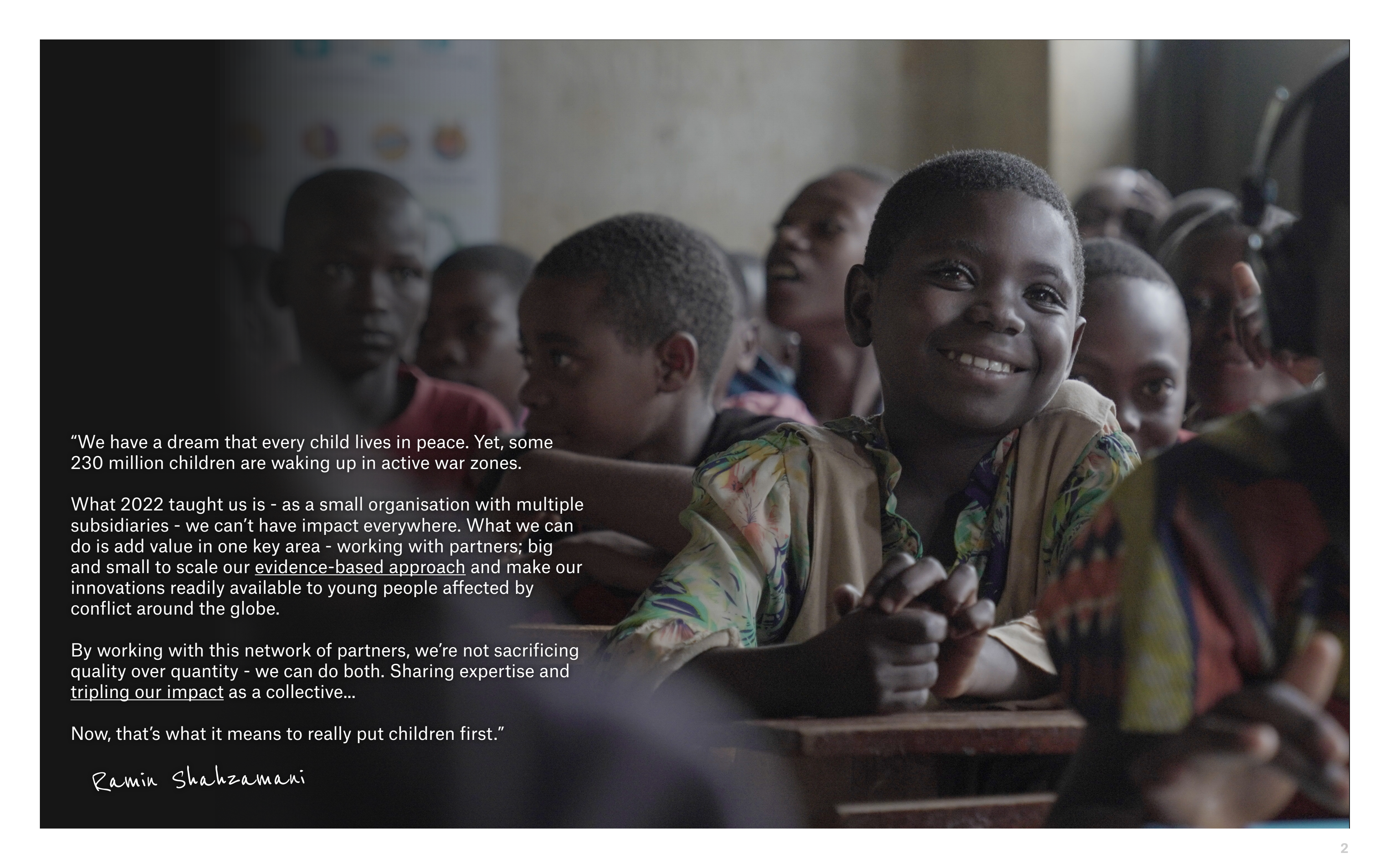




EVIDENCE-BASED, CHILD FIRST

Our 2022 Annual Report



"We have a dream that every child lives in peace. Yet, some 230 million children are waking up in active war zones.

What 2022 taught us is - as a small organisation with multiple subsidiaries - we can't have impact everywhere. What we can do is add value in one key area - working with partners; big and small to scale our evidence-based approach and make our innovations readily available to young people affected by conflict around the globe.

By working with this network of partners, we're not sacrificing quality over quantity - we can do both. Sharing expertise and tripling our impact as a collective...

Now, that's what it means to really put children first."

Ramin Shahzamani



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**WE BELIEVE THAT
NO CHILD SHOULD
BE PART OF WAR.
EVER.**

WE MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO TAKE AWAY ALL THE PAIN THAT COMES WITH WAR. BUT WE CAN **CREATE SPACE WHERE CHILDREN HEAL**. THROUGH OUR CREATIVE AND ENGAGING APPROACH, WE WORK EXCLUSIVELY TO ENHANCE THE **INNATE RESILIENCE OF CHILDREN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES**.

OUR STRATEGY

2025

WHY

The number of children affected by armed conflict is at **record high** - and the available funds to meet their needs are nowhere near enough.

We are dreamers but we're also realists - we have a big hill to climb.

WHAT

Our dream...

By 2025, **five million children and youth** affected by armed conflict will take part in our programmes and evidence-based interventions resulting in their improved resilience and psychosocial wellbeing.

HOW

Our Daily Work

We believe in the power of listening, empathy and consolation.

We are out there in the field doing what we've always done - delivering programmes based on best practice, child-like curiosity and, most importantly, the needs of young people.

Our Innovations

But we don't believe in anything blindly.

We're also charting new territory, leveraging our team of in-house researchers and global partners to scale up our evidence-based approach.

Our Champions

We know that, even if we can get the child out of the war, it takes daily acts of heroism to get the war out of the child.

When we're not busy working to make a difference in children's lives, we're building an **international alliance** where all feel welcome, seen and heard - and can do their best work.





**Adil (8) IS EMBRACING
HIS PLAYFUL SIDE**

Adil was two years old when he fled the war in Syria. He hardly remembers anything about it since he has been living in Lebanon for so long. Here he participates in our psychosocial support activities - a moment to play and be a child again.

Every morning Adil is woken up by his mother gently shaking him. "I jump out of bed, wash my face and help my mum make breakfast", he says. Adil lives with his parents, two sisters but also his friend Mohammed and family. Adil: "Our house is actually too small for us, but I don't mind because I feel safe at home."

Outside is a different story. "In general, life in Beirut is not safe for us", says Adil's mother. "I can't go out alone and my children can't be home alone. Sometimes Adil says he wants to play outside, just like other children. I say no because it is too dangerous."

On weekdays, Adil goes to the War Child Safe Space near his home. "My favourite games are 'rock, papers, scissors' and 'Simon Says", he grins. "You have to pay attention and only do the action if the teacher says 'Simon says', otherwise you're out." With space to breathe and focus, Adil wins the games a lot. "Role play helps the children to talk about their feelings such as sadness, fear and anger" says his teacher. "Over time, they begin to open up. They are eager to discover new things.

"I teach Adil how to regulate his emotions as well as how to ask for help. He is coming on in leaps and bounds."

Adil's mother adds: "It is very nice that he can use up his energy at the space because that is not always possible at home."



487,165

children and adults
directly supported

€50.9^M
raised

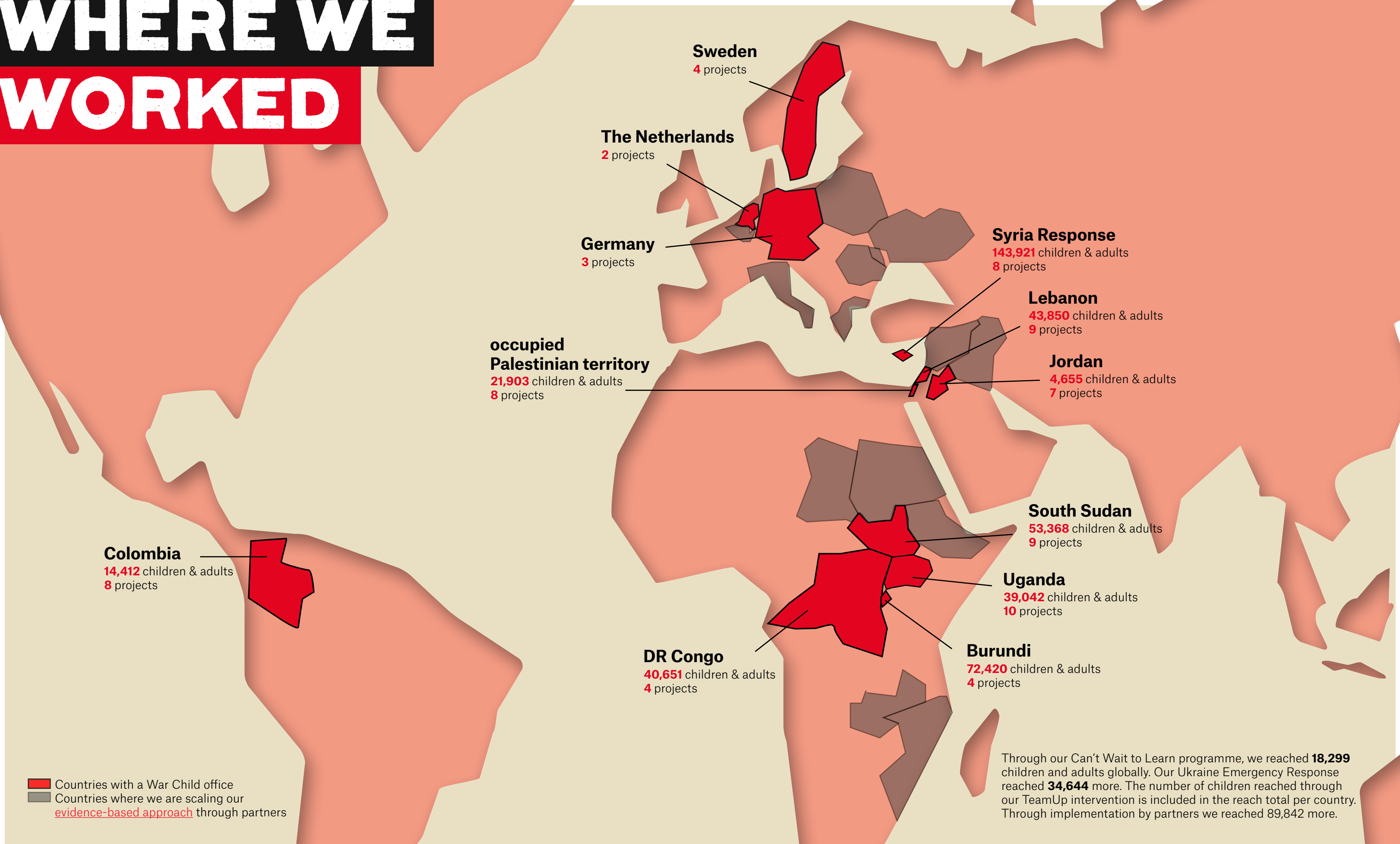
76

projects
implemented

KEY

HIGHLIGHTS

WHERE WE WORKED



■ Countries with a War Child office
■ Countries where we are scaling our [evidence-based approach](#) through partners

Through our Can't Wait to Learn programme, we reached **18,299** children and adults globally. Our Ukraine Emergency Response reached **34,644** more. The number of children reached through our TeamUp intervention is included in the reach total per country. Through implementation by partners we reached 89,842 more.

Burundi Widespread displacement and economic decline saw us continue to focus our efforts on inclusive education in Burundi. Projects were active in 120 schools across the country by the close of the year. Alongside our thriving network of child friendly spaces, talk of our [evidence-based approach](#) also took hold - with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF identified as key partners.

Colombia With extra emphasis on indigenous populations and Venezuelan migrants, our Colombia programme firmly prioritized our [engagement with youth](#) in 2022. In line with the organisation's strategy, we also invested heavily in our evidence-based interventions with [Seeds](#) rolled out in three different contexts - highlighting its adaptability.

DR Congo Armed conflict continued to escalate in Eastern DR Congo in 2022 - making the acceptance of War Child by local communities absolutely vital. Our good relations with these communities was bolstered significantly throughout the year with our emergency response in Fizi territory and the expansion of TeamUp, WeACT and others attracting the attention of large-scale humanitarian actors.

Germany As one of our key fundraising hubs, the war in Ukraine gave our Germany office increased visibility over the course of the year. As one of the biggest refugee host countries in Europe, a pilot of our TeamUp intervention in Hamburg and Berlin was also a major highlight. This was made possible thanks to vital funding from DKJS, the Deutsche Postcode Lotterie, Laureus and Common Goal.

Jordan Child labour and early marriage pose persistent threats to conflict-affected children across Jordan - threats which only grew greater in 2022. National dissemination events translated the

urgency of our work to important stakeholders and potential partners including the Ministry of Social Development. Particular attention was given to our evidence-based interventions including Can't Wait to Learn and Nurturing Families.

Lebanon The humanitarian crisis in Lebanon is ranked as one of the top ten most severe globally. A combination of established projects and forward-thinking innovations is allowing War Child to address this crisis. In 2022, SHIELD, an ECHO-funded project entered its fifth term with a new local partner on board. We also developed workshops and guidance on [Be There](#) to assure quality as we scale up the intervention across the Middle East.

occupied Palestinian territory Schools are one of the few safe spaces left in the occupied Palestinian territory. Together with key institutional partners, we capitalised on this in 2022. We provided expert training to teachers, counselors and other professionals enabling them to utilise our psychosocial support interventions within their ongoing programmes. Thanks to this training more than [400 children](#) were correctly identified as in need of mental health care in 100 schools across the West Bank.

South Sudan Sporadic attacks and inter-communal violence placed hundreds of children at heightened risk across South Sudan during the year. Despite this volatile environment, we worked hard to pilot the MHPSS Minimum Service Package using a suite of War Child interventions. [TeamUp](#) was one such intervention tested for effectiveness. Together with Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages and Help a Child we will now bring this flagship innovation to scale.

Sweden Much like War Child Germany, our emergency fundraising campaign in response to the war in Ukraine led to a surge in visibility and brand awareness across Sweden. Beyond these efforts, our projects for refugee youth living in the country also produced strong results - notably an [initiative](#) to get young people into work through mentorship with industry professionals.

Syria Response The Syrian crisis is a [protection crisis](#) of epic proportions. The number of children in need - more than 6.5 million - has increased by 7% in the past year alone. Throughout 2022, we worked exclusively with partners out of our office in Cyprus to deliver an integrated programme. We also put new models and interventions to the test including Social and Emotional Learning, TeamUp and Be There.

The Netherlands Always with an eye on the external environment, 2022 also kept us busy behind closed doors. A necessary step in the [change process](#), War Child Netherlands became a new entity - ready to rock and roll! And rock and roll we did with all our fundraising campaigns outperforming targets as well as our emergency response to the Ukraine war seeing TeamUp and Can't Wait to Learn scaled across the country.

Uganda While our strategic goal is to reach more children by growing our evidence-based approach, no one country has the same experience. In Uganda, multiple crises including Ebola and an influx of refugees from DR Congo, hampered our efforts in this area. Instead, we delivered a far-reaching emergency response to the escalating refugee crisis with everything from risk communication to psychological first aid and stigma reduction solidifying our presence as an expert actor.

OUR PROGRAMME AREAS

How do we collect data on children?
 From the **Warwick-Edinburgh Wellbeing Scale** to the **Quality Checklist for Child Friendly Spaces**, we use a set of tried-and-tested tools to assess our positive impact on children and youth.



80% of children and youth who took part in our TeamUp method in the occupied Palestinian territory showed improved psychosocial wellbeing

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

A child cannot learn, protect themselves from external threats or even do the basics like eat and sleep if their mental health is suffering. Our primary objective is to improve the psychosocial wellbeing of young people living with the effects of armed conflict.



90% of children across five projects in our Syria Response showed improved academic performance

EDUCATION

We provide emergency education to children so that they can continue learning and growing - even in a war zone. Our programmes come in all shapes and sizes from early learning initiatives to leading EdTech innovations.



89% of children across our programmes in Burundi reported an improved perception of safety

CHILD PROTECTION

We partner with communities and official bodies to safeguard the fundamental rights of children and strengthen local protection systems. We also help survivors of abuse seek justice and rebuild their lives.



70% of youth taking part in our program in Colombia reported an improved ability to connect with peers and foresee a future free from violence

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

A new area for War Child, we also support the youth age group to amplify their innate power. By prioritising co-creation and engagement with civil society, we increase their ability to bring about lasting change in their communities.



**Mado (8) IS DARING
TO DREAM AGAIN**

When rebels invaded the city of Goma, taking her father hostage, Mado's world turned upside down. In our safe space across the border, she is using play and education to overcome her nightmares and slowly but surely dream again.

It's the middle of the night when Mado is awoken to the sound of gunshots. Her mother tells her that rebels are invading the city. Less than 24 hours later, her father is taken hostage. "We haven't seen dad since", she says.

In the days that followed, Mado lay awake at night listening to the sound of incendiary bombs. Her bedtime ritual - a cheerful lullaby - no longer sends her to sleep. Mado and her mother have no choice: they flee to a refugee camp in Uganda.

"When we first arrived here, Mado was exhausted, sad and anxious", her mother recalls. "Her thoughts of her father and home were very heavy." As the rainy season neared its end, Mado began participating in our TeamUp and Can't Wait to Learn programmes.

Mado: "I am learning to read and write with my new friends - and maths, which I enjoy the most. After the tablet lessons, I go to TeamUp. I love playing the games Anamali Kuku and Wadamu. Then, I forget the war for a while and I am happy."

These days, Mado likes to watch a video before bed instead. Her mother sings the lyrics to her. With this newfound ritual, her nightmares are beginning to fade - she's even beginning to dream about the future again. "Sometimes, I dream that I work in a hospital, just like my aunt who is a doctor. I don't know what I want to be when I grow up but I do know that I want to be like her."

SPOTLIGHT:

UKRAINE RESPONSE

No-one could have predicted the events of 24 February. Yet, thanks to years of experience working in emergency settings, War Child was able to move quickly and place our support where it was needed most.

One of the first things we identified was [a lack of specialised humanitarian capacity](#) on the ground. As thousands of families fled across borders or to the west of the country, local civil society organisations rallied together to support people, but they had little to no experience in providing emergency wartime assistance.

Using our Fast Aid framework, we mobilised a rapid response team. The team set out with one clear mission - to train local organisations in child protection and psychological first aid. Initially, we focused on Moldova - the poorest country in Europe. Next, we made links with organisations in Romania, Poland and other major host countries. Our team of in-house experts, including [Marianna Närhi](#), worked around the clock to deliver in-person as well as online training to 817 frontline workers.

In the weeks that followed, working through partners and sharing our expertise continued to be the dominant themes. Our evidence-informed [TeamUp](#) intervention was rapidly scaled up across Europe in just six weeks. A landmark partnership with the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and NGO Osvitoria saw us expand our [Can't Wait to Learn](#) activities into Ukraine.

Overall, **58,588** children and adults were reached with our response including via the scaling of our interventions through partners.



HOW WE WORKED

We also work with respect to the planet. Learn more [here](#).



TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF QUALITY

Gender and its role in children's experience of conflict

Our internal [monitoring and evaluation](#) mechanisms serve to ensure we provide responses that are relevant to the hopes and dreams of children worldwide. With this in mind, 2022 saw our first gender-responsive programmes take shape. Key highlights include the launch of our Women & Girls Lead project in the occupied Palestinian territory and a successful application to the UN Peacebuilding Fund for an initiative with indigenous women's collectives in Colombia.



WITH INTEGRITY

Robust policies and continuous improvement

Integrity and justice are central to all War Child activities - and, as an organisation working directly with children, we are continuously improving our safeguarding policies and procedures. 2022 reflected this commitment with additions made to our [Integrity Framework](#) thanks to input from colleagues in the field. Over the course of the year, 66 issues - relating to everything from the way we engage with children to internal power dynamics - were reported through our Speak Up! channel and handled with utmost sensitivity.



WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CULTURE

What does it mean to be a truly global organisation?

Creating a culture where everyone feels seen, heard and respected is a highly sensitive and multi-layered process - particularly for a global NGO. Working closely with our external Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging team, the year saw us accelerate our efforts in this area. A series of activities including an organisation-wide "Language Week" and the development of an AIDA leadership model continued to ready our workforce for life as part of the [shared entity](#).

OUR EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH

There's a tradition in the humanitarian sector - a crisis happens, and we move in as quickly as possible to provide aid and support people. We continue to support people with projects and programmes and while everything indicates that we're making a positive difference - drawing upon feedback from children and their communities - we have little hard evidence to prove this impact. This gap in knowledge is what the [War Child Care System](#) was founded upon.

The Care System is centred around an integrated suite of interventions that are continuously trialed and tested by our team of in-house researchers. Each and every one of these interventions has undergone some form of scientific research to assess its positive impact on children. If findings are inconclusive or inadequate in any way, we can use this evidence to adapt and improve the intervention. Pretty cool, right?

In 2022, integrating this approach within our regular programming went front and centre.

What are the five phases of the research process?

- Phase 1: **Formative research**
- Phase 2: **Method development**
- Phase 3: **Feasibility evaluation**
- Phase 4: **Effectiveness evaluation**
- Phase 5: **Quality at scale**

Interested to learn more? Read our [guidebook](#).



"We sat on the floor of the bomb shelter playing the Can't Wait to Learn games on tablets and mobile devices. 'I'm learning not waiting' is the motto - and so they did. It offered the children an escape when they needed it most."

"Before I participated in the TeamUp sessions, I was very nervous and didn't like to play with other children. I also didn't like sharing. Now, I feel like a different person: I learned to work as a team and put my trust in others."

"I tell my kids stories from when I was a child. They laugh a lot at how we used to deal with each other. No one used to ask me questions because they were scared of me. Now, this dynamic has changed and they ask me anything."



Be There is our dedicated caregiver support intervention. It is based on evidence that shows how a heavy stress burden can diminish parents and caregivers' ability to provide a supportive home environment. In 2022, the [findings of a process evaluation](#) with Syrian refugees in Lebanon highlighted a direct pathway from the mindfulness and anger management practices taught in Be There to improved caregiver wellbeing and ultimately positive parenting.

Can't Wait to Learn is one of two flagship War Child interventions. It sees children learn by playing educational games on tablet and mobile devices. In 2022, its use as part of our [Ukraine Response](#) was a major highlight. The award-winning EdTech innovation also made waves in Chad where a value for money analysis - funded by the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange - resulted in the Minister of Education officially endorsing the programme.

CORE also supports the important adults in children's lives - namely teachers. While still in its infant phases, the year saw CORE - a wellbeing workshop and intensive teacher coaching - produce some promising results. A feasibility study in Uganda sought to evaluate the relevance of the intervention in both formal and non-formal school settings.

EASE recognizes the importance of adolescence in children's healthy development. The group psychological intervention ensures that children in refugee camps and war zones don't have to embark on this journey alone. The year saw the effectiveness of EASE put to the test in Lebanon, Jordan and Pakistan.

Nurturing Families is a joint-session intervention that uses practical tools to help family members support one another during times of conflict. The later the phase of the intervention, the more impact it can have. That's why we were delighted to see the development phase of Nurturing Families come to a close with research findings from Jordan and Lebanon shaping our ability to delivered tailored support to the whole family unit.

Seeds works closely with conflict-affected communities to build a protective circle around children. Communities lead on actions to combat local child protection challenges. A feasibility study conducted in 2022 among urban communities in

Usme, Colombia assessed the practicality of the intervention paving the way for a large-scale evaluation in 2023.

STRETCH - our stigma reduction intervention for children and youth affected by armed conflict - reached the end of the development phase in 2022. After a rigorous period, including multiple systematic reviews, formative qualitative research and stakeholder consultations, STRETCH is now ready for feasibility testing. The [systematic literature review](#) published in 2022 helps to identify how to measure change.

TeamUp is inspired by a growing body of evidence that suggests play and movement can help children process their experiences of war and conflict. The intervention continued to spread its wings and fly, active in 25 countries by the close of the year. Our facilitator training and mentorship programs built new ties with partners across the Africa region - something we plan to replicate as part of our scaling strategy.

WeACT seeks to improve the quality of the care that non-mental health specialists such as teachers and humanitarian workers provide. While the need for this kind of intervention is irrefutable, its success relies on its ability to be picked up a global network of partners. The launch of the [EQUIP platform](#) by WHO and UNICEF in the first quarter of the year saw WeACT get the recognition it deserves.

SPOTLIGHT:

REACHNOW

The mental health treatment gap for children living in low-income countries is around 85%. This figure is even higher for children living in conflict zones. War Child is scaling up a simple innovation to prevent young people from falling through the cracks...

[ReachNow](#) centers around a tool to detect mental health problems among children and adolescents in community settings. Trained facilitators use the tool - a series of illustrations on a [piece of paper](#) - to identify children in need of support and guide them to available services.

“Simplicity was key from the outset”, says Myrthe van den Broek, lead researcher behind the intervention. “It needed to be affordable and easy to use plus

something we could replicate across multiple contexts and settings.” The tool is part of a suite of interventions which have been rigorously [designed and tested](#) by War Child. ReachNow is one of the first to be scaled up based on a growing body of evidence.

2022 was a big year for the intervention, with the tool picked up in Greece, Italy and more, and steps made to include it as part of our [Ukraine Response](#). As a whole, the use of the ReachNow tool

increased the utilization of mental health services by 17-fold.

An exciting partnership with NGO, TPO Uganda also signaled a new phase for ReachNow. “What we’ve learned - increasing access to mental health services does not necessarily lead to more uptake”, explains Myrthe. “Barriers such as stigma are inhibiting help-seeking. This is what our work with TPO sets out to address.”





**Roda (12) IS A SYMBOL
OF RESILIENCE**

Roda (12) narrowly survived the first days of the war in Ukraine. We meet her a few months later at a shelter in the west of the country. Cheeky, fearless, a natural leader - Roda is anything but a victim.

As soon as we enter the dusty reception of a former restaurant turned makeshift shelter, we feel the curious stares of Roda and her posse. All smiles and laughter, it's hard to comprehend what they have been through in the past few months.

"I remember the day the war came", Roda says calmly. "Me and my friend were leaving the house to go to boxing training when we heard a loud noise. It was kind of like a helicopter but when we turned around we saw a rocket. Then, there was a big explosion in the nearby village. It was so strong that everything was trembling."

Shortly after, Roda and her family fled west by train, among some 4000 people who arrived in those first days. At the shelter, Roda was invited to attend weekly psychology sessions. "I like the psychologist", she says. "One time, when she visited we made a toy - a little stick person." Mostly, she sleeps soundly but occasionally she has a bad dream about the rocket she saw flying. Roda: "I turn on the light, cuddle my clay toy and then I feel safe."

Children also take part in art therapy as well as educational lessons. "The teacher does this activity where she asks us to sit on a chair", says Roda. "When we sit on the chair we have to close our eyes and make a wish. I have a lot of fun here; I have many adventures every day. But I miss my puppy; I miss the sea. Every time, I make a wish to go back home."

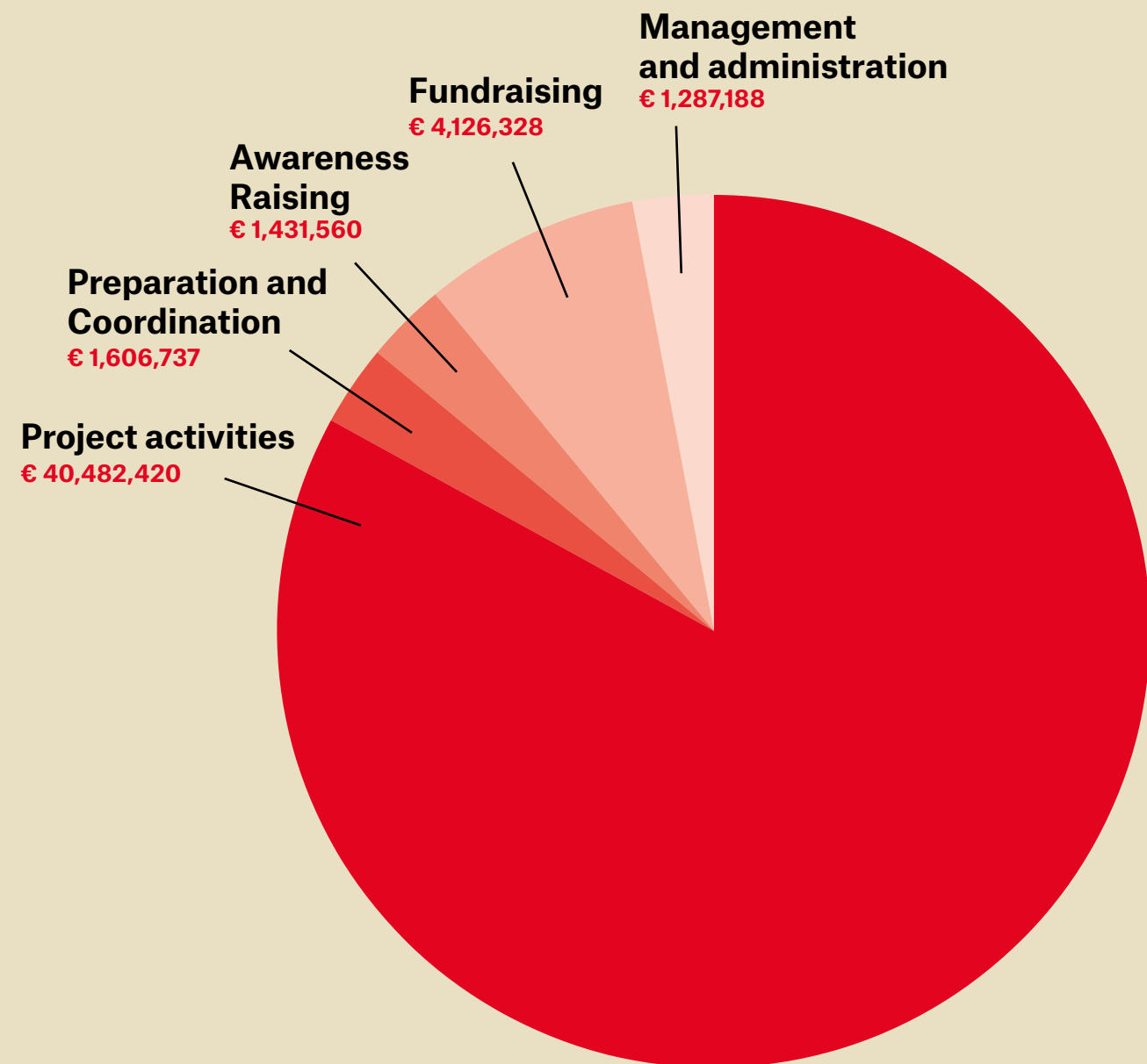
HOW WE SPENT OUR FUNDS

IN 2022, WE RAISED

€50.9M

IN 2022, WE SPENT

€48.9M



Our operating expenses for 2022 were €48.9 million - €40.5 million of which was spent directly in support of children affected by conflict. In percentage terms we spent 89% of our expenses on our objective - broadly in line with our 2021 expenditure.

More projects were implemented in 2022 thanks to the hard work of our teams around the world - with the largest project expenditure seen in our [Ukraine emergency response](#). For the roll-out of our Can't Wait to Learn education app, a wide range of partners dug deep into their pockets to support and sustain this innovative project.

Our additional fundraising investment in 2021 started paying off in 2022, contributing to the net positive result of €1.9 million. This positive result, in addition to having received more grants in advance, resulted in a healthy cash balance of €15.4 million at year-end. Looking at reserve and cash balances - i.e. the money we keep on hand to meet short-term and emergency funding needs - as well as secured funding for 2023 and beyond, our continuity as an organisation is not at risk.

For more details on our expenditure, read our [Annual Accounts](#).

"I remind children that they do have power, but they can use it to have a positive influence."

- John Garang Nhail

LOCAL HEROES



Children who grow up in the midst of armed conflict have been exposed to the type of violence that most of us struggle to comprehend. The road to recovery is a complex and deeply personal process - there is no one size fits all. That's why we prioritise the hiring of local staff - like John Garang from South Sudan...

"I was 14 years old when I was recruited by the army in South Sudan. Over the course of three years, I was trained as a soldier before becoming a trainer of other young militants. What people don't understand is - when you've seen friends and family murdered in front of you, when you've lived life, hopeless and, on the run - the first time you're handed a gun, that feeling is exhilarating. No-one can touch you and you have the capacity to revenge. Having been that child and lived to tell the story, I can tell when a child is battling the same demons. If they've been trained to fight, I can see it in their eyes; the way they move. As a psychosocial support officer for War Child, I try to teach youth that there is a way out - no matter how lonely it feels. I also remind them that they do have power, but they can use it to have a positive influence."

Throughout our communications in 2022, we prioritised the lived stories of children and staff in the countries where we work. Learn more [here](#).

*We employed **517** full-time staff members across 2022 as a whole - made up of **106** in our Amsterdam office and **411** inside our countries of operation. Inside our countries of operation, we recruited **392** national members of staff.*

ONE STEP CLOSER

TOGETHER

War Child reaches many thousands of children and youth every year. Yet, there are 230 million children living directly with the effects of war and conflict. We simply cannot reach all these children alone - which is why we are embarking on an ambitious change process.

We began life as a handful of volunteers working in a borrowed loft. Over time, we became a collection of organisations acting independently to support children affected by war. Now, we will become a unified whole; a **global network** - with one shared roadmap and organisational structure.

With innovation and collaboration at the heart of the network, so too is a conscious move away from traditional hierarchical models of governance. From our programme office in Iraq to our fundraising hub in the Netherlands, decision-making power will be shared across the network - always with the children top of mind.

And that's the essence of it really. It's the children we're doing this all for. One step closer together means one step closer towards [our goal](#)...

Because no child should be part of war. Ever.

In 2022, the change process went full speed ahead. Everyone from our IT experts to our child safeguarding specialists sat around the table to map out what this network will look like in practice. Our Supervisory Board brought their respective expertise to this process. Learn more [here](#).



OUR STEADFAST SUPPORTERS



Across 2022 as a whole, we raised a total of **€50.9 million** towards our cause. Round of applause and TeamUp “fireworks” to our loyal network of friends and supporters.

INDIVIDUALS

Normally people work together, but these amazing individuals do it all by themselves. Over the course of 2022, we enjoyed the support of 89,000 Friends and 36,000 one-time supporters. Our income from public donations rose 13 per cent to total €11.8 million. This was thanks to a doubling of income in legacies (€1.1 million), an extra campaign for Ukrainian children and our annual December campaign which shone a light on the importance of children’s sleep rituals during times of war.

BUSINESS PARTNERS

ASN Bank, HEMA, Rituals Cosmetics Enterprise and Tommy Hilfiger - what do all of these companies have in common? They are all cherished members of our vibrant business network. We couldn’t be more grateful for their unwavering support during ongoing and emerging crises throughout the year. They also helped us tap into new markets - namely the gaming world, seeing us collaborate with event aficionados GameForce to host a sell-out Mario Kart tournament.

LOTTERIES

We have a dream that every child lives in peace - but we wouldn’t get anywhere close to the jackpot without the commitment of our large-scale supporters. That’s why we continued to collaborate with the Dutch Postcode Lottery who, every year, generously donate 50% of their revenue to select charities including War Child. A structural annual contribution of €1.55 million was carefully funneled to a selection of priority projects.

GOVERNMENT BODIES

Truth is, there are many more children in need than War Child alone can support - but we are far from alone. The year saw a wide range of inter-governmental organisations go the extra mile to support our cause with major contracts signed with the European Commission, UNICEF, UN-OCHA, the Dutch Relief Alliance and more. Through our partnership with the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Office, a grant of €4 million was unlocked to support the next phase of our SHIELD project in Lebanon.

NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

We believe that no child should be part of war - and so do likeminded organisations. Financial support from non-profits and foundations increased 70% year-on-year to total €10.2 million. Key highlights include a €3.5 million grant jointly provided by UBS Optimus Foundation, the Jacobs Foundation, Roger Federer Foundation and Forefold Foundation to our [Can’t Wait to Learn: Ukraine](#) programme as well as new and strengthened partnerships with the Lego Foundation, Education Cannot Wait, Porticus, Templeton World Charity Foundation and Salesforce.

Manuel (28) IS FORGING HIS OWN PATH

Manuel grew up in Bogotá, Colombia - a city plagued by violence and economic hardship. He made it to university but a criminal group nearly sent him down the wrong path. Find out how he chose his own direction.

Growing up, Manuel's passion for football was unwavering. At 16, he cobbled together the money to study sports science and started to organize events for children in his community. Everything was going well but then a criminal group threatened him; forcing him to collaborate.

At first, he was scared to decline. Next, he was tempted. Manuel: "When the prospect of getting a job is virtually non-existent, joining a gang suddenly becomes attractive." Yet, he decided to do the right thing and shut down his initiative - that's when he came across our Play it For Life and Future project.

The 20-week program sees licensed instructors from the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) train young people to become certified football coaches.

Manuel not only got the chance to pass on his finest footwork, he also learnt how to transmit important life skills such as self-awareness, empathy and critical thinking. While the project doesn't detract from a difficult job market, it does give youth confidence that they are capable of bigger things.

"Play it For Life was one of the most eye-opening experiences of my life", says Manuel. "It changed my perspective on sport and its role in society. I've picked up where I left off - I founded a sports school with a mission to inspire social change, along with producing the players of tomorrow. This is just the beginning."



LEADERS OF THE PACK

War Child is registered in The Netherlands as a foundation (Stichting) under Dutch law and recognised as an ANBI (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling) by the Dutch tax authorities. War Child Deutschland gGmbH is a fully owned subsidiary of War Child. War Child has a two-tier Board whereby the Supervisory Board supervises the management team.

SUPERVISORY BOARD

Hans van der Noordaa
Chairman

Willemijn Verloop
Vice-Chair

Rob Theunissen
Treasurer

Arjan Hehenkamp
Board Member

Edith Kroese
Board Member

Raymond Cloosterman
Board Member

Stef Oud
Board Member

What is the role of our Supervisory Board and what did they get up to in 2022? [Keep reading.](#)

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ramin Shahzamani
CEO

Abigail Schwartz
Regional Advisor MHPSS Africa

Annelies Claessens
Director International Programmes

Dirk Reinsberg
Managing Director War Child Germany

Ernst Suur
Managing Director War Child Netherlands

Esha van der Hulst
Director of Shared Operations

Jessica Hallak
Programme Implementation Manager

Kevin Zakariah Ndemera
Africa Regional Representative

Laura Miller
Middle East Regional Representative

Mark Jordans
Director Research & Development

Peter Brune
Managing Director War Child Sweden

No-one is exempt from our low-cost policy - not even the CEO. Learn more [here.](#)



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

So, now that we've filled you in on what we've been up to, you're probably curious about [what comes next](#)? Fast forward a year and War Child might look very different but that doesn't mean our mission has changed, nor the obstacles in our path...

New obstacles will replace old ones, not least, the Ukraine war and its far-reaching consequences for children around the world. The nature of conflict is changing - fueled by climate change. More people are on the move than ever before.

While we don't claim to have all the answers, one thing is sure - we need to be brave and defy the norm - all in the name of the children we support.

It is their endless creativity and enthusiasm that spurs us on...

**We are the small ones that dare to dream big.
We are War Child.**



Ramin Shahzamani
CEO



Hans van der Noordaa,
Chair Supervisory Board