

# VOICES

# Rising

## FOCUS ON NIGERIA

ChildVoice®  
www.childvoice.org

WINTER 2024

### THREADS OF HOPE: TAILORING APPRENTICESHIPS IN MUBI

FOR OUR STUDENTS IN MUBI, NIGERIA, tailoring is proving to be a highly popular and marketable skill to learn. In response, we recently established a pilot apprenticeship program in which established tailors in the community took students under their wings for immersive hands-on training.

The Mubi apprenticeship pilot involved 40 students serving as apprentices under 8 established tailors within two local communities. The low instructor-to-student ratio of 1 to 5 helped ensure that students received a high level of individualized instruction.

Both the students and the instructors expressed great enthusiasm about the pilot apprenticeship. Theresa Peter, one of the students said: "After participating in the tailoring apprenticeship and ChildVoice psychosocial support activity, I now believe that when you have [a skilled trade], you can make a good living."

For Peace Simon, one of the instructors and local business owner, working with ChildVoice afforded an exciting opportunity to both teach and learn. "I learned from the girls, and the girls also learned from me," said Peace. "I was excited by the level of interest the girls have to learn the work."

The 40 apprentices in the pilot program will now move into a "small business incubator" workshop that ChildVoice is establishing as part of phase two, in which they will learn to establish their own small enterprise. Upon completion of the incubator phase, they will be ready to open their own businesses, or find employment in the community, and earn income.

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### MALKOHI UPDATE: Demonstrating Against Gender-Based Violence

In December, ChildVoice Nigeria Team members and students at our Malkohi Youth Empowerment Center participated in the annual "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" UN Women campaign, which starts on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25), and ends on Human Rights Day (December 10). Observing the day is a source of empowerment for the traumatized adolescent girls we serve by providing an opportunity for them to take part in calling for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Several students also participated in community service in December. At Malkohi, one high point was the delivery of a wheelchair to a boy with a disability who is in our program. Community service also empowers our students with a sense of purpose and spiritual duty.

We hope to capitalize on the popularity and success of the tailoring apprenticeship pilot by recruiting as many as 100 new students into the new program in the coming year.



## TRAGEDY IN NIGERIA

### Underscores Growing Need for Global Interventions

In a number of attacks by Fulani herders against agricultural villages in Nigeria's Plateau state over the 2023 Christmas weekend, over 150 villagers were killed. As many as 5,000 people were displaced as a result of the violence. The attacks appear to have stemmed from increasing conflict over land use. This is due in part to dryer grazing land forcing Fulani herders to move southward where their cattle often end up damaging the crops of local farmers. It is also possible that the Fulani are being exploited by Boko Haram and other terrorist groups to serve their own extremist agendas

At our Malkohi Youth Empowerment Center, we are working hard to bridge cultural divides by working with violently displaced young people from agricultural communities alongside nomadic Fulani youths who have suffered similar losses. Tragedies such as the Christmas Eve attacks make this work all the more important.

The attack and its tragic consequences are yet another reminder of growing global unrest, not just in Africa, but in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere. And it underscores the growing need for the work we are doing to build bridges, restore lives, restore hope, and ultimately, restore peace – one child, one family, one community at a time.

## WHEN WE SAY "WE COULD NOT DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOU",

these are not just words on a page. Literally, the amazing work that our teams in Uganda and Nigeria do to serve thousands of young people this past year could not have been accomplished without you.

We were blessed to meet our 2023 year-end fundraising goals in December thanks to so many of you joining us in this work! Thank you for partnering with us—and trusting us—in our mission to bring hope and healing to war-affected youth. We look forward to your partnership in 2024 as we seek to serve a growing number of young people around the world!

Just as in Uganda, inflation in Nigeria is pushing up the cost of living, hitting the most vulnerable people – violently displaced adolescents – the hardest. Fuel prices alone have **increased by 200 percent** in the past several months. Help keep our life-changing programs going strong!

*Consider becoming a regular monthly donor today.*

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BECOMING A  
MONTHLY DONOR  
TODAY!

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## REFUGEES and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

### A PICTURE OF GROWING NEED

#### MOLDOVA

*Moldova has received 852,548 Ukrainian refugees since 2022. As of November 2023, over 100,000 remained in Moldova. Of these, 46 percent were under the age of 18.*

#### UKRAINE

*3,674,000 Ukrainians have been internally displaced by war throughout the eastern European country since February 2022.*

#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

*As of November 2023, the number of internally displaced Congolese people reached 6,298,436. Of these, 58 percent were adolescents under the age of 18. Most Congolese IDPs (over 4 million) are clustered in camps on the country's eastern border with Uganda.*

#### SOUTH SUDAN

*As of October 2023, there were 2,027,000 IDPs in South Sudan due to ongoing civil unrest and violence. Meanwhile, due to ongoing armed conflict in Sudan to the north, there were 318,000 Sudanese refugees living in camps on South Sudan's northern border. Nearly 60 percent of all refugees living in South Sudan were adolescents under the age of 18.*

#### NIGERIA

*Nigeria had 3,486,000 IDPs as of July 2023. Of these, 73 percent are in Borno State in the northeast of the country. (Our newest program is in Mubi, Adamawa State, just to the south of Borno.)*

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