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# CHILD VOICE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

## BREAKING BARRIERS

Geetha helps her peers avoid forced child marriage

**Education changes everything**

**Kick-starting change**

Girls win through soccer



**Children Believe**

[childrenbelieve.ca](http://childrenbelieve.ca)

# Lasting impact

## With your help, we make a difference

Despite the many challenges to children, families and communities disrupted by COVID-19, together we are continuing to make positive change around the world on many fronts.

**Without your dedication to children, we couldn't make a significant impact. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!** Because of you, farmers

are overcoming the flooding that has devastated their families and livelihoods in Ghana (p. 11). Girls are being empowered to break discriminatory cultural norms and succeed as professional soccer players in Ethiopia (p. 10). Young entrepreneurs are finding success and staying in their home country of Nicaragua, given access to the necessary skills (p. 13).

Inside this impact-themed issue of *ChildVoice*, you'll read how thousands of children and youth have benefited from your support.

In India, Geetha is teaching her peers about child rights. She's helping girls like herself avoid forced child marriage and stay in school (p. 9). In Paraguay, Carlos will have a lasting impact as a future doctor. He's in medical school thanks to years of child sponsorship and help from Children Believe and our local partners (p. 14). And in Burkina Faso, Poko, a young girl overcame the trauma of rape to see justice sought in her case, through Children Believe's intervention.



Ⓐ Fred Witteveen, CEO

You have our great appreciation for all you do to help vulnerable children. Your support is critical to our success.

Sincerely,

Fred Witteveen, CEO  
ceo@childrenbelieve.ca

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# CHILDVOICE

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CHIEF MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
Aki Temiseva

DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS  
Sandra Upeslaci

MANAGING EDITOR  
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER  
Dave Stell

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION  
eyetoeyedesign.ca

CONTRIBUTORS  
Sahil Ali, Elizabeth Brown, William Anim-Dankwa, Enmanuel Castro, Gezahegn Gebremariam, Siju Mathew, Rosanna Menchaca, Javier Mendoza, Feleke Tadele, Patrice Zongo

**YOU ASK. WE ANSWER. HAPPILY.**

**Children Believe**  
1200 Denison St., Markham, ON L3R 8G6  
905.754.1001 | Toll free: 1.800.263.5437  
childrenbelieve.ca | askus@childrenbelieve.ca



Charitable Registration # 10691 8543 RR001  
Canada Post Mail Reg # 40065713



**OUR VISION**  
We dream of a world where every child has a voice and the ability to achieve their full potential.

**OUR MISSION**  
Children Believe creates a future of hope for children, families, and communities by helping them develop the skills and resources to overcome poverty and injustice. For 60+ years, we have followed the example of Christ by serving the poor regardless of their faith, cultural, and ethnic background.

**OUR VALUES**  
Across our work, we aim to uphold the values of results, respect, integrity, teamwork and excellence.



**ACCESSIBILITY**  
We seek to recognize and remove the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities. All communications are available in alternative formats upon request.

Cover: Geetha, a youth in India, stood up against child marriage, and her village is transformed through her bravery (p. 9).

# What's happening

## Helping Burkina Faso meet global goals

Children Believe leads a non-governmental organization (NGO) group tracking and monitoring Burkina Faso's progress on meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Chair of the network of the Permanent Secretariat of NGOs, Christelle Kalhoulé, director, West Africa, is keeping a close eye on government activities to improve social protection, child protection, food security and water and sanitation. Funded by the European Union, the secretariat and its 250 members connect the Burkina government to civil-society organizations.



Ⓐ Christelle Kalhoulé, Children Believe's director of West Africa, speaks to the media as chair of the network of national and international NGOs in Burkina Faso.

## Speaking out to protect children

In many parts of Ghana, children face abuse. They're neglected and denied life's essentials such as toilets, quality healthcare and justice.

That's why Children Believe launched a Child-Friendly initiative in Ghana's northern region. Children can now have their say to ensure local authorities and the regional government protect them. We brought more than 100 children, managers of government institutions and opinion leaders together at the Tamale Sports Stadium, where child rights were front and centre and kids spoke out.

Esenam Kavi De Souza, our Ghana country manager, pointed out how far this issue extends. "Child abuse, and its financial burden on the country, is estimated at over \$200 million, the equivalent to one percent of Ghana's Gross Domestic Product," she said.



Ⓐ Child representatives presented a communique to the government in Ghana through the department of children at a child rights event.

## Let's get social!




## Find us online!

Do you connect with the world on Facebook, scroll content on Instagram, or watch YouTube videos? If you haven't visited Children Believe's social pages, you're missing out! Join our social communities to see how we help children achieve their full potential.

 @childrenbelieveCA

 childrenbelieveca

 @CBelieveCA

 childrenbelieveCA

# Two paths to learning

Recognizing challenges children face to access education around the world



Each year Canadians join the world to mark #WalkToSchoolDay, a global movement, whereby kids from 40-plus countries walk and bike to class on the same day. Held Oct. 6 this year, the event continues throughout the month, highlighting the need for year-round safe routes to school.

Children Believe is encouraging all Canadians to participate and think about the barriers to education that exist across the world. We call it "two paths to learning" and we especially hope parents of school-aged children will join us and take this opportunity to help kids in vulnerable communities by visiting [childrenbelieve.ca/walk-to-school](https://childrenbelieve.ca/walk-to-school).

In contrast to Canada, the path to learning for children in developing countries is rocky on many levels. For example, many children face obstacles such as school fees too high for disadvantaged families, forced child marriage, child labour and even gender equality issues that prevent them from accessing education.

On top of this, the journey to school can be a major challenge due to distance, scorching heat, violence and gangs, especially for girls, and treacherous terrain, which are literal obstacles to overcome on their road to learning. For most Canadians, the path is already safely paved, with school buses and free education.

Share your support for a child's right to a safe walk to school by visiting [childrenbelieve.ca/walk-to-school](https://childrenbelieve.ca/walk-to-school).

A recent survey\* by Angus Reid, commissioned by Children Believe, showed 86 percent of Canadian parents believe primary school sets a child up for success later in life. Yet, according to the United Nations, 260-million children globally were denied the opportunity to go to school in the past year.

## Canadians speak out on education

**91 percent of Canadian parents say education should be compulsory for all children ages five-18**

**85 percent agree primary school sets a child up for success later in life**

**62 percent of Canadian parents want to help improve access to education for marginalized children, but they don't know how**

Find more survey results and ways to help by visiting [childrenbelieve.ca/walk-to-school](https://childrenbelieve.ca/walk-to-school).

\* Survey Methodology: Survey of Canadian adults who are parents of children aged 5 – 18. In-field: August 27-30, 2021. Margin of error: +/- 5.7 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.



🕒 Receiving rations in Nicaragua.

👍 Kids show their appreciation for masks in Burkina Faso.

# Thriving through adversity

## Hope for children and families during COVID-19

By Dave Stell

As the world continues to grapple with COVID-19, Children Believe has been giving hope and help to our supported communities.

During the past year our staff and field partners reached more than **1,034,400** children, families, and community members with programs that improved access to inclusive and quality education, enhanced maternal and child health, and prevented malnutrition. We safeguarded children's rights and protection, promoted gender equality and strengthened institutions led by children and young people.

**Your support made all of this possible. Thank you!**

Our hearts and minds remain keenly focused on supporting the well-being of people in our communities. Children Believe intentionally repurposed many of our programs and activities, marshalling resources toward COVID-19 relief.

**Thanks to you, Children Believe increased support to local health facilities and workers, increased COVID-19 awareness and promoted prevention efforts at the community level.**

Together with **27 local partners**, we worked to stop the spread of COVID-19 among the poorest communities we serve and ensured children, women and vulnerable families received fast and adequate lifesaving preventive measures. We installed new community handwashing stands, handed out personal protective equipment and supplies, and shared materials promoting behavioural change to stop the virus' spread.

Overall, **63,742** child-friendly, COVID-19-focused educational materials were given out. Additionally, **2,935** community awareness sessions were held in local languages through FM/community radio, TV spots, automobile loudspeakers, WhatsApp, text messages, Zoom meetings, mobile phone audio messages, flyers and posters across Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nicaragua and Paraguay.

Children Believe gave cash, vouchers or food rations to **126,114** people (**67,583 women**), representing primarily sponsored child families and the most vulnerable community members. During the last fiscal year, April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, **41,483 families** (41 percent women-headed) benefited from various types of livelihood support. Thank you for enabling us to do this work.

**Awareness Campaign on Corona & COVID Vaccination**

கொனாவீரஸ் மற்றும் தடுப்பூசி குறித்த விழிப்புணர்வு பிரச்சாரம்



⊗ Vaccination in India.  
⊗ A girl in Ethiopia uses a handwashing station provided by Children Believe.



⊗ Making meals for a community in Paraguay.

Reducing the threat of violence to children and women is an important part of our work. Due to COVID-19 lockdowns, the risks of violence have grown. With parents out of work and children out of school having no access to formal education, safe spaces to play, or nutritional school meals or snacks, girl children, in particular, have been especially vulnerable in countries where we work. Incidences of violence against children, such as child marriage, early pregnancy and sexual violence, have increased. We've worked to prevent and mitigate the violence, and to address the consequences of rape, labour exploitation/child labour, gender-based violence, domestic violence, stigmatization and discrimination due to COVID-19 infection. We collaborated with local governments to strengthen community-based child protection programs.

Overall, Children Believe reached more than **325,270** people and enabled them to prevent or be protected from various forms of violence.

We helped children access education during lockdowns in a variety of ways, particularly focusing on the needs of girls. We helped children and youth connect to virtual and alternative learning/education platforms, radio and TV ads, flash-drives and printed material. A total of **63,553** students

**(33,659 girls)** were reached across six countries through these efforts.

As people everywhere continue to adapt to changing needs during the pandemic, Children Believe is finding new ways to create positive change for children. Thank you for joining us on our mission to help children, youth and women in the most vulnerable areas, who are exposed to extreme poverty, inequality, suffering and stress.



⊗ Ghana Health Services accepts a delivery of personal protective equipment from Children Believe.

# Impact

Because you believe.



Young people aren't just the leaders of tomorrow, the actions they take today (small and large) are making huge changes to the world around them.

For those quick to silence their voices, dismiss their dreams and say they can't make a difference, we (politely) disagree.

Sixty-plus years of work in communities around the world reveals how incredibly capable children are when our community of sponsors – and other supporters and partners – help them believe in themselves and their dreams. Because of caring people like you, children are busy believing and achieving the extraordinary.



Read how your gifts are making a difference.







# Standing up

## Geetha's bravery changes a village

By Siju Mathew

Fifteen-year-old Geetha chose a tough path. She stood up for her rights and refused to be married as a child. Her bravery sparked change in her tribal community in India. It's now been three years since a forced marriage has taken place in the village of Musallamadugu.

**"Now in our village, all of the children go to school," Geetha proudly states. "Before, due to economic problems, few transportation options, and an unsafe path through forested areas on a six-kilometre walk to school, it didn't happen."**

To stop her parents from arranging her marriage, Geetha needed help. It was difficult to go up against long-standing tradition and her parents' decision to marry her young. But thanks to Children Believe, Geetha, and other girls like her, have been able to follow their heart, continue their education and pursue their dreams.

Musallamadugu is a remote forest-based tribal village in southern India. Geetha's parents are illiterate and rely on daily labour work. They'd always followed



Geetha.

Geetha's experience has changed attitudes toward child marriage.

tradition, which calls for a girl of 15 to leave school and get married. In seeking a way out, Geetha joined a youth group run by Children Believe partner, Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services (ROPES). Among ROPES' activities, they bring to light planned incidences of forced early marriage and work with agencies and police to prevent child marriage. Geetha's parents learned that their decision to marry her young was against the law. They received counselling, and had to sign a promise they would not break the law.

To support Geetha's family overcome economic hardship, they also received supplies and a sustainable garden for nutrition. ROPES started a village development committee to educate local families in law and the harms caused to children through cultural practices like forced marriage.

Realizing her dream to continue schooling, Geetha, now 19, enjoys giving back to her community by informing children about their rights. She wants to become a teacher and use her skills to help her village advance.

### Positive changes in Musallamadugu

Out of 39 children (11–15 years), 36 attend high school

100% of the 73 children in the community are immunized

Malnutrition has decreased 37% to 12% as many parents now have a kitchen garden

29 children (13-17) are in a youth group



Learn more about Geetha and her village:

[bit.ly/from-field](https://bit.ly/from-field)

# Kick-starting change

## Girls' elite soccer crushes gender biases

By Gezahegn Gebremariam

A soccer ball hits the back of the mesh. Cheers rise at the score! The impact of the ball hitting the net is felt not only by the praising spectators, but also in the life of the young woman who kicked it, along with the other players on her elite Ethiopia team.

Betselot, 23, turned a passion for soccer into a career. This is a difficult feat in a country where playing a sport involving the use of legs and feet is considered to be unacceptable for women and girls.

**"I faced a lot of discouragement from my own family, my relatives and my community," Betselot explains. "But, over time, girls playing football (soccer) is becoming more acceptable. We are now highly paid for the national women's team. Clubs in the capital and regional cities, and families and communities, are becoming more supportive of a girl's choice to play football."**

Ethiopia has long been a patriarchal society, where gender norms and rules favour men and boys. Both rural and urban women and girls are disadvantaged in social, economic and political spheres.

### Program success

**Under-15 girls' team:** 35 participants

**Over-17 girls' team:** 40 participants

**Communities reached by program:** 25,645

**Schools participating:** Nine primary and seven high schools



⌚ *Serkadis, 20, plays professionally for Ethiopia Buna Club. She says education is the best way for girls to overcome barriers to change.*



⌚ *Betselot is pursuing her dream by playing professional soccer.*

Children Believe programs challenge these deep-rooted gender barriers. They are designed to empower women and girls, and open communities' eyes to the possibilities of what both genders can accomplish. Soccer is one of the tools to dismantle the barriers. Supporting girls' soccer clubs and physical activity programs have had a range of positive impacts on Ethiopian communities.

Involvement in sport and physical activity has contributed to improved self-esteem and self-image among girls. It's provided social networking and social integration for girls within their communities, reshaped ideas of femininity and masculinity, and challenged stereotypes labelling women as weak and inferior.

Children Believe-supported soccer programs in Ethiopia work closely with community leaders in local women's, children's and youth sports commissions and school and health offices to promote girls' education and equality.



⌚ Farmland quickly became a lake when flooding hit the village.

**"After the initial assessment, the two organizations did not show up again. Only Children Believe returned," said Oldman Nabiri, another Tanjemeli farmer.**

# Weathering disaster

## Helping Ghana farmers survive floods

By William Anim-Dankwa

When torrential rains and flooding arrived in northern Ghana last year, Dokurugu watched helplessly as his hard work and dream of farming success washed away.

**"I felt robbed of everything I'd worked for," the 44-year-old farmer related.**

Living with his family in Tanjemeli, Dokurugu had been farming for nearly 25 years with high yields from his crops. He'd invested in fertilizer and seeds with hope of a bountiful harvest. So, it was particularly devastating when flooding submerged the crops on his land along with those of other farmers in communities along the River Oti and beyond.

In Tanjemeli, Gnani, Kpalba and Demong, about 10,000 people were affected. The direct economic loss was about \$92,000 CDN. Houses were seriously damaged, 652 hectares of croplands were destroyed and the negative psychological effects on local people was immense.

The intervention of Children Believe was a turning point in the disaster. While two national government agencies had arrived and assessed the damage, they did not return, say members of the communities.

Children Believe brought relief with maize, rice, cassava and beans that were given to 53 families, benefitting 1,344 people. According to Diameh, a junior high school student, "the support of Children Believe was welcomed. Suddenly there was enough food to eat while we waited for our parents to farm in the next season."

To help restore the farms, seeds for maize, rice and yams were distributed. Along with providing food and crops, the seed stock for future farming helped. The seeds gave high yields in only three months, bringing hope to the community.

Fishers affected by the loss of their gear received nets and equipment. And, while the fishing season had not yet started in order to catch and sell for income, they could fish to feed their own families. Ayima Kwame, a 42-year-old fisher, said the impact of the support from Children Believe was significant.



⌚ Ntifuneh inspects a newly planted rice field, made possible by seeds from Children Believe.



# Justice for Poko

## Burkina Faso rape victim gets help

By Patrice Zongo

Children in Burkina Faso face potential violence in their lives from many directions. This is especially true for girls. For Poko, a victim of violence, her life forever changed when a neighbour raped her.

Just 12 years old, Poko didn't know how to cope. Devastated by what happened to her, she didn't know if she should tell anyone.

**"I was ashamed and hated everyone and everything," she says. "I was lonely and felt abandoned. At school, I did not want to get close to anyone."**

Poko kept the horrific secret to herself. It affected her grades and changed her personality. She went from being a top 10 student to failing. Poko avoided her friends and had dire thoughts.

**"I hated my life. I thought of killing myself," she confesses. No one knew why Poko's behaviour changed so suddenly.**

The girl's life took a new turn when her mother suspected the truth and they turned to staff in a Children Believe-supported program to report what had happened. The staff counselled Poko and her family and enacted procedures to alert police so that the rapist could be arrested. Poko received

socio-affective care and her mother was supported with training and the means to start an income-generating activity so that she could take better care of Poko and the family.

**With the insecurity that has prevailed in Burkina Faso over the last five years due to attacks by violent armed groups in several regions across the country, cases like Poko's are all too frequent. In 2020, Children Believe helped more than 40 girls in similar tragic circumstances.**

Today, Poko is transformed. She is once again connected to her friends and can have fun. Her anguish and stress are slowly fading.

The legal case is still before the court, but Poko's family has hope for justice. Her attacker has moved away from the local area, so she feels safer and her grades have improved. Poko has successfully completed her primary school certificate exam and moved to the next grade.

**(Poko is a pseudonym used to protect the young girl's identity. While the name is invented, her story is true.)**

Ⓜ Poko has endured a difficult time, but, with counselling, she is recovering from her attack and has returned to school and friends.

# Fashioning success

## Help for a young Nicaragua clothier

By María Brenes, Arlen Pérez and Gretchen Robleto

Sitting at a sewing machine running fabric under the needle, Hector reflects on his life since taking part in entrepreneurship training. He shudders at what might have been if he hadn't joined.

**"My life and that of my grandmother changed after I received the seed capital from the entrepreneurship program to start my own business," he says. "I might have had to migrate to Costa Rica to find work. I had an idea for a clothing repair shop and the funds allowed me to buy the sewing machines and materials I needed."**

A participant in the Preventing Irregular Child Migration in Central America (PICMCA) Project, Hector received business training along with a group of his peers. At 21 years old, Hector has taken on the household expenses and studies fashion design at the National Technological Institute in Managua, Nicaragua.

Financed by the Government of Canada and carried out through Children Believe, PICMCA has helped youth in five countries overcome financial hardship and find ways to work in their home communities, rather than leave their country.



Ⓐ Fashion is a passion for Hector.



Ⓐ Hector used his sewing skills to earn seed funding from Children Believe to start his own business.

Hector and his siblings were raised by their grandmother in Las Torres, a Managua neighbourhood known to be among the most dangerous in the capital. However, the care and protection from grandma were key to keeping the grandkids safe and in school.

Hector had opportunities to work in the past, where he developed an interest in sewing and fashion. But the work didn't last long and he had to drop out of school twice.

**"I needed a job, but did not see many possibilities," Hector says. "I had already started to participate in the PICMCA trainings and since I was a child, I've been involved with social projects in my community, as part of a Children Believe group called Youths United, Thinking and Acting. I've learned a lot, especially about entrepreneurship."**

Lack of economic and employment opportunities; direct and indirect violence, especially gender violence; and a lack of spaces for youth to participate are among the three main causes of children and youth migrating irregularly to other countries in the region. To foster a brighter future, PICMCA promoted equal opportunities, protection, employability, and participation.

The project was led in Nicaragua by Children Believe and realized together with three partners: The International Organization for Migration, The Institute for Human Promotion and EDUCO.

A total of 367 youth benefited in Nicaragua from the employability component of the project.



- ⊖ Carlos, wearing his lab coat from medical school, holds a letter from his sponsor.
- ⊕ Carlos's mother, Agripina, is proud of what he has accomplished.



Carlos' teachers, he says, encouraged him to be responsible, to persevere and never give up on his goals. During COVID-19, school became difficult to access. But he received assistance from Children Believe to overcome the barriers.

**"Computer classes (facilitated by Children Believe) helped me a lot because now in the pandemic everything is about online learning," he says. "Before, I did not know anything about computers, but now I know all I need to participate in online classes."**

# Doctor hope

## Medical school helps Carlos heal others

By Javier Mendoza and Rosanna Menchaca

Helping one child access education can have a profound impact on the life of a whole community. That's what Carlos, a medical student in Paraguay, illustrates, as he immerses himself in his university studies, fulfilling his dream to heal others.

**"I've imagined becoming a doctor since I was a child," he says. "I like to help people, especially those in need. So I made an effort to take good notes in school and do well so I could achieve my goal."**

Having a Children Believe sponsor throughout his childhood made a deep impression on the 19-year-old. Receiving letters from the man who sponsored him was inspiring.

**"You feel the care and affection," Carlos says. "You know there is a person who believes in you, who supports you. We had a very good relationship, and even though I haven't met him in person, I got to know him through his letters."**

Coming from a humble family Carlos says going to school always presented a financial challenge. But sponsorship provided school supplies, uniforms and clothes.

In a country where only three-out-of-five youth reach post-secondary schooling, Carlos is fortunate to be able to afford the opportunity. Children Believe, together with local partner ONG Crecer, work in Carlos' community so children like him can access education.

Together, the two organizations strengthen the skills of teachers and families, provide resources to schools and improve infrastructure in classrooms.

**"Sponsors give us hope that we, as young people at some point, can help other people, too," Carlos says. "I dream about completing university, achieving a specialization, and opening a clinic where I can work and provide employment for other people."**

**In Children Believe programs, the enrolled primary education completion rate is 99.95%**

**Programs during COVID-19 achieved 82% success in online / e-learning / virtual lesson participation**

# 55 years, 20+ children

## A child sponsor's story

By Elizabeth Brown

How far can a helping hand reach? For Patricia Barton, a Children Believe child sponsor for more than 55 years, her generosity has travelled the globe.

Patricia has sponsored more than 20 children, from Spain, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia and Nicaragua, helping them all access education and a brighter future.

**"It has been many years since I sponsored my first child with Children Believe," she says. "Being single and not having my own family, I thought I could help an underprivileged girl or boy have an education."**

The results all these years later are remarkable.

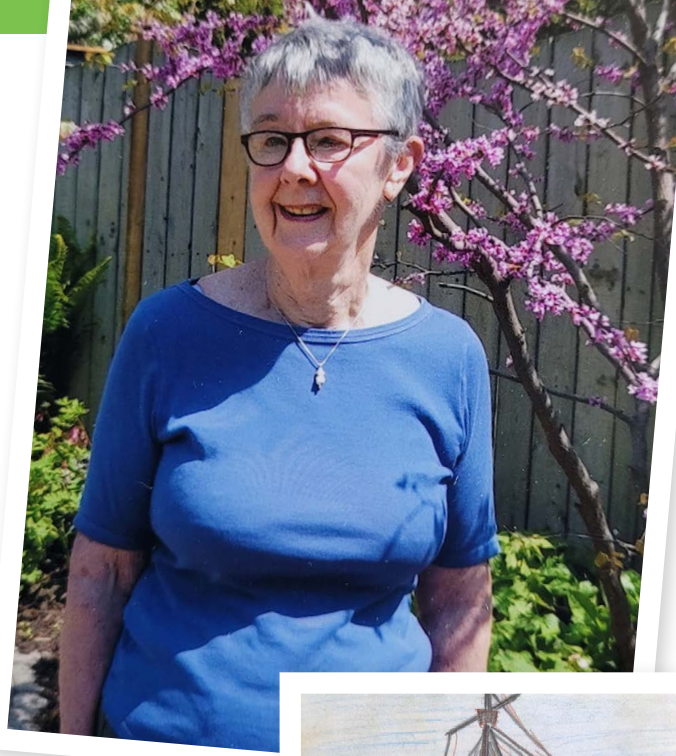
**Patricia explains, "My first child was Narcisa from Ecuador whom I sponsored when she was nine years old, born in 1958." Narcisa's parents dreamt of sending their daughter to school, but could not afford to despite working long hours. They enrolled Narcisa in the sponsorship program and, soon after, Patricia became her sponsor.**

Patricia's monthly donations went further than helping one child. Pooled with funds from other sponsors of children in the area, Narcisa's community received support leading to the development of health clinics, clean water supplies and opportunities for Narcisa and other children to go to school.

Reflecting on that time, Patricia says Narcisa wrote touching letters.



Ⓐ Narcisa.



Ⓞ Patricia has many keepsakes from her years as a sponsor, including this artwork by a boy named Jose.



**"Narcisa could now definitely be a grandmother. That is quite a thought!"**

Patricia treasures all of the children's letters.

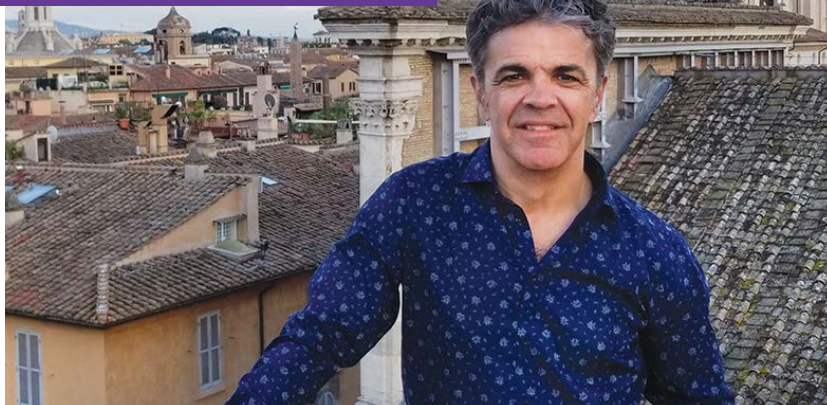
**"Over the years I have filed their photographs, letters, cards and pieces of artwork and looking through them recently, I was amazed how fast the years have gone by," she says. "Through letters I've learned first-hand the hopes and dreams of children in countries with different political systems and seen some countries involved in dangerous situations."**

Patricia continues to sponsor two children now.

Sponsorship benefits so many. There are children receiving school uniforms, mothers receiving healthcare for their newborn children and sponsors who open their hearts, allowing children from around the world to thrive.

## Chair's note

Children Believe's impact during COVID-19



🕒 Gabriel Ollivier, Chair of the Board

Children Believe has been a proponent of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 by world leaders. We believe it's possible to influence a better future for all by addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, justice and more. Yet today, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, the United Nations cautions that the world is not on track to reach its goals by 2030, as envisioned. The Report warns the COVID-19 pandemic has halted, even reversed, years or even decades of development progress.

All told, it continues to be critical that we increase our efforts to help developing nations overcome the challenges caused by COVID-19. Indeed, Children Believe shifted quickly at the start of the pandemic to focus on four key areas of assistance: virus prevention messaging and education; providing protection supplies and equipment; giving food rations and food packages to those in greatest need; and supporting mental health and learning aids for children. Our work continues and is making a difference in the many communities that we serve.

In terms of numbers, pages 6 and 7 of this edition highlight the remarkable impact of your support. In a time when developing nations are struggling with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Children Believe is stepping in to help, and we couldn't do this without you.

**Thank you for your dedication and ongoing generosity.**

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Ollivier'.

**Gabriel Ollivier**  
Chair of the Board

## THANK YOU

**TO OUR 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR YOUR COURAGE AND COMMITMENT TO CHANGE**

.....

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*As of September 1, 2021*

.....

### OUR MISSION

Children Believe creates a future of hope for children, families, and communities by helping them develop the skills and resources to overcome poverty and injustice. For 60+ years, we have followed the example of Christ by serving the poor regardless of their faith, cultural, and ethnic background.

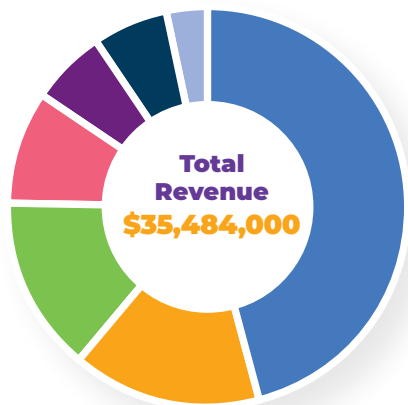
### OUR VISION

We dream of a world where every child has a voice and the ability to achieve their full potential.



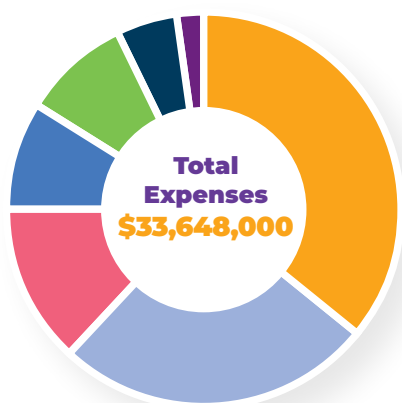
Your generosity raised **\$35,484,000** — sparking change across communities and countries. **THANK YOU!**

### 2021 REVENUE



- 45%** Child sponsorship
- 16%** Other donations
- 15%** Global Affairs Canada
- 9%** Donated goods
- 6%** Project funding
- 6%** Special gifts for children
- 3%** General contributions

### 2021 EXPENSES



- 36%** Education
- 26%** Health and nutrition
- 13%** Fundraising
- 9%** Administration
- 9%** Strengthening community organizations
- 5%** Emergency response
- 2%** Sustainable economic development

### Summarized Statement of Operations

For the year-ended March 31, 2021 [in thousands of dollars]

	2021	2020
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Sponsorship and other contributions	26,151	24,705
Donated medications/gifts in kind	3,161	6,664
Contributions from Global Affairs Canada	5,154	6,160
Government assistance	1,018	—
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>35,484</b>	<b>37,529</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Program services		
Education	12,104	10,640
Health and nutrition	8,760	13,389
Strengthening community organizations	2,904	3,526
Emergency response	1,703	19
Sustainable economic development	699	1,141
Water, sanitation and hygiene	198	574
Fundraising	4,289	5,247
Administration	2,991	3,723
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>33,648</b>	<b>38,259</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>(730)</b>

### Summarized Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2021 [in thousands of dollars]

	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets	4,432	4,713
Investments	6,786	5,834
Capital assets	4,613	4,711
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>15,831</b>	<b>15,258</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities	2,461	3,984
Deferred contributions	4,015	3,554
Demand loan	—	201
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>6,476</b>	<b>7,739</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	4,742	3,009
Invested in capital assets	4,613	4,510
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>9,355</b>	<b>7,519</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>15,831</b>	<b>15,258</b>

For Children Believe's detailed independently audited Financial Statements, visit [childrenbelieve.ca/accountability](http://childrenbelieve.ca/accountability).

Children Believe is an independent and autonomous organization and, unlike many other Canadian International development registered charities, Children Believe does not flow funds through international governing bodies or regional offices. Instead, funds donated to Children Believe are distributed directly to countries of operation for program activities. Further, as part of our social impact strategy, Children Believe does not employ expatriates in our field offices. We are committed to hiring nationals.

# The IMPACT of YOUR support

More than **1,034,400** children, youth, women, and other vulnerable family and community members were supported through programming that focused on COVID-19 response.

## Thriving communities and healthcare, thanks to you

**More than 302,170** mothers, children, and other community members benefited from the delivery of improved health services that resulted in a reduction of preventable child and maternal mortality.

**More than 115,000** pregnant women, mothers, and children under the age of five years were supported to overcome nutritional deficiencies and provided nutritious food and supplements.

**74 health facilities** were upgraded or improved; **99%** were equipped with drinking water facilities, and all have access to single-sex basic sanitation, while **95%** were provided handwashing facilities.



## Partnering with you to promote child rights and equality for girls

**202,442** children, youth, parents, and other duty-bearers across 383 community groups in six countries where we work were trained on how to defend child rights and prevent child abuse, exploitation, and early marriage in their respective communities.

**44,588** orphan and vulnerable children were identified, participated in and benefited from integrated community development programs, including education, health and other social services.

**52,015** men and women, girls and boys participated in our efforts to reduce multiple forms of gender discriminatory norms and practices.

**More than 80,540** children (13 to 17 years old) and youth (18 to 24 years old) were mobilized and trained in child participation, dialogues, and critical thinking skills.



### More than 397,230

boys, girls and youth who live in 383 fragile, vulnerable, and marginalized communities were supported to have increased access to inclusive and quality education.

## Education, inspired by you

**More than 135,800** young people aged 15 to 24, primarily from low-income and indigenous families, were supported to develop the skills they need to gain decent employment that will set them on the course for success in the future.

**More than 375,430** teaching aids, computers, furniture pieces and play materials were supplied to equip educational establishments.

**99%** of the children who have had access to early childhood education centres are on-track in their physical development.

**92%** of the children who have had access to early childhood education centres are developmentally on track in their literacy and numeracy outcome.



# This Christmas, give **Gifts for Good** and help children dream big

If you're looking for a special Christmas gift that will delight family and friends – and make the season brighter for children – shop *Gifts for Good*.

Choose from 54 unique ways of giving, **many with 5X the power** to create positive change in children's lives.

### Some of our most popular gifts ...

Supply a classroom	\$100
Help where the need is greatest	\$100
Send a girl to school	\$100



**Your gift is multiplied 5X for a \$500 impact!**

Visit [childrenbelieve.ca/giftsforgood](http://childrenbelieve.ca/giftsforgood) or call 1.800.263.5437 to shop today!

CVFL/DMH/CVFLF22



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