### EXILE INTERNATIONAL 2020 IMPACT REPORT

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# MAKING HEALING & HOPE POSSIBLE SINCE 2008





This means better lives and increased potential to thrive.



care programs led by EI graduates



**completing their education** That's 4 times the national averages!

# THANK YOU

### You are restoring lives & communities.

Your support has placed Exile International on the front-lines for nearly 13 years — providing life-changing, Christ-centered care to 6,000 children and their communities. Thank you for partnering with us. Thank you for making each child's healing and hope possible.



**Bethany & Matthew Williams** Exile International Co-Founders

# **OUR MISSION**

Empowering rescued child soldiers & children orphaned by war to become leaders for peace through art-focused trauma care & holistic rehabilitation

# WHO WE SERVE RESCUED CHILD SOLDIERS & CHILDREN ORPHANED BY WAR

100,000+ children abducted & more than 5 million orphaned by war in DR Congo & Uganda



Avg age at abduction. Avg age of a 6th grader.



YEARS IN CAPTIVITY Avg time captive – exposed to

violence, trauma, & loss.

Decades of war have orphaned more than 5 million children and forced 100,000 more into slavery. Children as young as 7 are kidnapped and forced to fight in rebel armies. Psychologically tortured and brainwashed — children are enslaved, forced to fight, and forced to kill.

Many are forced to participate in violence against their own families and communities. Still more are abducted and abused, becoming victims of rape and sexual violence.

Those fortunate enough to escape or be released are left with deep and enduring emotional scars from what they've seen and been forced to do. Many are unable to return home because they have either lost or been rejected by their families.



Fourteen years old, Shalom was abducted at gunpoint by rebel fighters. Taken from his family and home, it would be years before Shalom could return. A story far too common in DR Congo, Shalom was enslaved by the rebels and forced to be a child soldier — forced to commit horrific acts of violence. But this would not be the end of his story.

After being rescued by the United Nations, Shalom was brought to The Peace Lives Center – an Exile International rehabilitation center. With time and the help of counselors and mentors, we have seen God work miracles in Shalom.

### "I give glory to God for saving me until this day... I thank Jesus for saving my life." — Shalom

Since graduating from Exile's rehabilitation and leadership programs, Shalom is thriving! A recent university graduate, Shalom is pursuing his dream of helping others. Shalom now is an Exile leader — leading an Exile rehabilitation center in the very community from which was once taken.

Few are better equipped to lead Exile's programs than the young men and women like Shalom. Because of Shalom and others like him, Exile developed a training and equipping model for program graduates who are now successfully replicating the leadership programs that restored their lives.

In the past year, 16 new care programs were launched by graduates — providing over 700 more children with the care they need to overcome and thrive! In 2020, program graduates lead 29 of Exile's 38 care programs.

These graduates are the multiplier effect and the embodiment of disciples making disciples — not stopping with their own healing, but sharing Christ's restoration and hope with others.

Formerly child soldiers, these young men and women are leaders for peace with the potential to transform their nation.

Neet Shalom



EDUCATION & DISCIPLING

# ROAD MAP TO HEALING

"When I arrived at Exile, I was welcomed with open arms. I could not believe such a peaceful place existed! I love being at Exile International because I am finally healing from my inner wounds."

JUSTINE, 12 YEARS OLD FUTURE LEADER FOR PEACE EXILE INTERNATIONAL, CONGO







ESCAPE OR RESCUE BY UN

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# RESTORATION & NEW LIFE



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# ART-FOCUSED TRAUMA CARE

### Expressive Therapy provides a medium for children to process emotions & experiences they do not yet have the words to share.

Children who have survived war can find it difficult to discuss in words the trauma they have experienced. For this reason, Exile's programs use music, dance, drama, and art to provide children with avenues to share their stories in creative ways — helping them discover a childhood they have lost.

Trauma often shuts down the language part of the brain. Using expressive therapies gives the children an avenue to tell their stories of pain, loss, hope, and dreams in a way that bypasses verbal language.

Processing their stories with caregivers and peers, children are able to rebuild a sense of connection and normalcy once lost to extreme physical and emotional traumas. This is a significant step in recovering what war has stolen.

# **OUR APPROACH**

### **Christ-Centered & Holistic**

Fostering healing and hope through rehabilitative care programs addressing the needs of the spirit, mind, and body — child survivors of war are finding new life in Christ!

### **Art-Focused Trauma Care**

Music, dance, drama, and art provide a safer outlet for child survivors of war to express and process their emotional wounds.

### **Education**

Education enables children to move from surviving to thriving! Empowering young men and women to escape poverty, to support families, and to develop their own communities.

### Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, & Leadership Development

Conflict impacts all our lives. In a region known for conflict, El is empowering the next generation of influencers with the tools needed to overcome conflict and lead communities towards peace.

### **Graduate-Led Replication**

Every year, El is training and empowering more program graduates to launch care programs in their communities. These graduates and their influence are vital to ending cycles of violence and poverty throughout the region.





### HEALING SPIRITS Art-Focused Trauma Care, Discipleship & Peacebuilding

HEALING MINDS Education, Professional Skills & Leadership Development





HEALING BODIES Safety, Food, Medical & Other Basic Needs

# **GRADUATE-LED REPLICATION**

### 29 of 38 Care Programs Led by Program Graduates

Every year, Exile is training and empowering more program graduates to launch rehabilitative care programs in their communities. These graduates and their influence are vital to ending cycles of violence and poverty throughout these regions.

Focusing efforts on replication driven through graduate-led programs — healing and hope are spreading at exponential rates in previously unreachable communities!

# FROM SURVIVORS TO LEADERS

### Lives are being transformed & these young leaders are bringing healing to their own communities.

Former child soldiers who have graduated El's program are now providing healing to other rescued child soldiers fresh out of captivity. Additionally, young men and women who were once orphaned and on the street are now ministering to other children orphaned by war.

These program graduates are providing child survivors of war an example of what full circle redemption looks like — they are giving them hope.

When our greatest heartaches become our greatest ministry, grace comes full circle — and these youth are living, breathing examples of that.

Dembers Story

I was four years old when I was abandoned by my parents because of the war and forced to live on the streets. The nights were very cold, and I was often without food. It was so challenging learning how to survive by myself. Often times older children on the streets would hurt me because I was so small. I was very sad and alone. I had no hope.

But I now know God was always with me. He saw me and sent a woman who made a living selling food in the community to rescue me. She saw I was being beaten by other children and knew they intended to initiate me into a street gang. She felt sorry for me and knew I needed help right away. This wonderful lady brought me to a local pastor. When he saw me, he knew I needed help. The pastor brought me to Exile International. That's when my life changed for the better!

I received everything I needed! Exile International gave me shelter, food, medical care, and so much more. Exile also helped me to start healing from my inner wounds. I am now in fourth grade and love school. Dreaming of a future was something I could never do before. But now I want to become an engineer when I grow up! But while I am still a child, I will keep playing soccer — it's my favorite sport!

### I thank God that He saw me and brought me peace!



# A GOD-SIZED VISION

# Providing 100,000 child survivors of war opportunities for healing & hope.

Empowering each to become leaders, transform their communities, and end cycles of poverty & violence.

In obedience to Christ's command, our mission is to make disciples and disciple-makers. Each year, more and more graduates are taking what God has given them (1) the gospel and salvation, and (2) restoration through Christ-centered rehabilitation and sharing it with their communities and youth like themselves. Praise God!

These graduates are catalysts to a multiplier effect that can halt cycles of violence and poverty and provide healing and hope to fellow war-affected youth who were once just like them! They are using their pain for purpose, helping fellow child surivors of war experience full-circle redemption. 90,000

37,190

60,000

MPOWERING CHILDREN OF WAR TO BECOME LEADERS FOR PEACE



### 104,700



2036

2038

2040

# LOCAL EXPERTISE

### **Relevant, Transformative & Sustainable**

Coming alongside the local church and local expertise, Exile implements culturally appropriate care that is both transformational and sustainable!

Local professionals, churches, and program graduates are leading the charge — transforming communities for Christ.

### 164 local staff & volunteers

These men and women are our heroes and mentors. As experts in their own culture, they lead Exile's rehabilitative care programs each day drawing from years of experience and wisdom.

Daily we learn from their faith, hope, and commitment to serving Christ and serving His children.

# **2020 IMPACT**



### CHILDREN HEALING THEIR WOUNDS

Through Exile's 38 care programs in DR Congo & Uganda.



### COMPLETING THEIR EDUCATION

95% of sponsorship program beneficiaries complete their educational journey. That's 3-4 times higher than averages in Uganda (17.5%) and DR Congo (31.7%).

# 29 OF 38

### CARE PROGRAMS LED BY GRADUATES

Program graduates are replicating the programs that transformed their lives — bringing healing & hope to fellow war-affected youth!



### DECREASE IN PTSD SYMPTOMS

On average, youth experience a 78% decrease in PTSD symptoms within 24 months of entering Exile's programs.\*

\*Trauma recovery & progress is tracked on an on-going basis using the CRIES Test (a trauma severity test).

# **2021 GOALS**

2,200

CHILDREN SERVED IN 2021



CARE PROGRAMS LED BY GRADUATES



### **KEY INITIATIVES**

including El's Extend Program, expanded vocational programs, and new monitoring & evaluation tools

# BUDGET

Year over year — more children are healing from the wounds of trauma & more child survivors of war are empowered to thrive!

Thank you for restoring rescued child soldiers & children orphaned by war to become leaders for peace through art-focused trauma care & holistic rehabilitation.









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### EXILE INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REVENUE



### **BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES**

# **75%** program services

Africa Programs (65%)Advocacy & Awareness (10%)

## **25%** SUPPORT SERVICES

Admin (16%)Fundraising (9%)





HEALING SPIRITS Art-Focused Trauma Care, Discipleship & Peacebuilding



HEALING MINDS Education, Professional Skills & Leadership Development



HEALING BODIES Safety, Food, Medical & Other Basic Needs

Accredited Commitment to Stewardship & Mission Success







A member of the Trauma Healing Alliance

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