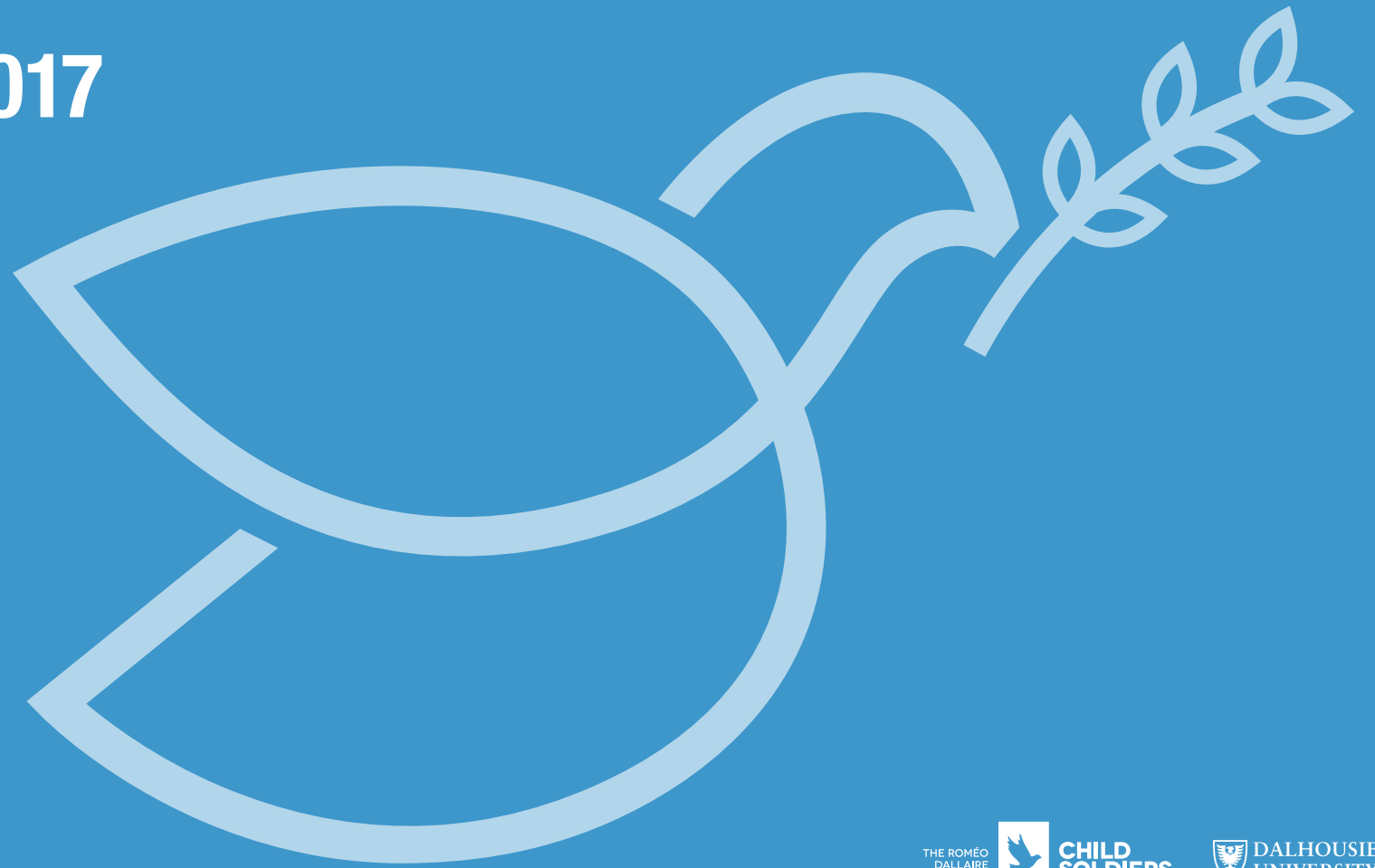


THE ROMÉO DALLAIRE CHILD SOLDIERS INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



CHILD
SOLDIERS
INITIATIVE

DALHOUSIE
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CREDITS

DESIGN

Allison Goodall

COPY

Josh Boyter, Amara Bangura

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PROJECT MANAGER: SOUTH SUDAN

Beattie Robertson

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PROGRAM OFFICER – RESEARCH

Dustin Johnson

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Victoria Bryce

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FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE	2
THEORY OF CHANGE	3
TRAINING	4
RESEARCH	8
EDUCATION	10
ADVOCACY	14
FINANCIALS	16
DONORS	18

INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE

FROM DR. SHELLY WHITMAN AND LGEN ROMÉO DALLAIRE (RET'D)

Prevention is worth a pound of cure as the old adage states. When put into practice, prevention can not only be more affordable and equitable, but save people from experiencing the horrors of war.

The Dallaire Initiative is in the business of practicing prevention. In every aspect of our work, we prioritize prevention over reaction. In 2017, we not only brought this prevention-first rigor to our work, but laid the groundwork for a prevention oriented approach to ending the use of child soldiers globally.

In many ways, 2017 was marked by organizational growth and new heights achieved by our training, research, education and advocacy work. We completed groundbreaking projects, such as the support of a Child Protection Advisor Position in the AMISOM peacekeeping mission, and the launch of the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and Preventing the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers. This past year also marked the expansion of our organization to new countries—South Sudan and Jordan—and new multi-year funding that will allow us to keep pace with the growing need for our work.

In addition to the high-level advocacy and expanded training programs, we trained over 380 troops from 8 countries, including Somalia, Uganda, and Jordan. Our ongoing research shows that Dallaire Initiative training participants have improved knowledge and skills to deal with issues related to children affected by armed conflict. This includes encounters with child soldiers, reporting cases of abuse, and preventing child soldier recruitment tactics such as attacks on schools. This past year the Dallaire Initiative signed agreements with new partners including the Jordanian Public Security Directorate and the Rwandan Defence Force, and are now building new relationships with militaries in Nigeria and South Sudan.

In addition to our work with the security sector, our education programming expanded in communities and schools. In Sierra Leone, we established “peace clubs” with a local CSO partner, Pikin-to-Pikin,—which are accessed by more than 100 children in 3 schools across the country.

As our organization continues to expand and the demand for our work increases, we know now more than ever that a strong foundation is necessary in order for that growth to continue. Our 2017 annual report will introduce you to our organizational theory of change and how we continue to work with a wide range of stakeholders to create momentum towards a Children’s Rights Upfront Approach.

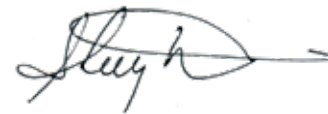
Through a Children’s Rights Upfront Approach, we seek to build momentum on issues that relate to children affected by armed conflict. Through raising children higher up on the peace and security agenda, we build collaboration and solutions that aim to protect children from risk of recruitment and use as child soldiers.

Every person has a very personal stake in achieving our vision, a world where children are no longer used as weapons of war. For all of us, our contribution will be a little different, but its impact will be felt no less.

This annual report also features the people behind the work of our organization and how different individuals across the Dallaire Initiative are putting theory into action and creating the momentum towards change. Each individual brings a unique set of skills, perspectives and personal experiences that enables our work to have an impact across borders, in the field, and at the highest reaches of government and international institutions.

As an organization, we are poised to take on new challenges and build off the momentum that we have created over the past year. This will take the concerted effort of staff, partners, donors and other key stakeholders. Together, we can continue to achieve our vision: a world where children are no longer used as weapons of war.

Sincerely,



Dr. Shelly Whitman

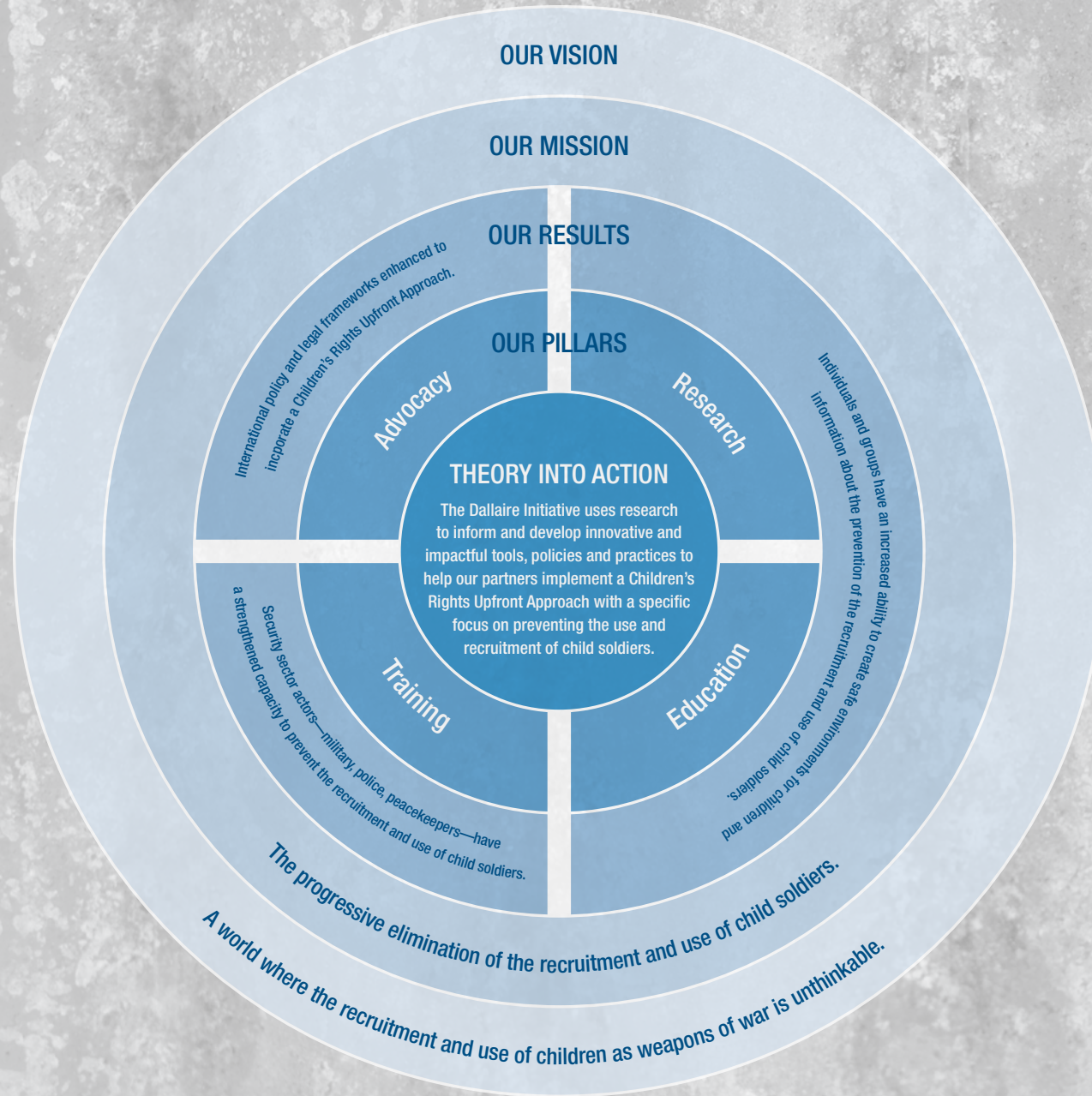
Executive Director,
The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative



LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd)

Founder,
The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

THEORY OF CHANGE



OUR PILLARS

The Dallaire Initiative undertakes its work through interconnected programmatic pillars: research, training, advocacy and education. These programmatic pillars ensure we build robust and holistic solutions to preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers.



RESEARCH

We conduct world-class interdisciplinary research to build—and share—knowledge, which in turn leads to new solutions.



TRAINING

We deliver tactical, prevention-oriented training to security sector actors, to promote broader security sector reform.



ADVOCACY

We engage in high-level advocacy activities to create and promote the political will to end the use of children as soldiers.



EDUCATION

We build capacity of those who work, mentor, and care for children on ways to prevent recruitment and support those affected by armed conflict.



PROTECTING CHILDREN IN SOMALIA

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative has been working in Somalia since 2015, helping the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali national military to become more professional in dealing with children in armed conflict.

Musa Gbow is seconded to AMISOM, the regional peacekeeping mission operated by the African Union in Somalia. He left Sierra Leone in 2015 to take up the position of Child Protection Advisor to AMISOM in Somalia, and in 2018 was promoted to Regional Training Manager: Africa.

Gbow is a Major in the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed forces (RSLAF) AND seconded to the Dallaire Initiative. Gbow left Sierra Leone in 2015, a country that also suffered years of brutal civil conflict, with significant numbers of children forced to join the ranks of fighting forces.

He took on the role of Child Protection Advisor in Somalia where he honed his skills to become the Dallaire Initiative's most seasoned trainer.

"I'm responsible for child protection mainstreaming across AMISOM areas of operation, to support capacity building for AMISOM forces, and for the federal government of Somalia, particularly the National Security Forces."

He is now an expert trainer providing training to the AU Mission Peacekeeping troops in Somalia and the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF) on protecting children in armed conflict.



PROFILE
Musa Donald Gbow

The recruitment and exploitation of children in Somalia is a problem Gbow has a strong connection to. The issues he faces there remind him of the atrocities and trauma that Sierra Leonean children experienced during the country's 11-year civil war.

"Sierra Leonean children were also used in diverse ways...Some were used to cause mayhem, amputate people, burn houses, kill people, which is also happening here [in Somalia]. But the difference is that here children have been radicalized and made to see people with other religious beliefs as enemies of their faith."

Somali children continue to suffer from various forms of abuse and deprivation from armed groups. Child soldiers are often brutally treated, since enduring horrific experiences and suffering atrocious sexual and physical abuse by their captors. Those who manage to escape or are freed continue to face many obstacles upon returning home.

All the current parties to the conflict in Somalia, including the Federal Government security forces, have recruited or used children for military service. Religious and ethnic leaders are equally implicated, recruiting young people to fight in the name of religion, or to defend families and ethnic clans. For many kids living in rebel-controlled areas, there are no other options for their families: they are forced to hand their children over to the rebel groups or else risk being killed.

The consequences of recruiting child soldiers include not only considerable harm to the individual child and their families, but also damage society's future leaders. For Gbow, working in Somalia means trying to save the country's future generations who happen to be victims of circumstances like those he saw in his home country.

"Most of these kids are with the armed groups, particularly with Al-shabab, against their wishes. They might want to escape or disengage from those armed groups but because the armed groups are always policing the kids ... they [the armed groups] have made them believe that if they escape and go to the government forces they will be killed".

Many of the former child soldiers in Sierra Leone were reintegrated back into society after the war, and today some of them are lawyers, academics, doctors. etc, "I have high hopes that if we save the Somali children, we can have great future leaders that can contribute to rebuilding their country", says Gbow.

A unique training approach

In Somalia, Gbow is implementing an innovative training program that focuses on preventing more children from losing their lives. He is fostering a preventative training strategy: delivering classroom-based courses, organizing community outreach programs, and mentoring the security sector to prevent recruitment in the first place, as well as organising public outreach education campaigns to help locals understand the rights of the children and the need to protect them.

Gbow's ultimate goal is to develop a pool of trained trainers in Somalia who will gradually take over the responsibility of undertaking independent training activities within their own ranks.

"We engage with the commanders [of AMISOM and the SNA] to give them basic training on their interactions with children and their roles and responsibilities in preventing either the use or recruitment of children. We want to them understand the implications of confronting forces that have children in their ranks. We let them understand that it is their primary responsibility to make sure that any force that they want to engage in a joint operation with should be devoid of children. "

In 2017, Gbow delivered training to approximately 300 people, including AMISOM troops and government forces, as well as local and religious leaders in Somalia. And Gbow is getting results. A number of local and religious leaders who were trained have now joined the campaign. They are now organising community outreach programs to educate others on the need to protect their children.

At the government level, the issue is also being taken seriously. The Ministry of Defence in 2017 established a child protection unit, which now enforces age verification for the recruitment of military personnel. The government has also signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) although the implementation is still slow, especially in rebel-controlled areas.

Somalia is a tough place to live, as the unstable security situation remains a challenge. However, Gbow prepares for another year and he has strong reasons for wanting to stay:

"I want to see peace in Somalia. I want to see Child free forces in Somalia. I want to see the Somalian children demobilised, reintegrated and sent back to school. And I want to be included in the good history books of Somalia."

CHILD SOLDIERS IN SOMALIA



6,163

children recruited by armed forces and groups since 2011.

APPROXIMATELY

50%

of Al-Shabaab fighters are children.



2 ARMED GROUPS & 1 STATE GROUP

listed by the UN for recruitment and use of children.

The youngest age documented using weapons is

9 YEARS OLD

“ I WANT TO SEE PEACE IN SOMALIA. I WANT TO SEE CHILD FREE FORCES IN SOMALIA. I WANT TO SEE THE SOMALIAN CHILDREN DEMOBILISED, REINTEGRATED AND SENT BACK TO SCHOOL. AND I WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GOOD HISTORY BOOKS OF SOMALIA. ”

Musa Gbow, Child Protection Advisor, AMISOM

THE ISSUE

Many groups are prepared to tell security sector actors what not to do; the Dallaire Initiative focuses on what they can do—ultimately helping the security sector be part of the solution in preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

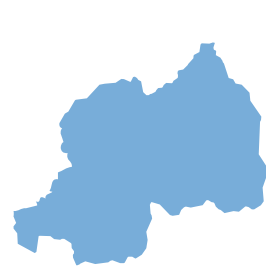
The Dallaire Initiative acts as a bridge between the security and humanitarian sectors. Often the approaches of security sector actors and humanitarian actors are at odds with each other – one recognizing only the child, the other recognizing only the soldier. However, the new realities of conflict zones demand new solutions and collaborations, which the Dallaire Initiative facilitates.

The Dallaire Initiative's proactive, targeted and preventative training ensures that the security sector is able to effectively prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers in the field. Our work with military, police and peacekeepers is breaking new ground, and is a critical part of interrupting the cycle of recruitment of children by armed groups. Our training ensures a response by the security sector actor that is appropriate and protects all those involved—from the peacekeeper to the child.

Dallaire Initiative training is conducted as part of a larger regional approach. This ensures stability across nations where conflict could quickly spread and destabilize whole regions. We build our training to be complementary and relevant to the training these forces currently receive. This ensures maximum scalability and replicability. The Dallaire Initiative strives to incorporate security sector training into the global strategy for the prevention of child soldiers.

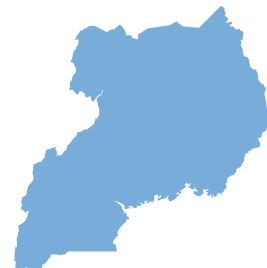
PILLAR IMPACTS

Since 2007, the Dallaire Initiative has delivered practical, prevention-oriented training to more than 2600 security sector actors around the world. In 2017, we delivered basic training to more than 380 security sector actors – 103 of those who became Dallaire Initiative trained trainers.



RWANDA

Our partnership and connection to the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) was strengthened with the official signing of an MoU with the RDF. In March 2017, the Dallaire Initiative delivered basic training to 40 participants of the RDF. This training supported our return to Rwanda in June and work with a special cadre of 20 graduates to support them to become trained trainers of our curriculum.



UGANDA

The Dallaire Initiative built upon its work with the Ugandan Defense Force which commenced in 2015, by delivering 2 basic trainings in January 2018. The training exemplified our approach to building a South-to-South model of capacity building where our lead facilitators were from Sierra Leone. The training also promoted strategic complementarity between police and military representatives who were both present at the training.



JORDAN

The Dallaire Initiative forayed into the Middle East in September 2017, with new programming in Jordan, where we trained 24 officers in their police force. Several participants had experience in peacekeeping operations. The Dallaire Initiative returned to Jordan in March 2018 where it trained 25 trained trainers to assist with further implementation and support of the Dallaire Initiative's training in the country.



SOMALIA

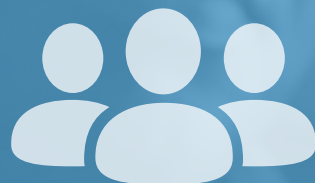
In Somalia, the Dallaire Initiative continues to be the sole international organization training the country's national armed forces. Following intensive training with 60 members of Somalia's forces in September 2017, the commander of the military issued a General Order to all local forces ensuring children are protected by militaries before, during and after operations. This is a significant step forward in Somalia's efforts to be removed from the UN's list of countries committing grave violations against children. In addition, the Dallaire Initiative's embedded support in the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has led to continued improving of reporting and response to rights violations by AMISOM troops, increased child protection focal points, and better coordination between the mission, UN agencies and the Somali National Army.

GLOBAL TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS



**8 COUNTRIES
ON 3 CONTINENTS**

number of trainings delivered in countries of operation by the Dallaire Initiative.



382

number of people trained by the Dallaire Initiative from April 2017 to March 2018.



1 IN 5

of our 2017 trainees were women.



13

number of countries that Dallaire Initiative trainees hailed from.

PUTTING THEORY INTO ACTION

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative aims to work with militaries, police, policymakers, academics and humanitarians to make a long-term impact in preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers. To achieve this, we conduct world-class interdisciplinary research to build – and share – knowledge, which in turn leads to new solutions.

Dustin Johnson, the Dallaire Initiative's Research Officer, is sitting in front of his giant computer screen with several windows opened on it. On his table are a stack of files, and a scattered pile of books; they are all written by different authors on the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

His expertise – as a trained mechanical engineer from Dalhousie University – seems to be a world away. Now a researcher, he is trying to understand how conflicts have changed, the way child soldiers are recruited and used on the front lines.

“All the research that we do is focused on supporting our overall mission of preventing the use of child soldiers. There is a lot of research that has gone into understanding how and why child soldiers are used and how to successfully demobilize and reintegrate them, but there is still a lot we also need to understand about the use [strategic and tactical] of child soldiers.”

Despite international condemnation against the recruitment and use of child soldiers and efforts by the international community to bring the problem to an end, the practice is still prevalent in many conflict zones across the world.

Tens of thousands of children in war-affected countries have been first-hand witnesses to the atrocities that comes with war. They are recruited in different ways and to perform different functions in war zones. However, according to Dustin, his research is producing results the Dallaire Initiative needs to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

“Some of the main areas that I've been working on include looking at the role that the use of child soldiers play in early warning and mass atrocities, and how that should influence the responsibility to



PROFILE

Dustin Johnson

protect; so, for instance, in many cases of mass atrocities and mass violence, the recruitment and use of child soldiers is involved, but we don't necessarily look for that as a warning sign that these events might soon happen. We are looking at how we can see if child soldiers are being recruited [in these situations of mass atrocity] and how you can integrate that information into the early warning mechanisms to make sure that action is taken to prevent mass atrocities”

Over the past 2 years, Dustin has focused much attention on Sierra Leone in West Africa and Somalia in East Africa.

“The results were amazing,” he says. “Even though Sierra Leone is now peaceful, we found many similarities in the recruitment and use of child soldiers between the two countries.”

While some of these conflicts have come to an end, the risk of child recruitment persists, as the conditions under which the recruitment occurs still remains. As a preventive approach guided by his research findings, the Dallaire Initiative has built a ground-breaking training program for Sierra Leone security sector personnel, the Somali government and the African Union Forces on preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

The Dallaire Initiative is broadening its research presence to draw out expertise from a variety of academic disciplines who are making significant contributions to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers; one of whom is Ben O'Bright. He is a Dalhousie PhD candidate who has recently been exploring the issue of child soldiers in the digital age. His current research focuses on how children are recruited via the internet, the role they play in cyber-attacks, and how they are exposed to violent propaganda online.

With sustained conflicts around the world and the continued use of children to wage war the Dallaire Initiative will continue to seek out solutions to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers through various forms of research.

THE ISSUE

On the children affected by armed conflict agenda, there exists a large number of gaps in both data and research. This is due to the shifting nature of conflict, the inaccessibility to stakeholders and the lack of knowledge translation and mobilization amongst and between practitioners.

The Dallaire Initiative's research approach to the issue of child soldiers is innovative. We use the insights of those who have come before us and apply our unique perspective to produce rigorous research. This research, in turn, often represents the first attempts to build larger analytical and data sets to explore issues regarding child soldiers. It represents a larger catalyst to inform international discourse on our training and education activities.

Dallaire Initiative research is completed through an interdisciplinary approach, combining monitoring, evaluation, and organizational learning. This is underpinned by a process of gathering and analyzing information for the purpose of filling knowledge gaps.

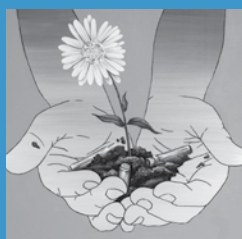
PILLAR IMPACTS



Photo: Sylvain Liechti

COUNTRY REPORTS

The Dallaire Initiative launched twelve country reports on countries as they relate to children affected by armed conflict, including Yemen, Colombia, and South Sudan. These country reports provide contextual information to complement the Dallaire Initiative's training materials and make it context specific. The country reports provide information on the history of the conflict, armed forces and groups that recruit and use child soldiers, and other grave violations against children in the conflict. These reports are published in cooperation with the Stahili Foundation, and Lori E Talsky Center at Michigan State University.



ALLONS-Y

In August, our second issue of Allons-y was published, featuring articles on some of the most pressing issues on the children and armed conflict agenda including the harmful ideologies of Islamophobia and Islamist fundamentalism, the lack of a sufficient response to the mental health needs of refugee children, and the growing need to address the involvement of children in cyberattacks. Allons-y is a flagship publication of the Dallaire Initiative, containing a series of peer-reviewed papers written by young academics and practitioners, complemented by expert commentary, and designed to foster discussion and innovative thinking on issues relating to children in war, terrorism, and violence. The call for applications for the third issue of Allons-y was launched on February 12th, 2018.

LATEST FINDINGS

In 2017, the Dallaire Initiative published 2 reports on the work of the Dallaire Initiative in Somalia and Sierra Leone. These reports looked at the innovative programming the Dallaire Initiative is undertaking in both countries and providing best practices and lessons learned that can be applied to other contexts. In addition to these reports, the Dallaire Initiative explored the intersection between detention and child soldiers in its peer-reviewed journal article "Addressing the Gaps in Security Sector Training: The Detention of Child Soldiers." This ground-breaking article examines the threat of torture that detained child soldiers face, and how the training delivered by the Dallaire Initiative helps to prevent this abuse.

OUR RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS





Photo: Tristan Brand

MAPPING RADICALIZATION LEADING TO VIOLENCE

In March 2018, the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative and the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV), a Canadian based organisation whose aim is to prevent radicalization leading to violence launched the Hexagon tool at the Building Connections Conference in Montreal, Québec.

The Hexagon can be used to demonstrate the complexities associated with radicalization leading to violence. Joëlle Badman, the Education Programme Manager for the Dallaire Initiative played a leading role in developing the tool.

WHAT IS THE HEXAGON TOOL?

Over the years, the number of attacks by violent extremists has been on the rise in countries across the world. This has affected the security and well-being of many individuals, groups, and societies. Despite efforts by many governments and organizations, the threats of violent extremism have grown more severe and urgent. Such threats call for new efforts and approaches to preventing further attacks.

In Canada, the Dallaire Initiative and the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV), has been looking for an effective solution to counter violent extremism.

Joëlle Badman is the Dallaire Initiative's Education Program Manager. Badman had many years of experience as a social worker before she joined the Dallaire Initiative. Over the past 2 years, she spent most of her time working with the CPRLV to develop the Hexagon tool.

"Really what we were looking for was the opportunity to create an educational training tool that will really highlight and create space for understanding all of the complexities and all other factors that are involved in the process of radicalization leading to violence."

According to CPRLV, radicalization leading to violence is a process whereby people adopt an extremist belief system – including the intent to use, encourage or facilitate violence – in order to promote an ideology, a political project, or a cause as a means of social transformation.

"We wanted to help practitioners, whether that's police, teachers, or social workers, to look beyond some of the traditional or simplified versions of what radicalization leading to violence looks like; for example, only looking at a person's behaviours as indicators [of the risk for radicalization]. We wanted to get people thinking beyond that, to also consider things like vulnerability factors, protective factors, what kind of things that happen in that persons social and economic context that might be playing a factor, and who are the people in their lives that might act as prevention actors?"

Badman says the tool was developed after many years of research carried out by CPRLV.

"In particular, we were looking at two very specific resources that they'd had. One of them was what they call the pathway to radicalization. This was a document that illustrated the trajectory that a person might be on if they were moving towards the process of being radicalized. It starts with this assumption of we all come into the world believing in what they call the

promise of togetherness, so, this idea that that the world is a good place, that I'm part of it, I'm part of a larger community but sometimes things happen along the way that cause us to question whether or not that's true. So we might feel like we are stigmatized, marginalized, we might face some different socioeconomic factors that make us question whether or not we truly belong and so we go looking for answers to those questions and we search for it either in our families or friend circles, or within the media. We look in all these different places and our ability to sort of digest and take in the information that we find when we are looking for answers about our place in the world is heavily influenced by our vulnerability and protective factors. Vulnerable factors being things like whether or not we have strong critical thinking skills, whether or not we have good employment prospects, all sorts of different things. Protective factors being whether or not we are empathic people or whether we have strong positive role models in our lives."

Another key research outcome that was used is the behaviour barometer, which looks at specific sets of behaviours shown by people who may be on the pathway to radicalization. However, according to Badman, the experiences may be different for each individual, which means the point of intervention may also change.

But the fight against violent extremism is nothing new in Canada. Over the years many other Canadian organizations have developed new ideas to counter violent extremism, but there have been challenges in keeping with the new dynamics of radicalization leading to violence.

What makes the Hexagon tool different?

"I really think the intention behind the tool and the value of the Hexagon is that we are challenging people to look at radicalization leading to violence from multiple perspectives to ensure that they are working in collaboration with other disciplines when trying to prevent and trying to intervene on this issue in their communities."

Over the years, the Dallaire Initiative has noted similarities between how young people are recruited into extremist groups in Canada and how child soldiers are recruited in different parts of the world. This includes the similar roles and functions they perform in their groups, as well as shared vulnerability factors.

The Hexagon will give people the required skills to be able to detect and intervene. The goal is to get more community members learning how to use it.

PROFILE

Joëlle Badman

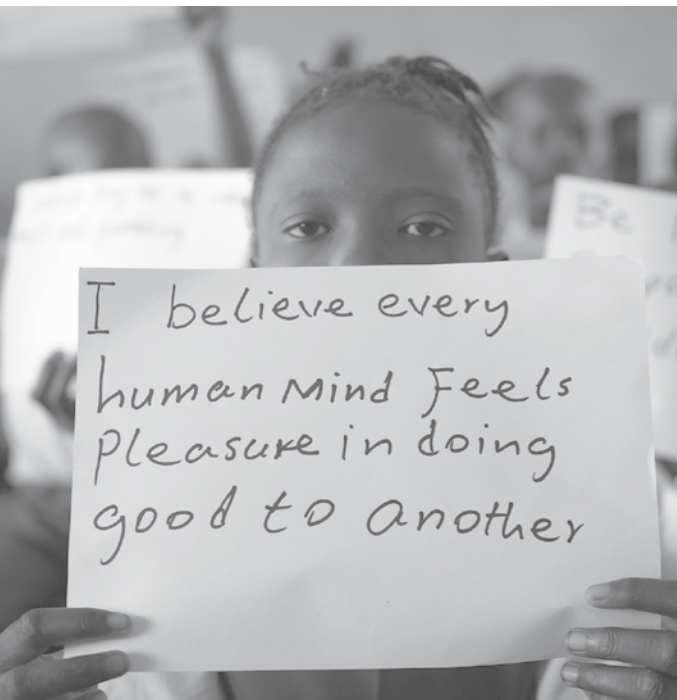


"There has been a really slow response on issues of violent extremism, where maybe only the police are responding, maybe a community member doesn't actually share their response because they worry about what the police response will be, and this tool is really about bringing people together, emphasizing communication, emphasizing complex thinking, and helping people to have the tools and knowledge to be successful prevention actors of violent extremism."

The novel approach that Hexagon undertakes teaching individuals about radicalization leading to violence is getting noticed. Participants of trainings from Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and the United States have requested training on the Hexagon and it demonstrates the practical applicability of the tool to new contexts.



Photo: Tristan Brand



THE ISSUE

The education pillar supports and builds capacity of those who work with, mentor, and care for children and youth. Our emphasis is on a Children's Rights Upfront Approach, which focuses on preventing recruitment into armed groups and reducing the impact of armed conflict on children. We believe that if we equip key actors with the latest knowledge and skills, that they will apply more effective strategies in their programming design and daily interactions with children and youth. Ultimately, this will create a supportive environment that emphasizes peace, inclusion, community engagement, and resilience.

PILLAR IMPACTS



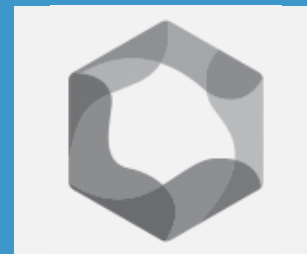
SIERRA LEONE

In Sierra Leone, we established "peace clubs" with a local civil society partner, Pikin-to-Pikin, an organization that is focused on education delivery to children who might not be able to access traditional classrooms. These clubs are accessed by more than 100 kids in three schools across Sierra Leone. An impact assessment of the programme carried out in June 2017 found that the clubs are leading to improved dialogue and understanding between young people and adults, and concrete actions have been taken to reduce bullying and tensions around elections, which took place in March 2018.



RADIO PROGRAM

In December 2017, the Dallaire Initiative launched Peace Club Radio as part of its Sierra Leone education project. The program comprised of 4 shows that explored themes found in the Dallaire Initiative story books and teacher curriculum package, such as bullying and sharing. Listening clubs and a WhatsApp listening group were created to engage listeners on themes of the programs and key lessons learned.



BUILDING CONNECTIONS POLICE PROJECT

HEXAGON TOOL

Hexagon is a pedagogical tool for analyzing case studies of radicalization leading to violence. Built in partnership between The Dallaire Initiative and CPRLV. It was formally launched as part of the Building Connections conference in March 2017.

Hexagon's aim is to improve understanding of situations of radicalization leading to violence within a training framework for social workers, health care professionals, police officers, teachers, researchers and many more. With a particular focus on multidisciplinary prevention, Hexagon is an interactive, engaging and hands-on tool designed to foster exploration of the various facets of this issue. With better understanding comes better prevention.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS MOBILE TRAINING WEBSITE

Created in partnership between the Dallaire Initiative and the Edmonton Police Service, Connections, a mobile training website is being utilized by police officers to learn about radicalization leading to violence within the Canadian context. With modules designed to increase understanding, develop skills and strategies, and engage communities and youth, Connections serves as an entry point for police officers in a variety of positions to learn more about radicalization leading to violence, so as to better their ability to prevent, respond and intervene.



117

PEOPLE TRAINED
IN 3 MONTHS

133

CARDS IN EACH
SET OF HEXAGON

78%

HEXAGON TRAINING
PARTICIPANTS STRONGLY AGREED
THAT HEXAGON IS A
USEFUL EDUCATIONAL TOOL

**WITH BETTER
UNDERSTANDING
COMES BETTER
PREVENTION!**

11

PROTOTYPES WERE
DEVELOPED IN THE
MAKING OF HEXAGON

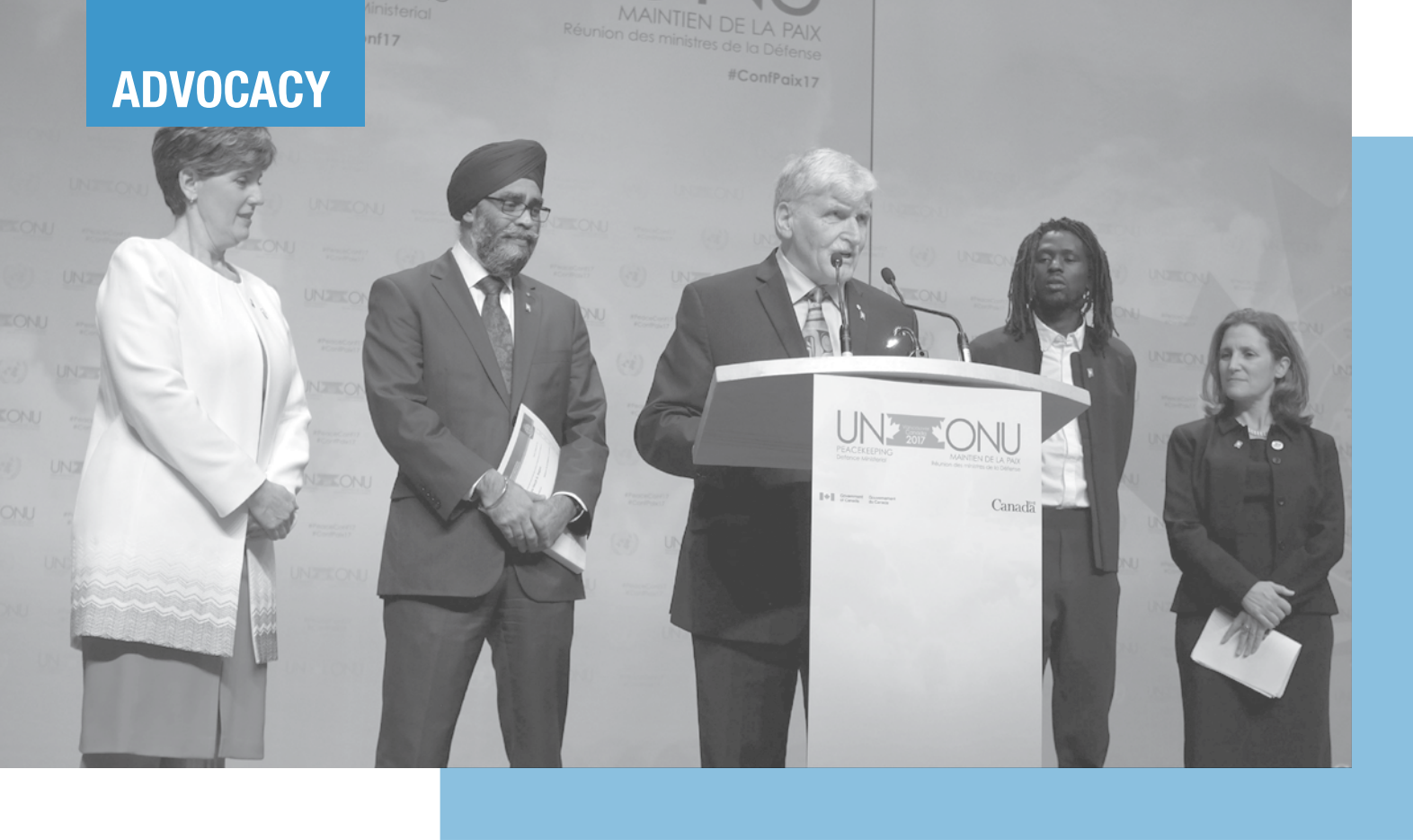
Hexagon is a participatory approach that mobilizes the expertise of a variety of prevention actors: teachers, social workers, police, community workers, etc.

"[The] case studies and [the] video put me in a perspective and a great depth in understanding individuals from different angles. Understanding the Hexagon framework enables me to actively explore different aspects in depth, also holistically. One of the best trainings I've ever taken!"

– Training participant, Edmonton.

“THE HEXAGON IS REALLY ABOUT BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, EMPHASIZING COMMUNICATION, EMPHASIZING COMPLEX THINKING AND HELPING PEOPLE TO HAVE THE TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE SUCCESSFUL PREVENTION ACTORS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM.”

Joëlle Badman, Education Program Manager



TOWARDS PREVENTION: THE VANCOUVER PRINCIPLES

On the international peace and security agenda, children are often placed at the bottom of the priority list for nations and policymakers. But the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative is trying to change that. The organization wants countries to prioritise child protection by adopting the Vancouver Principles, launched in November 2017, as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in Vancouver, Canada.



PROFILE
Dr. Shelly Whitman
 Executive Director of the Roméo
 Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

Dr. Shelly Whitman is sitting in her office at the Dallaire Initiative and she looks excited to talk about the Vancouver Principles, which were launched in November 2017.

“The Vancouver Principles are a set of principles that countries endorse that ensure countries focus on the prevention of the recruitment and use of child soldiers at a national level, in terms of preparations of their troops for peacekeeping missions that they would partake in worldwide.”

In most armed conflicts across the world, children as young as 10 years old are recruited and given guns to fight alongside adults.

On the frontlines, bullets are not the only danger they have to face to survive and see another day. Child labour, hunger and starvation, disease, sexual exploitation and physical torture by senior commanders are some of the many horrific things they also have to endure. This is the everyday reality of many child soldiers across the world.

Those who survive the conflict often find it challenging to live with its devastating, long-term effects. They are left stigmatized and sometimes unable to return to normal life.

Children trapped in conflicts often join fighting forces due to a lack of options, while some are forcefully recruited, and many others are deceived into believing that armed violence is the only way to ensure their survival and secure their future.

In the past, armed groups – including peacekeepers and state military officers – have often automatically considered children carrying guns to be enemies. They are treated as adult fighters, often confronted with violence without their opponents considering their age or vulnerabilities. Countless children have been killed in firing exchanges between them and other armed groups. Those arrested are often shown no mercy by their captors: they are tortured and further exposed to other forms of abuse.

But the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative is trying to change this. The Initiative is advocating for countries across the world to prioritize prevention of the recruitment and use of children as soldiers by adopting the Vancouver Principles. And Dr. Whitman has strong reasons for pushing for more countries to adopt the Vancouver Principles.

“They are important on a global scale because they put the prioritization of the protection of children and the prevention of their use and recruitment [of child soldiers] globally as a key element for those who are dealing with

peace and security around the world. And so as an individual in any part of the world we should be concerned that what we want to do is to protect children from partaking in violence and in making sure that what we are doing is trying to end the cycle of violence that exists around the world.”

By endorsing the Vancouver Principles, Member States also commit to ensuring that all children apprehended and detained in conflict are given protection.

Aside from protecting child soldiers, Dr. Whitman believes if state militaries apply the Vancouver Principles, it will help in addressing the challenges of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which is a common challenge for security sector actors.

“This is in everybody’s interest to sign on to the Vancouver Principles because it protects children, but it also protects soldiers, so even if one is not concerned about protecting other children in armed conflict zones, you must be concerned about the protection of your own soldiers and your own troops and the impact that can have on them when they return home from mission. This is important because it helps professionalize soldiers, but it also helps us to reduce the cost and impact of things such as PTSD on top of protecting the world’s children, and we hope certainly to have an impact on the level of violence that exists around the world.”

The Dallaire Initiative is making significant progress: at the moment, 65 countries have endorsed the Principles since they were launched in November 2017, which shows an increasing global commitment to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers across the world, says Dr Whitman.

Signing onto international instruments has usually been a relatively easy process for most countries, but the challenge often remains in the implementation of these instruments.

The Dallaire Initiative is eager to make a difference with the Vancouver Principles. The organisation is now working on implementation guidelines that will help countries understand what they are expected to put in place for adequate training, research, and new policies that will move their implementation processes along.

As the Dallaire Initiative, Department of National Defence, and Global Affairs Canada prepare to celebrate the 1 year anniversary of the Vancouver Principles, Dr. Whitman is confident that more countries will adopt the Principles.

“The important thing about the Vancouver Principles is that even if you are not a peacekeeping contributing country, you can still endorse the Vancouver Principles and because it is at a national level in terms of the implementation, what it means is that any country can take on board signing this, endorsing it and then adhering to the implementation guidelines in conducting training that is relevant to this issue.”



THE ISSUE

On the international peace and security agenda, children are often placed at the bottom of priorities that face nations and policy makers. As such, their protection is left to chance.

A Children’s Rights Upfront Approach, which the Dallaire Initiative pioneers, seeks to elevate children higher up on the international peace and security agenda to create points of collaboration and aims to highlight the need to protect the rights of society’s most vulnerable—children.

By addressing the needs of children, the international community can begin to address the underlying factors that can contribute to the use of children as weapons of war. These include a lack of economic and education opportunities, access to healthcare ,or a steady supply of food and water. Through children, we can create a rallying point for peace.

PILLAR IMPACTS



VANCOUVER PRINCIPLES

On November 15th, 2017, the Government of Canada and the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative launched the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping on Preventing the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers. The Vancouver Principles (VPs) aim to improve the situation of children in armed conflict settings by prioritizing the protection of children within peace operations as central to the overall mandate of all United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

The VPs were conceived by the Government of Canada in partnership with the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative and developed in consultation with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNICEF, the Special Representative to the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, child protection actors and civil society partners, and UN Member States.

As of July 2018, 65 countries have endorsed the Vancouver Principles.

NO CHILD’S WAR



To mark February 12th, the International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers, the Dallaire Initiative launched a new advocacy campaign to raise awareness and discussion among Canadians pertaining to the recruitment and use of child soldiers. The No Child’s War campaign and advocacy tool, Not My War, have received a lot of traction across various social media platforms. We have more than 300 supporters so far with the aim of increasing it to 500 by February 2019.

HOW OUR WORK WAS FUNDED IN FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

In 2017, we diversified our funding model to include a substantial grant from Global Affairs Canada for a 3-year project in South Sudan. This multi-year program enhanced our established, but growing, funding streams from multilateral organizations, philanthropic donors (individuals and foundations), donations from the general public, and fee-for-service contracts. Our Founder's Fund continued to expand, supported by philanthropic individuals from across the globe, to serve as the catalyst to support organizational and strategic priorities. In addition to monetary support, we receive very generous in-kind donations from a variety of partners.

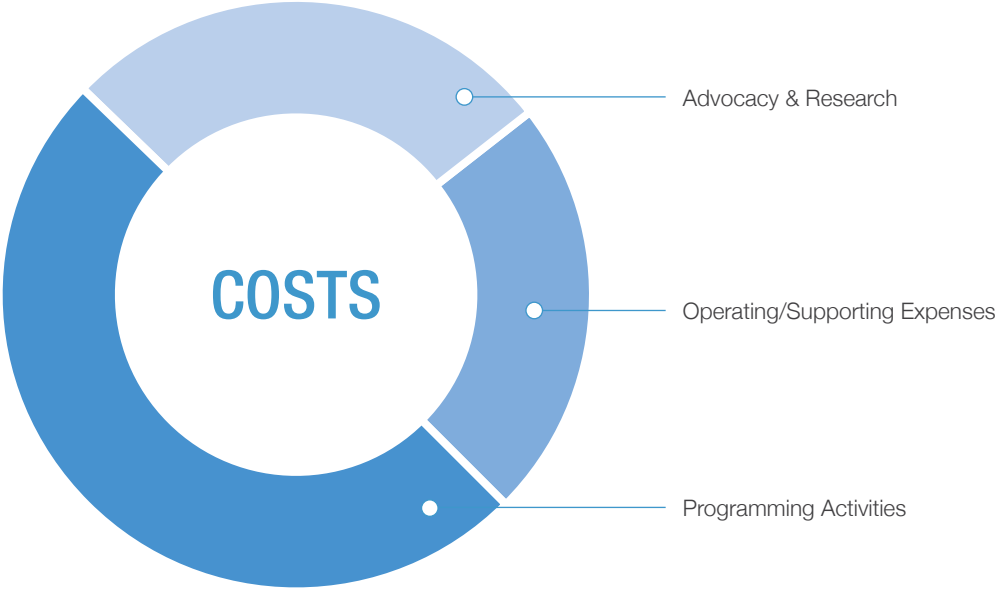
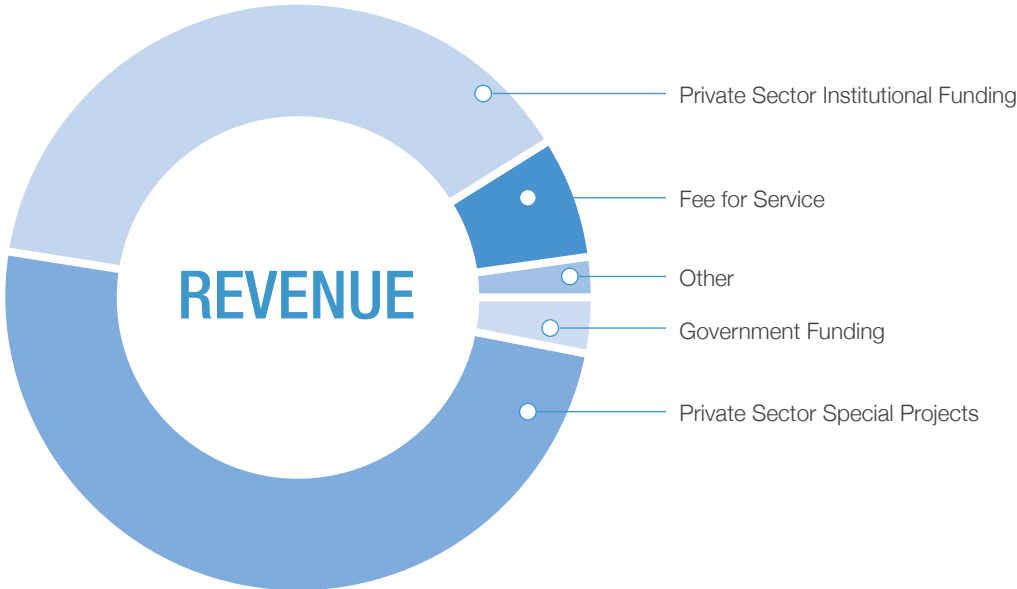
Over the next five years, we will aim to maintain a balance of restricted funding to support highly contextualized, country-based programs, with unrestricted funds that enable us to invest in research and advocacy priority areas, explore new partnership opportunities, and promote organizational learning. We also plan to grow our revenue stream through a “fee-for-service” delivery of our training and technical expertise, as the demand for our unique approach has grown exponentially.

We are committed to putting the majority of our funding directly into programming, particularly in our focal countries. Given this period of unprecedented growth, we also made investments into establishing new roles to support the increasing demand for our work, as well as to demonstrate its impact.



DALLAIRE INITIATIVE REVENUE AND COSTS

FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018



REVENUE

Government Funding	\$50,000
Private Sector Special Projects	\$741,689
Private Sector Institutional Funding	\$584,649
Fee for Service	\$100,686
Other	\$30,000

Total Revenue \$1,507,024

COSTS

Programming Activities	\$752,144
Advocacy & Research	\$409,531
Operating/Supporting Expenses	\$345,349

Total Costs \$1,507,024

EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORTERS

Anonymous x 26	Jennifer Castellano	Jean DuGuay	John M Hill	Lois MacKeil	Susan Neudorf	Karen Richards	The Dunkley Charitable Foundation
Jamie Aalbers	Helen Castellano	Kelsey Duncan	Sarah Hillaby	Tyler MacKeil	Ruth Anne Nicholson	Barbara Riordan	
George Abbott	Amparo Castellano	Marina Dykhtan	Ed Hogan	Ewan MacKinnon	Susie Nightingale	Romeo Dallaire Inc.	The Gerald Schwartz & Heather Reisman Foundation
Janet Andrews	Ernesto Castellano	Melissa Elliott	Lise Hoogkamp	Jill E. MacLean	Janet M Noble	Roots Corporation	
Luisa Appolloni	Catholic Women's League Holy Name Parish Council	K. Ellsworth	Corey Joseph Houle	Helen MacLeod	Nicole Novodvoretz	Anna Rose	The Parish of St Philip's Vancouver
Gabrielle Archambault	Justin Chen	MayLynne Emiry	Nikolay Hristov	Cathy MacNeil	Lise Olds	Dr. Gerald Rosenstein	Dave Thompson
Laurie Armstrong	Natalie Cheng Kai On	Enterprise Holdings	Freya Huang	Donna MacQueen	Mary Eliza Olson	Carolina Rzeznikewiz	Kevin Tod
Dr Andrew Barker	M. Chenier	Ken Ezeard	Howard Huxham	Mactaggart Third Fund	Mary Osborne	Ian Sanders	Hoan Tuan Tran
Barbara Baxter	Dale Clark	Reza Fard	IAMGOLD	Ruth Mandel	Jenny Osburn	Ms Beatrix Schirner	University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Marc Andre Beauchesne	Laura Clark	Marcela Fernandez-Davila	Intact Foundation	Nathalie Marion	Margaret Ostrowski	Sear Family Foundation	
Cameron Bell	Shane Cobb	Edward Fleming	Intact Insurance Company	Irving Markovitz	Ottawa Community Foundation	Jennifer Sherry	Stephan Unruh
Colleen Bell	Anne Collins	Lorne Fox	John & Elizabeth Irving	Glenna Marra	Our Lady of Peace CWL	Dava & Marvin Singer	Mr Doug Varty
Darcy Belliard	Friend West Point 1968	Neil Frail	Isles Foundation Incorporated	Quentin Martin	Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel	The Slight Family Foundation	Gerard Veilleux
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Olga Bespalova	Peter Cormier	Patrick Gamblin	Diana Jarvis	Leslie McLean	Darlene Patgunarajah	Nicolle Smith	Natalie Walden
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Lisa Blitz	Sheryl Cronk	Susan Gibson & Mark Bergman	Aaron John	Diana McMillan	Jocelyn Pearce	St Francis Xavier University	Kathryn Walker
Sharon Blumenthal	LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd), OC, CMM, GOQ, MSC, CD	Denise Godin	Laura Johnson & Jonathan Lowe	Mary Anne McNally	Landon Pearson	St Margaret's Centre	Lori Ward
Yana Bondar	Celyne Darling	Chi Chi Godin	Brenda Jordan	Heather Menzies	PEI Friends of True Patriot Love	Elena Stancheva	E. Warren
June Bourque	Jonas Deacon	J. R. Godin	Jocelyn Keith-Asante	Diane Millar	Arja Leena Pennanen Lytle	James M Stanford	A. Webber
Brian Bronfman Family Foundation	The Derech Family	Nicole Goguen	Everard Kent	Ralph Moore	Laura Perron	Ms. Lisa Stanley	Sharna White
Charles Brindamour & Josee Letarte	Clifford Deveaux	Vanessa Guilbord	Andrew Kent	Norman Moore	Virginia Petty	Volha Statkevich	Crystal Anne Wiens
Mary Buie	Alonzo Deveaux	Karen Halina	Asa Kent-Purcell	Lynn Moore	Nancy & Roger Pickell	Michael Steele	Paul Wilkinson
Dawn Burnett	Bernice Deveaux	Teresa Hall-Patch	Carol Keyes	Angela Moreshead	Christopher Popek	Ted & Judy Steeves	Julia Wille
Dan Burnett	Employees of DHX Media	Chris Hambly	Stephen Keyes	Crystal Morin	Walter Porter	Jim Stevenson	Cindy Woodgate
Pat Burns	Rachel Doucette	Linda Hampton	Olga Kileev	Maria Ann Moro-Blackburn	Power Corporation of Canada	Kathy Stinson	Wounded Warriors Canada
Natasha Bush	Carol Drish	Brian Harris	Sharon Klippenstein	James Mossman & Danielle Leinroth	Ryan Pump	Melanie Sucha	Jennifer Wride
Paul Calder	Sabrina D'Souza	Minnie Harrison	Danielle Lam	Ariel Motlis	Richard Purcell	Christine Sundberg	Betty Wright
Mackenzie Campbell	Maria D'Souza	Lauchie Headley	Barbara LaMarre	Paul Mounts	Zhili Qiao	M. T. Taylor	Jennifer Yarmus-Steinman
Michael Camroux	Hugh Ducasse	Susan Heath	Benjamin Lerner	George Muri	Pat Quigley	Rachel Taylor-Fergusson	Clara Yau
Jo-Anne Cane	Elaine Duffy	Christine Heming	Mike Livingston	Debbie Murphy	Christopher & Jean Rath	TC Moore Developments Limited	Susan Young
Peter Carver		Arlene Hensel	Sandra Luedee	Dana Naggar	Christina Redhead	Jennifer Temple	Catherine Zennstrom
			Margaret MacDonald	Ramasamy Narayanan	Reinstein/D'Aguiar Family	The Donovan Family Foundation	Professor Tietje Zonneveld (Ret)

GET IN TOUCH!

www.childsoldiers.org
info@childsoldiers.org
+ 1-902-494-6637

POSTAL

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative
P.O. Box 15000, Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4R2

PHYSICAL

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative
1390 LeMarchant Street Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3P9

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