vulnerable Afghan children, including orphans, disabled children, working children, and former child soldiers. DCOF awarded the grant to the NGO Consortium for the Psychosocial Care and Protection of Children, which consists of three agencies. These three agencies will collaborate with local communities and government ministries to provide emotional support for war-affected children through non-formal education activities that enable play; instill a sense of security; and encourage positive social interactions, emotional expression, and coming to terms with their experiences. The program will also provide small grants for families to use



in improving their living quarters and in income-generating activities, helping the most destitute families to care for their children more effectively.

The joint effort among Christian Children's Fund, International Rescue Committee, and Save the Children Federation will mobilize families and communities to identify and reduce the main threats to children, support children's rights, and increase access to schools and other venues for positive development. In addition, young people will receive skills training to enable them to earn a living and assume a positive role in their communities.



Angola

Building Resilience in Angolan Children and Communities

Implementing Partner	Christian Children's Fund (CCF)
Funding Period	April 2002 – May 2005
Amount	\$3,471,513
Purpose	Strengthen the capacity of staff in selected organizations and institutions to address the psychosocial needs of war-affected children and young people. Enhance the capacities of selected communities to promote resilience in children.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Raise the awareness of staff in organizations working with children about the psychosocial needs of war-affected children and young people.■ Work with 160,000 primary beneficiaries, children, and young people under the age of 25.■ Improve the quality of primary school education and access to nonformal education.■ Strengthen community systems of solidarity, planning, and support for children and young people.■ Promote reconciliation at the grassroots, community level.



Angola Child Recovery Program

Implementing Partner	Save the Children/UK
Funding Period	Proposed 3-year timeframe
Amount	Proposed \$3,242,859
Purpose	Enhance child protection, reduce abuse, and increase access to basic services and livelihood opportunities in project areas. Integrate lessons learned into national policies and legislation for children.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Increase separated children’s access to tracing services through support to the Ministry of Social Affairs and the development of child protection networks.■ Engage in the development and mobilization of child protection networks in selected municipalities and resettlement sites.■ Increase access to child protection mechanisms and basic services in selected areas.■ Research support measures and livelihood opportunities that can withstand voluntary separation and breakdown due to poverty.■ Develop frameworks for longer-term child rights and protection through legislative changes and improvements in social policy.



The Armed Forces of Angola (FAA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) signed an agreement to end 40 years of war in April 2002. The aim of the latest agreement, which is based on completing the military aspects of the Lusaka Protocols of 1995, is to achieve rapid demobilization of combatants and move toward elections during the last quarter of 2004. In the meantime, the international community is gaining a clearer picture of the toll this conflict has taken on the people of Angola.



Only three years ago, UNICEF described Angola as "the country whose children are at the greatest risk of death, malnutrition, abuse and development failure."

The statistics are staggering. One million Angolans died during the conflict. Medicins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) estimates that as many as four million more—one third of the total population of 12 million—have been displaced within the country and an additional half million are living as refugees in the region. Up to two million Angolans suffer from famine, and more than half of the city-dwelling population lives below the poverty line.

Less quantifiable but no less profound is the impact that the war has had on the fabric of Angolan society and on the children of Angola. Large numbers of children have been exposed to one or multiple causes of



stress, such as attack, displacement, witnessing of violence, loss of loved ones, separation from parents, sexual violence, poverty, hunger, landmines, and family violence. Recent surveys indicate that 45 percent of children under the age of five years are chronically malnourished, while in most regions of the country fewer than 50 percent of children are registered in primary school. Although Angolan children exhibit remarkable resilience, the reality is that nearly all children have been affected by war.

Through community-based strategies, USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund seeks to increase child protection networks aimed at building resilience and improving responses to children's needs. Moreover, DCOF support is working to improve infrastructures, particularly child protection and education networks, to improve the health and capabilities of Angola's children. In turn, these young people will help build a more stable future for this African nation.



Brazil At-Risk Youth Program

Implementing Partner	Partners of the Americas
Funding Period	September 1994 – September 2003
Amount	\$8,673,000
Purpose	Provide social services and educational and vocational training opportunities for at-risk youth (and their families) who are living in poverty.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Provided direct services to 6,400 children and youth.■ Reached a total of 28,480 children and adolescents through programs in 322 public schools and 135 service organizations.■ Furnished legal and psychosocial support to 1,025 victims of sexual exploitation or abuse, negligence, AIDS-related discrimination, or child labor.■ Provided an opportunity for 923 working children to re-enter school, thus preventing their entry into (or return to) illegal, exploitative labor activities.■ Transferred successful HIV/AIDS-prevention methodologies developed in Brazil to Mozambique as part of an exchange between Brazilian and Mozambican youth. Brazilian youth shared methodologies for increasing awareness of at-risk behavior.



An estimated 53 million Brazilians—of whom 21 million are children—live on less than US\$1 per day. Poverty-driven migration to large cities has contributed to the problem of vulnerable children. Children often beg on the streets and work in exploitative labor markets to support their families. Girls and young women become easy prey to labor exploitation and prostitution rings, increasing their exposure to physical and sexual violence. HIV/AIDS infection, rampant unemployment rates, and lack of access to education and health systems are some of the risks faced by Brazilian children and youth. These risks are exacerbated by poor enforcement of existing legislation and by the lack of adequate safety networks.



To address this situation, USAID’s Displaced Children and Orphans Fund supported the At-Risk Youth Program [POMMAR] to strengthen local NGOs so that they can provide services to children and youth who have been separated from, or are at risk of becoming separated from, their families. The program focuses on the largest cities in the poor northeastern region (Fortaleza, Recife, and Salvador) and Brasília, the country’s capital and the most recent locus of migra-



tion by impoverished people. Through the program, USAID has funded social services and psychological counseling aimed at reuniting families, providing skills training and job placement support, eradicating child labor, assisting AIDS orphans, preventing HIV/AIDS infection, and helping victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

In addition, POMMAR helps at-risk youth and their families by implementing creative approaches, mainly founded on art education methodologies that have proven successful in attracting at-risk youth.



Burkina Faso

Community Support to Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children

Implementing Partner International HIV/AIDS Alliance

Funding Period January 2003 – December 2005

Amount \$500,000

Purpose Build the capacities of local NGOs and grassroots networks to integrate services for other vulnerable children (OVCs) into existing activities. Mobilize communities to protect and care for OVCs.

Phase I Accomplishments

- Provided direct community support to 1,800 OVCs, including 700 children enrolled in school, 600 children receiving regular home visits, and more than 200 children who received emergency support.
- Improved community attitudes toward an estimated 5,000 orphans and vulnerable children.
- Carried out participatory situation analyses on OVCs in 10 communities. Six of these formed action committees for OVCs; four established solidarity funds to respond to local OVC priorities.
- Helped OVCs and their families in 10 communities participate in a national immunization campaign.
- Trained 59 NGOs and community-based organizations on OVC issues.
- Held a National OVC Conference in March 2002 as an initial step toward developing a national policy on OVCs.



Burkina Faso is an extremely poor country in West Africa where HIV/AIDS is compounding the already serious impacts of poverty on children. Experts estimate that 6.5 percent of the adult population is HIV positive and that 13.3 percent of all children have lost one or both parents, with AIDS as a major cause. The epidemic has raised the number of orphans to about 868,000. A tradition of labor migration inside and outside the country has helped to fuel the epidemic.



The first phase of the Community Support to Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children program reached 10 geographic areas within the country. The program is expected to more than double its reach during this second phase.

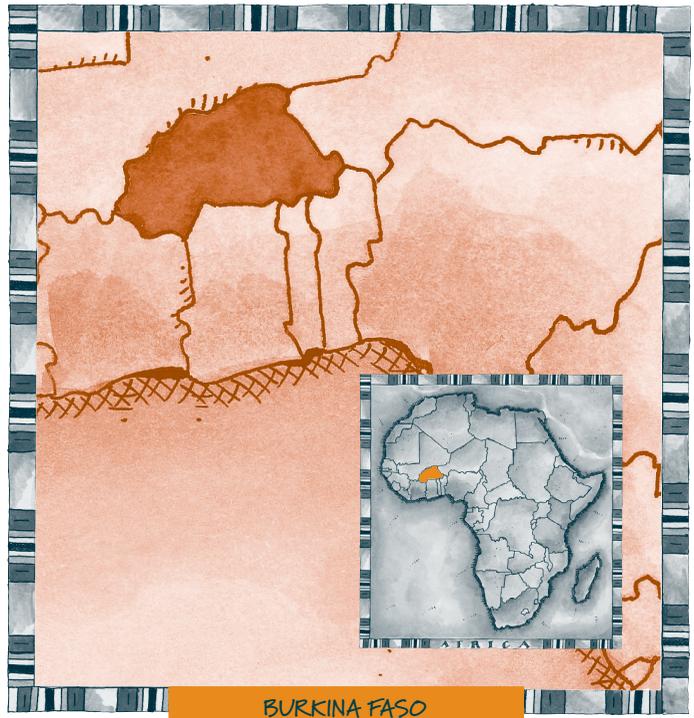
USAID's DCOF-supported initiative in Burkina Faso began in 1999. DCOF funds are provided to the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, which supports the Private and Community Initiative for the Fight Against HIV/AIDS (Initiative Privée et Communautaire de Lutte Contre le VIH/SIDA) NGO in implementing the program.

The tradition of strong extended family and community ties in Burkina Faso provides an important resource on which effective responses to vulnerable children can be built. The second phase of the Community Support to Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children program will expand the program's impact in the 10 original sites



and add another 15 locations, directly benefiting more than 20,000 children. In addition, through advocacy and mobilization of key stakeholders, the program aims to improve living conditions for an additional 16,000 orphans and vulnerable children in its 25 intervention areas and 27,000 OVCs elsewhere in the country.

The OVC program's second phase aims to curtail the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS by improving the living conditions and well-being of Burkina Faso's growing number of OVCs and their families. In addition to mobilizing and strengthening communities to support OVCs and their families, the program will strengthen families' capacity to care for children and family members living with HIV/AIDS and empower children and young people to meet their own basic needs and to participate in their communities. The second phase will also share lessons learned on best practices and methods of collaborating with the government and other stakeholders to build a supportive policy and programming environment country-wide.



BURKINA FASO



Democratic Republic of Congo

Aiding Children Accused of Witchcraft

Implementing Partner	Save the Children/UK
Funding Period	September 2002 – September 2004
Amount	\$740,776
Purpose	Reduce the victimization and promote the reintegration of children accused of being witches.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Analyze and understand the issues that lead to an increase in the number of children labeled as witches.■ Work with civil society and government to reinforce and implement laws to protect children, including and especially those accused of witchcraft.■ Prevent the victimization of children accused of witchcraft (separation, institutionalization, living on the street, etc.).■ Rehabilitate more than 600 children who have been labeled as witches.■ Develop a comprehensive media campaign to raise awareness of the plight of children accused of witchcraft.■ Strengthen the capacity of at least 16 Congolese NGOs to support children accused of witchcraft.



Democratic Republic of Congo

Separated and Abandoned Children Program

Implementing Partner

Save the Children/UK

Funding Period

September 1999 – March 2003
(extension has been requested)

Amount

\$3,060,577

Purpose

Develop community-based models for support to vulnerable children with the aim of reducing and preventing their separation and abandonment.

Accomplishments

- Provided funding for local organizations and government agencies already working with vulnerable children.
- Assisted organizations and government agencies in immediately improving the services they offer for separated and abandoned children.
- Encouraged best practices among organizations and government agencies in the handling of separated and abandoned children.



Democratic Republic of Congo

Separated and Abandoned Children Program (forthcoming project)

Implementing Partner	Save the Children/UK
Funding Period	August 2003 – July 2006
Amount	\$1,500,000
Purpose	Develop community-based models for support to vulnerable children with the aim of reducing and preventing their separation and abandonment.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Establish community-prescribed mechanisms to prevent separation and abandonment of children.■ Ensure community participation in the appropriate care and monitoring of at-risk or already separated children.■ Advocate at the provincial level for social and legal practices that promote the rights granted under the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).



Democratic Republic of Congo

Separated and Abandoned Children Program

Implementing Partner

Pact

Funding Period

February 2003 – February 2006

Amount

\$1,500,000

Purpose

Prevent and reduce separation and abandonment of children in Lumbumbashi. Improve the well-being of separated and at-risk children.

Objectives

- Develop an understanding of the causes of separation and abandonment and identify and test strategies to prevent and mitigate its effects.
- Strengthen the capacities of families, communities, government, and civil society to guarantee basic protection for separated or at-risk children and mobilize against their abuse, exploitation, and abandonment.
- Develop and implement practical solutions to ensure appropriate care and placement of at-risk or already separated children.



Democratic Republic of Congo

Separated and Abandoned Children Program

Implementing Partner World Vision

Funding Period April 2003 – April 2006

Amount \$999,738

Purpose Improve the status of separated and abandoned children in target communities by building the capacities of local communities to directly address these children's needs.

- Objectives
- Improve community awareness of the rights and needs of vulnerable children.
 - Improve the physical and social well-being of separated and abandoned children.
 - Strengthen community and family structures to lessen the risk of separation and abandonment.



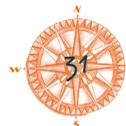
The ongoing conflict and years of neglect in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) are impairing the capacities of communities and families to care for and protect their children. Since 1998, an estimated 2.5 million lives have been lost in the DROC, 86 percent of which are attributed to disease and malnutrition. The average life expectancy for Congolese people is 46 years. With a per capita income of 23 cents a day, the country figures among the 10 poorest in the world.

The stability of the family as the guardian of a child's safety and primary source of care is being shaken by economic and social factors, which taken together create conditions for the separation and abandonment of children. Forms of separation include, but are not limited to, street children, displaced unaccompanied minors, child soldiers, child laborers, children accused of sorcery and witchcraft, children in conflict with the law, child mothers, and children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

The hardships created by abject poverty and prolonged conflict, when combined with other factors such as the powerless position of women in society, are seriously weakening the family unit. Children may be at risk of



There is some evidence that Congolese families may be abandoning children by choice and, because of the general lack of social and political order in the country, abandonment appears to occur with impunity and in an atmosphere of community apathy.



abandonment or separation for some time before it actually occurs, particularly in situations where the support offered by extended families is curtailed, young mothers are estranged from their partners, and the pressures of ever-deepening poverty overcome families.

USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund supports programs that not only find a means for protecting separated and abandoned children but also strive to repair the broken link between family and child. This is achieved by building community response

around the needs of children and recreating the underlying fabric of protection and social commitment to the welfare of children. Based on the success of a DCOF-sponsored Save the Children/UK program to assist children who are at risk of separation or abandonment, USAID will fund three new programs through DCOF. In addition, DCOF recently began underwriting a unique Save the Children/UK program to stop the persecution of Congolese children perceived to be practicing witchcraft. By taking a comprehensive approach and examining all the conditions that

place children at risk rather than focusing on just one cause, DCOF and its implementing partners aim not only to reduce child abandonment and separation but to make the practice unacceptable in Congolese society.



Republic of Congo

Community-Based Rehabilitation of Street Children

Implementing Partner International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Period October 2002 – March 2003

Amount \$352,661

Purpose Reintegrate street children into their families and communities while providing for their immediate physical and psychosocial needs.

- Accomplishments
- Operated three day centers for children. More than 200 new children reported to outreach workers and IRC centers between October and December 2002.
 - Increased the number of health cards issued by IRC centers from 1,250 to 1,500 between October and December 2002.
 - Raised attendance at IRC centers with the result that an average of 163 street children participate in center activities each day.
 - Reintegrated 20 children into society through formal and vocational training, apprenticeships, artisan guidance, or other opportunities.
 - Coordinated efforts to create a consortium for providing care and protection activities and services for street children.



The Republic of Congo experienced two civil wars between 1997 and 2000; these resulted in 50,000 deaths. Outbreaks of violence in April and June 2002 in Brazzaville show that the country remains unstable. In addition to the many thousands of deaths over the past five years, massive displacements of people, destroyed social institutions, lootings, and rape have damaged Congolese society and forced thousands of children out of their homes.

The problem of young people living and working on the streets is growing in Congo's urban centers, most notably Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. IRC estimates that as many as 4,000 children may live on the streets of these two cities. Many have health problems due to lack of adequate nutrition, some are victims of sexual violence or harassment by other street children, and others risk being persuaded to join (or are conscripted into) armed militias. Many of these children have expressed a desire to return to their families provided they receive guaranteed emotional and material support. Most children seize the opportunity to attend school or receive vocational training.

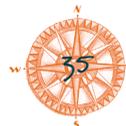
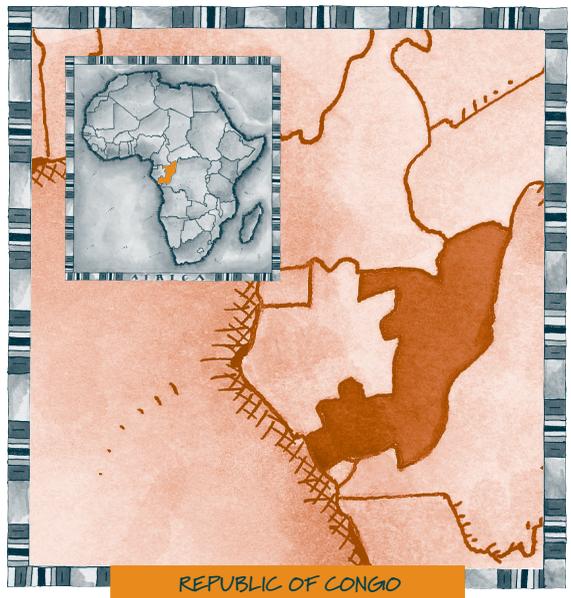
Through the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, USAID provides funding to the International Rescue Committee to address both the short and long-term needs of street children living and working on the streets of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. During the life of the project, IRC seeks to improve the protection and psychosocial well-being of 500 young people and



prepare them to be reintegrated into their families and into community life. IRC operates two day centers in Brazzaville and one in Pointe-Noire that provide a safe haven where children coming off the streets can begin to resume normal daily activities while also attending to their immediate physical and psychosocial needs.

IRC has the additional goal of actually reunifying 60 center-visiting children with their immediate or extended families by first assisting the child in becoming ready to return to his or her family and then using games, family tracing activities, and focus and discussion groups to locate family members. If family members are located, IRC guides the child through a reunification and reintegration process, which allows the child to readapt to family structure and resume formal schooling and other meaningful activities.

A third objective of IRC's program is to collect and analyze data that will enable IRC and its government partners to develop a comprehensive program for first preventing children from ending up on the streets, protecting those who are living and working on the streets, and finally helping children to come off the streets and return to their families and communities.



Ethiopia

NGO Sector Enhancement Initiative

Implementing Partner

Pact

Funding Period

July 1997 – May 2003

Amount

\$1,395,781

Purpose

Strengthen the capacity of NGOs to work with each other and with the government to improve and increase their services to assist vulnerable children.

Accomplishments

- Assisted 11 NGOs in collectively increasing their budgets by \$2.6 million – 121 percent growth.
- Guided NGOs in redirecting their programs from assisting individual children to more community-based care. The NGOs expanded their activities to include food security, improvements in housing conditions, construction of schools, and vocational training.
- Worked with the Government of Ethiopia to create a new ministry for NGO strengthening, based on the project’s approach and methodology.



Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa, and its 63 million people have endured three wars and as many major food security emergencies in the past four decades. Together with HIV/AIDS, these hardships have increased poverty and made a substantial portion of the population, including millions of children, more vulnerable.

The population of street children in Ethiopia is massive and apparently growing, although no one has exact statistics on their numbers. Economic opportunities and health and education services are very limited in urban areas; however, they serve to draw poor people from rural areas. Migrants seeking better opportunities typically find few jobs, crowded housing, and unsanitary environments. As a consequence, many children turn to the streets to beg or otherwise obtain some small income.

HIV/AIDS rates tend to be higher in urban areas. In 2001 almost two million Ethiopian adults were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, and nearly one million children had lost one or both parents to the disease. The number of children orphaned as a result of AIDS is projected to double by 2010.



USAID's DCOF support of Fact has helped Ethiopian NGOs expand the scale of their activities, a great achievement in a country where small projects are the norm.

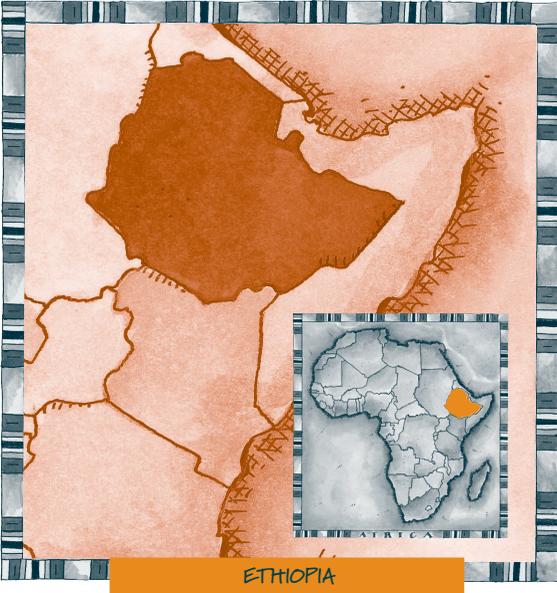


The Abebech Giobena Orphanage and School has increased its reach from serving 520 children in 1997 to helping nearly half a million in 2002.

For almost six years, USAID’s Displaced Children and Orphans Fund has helped Ethiopian street children, orphans, children in institutions, and other highly vulnerable children through its support to the Ethiopian NGO Sector Enhancement Initiative. Managed by

Pact, this initiative helps strengthen the capacity of Ethiopian NGOs. The program started in 1995, and DCOF funds provided in 1997 enabled Pact to extend individualized training and mentoring in organizational assessment, technical support, innovative project and model development, and grants to 36 NGOs working with at-risk children. To date, these NGOs have formed three networks for information exchange and collaboration (The Street Children Network, The Orphans and Vulnerable Children Network, and The Community Based Rehabilitation Network).

These networks enable NGOs to exchange information, collaborate, leverage their advocacy efforts, and be a strong voice in policy reform.



Indonesia

Manghadapi Generasi Yang Hilang (Facing a Lost Generation)

Implementing Partner Save the Children/US

Funding Period August 2000 – July 2003

Amount \$3,000,000

Purpose Expand, strengthen, and mobilize local responses to meet the medical, behavioral, educational, legal, and social needs of children living and working on the streets.

Accomplishments

- Reached approximately 4,800 of a total estimated population of 20,000 children living on the streets of four target cities in 2001 (Jakarta, Surabaya, Bandung, and Medan).
- Promoted best practices across agencies through program learning groups to assist youth and parents in psychosocial support and economic opportunities.
- Implemented a children's strategy that includes preventing families from separating and children from dropping out of school, and promotes increased access to health and social services.
- Implemented a positive pathways program for older, high-risk adults that includes job training, reduction of risk behaviors, and improved access to health and social services. This program will help parents provide better environments for their children.



Indonesia's recovery from the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s has been slowed by additional financial, social, and political problems. Many families who cannot maintain an adequate income send their children to the streets to seek jobs and bolster family earnings. The more fortunate of these children live with their families, dividing time between working the streets and attending school. Other children remain on the streets full-time.

Sexual abuse and exploitation of street children, particularly girls, are widespread, and Indonesia's street children face increased risks of sexually transmitted disease.

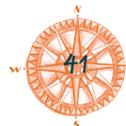
By funding the Save the Children/US Facing a Lost Generation program, USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund is enhancing the capacity of NGOs to help street children, increasing their access to and use of health services, addressing the special needs of female street children, and developing alternatives to living on the streets.



In 2001, the government estimated that approximately 40,000 Indonesian children lived on the streets.



Save the Children/US currently operates the Facing a Lost Generation program through subgrants to 39 organizations in Indonesia. For example, the program aims to improve the national debate about children by working with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Indonesia's provincial child protection agencies. Save the Children/US also works with the National Center for Child Protection and regional child protection bodies and provides technical assistance to national NGOs and social service organizations.



Kenya Fahida Project

Implementing Partner	K-Rep Development Agency
Funding Period	September 1997 – August 2003
Amount	\$300,000
Purpose	Reverse or mitigate the negative socioeconomic impacts of HIV/AIDS in Western Kenya.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Created a special line of credit to enable those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS to engage in sustainable livelihood projects.■ Bolstered the economic resources of clients living in areas heavily affected by HIV/AIDS.■ Provided psychosocial support to families affected by HIV/AIDS.



Kenya

IMPACT-HIV/AIDS Home Care Support Project One

Implementing Partners	Family Health International, St. Mary's Hospital, and ICROSS (International Community for the Relief of Starvation and Suffering)
Funding Period	September 1997 – September 2003
Amount	\$321,000
Purpose	Develop and carry out activities focused on home-based care and support for families living with HIV/AIDS.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Implemented an effective model of home care for the chronically ill in collaboration with the health care support teams and communities.■ Trained 250 volunteer community health workers to recognize and respond to the needs of HIV/AIDS-affected children.■ Provided home care to more than 500 very ill patients.



Kenya Speak for the Child

Implementing Partner	Academy for Educational Development/Ready to Learn Center
Funding Period	September 2000 – September 2003
Amount	\$530,340
Purpose	Work with families and communities to improve the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial care and development of orphans and vulnerable children ages 5 and under.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Conducted more than 400 household visits with 143 children.■ Immunized 75 percent of children; 100 percent at least partially immunized.■ Improved caregiver behavior in both nutritional and health categories.



HIV/AIDS has become a devastating menace in Kenya, affecting most households both socially and economically. An estimated 1.5 million people have already died from AIDS in Kenya since the first case was reported in 1984. A further 2.2 million Kenyans are now living with HIV infection, but few know they are infected or show outward symptoms of the disease.

In addition to the crisis of HIV/AIDS, the mortality rate among Kenyan children under age five increased by 25 percent during the 1990s, reversing decades of steady decline in the child mortality rate. Malaria continues to be the infectious disease that kills the most children. More than half of Kenya's population lives below the poverty line. Poor families have been the worst hit as they have few strategies for coping with the economic effects of disease.

Understanding how to mitigate the economic impact of HIV/AIDS is a challenging endeavor. Studies have shown that the overall impact of HIV/AIDS on the economic well-being of affected households depends on a household's financial safety nets. The stronger the

Currently, one in every eight adults in rural Kenya is infected with HIV/AIDS; in urban areas the ratio increases to one in five adults.



safety net, the better a household can withstand the crisis without resorting to liquidation of long-term assets, reduced purchases of basic necessities, removal of children from school, or migration. The safety net depends on the initial financial standing of the household and its ability to build a financial base over time. Microfinance programs, both credit and savings, strengthen a household's financial base by offering opportunities to build assets and diversify income sources. Access to microfinance services gives households a way to prepare for and cope with crises.

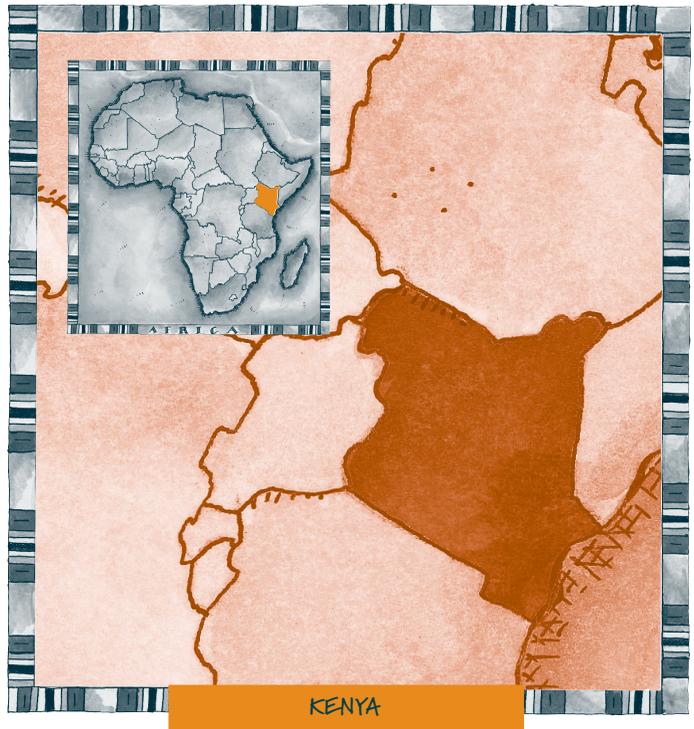
Several microfinance models exist in Africa, but practitioners know very little about how the impact of HIV/AIDS affects clients and the long-term viability of the lending institution. In an effort to address this lack of information, USAID provided DCOF funding to support a K-Rep Development Agency project linking microfinance mechanisms with HIV/AIDS support activities. To raise living standards among individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families, K-Rep offers business training, access to low-interest credit, and group savings schemes.

Another DCOF initiative, Family Health International's IMPACT project, targets orphans and vulnerable children in western Kenya and attempts to bolster home-based care options for them and their families. IMPACT works with three local groups in support of activities for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Grants to the International Community for the Relief of Starva-



tion and Suffering (ICROSS) and St. Mary's Hospital provide home-based support to vulnerable children. IMPACT is also assisting K-Rep in setting up criteria for identifying vulnerable families and households that might benefit from K-Rep interventions.

A DCOF grant to the Academy for International Development is helping to meet the needs of AIDS-affected children under five. A child development team is piloting a model program to improve the care given to young orphans and vulnerable children. Core activities include recruitment and training of community mentors to support caregivers in vulnerable households, paying school fees to local preschools for children in vulnerable families, providing health cards and inoculations for children without complete immunizations, and capacity strengthening of community-formed *Speak for the Child* committees to increase human resources for better care of orphans and vulnerable children.



Kosovo Assistance Program, Civic Participation Initiative

Implementing Partner	Save the Children/US
Funding Period	September 1999 – September 2002
Amount	\$1,000,000
Purpose	Develop culturally appropriate, community-identified efforts to promote tolerance and build constructive values among children and adolescents displaced by war and ethnic violence.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Constructed new playgrounds in nine rural communities that provide recreation for more than 4,000 young children.■ Conducted a wide range of project activities centered around education, recreation, and skills building that directly benefit more than 20,500 children and adolescents. Young women and girls comprise approximately 45 percent of the beneficiary population, and roughly 25 percent of the beneficiaries are minorities.■ Involved more than 330 civil institutions in activity design and implementation, including more than 100 multi-ethnic activities.■ Held special events for children that were attended by more than 55,000 community members. Community contributions in the form of labor, cash, and materials have exceeded \$263,000.



Kosovo

De-institutionalizing Kosovar Children with Special Needs

Implementing Partner	Doctors of the World
Funding Period	January 2003 – July 2003
Amount	\$131,000
Purpose	Move children with special needs from institutions into more nurturing environments where they can develop and grow.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Develop guidelines and protocols for de-institutionalizing disabled children and including them in the community.■ Provide psychosocial and rehabilitative services to children to increase independent living skills and options for community integration.■ Develop opportunities for reunification with families of origin or foster family placement.



Map of DCOF Grant Countries





Afghanistan

Sudan

Ethiopia

Kenya

Uganda

Rwanda

Sri Lanka

Vietnam

Indonesia

Dem. Republic of Congo

South Africa



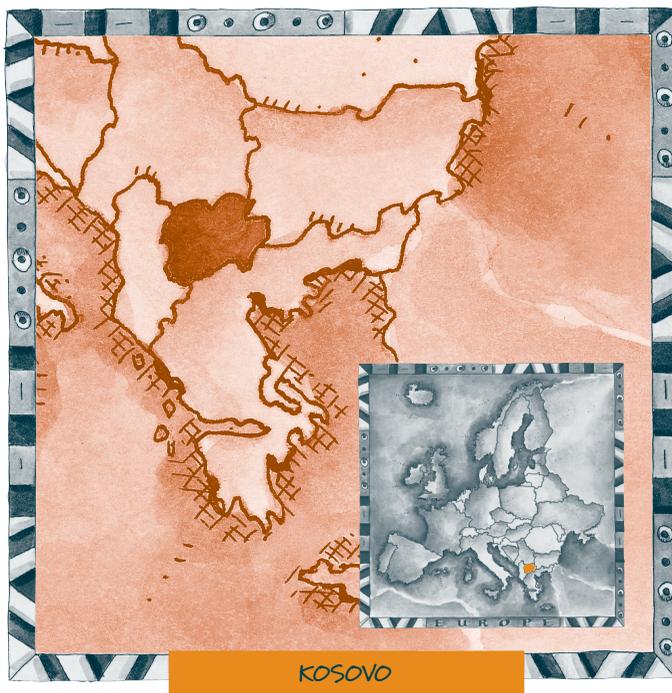
Communities in Kosovo face the challenge of rebuilding lives and household security in the face of devastating personal and economic loss. The effects of the war have touched all segments of the population, from child to parent and from Albanian to Roma to Serb.

Activities that support and promote the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of children and adolescents are an important component of social development everywhere; clearly they are essential in the context of post-war Kosovo.

Save the Children's Kosovo Assistance Program uses DCOF funds to develop efforts that promote tolerance and build constructive values such as teamwork, leadership, sharing, and responsibility among children and adolescents. Save the Children/US awarded sub-grants to the International Medical Corps (IMC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) using DCOF support money. IMC and IRC are helping to carry out Save the Children initiatives by providing safe, supportive environments where children and adolescents can interact, play, and develop positive life skills.



DCOF also supports the work of Doctors of the World through their De-institutionalizing Kosovar Children with Special Needs program. The program is working to transfer children from the closed Shtime Institution to two community-based facilities, prepare avenues for community- and family-based care, and develop protocols and guidelines for de-institutionalization and community-based programming that can be used in the region.



Liberia

War Affected Youth Support (WAYS) Project

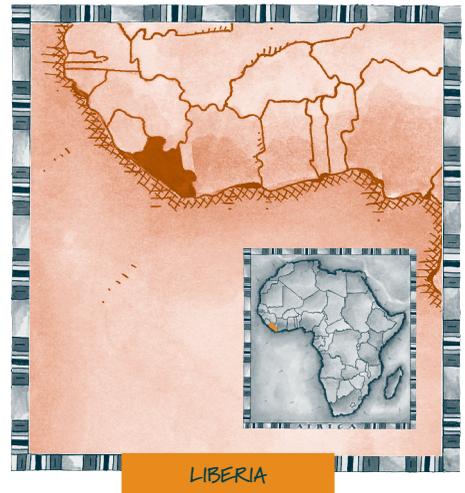
Implementing Partner	UNICEF
Funding Period	September 2000 – March 2003
Amount	\$1,250,000
Purpose	Develop, support, and sustain the future of Liberian youth through training and capacity building, and encourage the identification of best practices in reintegrating war-affected youth.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Enrolled 352 girls in life-skills education programs in five counties.■ Trained 202 peer educators to present information on HIV/AIDS prevention.■ Held 25 community-based sessions on STI/HIV/AIDS prevention and disseminated information through newsletters, brochures, and community theaters.■ Trained 600 youth in HIV/AIDS awareness through an innovative Childart Liberia program that combined education, leadership skills, and artistic training.■ Enrolled 677 youth in the Accelerated Learning Program designed specifically for older war-affected youth. This program has been piloted in 50 schools in Liberia.



Liberia's seven years of civil strife were brought to a close in 1996 when presidential and legislative elections were held. Nonetheless, ongoing tensions in Liberia and the emergence of a new conflict in Cote d'Ivoire pose threats to peace and security in the entire region. This ongoing insecurity has delayed the country's efforts to rebuild its infrastructure and hampered existing humanitarian efforts to assist those in need.

The ongoing violence has had a particularly devastating effect on Liberia's youth. Until 1996, children were often subjected to forced labor, recruitment into militia, or child prostitution; thousands more were displaced, separated from their families, or orphaned. Many children and youth are still enduring the painstaking process of readjusting to society and rebuilding their lives. Others are newly displaced or separated from their families by continuing regional conflicts.

Since 1994, USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund has supported UNICEF's efforts to assist war-affected youth in Liberia. The current program is designed to help the youth of Liberia assist each other in changing their lives and developing as individuals. Activities include life-skills training, peer-based education programs, and basic literacy and numeracy training specifically for older war-affected youth. Program participants include teenage mothers and their children, child soldiers, adolescents, children in conflict with the law, and children in need of special protection.



Peru

Open Houses for Street Boys, Girls, and Adolescents

Implementing Partner	CEDRO (Center for Information and Education on Drug-Abuse Prevention)
Funding Period	September 1999 – September 2004
Amount	\$160,000
Purpose	Provide positive alternatives for street children ages 7 to 17.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Provided care for 37 new minors in program houses in 2002 as a result of outreach work in areas with the highest populations of street children.■ Graduated 44 of 51 children who started school in April 2002.■ Obtained work for 29 adolescents in vocations such as cosmetology, baking, and computer work.■ Trained 51 adolescents in areas such as secretarial work, cosmetology, international cooking, graphic design, and computer work.■ Reintegrated 19 adolescents into their normal family environments in 2002.



Peru

Attention to High-Risk Minors in Coca Producing Areas

Implementing Partner	CEDRO (Center for Information and Education on Drug-Abuse Prevention)
Funding Period	September 1999 – September 2003
Amount	\$300,000
Purpose	Prevent risky behavior associated with drug production, trafficking, and consumption among minors ages 7 to 17 in three targeted coca-producing areas.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Increased the number of children and adolescents attending the program from 170 in 2001 to 271 in 2002.■ Increased the number of families participating in the program from 39 in 2001 to 85 in 2002.■ Provided training opportunities for young people in seeding and harvesting different types of vegetables, computer operations, basic knowledge of nursing and first aid, or carpentry.■ Increased the community's commitment to program objectives. For example, some members of the community have donated school materials to the program.■ Provided an environment where communities within the target areas recognize the orientation and counseling centers as places where their children and adolescents receive support.



Ayacacucho Children's Project

Peru (Maria Auxiliadora)

Implementing Partner Salesian Missions

Funding Period September 1999 – September 2002

Amount \$210,000

Purpose Provide education for and meet the basic needs of orphaned and abandoned children.

- Accomplishments
- Enrolled 890 girls in Salesian Missions' Maria Auxiliadora school from 1998 to 2001, 66 percent of whom graduated.
 - Enrolled 392 boys in Salesian Missions' Don Bosco school from 1998 to 2001; 75 percent of these students graduated.
 - Provided a holistic curriculum for students at Maria Auxiliadora and Don Bosco schools, including business, government, and civics classes, in addition to vocational training.



Twenty years of civil conflict between government and Shining Path rebel forces exacted a heavy toll in Peru. Although rebel activities have been greatly curtailed since the mid 1990s, the war's effects continue to be felt. In addition, the country's efforts at economic growth have been hampered by the devastating aftermath of excessive rainfall from El Niño and Peru's continuing political instability. Consequently, more than half of the Peruvian population lives in extreme poverty, with the most vulnerable sectors of society—women and children—most profoundly affected.

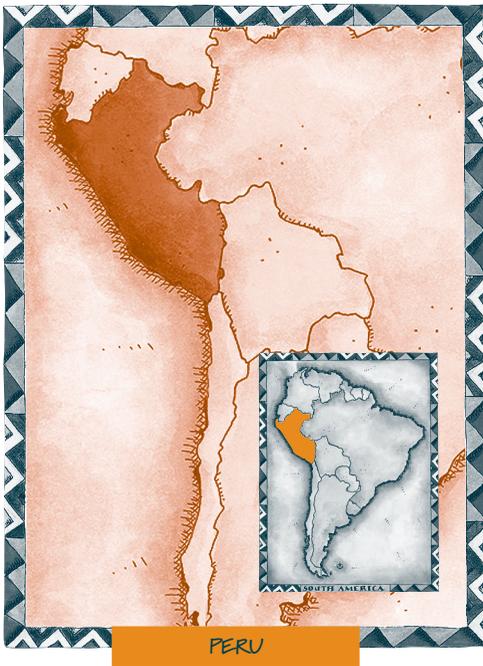
Two problems facing children in Peru are drug use and the necessity of living on the street among minors. In Lima alone, an estimated 1,000 children live on the streets. Many have run away from home because of physical mistreatment, and many of the girls were sexually abused by a parent or other adult caregiver.

Most street children have no contact with their families and have abandoned school. They live in gangs, use drugs, employ violence as a channel of communication, and survive on robbery.

The USAID-funded Center for Information and Education on Drug-Abuse Prevention (CEDRO) project in Lima works to rehabilitate street children and youth. CEDRO reaches out to these children through “street work” (contacting children in a particular zone and attempting to develop links between the children and the CEDRO workers). Through this “Open



House” program, CEDRO attempts to satisfy the children’s basic requirements, such as food, clothing, and medical needs. The program also works to reintegrate children into school and family, if possible, and help them develop professional skills.



A second CEDRO project in the coca-producing areas of Peru attends to the needs of at-risk children and adolescents to prevent them from falling prey to the drug industry. The program, which focuses on the districts of Santa Rosa, Aguaytia, and Tocache, provides training in agricultural and vocational skills. CEDRO also works with families to improve the familial environment and encourage reintegration of minors into their families.

USAID’s Displaced Children and Orphans Fund is also funding a program in Peru run by the Salesian Missions. Through the program, orphaned and abandoned boys in Ayacucho receive clothing, food, and shelter, as well as education and training. The project also provided similar services to girls ages 13 to 19, with a special emphasis placed on vocational training and job placement. Both CEDRO and Salesian Missions coordinated their efforts with national and local government agencies, as well as with local and international NGOs, to maximize their programs’ impact and reach.



Rwanda

Protection and Support to Vulnerable Children and Youth

Implementing Partner	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Funding Period	July 2002 – September 2004
Amount	\$1,616,373
Purpose	Work with government, communities, and partners to develop and implement a national response to the plight of vulnerable children and youth that fosters their care, protection, and development.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Helped reintegrate 736 children living in institutions into households.■ Developed a manual describing the methods and tools used for tracing, family reunification, and reintegration.■ Developed a set of tools for youth-led planning and executed a model program in three districts using sports and culture as entry points.■ Established 21 village sports funds, conducted participatory awareness HIV/AIDS campaigns in 190 neighborhoods, and organized 14 girls' soccer teams. In addition, 57 community youth associations were trained in organizational skills.



At least 800,000 people were killed during the 100 days of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. An additional two million people were displaced from their homes and communities to countries bordering Rwanda. A massive number of children lost their parents or were separated during this upheaval. USAID was among the first to respond, providing DCOF funds to launch a multi-organizational documentation, tracing, and family reunification effort for these children.

By 2000, Rwanda's regional tracing and reunification network had reunited more than 67,000 separated Rwandan children with parents, siblings, or surviving relatives. Some children did not return home, however. In 2000, approximately 4,500 children remained in 36 residential centers in the country. As the major tracing programs were being phased out, IRC sought DCOF support for intensive and innovative new efforts to give these "untraceable" children, many of whom were too young to know their backgrounds when they were separated, an opportunity to find their families.

The IRC program was a success, reuniting more than 700 institutionalized children with their families. In addition, the new tracing and family reintegration tools developed by IRC have wide applicability to family reunification efforts for separated children in other contexts. In July 2002, USAID provided DCOF funding to enable IRC-Rwanda to continue its reunification and reintegration work to help street children and those living in centers. Some 3,500 children



remained in 24 residential children's centers in 2002, including children orphaned by AIDS and those pushed out of households by poverty.

IRC-Rwanda responded to a request from the Ministry of Social Affairs and assigned a part-time technical advisor to assist the Ministry with national policy development, legal reform, and capacity building for vulnerable children. A draft policy on displaced vulnerable children was outlined and discussed during a national conference held in November 2002. IRC has also integrated a prevention of separation component into its program through a collaborative effort with Save the Children/UK and CARE International.



The Rwandan government recognizes that it must actively encourage youth to engage in national efforts to reconstruct the country. Most importantly, young people must be able to set a new reconciliatory tone of nondiscrimination and inclusion. IRC-Rwanda developed its youth participatory development program to address these realities with DCOF support. In Kibungo Province, almost 3,000 youth have been involved in the program through 190 youth committees. These committees focused their efforts on economic development, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health, sports and culture, and unity and reconciliation.



Sierra Leone Helping the Children Left Behind

Implementing Partner	UNICEF
Funding Period	September 2002 – March 2004
Amount	\$750,000
Purpose	Help girls and boys abducted during war and other displaced children reintegrate into their families and communities.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Identify and provide appropriate services to 1,000 girls and young women.■ Trace the families of 65 percent of the identified girls and young women.■ Strengthen the capacity of communities, government, and NGOs to prevent sexual violence and meet the special needs of its victims.■ Identify and publicize best practices that can contribute to more effective protection of children and women in peace processes and disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs.



Sierra Leone

Reintegration of War-Affected Children

Implementing Partner	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Funding Period	July 2000 – July 2004
Amount	\$1,590,571
Purpose	Build mechanisms for and ensure the successful reintegration of child soldiers and other children displaced by war.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Facilitated the disarmament and demobilization of 2,000 child soldiers.■ Cared for 2,000 children in interim care centers run by IRC.■ Reunited 1,200 children with their families and assisted with their reintegration (school or skills training).■ Placed 87 children in foster care, 54 of whom were subsequently reunited with families.■ Supported 93 small-scale reintegration projects in communities to which children were returning (skills training workshops, vegetable gardening, sports clubs, cultural performance groups, etc.). These projects directly benefited 510 children, who actively participated in the program, and indirectly helped 4,500.



The first three decades of Sierra Leone's independence were characterized by multiple coups and unrest. The turbulence escalated in 1991 and ushered in a decade of civil war known globally for its viciousness and brutality.

One participant in the civil war was the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), a group that gained political power after the Army of Sierra Leone overthrew the elected government in 1997. The RUF was known for abducting children during village raids. Many of these children were forced to commit atrocities against their own families or villages as a means of preventing them from returning to their homes, a strategy that enabled the RUF to turn them into fighters. Many of the girls abducted were sexually abused, with some eventually becoming "bush wives," informally attached to a single combatant.

By 2002, war finally gave way to peace in Sierra Leone. From January 2001 through January 2002, a total of 43,685 adults and 4,543 children under 18 were



UNICEF estimates that, during the war, more than 10,000 Sierra Leonian children were separated from their families through abduction and population displacement.



officially disarmed and demobilized from the fighting forces. Peaceful elections were held in May 2002.

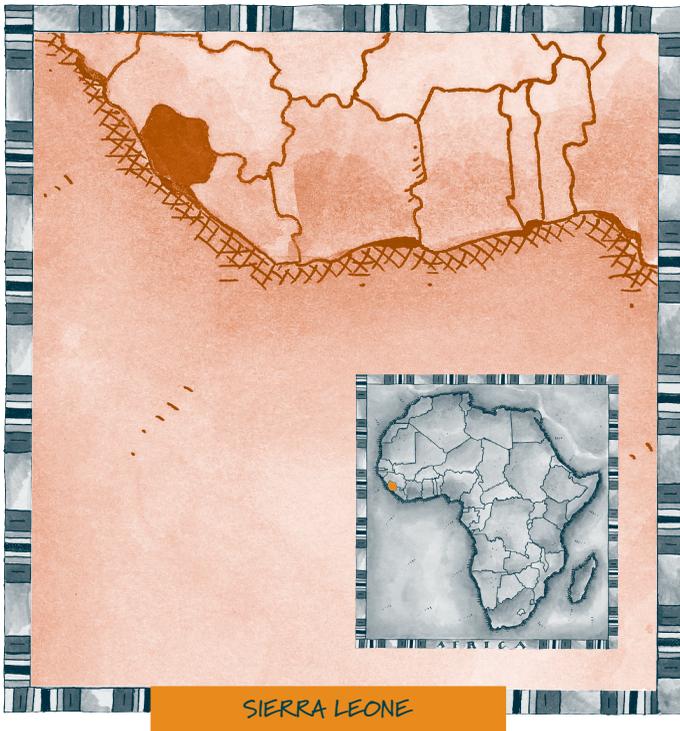
USAID's support for children affected by armed conflict in Sierra Leone began with a DCOF grant to UNICEF in 1999. Since then, DCOF has provided UNICEF with a total of \$2,986,065 and IRC with an additional \$1,590,571 to help children affected by armed conflict. Initially, this funding went to help trace the surviving family members of separated children and to reunite families. Beginning in 2001, however, as the situation began to permit large-scale demobilization of child soldiers from the RUF and civilian defense forces, UNICEF and IRC began using DCOF support to help reintegrate child soldiers into society.

UNICEF has passed most of its funding through to Sierra Leonian NGOs that are working directly with displaced children. Using this model, UNICEF has helped to establish an effective Child Protection Network with 40 members, including United Nations bodies, national and international NGOs, and government ministries.

Reintegration efforts in Sierra Leone have proven successful. Given their years of living in the bush and horrendous experiences with fighting and death, conventional wisdom would suggest that childhood might be lost forever for most children associated with the fighting forces, and that reintegration into their families and communities would be difficult. However,



although community members initially expressed hatred and fear of children who had been abducted by the RUF, painstaking work at the grassroots level has permitted the reintegration of former child soldiers. A DCOF assessment team found that many of the demobilized children were in school or learning a trade. Preliminary findings of a survey suggest that about 90 percent of the former child soldiers have been able to reintegrate well into families and communities.



While this success is impressive and important, there are many other children for whom things have not gone well in Sierra Leone. Of particular concern are the girls abducted by the RUF who did not go through the demobilization process. Many of these abducted girls, some of whom are now young women, remain under the control of their commanders or “bush husbands.” DCOF’s most recent grant to UNICEF will support its efforts to provide these girls, and other children who remain separated, the chance to go home at last. IRC is also using DCOF funds for this purpose.



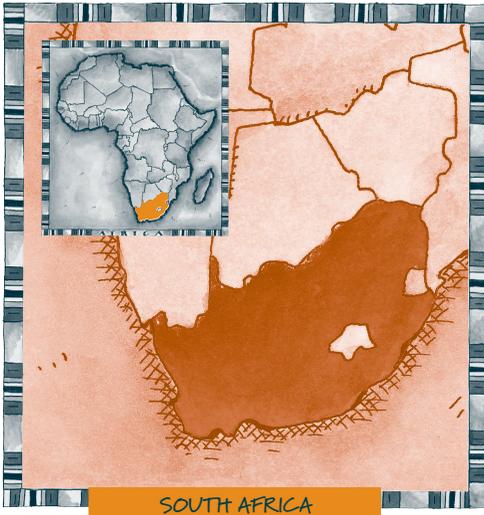
South Africa

Improving the Well-Being of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (Goelama Project)

Implementing Partner	The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF)
Funding Period	September 2000 – October 2003
Amount	\$750,000
Purpose	Strengthen household and community capacity to support orphans and other vulnerable children. The pilot program aims to reach an estimated 250,000 OVCs in 10 communities affected by HIV/AIDS across four provinces.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Appointed catalyst and community-building organizations in 11 targeted sites by November 2002.■ Trained partner organizations in community mobilization.■ Held a "Coordinated Action for Children" conference from June 2 – 5, 2002 in partnership with the Department of Social Development, Department of Health, Save the Children/UK, and UNICEF.■ Funded, monitored, and evaluated 18 organizations.



South Africa has more citizens living with HIV than any other country in the world (an estimated 4.7 million by 2001). At a time when South Africa is striving to take advantage of the democratic processes that replaced apartheid and to reduce acute levels of poverty, AIDS is killing individuals in unprecedented numbers and wreaking havoc within families.



The HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa is a fundamental threat to national development and in particular to the survival and well-being of the country's children. To help develop effective responses to children affected by AIDS, USAID allocated DCOF and other funds to the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF).

NMCF initiated the Goelama Project, a community mobilization strategy aimed at mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on children and young people, in October 2000. The project aims to enhance community-based responses to the needs of orphans and vulnerable children and their households by coordinating efforts of stakeholders; implementing, reviewing, and identifying lessons from interventions at the community level; and addressing the needs of children affected by HIV/AIDS. NMCF provides funding to NGOs and local organizations to enable them to undertake needed community-based work. NMCF also works at the national level to establish a policy framework and strengthen government networks to assist these children.



Sri Lanka

Helping Children and Youth Post Conflict

Implementing Partner

CARE

Funding Period

February 2003 – June 2003
(with a follow-on grant to be determined)

Amount

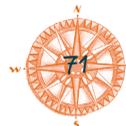
\$310,000

Purpose

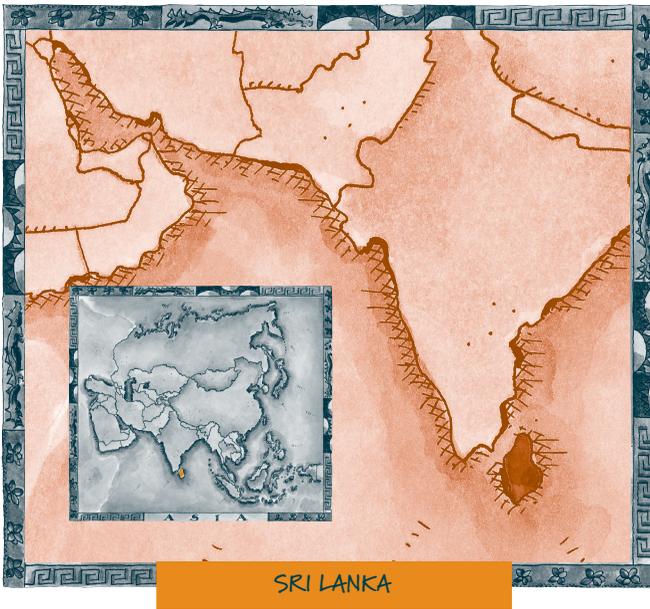
Improve the quality of life of children and youth in conflict-affected areas through their better protection and through the enhancement of social and economic opportunities for them, their families, and their communities.

Objectives

- Improve the capacity of families and communities to create an environment conducive to the safety, psychosocial well-being, and development of children and youth in conflict-affected areas.
- Mobilize communities actively engaged in conflict resolution and peace building focused around the activities of children and youth.
- Enhance economic opportunities of targeted groups through skills development, microcredit activities, and technical and vocational training for the benefit of children and youth.

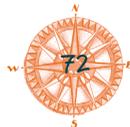


Nearly 65,000 people have died since 1983 when rebel Tamil Tiger forces went to war claiming that Sri Lanka's 3.2 million Tamils face discrimination by the country's 14 million Sinhalese. The rebels initially wanted a separate homeland but now say they will settle for autonomy. A year after implementing a cease-fire, the Tigers and the government are in negotiations that have brought the two sides closer to peace than at any time since they began fighting in 1983.



Communities bordering the conflict zone live in constant fear of attack. In addition to the trauma of growing up in a war zone, children face disrupted education and health services, and the current environment provides scarce economic opportunities and few positive role models. By funding CARE's Helping Children and Youth Post Conflict project, DCOF aims to improve the living conditions of children in war-affected regions. In addition

to helping children (and the communities in which they live) feel more secure, the project also hopes to improve their overall living environment and restore normalcy to the region.



Sudan

Demobilization and Disarmament Program

Implementing Partner	UNICEF
Funding Period	September 2001 – September 2002
Amount	\$500,000
Purpose	Demobilize child soldiers and create infrastructures to support their continued health and well-being.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Facilitated the demobilization of nearly 85 percent of the estimated 31,000 child soldiers in southern Sudan.■ Established community centers in five focus areas that represent the political, geographic, and tribal diversity of southern Sudan. The total population of the five areas is approximately one million people.



The Sudanese people have lived with civil war since before their country's independence in 1956. Religious and political differences fuel the fight between rebels in the South, who seek greater economic and political autonomy, and the central government in Khartoum. From 1972 to 1983, the country enjoyed relative peace as the South prevailed in securing considerable self-government. However, when these arrangements were changed by the Nimeiri Administration in 1983, the country once again fell into civil strife. Formed in 1983, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has been fighting for independence from Khartoum's Islamic government for the past 19 years. Another group, the Sudan People's Democratic Front (SPDF), formed in response to the collapse of the April 1997 Sudan Peace Agreement, is engaged in the ongoing struggle for independence as well.

By mid-1999 an estimated 19,000 children under 18 augmented the ranks of the SPLA. In the fall of 2000, the SPLA committed to supporting UNICEF demobilization efforts after close to a decade of faltering efforts.

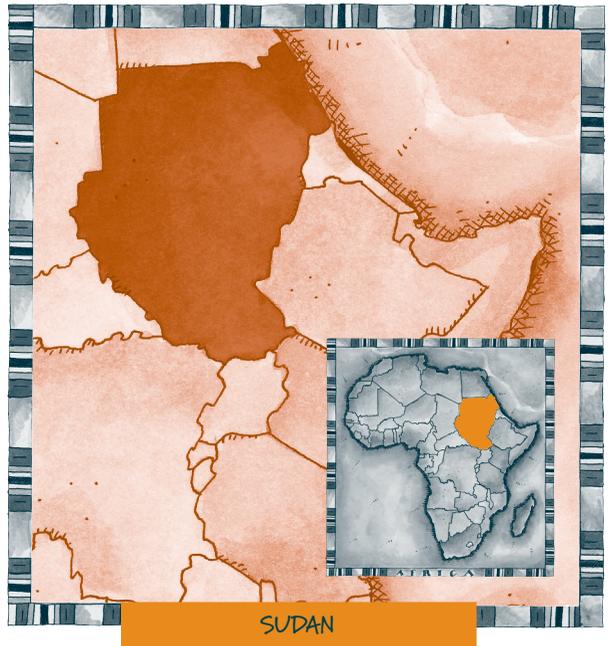


In 2001, UNICEF and other organizations brought about a massive demobilization effort that reunited more than 4,000 child soldiers with their families or guardians.



In late 2001 and early 2002, UNICEF turned over direct implementation of the demobilization efforts to task forces of NGOs, UNICEF, and the military movements such as the SPLA and SPDF. Both the SPLA and the SPDF operate Task Force Coordinators Offices, which are given focus areas in which to conduct demobilization activities. With assistance from USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, these groups carried out a large-scale demobilization of close to 12,000 child soldiers, bringing the total number of demobilized children to more than 15,000. With DCOF support, UNICEF has facilitated the demobilization of nearly 85 percent of the estimated number of child soldiers in southern Sudan.

Children must have safe havens and healthy alternatives to conflict in order to survive. Therefore, a component of the UNICEF demobilization and disarmament program includes the construction of community centers. These centers consist of a school, health unit, and water point in areas that receive a large number of child soldiers. The centers provide an integrated package of activities and services for youth, women, and other community groups.



Uganda

Community Resilience and Dialogue

Implementing Partner International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Period September 2002 – August 2007

Amount \$5,050,000

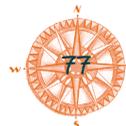
Purpose Assist war-affected children in northern and western Uganda by rebuilding traditional community and family structures and working to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS in four key regions.

- Objectives**
- Rebuild community structures and increase psychosocial support for at-risk children.
 - Enhance participatory dialogue to reduce conflict at community and national levels.
 - Increase the availability and use of comprehensive HIV/AIDS services.
 - Ensure project sustainability and growth.



Uganda, while considered one of the most stable countries in Africa, still suffers from rebel uprisings resulting in massive displacement in several parts of the country. The largest insurgency comes from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), whose attacks on the civilian population in Acholiland in the North have caused the destruction of physical and social infrastructures, long-term displacement, and, most significantly, the breakdown of human, cultural, and social relationships that have held society together for generations. Abductions, forced marriages, and forced guerrilla activity against citizens have weakened the institution of the family. Extended residence in internally displaced person (IDP) camps has broken down respect for community tradition. Socio-economic hardship and the erosion of traditional practices have undermined the authority of village elders.

Similar conditions exist in the Rwenzori region of western Uganda, where the Allied Democratic Forces have wreaked havoc with local populations. The West Nile region in the northwestern corner of the country has also suffered from insurgency and displacement, compounded by the influx of thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing the long-running civil war in their country. Finally, the northeastern region of Karamoja has suffered from pastoral conflicts stemming from competition for scarce land and water resources, cattle raiding, and the proliferation of small arms. Under conditions of conflict, displacement, and the break-



down of family and community structures, HIV/AIDS is a present and growing threat in all four geographical areas.

With the award of DCOF funds to support the Community Resilience and Dialogue (CRD) grant, USAID will assist abducted children, former child soldiers, child mothers, and internally displaced families in returning to normal community life as well as providing them with vocational training and HIV/AIDS awareness education.



The CRD grant represents an amalgam of different USAID funding sources to Uganda, including HIV/AIDS, Victims of Torture, and USAID/Uganda funds. Through IRC, the project is funding a consortium of NGOs working in Uganda's four key geographic regions. These regions were chosen not only because they are affected by conflict and HIV/AIDS but also because they suffer from historic exclusion by the central government. IRC partners in the CRD project include Save the Children/Denmark, Save the Children/UK,

CARE International, Catholic Relief Services, and Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale.



Vietnam

Community Support for Children with Disabilities

Implementing Partner

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Funding Period

August 1998 – December 2004

Amount

\$1,555,134

Purpose

Provide a foundation for meeting the education needs of children with disabilities.

Accomplishments

- Collaborated with the National Institute for Educational Science (NIES) on an inclusive education curriculum for pre- and primary school teachers that has been introduced into the curriculum at the National Teacher Training College in Hanoi by the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET).
- Provided teacher training for 1,500 classroom teachers, leading to improved quality of teaching and attitudes toward children with disabilities.
- Increased family-school planning and support to include children with disabilities, leading to inclusive, age-appropriate placement for 2,845 children previously excluded from education.
- The CRS-NIES project was selected by the Ministry of Education and Training as the model to be used in its nationwide strategy to expand inclusive education.



Vietnam

Inclusive Education for Hearing-Impaired and Deaf Children

Implementing Partner	Pearl S. Buck Foundation (PSBF)
Funding Period	August 1998 – August 2003
Amount	\$1,448,656
Purpose	Provide a foundation for meeting the education needs of deaf and hearing-impaired children.

- Accomplishments
- Conducted a comprehensive screening for 814,686 preschool and primary school students. Identified 15,381 children with hearing disabilities through sub-projects.
 - Provided the means for 1,448 children with hearing disabilities to study in inclusive classrooms in 227 schools.
 - Developed a training manual for inclusive education of deaf and hearing-impaired students and trained 1,535 teachers in its use.
 - Organized the First National Inclusive Teachers Conference with 297 participants.
 - Conducted examinations and screenings in ear and hearing disorders for 13,758 children.



Vietnam

The Adaptive Vocational Training Program for Adolescents with Disabilities

Implementing Partner	World Concern Development Organization (WCDO)
Funding Period	September 1998 – December 2004
Amount	\$2,175,564
Purpose	Improve job prospects for adolescents with disabilities.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Assessed the needs of, selected, and placed 1,000 adolescents with disabilities in vocational training both in formal centers (technical schools) and small businesses (apprenticeships).■ Successfully placed more than 80 percent of formally and informally trained AWDs in ongoing employment (mostly small businesses), which enabled them to earn suitable incomes and increase their families' incomes.■ Developed and trained a network of volunteers who support and monitor adolescents with disabilities in vocational training and employment as well as care for the welfare of families of adolescents with disabilities, help maintain peer support groups for these adolescents, and train them in basic life skills.



Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City Assistance to Children with Disabilities

Implementing Partner World Vision International (WVI)

Funding Period October 1998 – March 2003

Amount \$712,514

Purpose Decrease the stigmatization of and discrimination against disabled children.

- Accomplishments
- Increased and changed the awareness of community members regarding disability and how to assist children with disabilities.
 - Developed local project working groups (including a community-based rehabilitation supervisor) dedicated to identifying, assessing, and supporting children with disabilities. This led different government sectors to cooperate and coordinate for the same purpose.
 - Established children's clubs as a place where children with disabilities can meet on a daily basis and receive appropriate physical, mental, and social stimulation.
 - Established a technical resource center at a local health center for parents to take their children for physical therapy or to receive information regarding disability and rehabilitation.



Vietnam

Family and Community Support for Children with Hearing Problems

Implementing Partner Hesperian Foundation

Funding Period September 2002 – September 2004

Amount \$334,546

Purpose Support the development of a series of books on caring for children with disabilities in the developing world.

- Objectives
- Field-test, distribute, and collect feedback on a series of books on early intervention for children with disabilities.
 - Support the development of the second book in the series, *Helping Children Who Are Deaf: Family and Community Support for Children with Hearing Problems*.



Vietnam

Integrated Health and Education Program for Children with Disabilities (IHEP)

Implementing Partners	Save the Children/US, Save the Children/Sweden
Funding Period	September 2002 – March 2006
Amount	\$500,000
Purpose	Increase access to and use of high-quality preventive and rehabilitative services by disabled children in underserved areas.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Increase the availability of and access to maternal and child health services, rehabilitative health services, and inclusive education programs.■ Strengthen the quality of maternal child health services in the prevention and early detection of disabilities and increase referrals to rehabilitative services.■ Enhance the capacity of education authorities and teachers to include children with disabilities in mainstream schools, adapt education methods to serve all children, and promote inclusive attitudes toward children with disabilities.



UNICEF estimates that more than one million Vietnamese children live with some form of disability; a large number are the legacy of years of war and rural poverty. The challenges facing any child with a disability are great. They are even greater in a country like Vietnam, where economic reforms and industrialization are fueling migration to urban areas and placing greater stress on families.

Vietnam's Committee for the Protection and Care of Children, a government agency, coordinates local and international efforts to help children and families in especially difficult circumstances. Despite these efforts, the vast majority of children with disabilities lack the opportunity to participate in education and vocational programs or access rehabilitative care.

Although Vietnam enjoys a literacy rate of nearly 94 percent, UNICEF estimates that more than one third of children with disabilities never attend a single class. A DCOF-supported initiative through Catholic Relief Services (CRS) addresses the educational needs of children with disabilities. In partnership with the National Institute for Educational Sciences at the Ministry of Education and Training, CRS constructs and implements models for inclusive education and community support for children with disabilities.

DCOF is reaching deaf and hearing-impaired children through a comprehensive program being implemented



by the Pearl S. Buck Foundation. The foundation addresses the inequities children with disabilities face in the educational system in a three-pronged approach by providing direct service intervention to children, conducting standardized training for kindergarten and elementary school teachers, and delivering deaf education and related services through curriculum development for educators and communities.

Employment offers people with disabilities a sense of achievement as well as independence and the ability to participate both socially and economically. Job prospects for disabled adolescents in Vietnam are very poor, however. Despite a law that calls for the state to assist children with disabilities in obtaining vocational training, only two percent of disabled youth between the ages of 11 and 17 ever receive any type of job instruction. World Concern Development Organization (WCDO) is trying to change this. WCDO supports innovative educational and vocational training programs for displaced Vietnamese adolescents and ethnic minority children, particularly Montagnards. DCOF has funded WCDO's program for children with disabilities for the past four years. The program is designed to provide participants with the skills and abilities to meet their social, vocational, and economic needs.

USAID is also funding a World Vision program through DCOF. The program is designed to change society's perception of young people with disabilities and increase the opportunities available to them. The



Assistance to Children with Disabilities project identifies and helps children who need mobility assistance in Ho Chi Minh City and its environs. World Vision produces training materials, develops support structures, and recruits and trains community-based rehabilitation volunteers. World Vision also carries out rehabilitative services through family, primary caregiver, and home-based therapy for needy children.

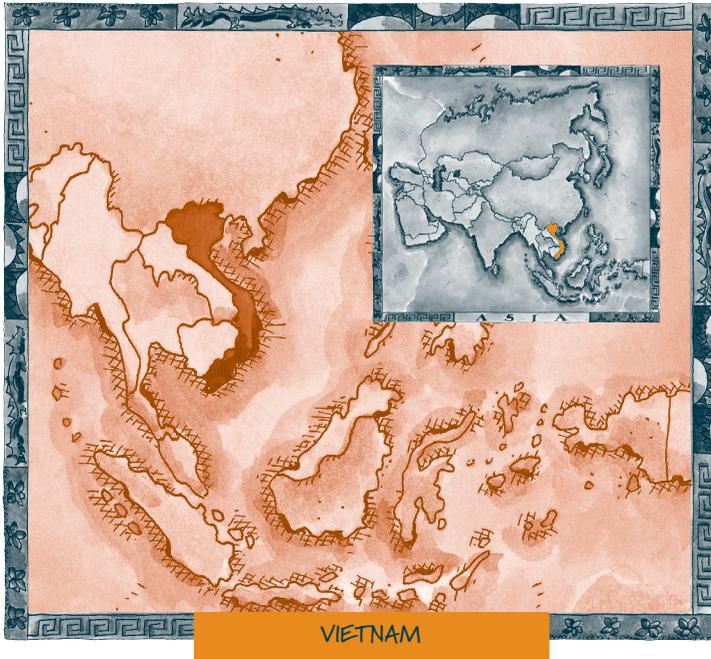
In 2002, DCOF began funding two additional implementing partners in Vietnam: the Hesperian Foundation and Save the Children/US. The Hesperian Foundation is developing and producing a series of books aimed at strengthening the abilities of families and other caregivers to provide appropriate and essential care to children with disabilities. DCOF funding will support development of a book that offers flexible approaches that enable parents to use the most appropriate method to teach deaf and hard-of-hearing children to communicate, thereby improving the quality of their lives and helping them become productive members of the community.



Vietnam demonstrates a genuine commitment to child survival, protection, and development. It was one of the first countries in the world to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Save the Children/US will implement its Integrated Health and Education Program for Children with Disabilities in three rural central Vietnamese provinces. Save the Children's strategy is to address disability through a comprehensive, community-based approach that covers everything from prevention to rehabilitative care. DCOF funding for this program is coupled with funding from USAID's Other Vulnerable Children program to provide the greatest benefits.



Funding Guidelines

The following information is provided for those interested in applying for funding from the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF). It is intended to provide general guidance, not definitive criteria.



Grantees

Country-based projects are, for the most part, implemented through grants and cooperative agreements to domestic, foreign, and international non-governmental organizations that are registered with USAID's Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation. Grantee organizations work in partnership with host governments, local NGOs capable of participating in the implementation of the project, and other international agencies working with vulnerable children.

Additional information on funding guidelines can be obtained by contacting the USAID mission in the appropriate country or the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund manager, Mr. Lloyd Feinberg, at the address on the inside back cover of this publication.



Funding

Funds from DCOF are usually transferred to USAID's overseas missions where grants and cooperative agreements are negotiated and managed. When circumstances preclude this type of arrangement (e.g., in countries with no USAID mission, multiple-country projects, etc.), programs are managed directly from USAID/Washington.

Proposals

Proposals for programs can be solicited or unsolicited. Solicited tenders include responses to Annual Program Statements (APS), Requests for Applications (RFA), and Requests for Proposals (RFP). Information on in-country solicitations can be obtained through the local USAID mission. Worldwide procurement announcements, solicitations, and resources can be obtained at USAID's World Wide Web site at http://www.info.usaid.gov/procurement_bus_opp/procurement. Unsolicited concept papers can be submitted to USAID missions or to the DCOF manager at any time.

Selection Criteria

DCOF primarily supports programs and methodological approaches that strengthen the capacity of families and communities to provide the necessary care, protection, and support for displaced children and orphans.



Program activities eligible for funding should be specifically designed to address the needs of the following groups of children:

- Children affected by armed conflict
- Street children
- Children with disabilities
- Children otherwise separated from appropriate care-giving situations.

Within these categories, DCOF supports programs that adhere to the principles of being child and impact focused, are community-based with local ownership and implementation, include children as active participants, are holistic and integrative as well as culturally grounded, and demonstrate collaborative and strategic approaches.



Project Partners

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e-mail: mail@aidsalliance.org



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Save the Children Federation/US

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DCOF Funding 1988 - 2003 (in thousands of dollars)

	1988-97	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Albania	100							100
Afghanistan						1,000		1,000
Angola	5,628	1,220	1,722	800	3,643	1,500	1,000	15,513
Bolivia	620							620
Brazil	5,275	500	200	900	898	900	500	9,173
Burkina Faso						500		500
Colombia	140							140
Congo (ROC)					302	350	622	1,274
Congo (DROC)		1,130		80	1,005	2,410		4,625
El Salvador	1,935	100	200					2,235
Eritrea	600							600
Ethiopia	2,673	500		500	896		500	5,069
Former Yugoslavia	2,550	1,000				131		3,681
Guatemala	3,800							3,800
Indonesia	2,280			1,000		668	500	4,448
Kenya				1,230	100			1,330
Lebanon	1,000							1,000
Liberia	2,807	1,000	1,000	750	500		527	6,584
Madagascar	755							755
Malawi	1,588		751	500				2,839
Mozambique	7,177							7,177
Nepal	800							800
Nicaragua	1,400							1,400
Peru	820				150	200	200	1,370
Philippines	300							300
Rwanda	3,322	1,000	2,000			1,000	318	7,640
Sierra Leone		1,500		500	1,750	840	350	4,940
South Africa				750				750
Sri Lanka	1,050	300	300	700	300	300	300	3,250
Sudan	159				500			659
Swaziland	61							61
Thailand	600							600
Uganda	4,675	500	500		884	1,187	855	8,601
Vietnam	8,970	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,494	506	1,300	17,770
Zambia	1,000	150	700	1,000	20			2,870
Peace Corps	700		201					901
Technical Assist.	1,987	600	607	790	329	508	350	5,171
Tech. Init. (new)							4,608	4,608
TOTAL	\$64,772	\$11,000	\$9,681	\$11,000	\$13,771	\$12,000	\$11,930	\$134,154



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