



Global
Care

Transforming
children's lives
for 40 years.

News from Global Care and our partner projects

Winter 2023

NEWSBRIEF

NEW SKILLS FOR GIRLS

ON THE SIDELINES

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Over 100 teenage girls who were forced out of education due to the pandemic will receive skills training through a new project in Soroti, Uganda, thanks to our 2023 Christmas Appeal.

Forty years after we took our first steps as a children's charity in Uganda, it seems appropriate to return in 2023, renewing our commitment to delivering change for vulnerable children, and helping girls who lost out on education due to Covid.

The goal is not just to give girls new vocational skills, but to build their capacity to make the most of their new opportunities.

Some girls desperately wanted to complete their education but were unable to catch up on lost learning, others were forced to drop out to

take on casual work to support families struggling with debt and lost income, and still others ended up pregnant or forced into early marriage.

A huge cohort of girls worldwide have been left floundering, without the education they expected to achieve, and facing a grim future of low-paid, unskilled work without prospects. We have dedicated our 40th year to raising funds to support them.

This new project offers girls in Soroti short training courses in trades including baking, hairdressing and tailoring, alongside a package of business skills training, including money management.

We expect to help a minimum of 105 girls over three years, with 10 places per year in tailoring, 10 per year in hairdressing and 15 per year in baking. If we can raise additional funds, we will be able to help more students.

The girls will receive mentorship

and pastoral support from our Soroti staff, who will monitor their progress and help them develop entrepreneurial skills. The goal is not just to give girls new vocational skills, but to build their capacity to make the most of their new opportunities, so they can be sustainably independent and thrive as young adults.

The project will cost £33,000, including all training materials and equipment, tutors, placements and monitoring and pastoral support by our Soroti team.

Head of Operations, Steve Wicking, said: *"So many young women in the Soroti district have had their education, their aspirations and their futures wrecked by the recent storms of Covid, famine and the cost of living crisis."*

"With the help of this new initiative, these trainees will gain the skills and knowledge they need to quite literally make (or bake!) a brighter future for themselves and their families."



What could my gift buy?

£111 would purchase the traditional fabric one tailoring student would need to use during her training.

£38 would buy needles, sewing machine oil and other essential accessories.

Give today to change the future of a vulnerable young woman.



globalcare.org/Christmas-2023

Buy a gift which makes a difference this Christmas

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS FROM GLOBAL CARE

SKILL SETS

In support of our new skills project in Uganda, we're offering two new 'alternative gifts' this Christmas, to give to your friends and family in place of traditional gifts.

These gifts are only available in limited quantities – with 45 baking sets available and 30 hairdressing kits, reflecting the numbers of students we expect to support over the next three years via our new Ugandan skills programme.

When you purchase a gift, we'll send you a gift pack containing a card for you to write a message to your friend or family member, and a leaflet explaining the project.

SUCCESS baked in



For £13.50:

All the utensils and baking equipment needed for a trainee baker in our new Soroti project.

The edge she needs



For £25.50:

A trainee hairdresser's kit, including basic equipment and all the shampoos and hair products they need to complete their course.

SUPER SOLAR

Our popular solar lamps are back for a third year, this time intended for children known to our partners in Zambia, including students at M8 school.

Last year, our 31 sponsored children in Zambia received lamps, as well as another 100+ Ugandan families. Our Zambian partners have many more disadvantaged families in this rural area to whom they hope to give lamps.

11-year-old *Bella received a solar lamp earlier this year. Her daylight hours are often filled with household chores and time for homework or reading has always been limited. Bella's mum told our partners she was so grateful for the new lamp. It made a big difference to Bella's reading skills, as she could now read or study after nightfall – and it scared snakes away!



Bella's solar lamp has helped her reading skills.

For £16:

The lamp goes to a vulnerable child like Bella and the UK donor will receive a gift pack explaining the programme.

Solar has many benefits:

- greener - reduces reliance on 'dirty' kerosene fuel
- healthier – improves health, especially reducing respiratory problems
- safer – reduces fire risk of a naked flame in a wooden or thatched hut
- cheaper – families no longer need to buy expensive kerosene fuel

Families report other benefits:

"It attracts flying ants which I can catch and eat."
"I can study after dark."
"I can take my disabled child safely to the toilet at night."
"It scares away snakes and rats."



Buy alternative gifts online:
globalcare.org/shop

THANKING GOD FOR 40 YEARS

Come and give thanks for 40 years of God at work through Global Care, at our Anniversary Thanksgiving Service.

We're gathering on Saturday 11th November at the Salvation Army, Lamb Street, Coventry (CV1 4AG) to thank God for the way He has blessed Global Care's work over 40 years.

We want to praise God for our wonderful international partners, our dedicated supporters, and the incredible transformation we have seen in the lives and futures of thousands of children worldwide over four decades.

We will be joined by Sriyani Tidball, director of Community Concern, our partners in Sri Lanka for 25 of our 40 years. We will also be joined by our wonderful Patron, Fiona Castle, and other guests, with worship led by singer-songwriter Rob Halligan.

In addition to being our keynote speaker, Sriyani will also host an afternoon seminar for those who are interested, with a focus on human trafficking.

Sriyani is a leading expert in the fight against trafficking, in Sri Lanka and the USA. Her seminar will focus on practical ways to protect and support women at risk of trafficking, based on many years of research and lived experience.

The seminar will begin at 4pm, followed by a light tea and refreshments at 5pm, with the formal Thanksgiving Service beginning at 6pm. There's no need to book – the whole event is free of charge – but for catering purposes it would be helpful to know you are

coming.

Please let us know by phoning the office on 030 030 21 030, including any dietary requirements, or by booking online at globalcare.org/events

Thanksgiving Event

When: Saturday 11 Nov, 4pm

Where: Salvation Army, Lamb Street, Coventry, CV1 4AG

Booking: globalcare.org/events

Cost: Free

ANNIVERSARY Carol Concert

The final event of our 40th anniversary year will be a Carol Concert, run jointly with Coventry City Mission (CCM), on Saturday 9th December.

CCM has also been celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. We wanted to create an opportunity to celebrate with them, marking all that God has done through these two Coventry-based Christian charities, supporting thousands of vulnerable people both in the city and abroad, over four decades.

The Carol Concert will be held at Christchurch, in Frankpledge Road, Cheylesmore (CV3 5GT), Coventry, beginning at 7pm, and will feature

carols and readings, including a selection of carols by an adult choir, drawn from city churches, and a children's choir from a local school, as well as congregational singing.

There will also be the premiere performance, by both choirs, of a new carol written for the occasion by Coventry artist and composer Adam Tucker, who is leading the musical element of the evening.

Tickets cost just £5, or £10 for a family ticket including up to two adults and three children aged under 16. Ticket costs include a mince pie and a hot drink. Any additional donations will be split equally between Global Care and CCM.

Anniversary Carol Concert

When: Saturday 9 Dec, 7pm

Booking: globalcare.org/events

Where: Christchurch, Frankpledge Road, Coventry, CV3 5GT

Cost: £5 per adult / £10 per family

Anniversary Appeal Update

So far, we've raised over **£65,850** in our Anniversary Appeal to support the needs of marginalised girls worldwide. Thank you so much to everyone who has given so generously, including those who have so far given £5,329 at Harvest for our new project tackling period poverty in Ethiopia.

GIRL CHILD ONLY BORN TO BE A SLAVE

“What is the use of giving a girl child education?” asked *Suma’s Dalit parents when challenged by our team in Patripul, a slum near Mumbai. “Girl child are only born to be a slave.”

The team encouraged the family to send Suma to the GCare centre, and after six months her family relented and enrolled her in school. Suma was six years old.

Three years later her father died suddenly. Without rent, Suma and her mum faced eviction. Our team helped Suma’s mum get a job cleaning offices.

But when Covid hit, lockdown closed the company where Suma’s mum worked. Without income, their landlord kicked them out. They couldn’t stay on the streets under lockdown rules, as the

police beat them, and they turned to our Patripul team in desperation.

Mahendra visited their landlord and offered to pay the rent if he would relent. Thanks to our Covid response fund, we paid 1,000INR (£9.85) per month in rent for the family for two years, until the lockdowns finally ended and Suma’s mum got another cleaning job.

We also provided food parcels and a rechargeable lamp, as the electricity was cut off for non-payment. The lamp could be recharged at our centre for free.



Soon Suma was back at school and earlier this year she completed 10th grade with good marks, easily qualifying for grades 11-12 (higher secondary). But her mum couldn’t afford the higher fees and decided to marry 16-year-old Suma off to an old man, who would not demand a dowry.

Again, only the intervention of our Patripul team saved her. Mahendra found her a place at a school with a hostel, and arranged a full bursary based on her strong grade 10 results. In a class-wide test, she came first.

Suma says: “My father and mother forsook me, no education, but GCare

found me and gave me a future.

“In our society there is no value for a girl child; we are rejected. People think we are born as a curse to the family. Thanks for GCare helping me and other girls like me.

“In all my struggle GCare has been supporting me so I could concentrate on my studies – that is why I did so well in grade 10. Thank you so much GCare.”

Suma’s mum said: “Thank you GCare for standing with us during the difficult times we have had and opening my eyes so I didn’t give my daughter in marriage.

If I had given her in marriage she would have been a slave for ever. Thank you so much for saving me and giving my daughter a future.”

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark blue puffer jacket and a white and grey patterned scarf, is standing next to a young boy. The boy is wearing a dark blue jacket and is holding a blue marker, drawing a circle on a whiteboard. The woman is also holding a marker and looking at the whiteboard. The whiteboard has some faint, illegible writing on it. The background is a simple room with some shelves and a red cloth hanging on the wall.

hope:renewed

Global Care's commitment to our partner's work in Syria is being renewed for another three years, running until September 2026. CEO John White will be visiting the team in November for the new partnership agreement to be finalised.

The children at the Hope Centre, in Damascus, receive informal education, counselling and therapeutic support. The team make a tremendous difference in the lives of some extremely vulnerable children, all of whom have lived their whole lives in the shadow of Syria's ongoing civil war.

After more than a decade of conflict, human suffering in Syria remains unimaginably high. Civil war, displacement, the pandemic, a series of epidemics and, most recently, a devastating earthquake have left a huge seven out of ten Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance, according to international agencies.

Half the population has been displaced, either internally or out of country, 85% of households cannot meet their basic needs, and more than half the population lack access to a stable source of water. Only just over half of medical centres are operational, and more than two million children are out of school.

"In this context, the work of the Hope Centre is truly a beacon of light in the darkness," says John White. "We are delighted to be able to renew our commitment to our partners, enabling them to continue to intervene in the lives of children and young people who are desperately in need of help."

The 2023 earthquake – centred in Turkey and Northern Syria – was felt as far away as Damascus, where our project is based, and has caused increased anxiety for many children. There were an estimated 30,000 aftershocks in the months following the quake, including 40 registered at a magnitude of five or more.

*Khadija's story



Eight-year-old *Khadija lives with her parents and four siblings in a dilapidated suburb of Damascus. The family were displaced after a missile fell on their home in northern Syria six years ago.

Both Khadija's older siblings still carry injuries – her brother has a poorly-healed hand injury and her 17-year-old sister has shrapnel in her head. Khadija herself struggles with asthma – the bombing having triggered such a severe attack that her father carried her on foot for four hours through the night to get medical attention.

Khadija attends the school club at the Hope Centre and is making

good progress despite multiple challenges including poor memory, low confidence, and hyperactivity. Although her home life is more stable than many of the children at the centre, she has still benefitted from therapeutic support and counselling, including sessions on aggression, hurtful speech and self-confidence, and also the support offered to all the children following the earthquake.

Khadija wants to be an Arabic teacher when she grows up – and in the last year her Arabic results have improved from 64% to 90%. The Hope Centre really does deliver on its promises – giving children hope in the face of despair.

Exploring alternatives

There will always be a need for residential care for some children, for example, those who are unsafe in their own families.

However, we have been working with partners who operate children's homes to consider developing community-based care options where possible. This is particularly appropriate for children considered 'economic orphans' – those placed in residential care because their living parents can't afford to feed or educate them.

This is true of several boys at the Home of Love, in Bangladesh,

where this type of residential care is still very much accepted by the community.

Over several years we have supported our Bangladeshi partners in considering other models, allowing such children to stay within their family networks and still have their educational and welfare needs met.

We are delighted to announce that our partners have recently begun to trial community-based support for three children. We look forward to continuing to work with them as they develop this initiative.



Congratulations!

We're celebrating with our partners Emmanuel Ministries, after Calcutta Emmanuel School (CES) was recognised nationally across India as a winner in the 2023 Telegraph Schools Awards.

Global Care has supported students at CES for more than 25 years through child sponsorship. We are delighted that the school's unique pastoral strengths were recognised through the CES team

winning the Caring Minds award for 'A School Which Cares' – entirely upholding the vision for which the school was formed.

CEO John White said: *"Rarely has an award genuinely been more deserved! CES has an outstanding track record in caring for some of India's most vulnerable and marginalised low-caste children, and supporting many of them through underprivileged, even traumatic childhoods, into*

careers and professions which would otherwise be closed to them. We are proud to stand alongside them as their partners and are confident the school and the team's other ministries will continue to go from strength to strength. Well done, Emmanuel Ministries!"



Our Soroti team are celebrating after *Hanna, a sponsored child, was chosen to compete in a national athletics championship for children with disabilities.

Hanna is blind, as is her single mother. She attends a school for the blind near Soroti, thanks to our child sponsorship programme.

"It was such an encouragement for the family, and for the family of Global Care, for the hard work and talent which Hanna demonstrated," say our Soroti team. Well done, Hanna!



50 miles in 30 days

feel equal to the others"

14-year-old *Madalo is in her last year of primary education at a school in Chileka, Malawi.

She lives with her single mum and four siblings in a slum settlement, money is scarce and it's not been unusual for the family to go without food for the whole day.

School was often humiliating for this young teenager; wearing a torn uniform, walking without shoes, carrying books in her hands as she had no bag.

And as it's been such a struggle to get through primary education, Madalo had little hope of going on to secondary school.

All that changed when she was brought onto the support programme run by Global Care's new partners, Muthange, in April 2023.

Madalo now has shoes, a new uniform, a school bag and equipment. Suddenly she has more confidence among her friends and is determined to go to school every day.

"Now I feel equal to the others," says Madalo. "My life was helpless before Muthange, but now I have belief that this help will continue and this help will see me through secondary school."

Madalo wants to become a teacher because she admires the women teachers in her school.

Join our annual New Year walking challenge and help us raise funds to support the education of marginalised girls in Malawi – just like Madalo.

50 Miles in 30 Days is a simple way to get fit and have fun, while walking off the excesses of Christmas and enjoying some winter fresh air. Just sign up, wherever you are, and get walking in January!

Each week there will be a fun photo or physical challenge to spur you on, with prizes, and everyone who signs up will receive a Global Care beanie hat to keep them cosy outdoors.

We ask for a donation of £30 to enter, and although you can make a larger gift or raise sponsorship funds if you wish, there is no obligation to undertake further fundraising.

In 2023, we hope to have enough walkers to raise £5,000 towards funding the cost of the second year of our new project in Malawi. Our new partners,

Muthange, are working in a small group of primary and secondary schools to relieve poverty through providing school essentials to marginalised children, and to support marginalised children through a mentoring programme.

They have a particular focus on girls, as they understand their additional vulnerabilities, and are committed to having a ratio of 70% girls / 30% boys benefitting from their work.

Learn more and sign up at globalcare.org/50-miles

 **50** miles
THIRTY DAYS



Sign up here:



40 YEARS

Snapshots from our archive: stories of hope and grace

1980s

“You showed me compassion, I want to show compassion. I sit in my office in the University, with Dr Monica Musenero on the door, and think, ‘Can this really be me?’”

These were the words of one of our first sponsored children in Uganda, after completing her sponsorship.



Some of our first sponsored children graduate university

Global Care supported Monica through school near Mbale, and her first degree. She then went on to get a doctorate in veterinary medicine, and a post at Makerere University.

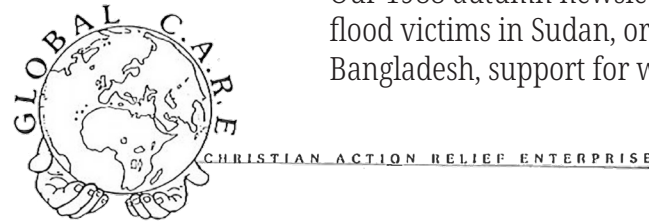
Over the years her star continued to rise, with further studies in microbiology and epidemiology.

Monica played a leading role in the fight against Ebola in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone, and was called out of retirement to confront Covid.

She now serves as a consultant epidemiologist to the government of Uganda, and as an adviser to the Ugandan President on epidemics and pandemics.

Over 40 years, our sponsors have helped thousands of vulnerable children like Monica grow into strong adults. Child sponsorship changes lives – never doubt it!

We started with child sponsorship in Uganda in 1983, but by 1988, the fledgling charity known as Global Christian Action Relief Enterprise was active in many countries. Our early growth was rapid.



Our 1988 autumn newsletter describes work with flood victims in Sudan, orphanages in Morocco and Bangladesh, support for war victims in Lebanon

via missionaries John and Hazel White...

and the start of some relief work in a

troubled northern district of Uganda, called Soroti...

From such small seeds, a mighty trunk may grow.

1980s vs 2023: What do we do differently today?

In our early days we supported sponsored children through school and university, as appropriate. However, as we reviewed the most effective ways of benefitting the most vulnerable children, in time we ended this practice. Enabling access to quality education for the poorest, youngest children, is a more impactful and efficient use of resources than paying expensive university fees for the brightest pupils. Our child sponsorship programme generally ends with the completion of secondary

education* or vocational training, equipping a child with enough skills for a sustainable future and allowing us to refocus resources on children not yet old enough to stand alone.

*One of the exceptions is our partnership with Spurgeons Academy, Kenya, where child sponsorship (linked to attendance at this school only) ends with the completion of primary education. Thanks to recent government changes, the school's board hope soon to extend the education they offer to junior high level, allowing children to stay longer.

1990s

The collapse of the Soviet Union opened a new window from the West into the lives of marginalised children in former Soviet states. The 1990s saw Global Care step into this new sphere tackling child neglect in multiple contexts, pioneering:

- family-based care for orphans in Romania
- preventative work stopping children going onto the streets of Tirana, Albania
- relief supplies and care for patients of formerly closed

institutions including a children's home and psychiatric hospital in Azerbaijan.

27 young people passed through Casa Sperantei (the Home of Hope) in Romania over 26 years, learning to live as part of a family, learning to love, growing into independence.

"I suppose for all my complaints of having our decisions criticised by the young people, having to push them in the right direction, I really loved being part of their lives. The wonder of lives being transformed before my eyes. Children whom the local

authorities told us we were wasting our time with, moved from being without hope to giving hope and joy to so many."

Read John's blog reflecting on our years in Romania at globalcare.org/a-bittersweet-goodbye

Global Care's reach across Africa continued to extend including a £250,000 response to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, initially delivering aid, then evolving into the restoration and development of a Skills Training Centre for

young people, and the resettlement of returning Rwandan refugees in 1997. In 1998, two new projects in Asia launched, which we still support today; the Pavement Club in Kolkata, India, and Morning Star Care Centre, in Dehiwela beach slum, Sri Lanka.

Home of Hope, 1992

1990s vs 2023: What do we do differently today?

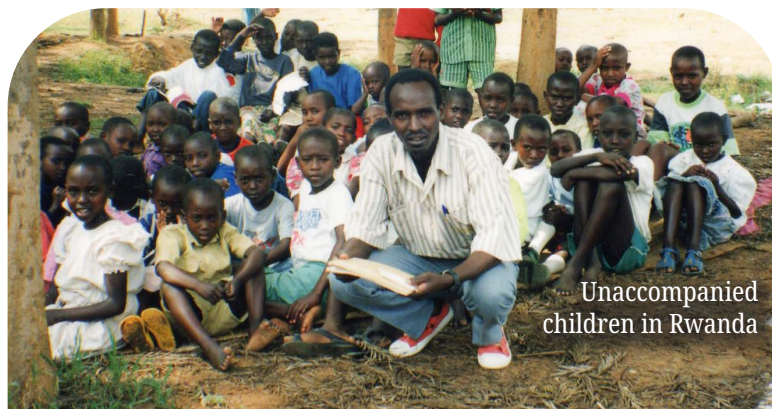
Many Global Care appeals through the 1990 & 2000s – especially those in Eastern Europe – featured containers of physical goods being sent from a Coventry warehouse. In the aftermath of Communism many supplies were simply not available in quantity at the point of delivery, and access over the European land mass meant delivery was possible. Today the storage and delivery costs, and red tape, involved in sending goods overseas, is rarely practical. Purchasing in-country is far more efficient, and also supports the local economy.

A familiar motto: a truth unchanged

"During 1993, I visited Global Care projects in Romania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. One little boy on the Zimbabwe border wrote: 'Before the Global Care feeding programme started we had nothing to eat, now we have three meals a week.'

We can't do everything, but we mustn't do nothing."

Doug Wood, Chair of Trustees,
Newsbrief Spring 1994



Unaccompanied children in Rwanda



Lazhar George lives with his wife and two children on a tiny island he owns on a lake about an hour outside Kolkata, India. He currently works in advertising sales for television.

Abandoned as a small child, Lazhar came onto Global Care's child sponsorship programme as a resident of children's home Jyoti Nilyam (Home of Light) in the early 1990s, and then moved to our current partners, Emmanuel Ministries, in Kolkata. He finished his sponsorship in 2007 at the age of 18 and went on to complete an apprenticeship as an air conditioning engineer.

Head of Operations Steve Wicking met Lazhar in 2022. Lazhar shared his memories of 'Papa Ron' and told him: *"I had no-one, but Global Care was a family to me."*

"Today she is a different story"

A chance encounter led to a life-changing operation for a young girl in agonising pain.

Ten-year-old *Sheena had been in Soroti Hospital for two weeks, unable to walk and in severe pain, when she met Fred, one of Global Care's local managers.

According to her single mother, Sheena had needed a specialist operation after an accident. But she couldn't even afford to travel to a hospital with orthopaedic services, let alone cover the cost of surgery. Sheena was treated without an operation, and the family hoped the fracture would heal – but it didn't.

Sheena's only hope was surgery. In the meantime, she lay in hospital, in agonising pain. Could Global Care help?

We certainly could! Using our Medical Response Fund (MRF), part of our Children At Risk initiative, Fred arranged a costly but successful operation at an orthopaedic unit.

She needed medication, crutches, and follow-up appointments, all paid for through the MRF. It was also agreed that Sheena should join our sponsorship scheme.

The MRF changed Sheena's life - and child sponsorship meant her mum would never again face a crisis alone.

She was walking within a few months and went back to school. Today 17-year-old Sheena is about to complete her primary education and is working with our staff to decide her next steps.

Fred reports: *"I cannot tell you how happy I am about Sheena. I remember that morning when I met her mother crying and stranded in Soroti hospital, and the girl crying of pain. I'm sure she never had hope that she would walk like her peers again."*

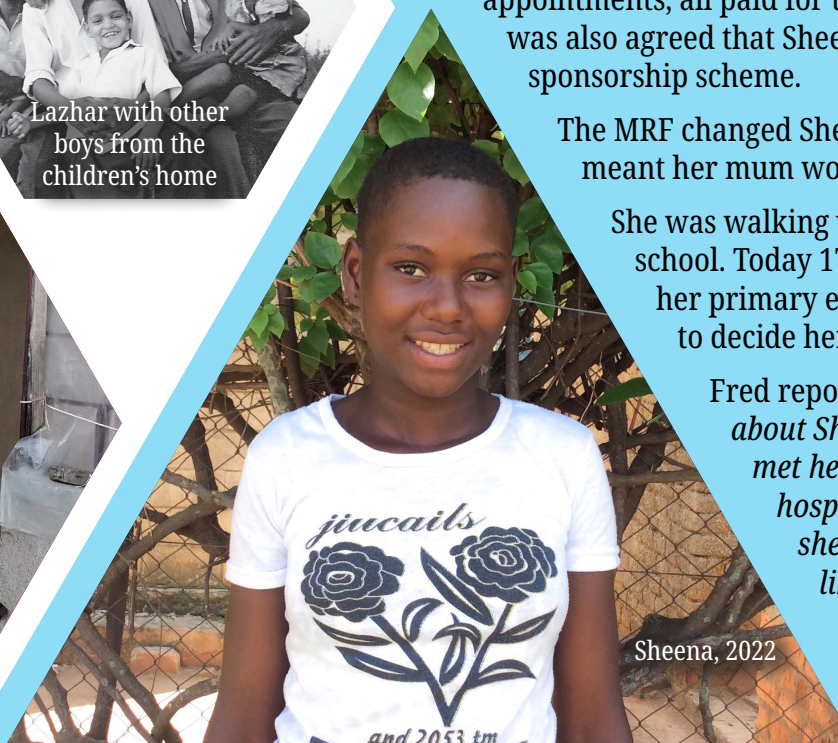
Today she is a different story."



Lazhar with other boys from the children's home



Sheena, 2017



Sheena, 2022



2000s

Global Care already had a strong track record in disaster relief, dating back to the seminal 1984 famine in Ethiopia, but the South East Asian Tsunami in December 2004 pushed us to new levels.

The deadliest natural disaster in recent history, the tsunami killed almost 228,000 people in 14 countries. The horror of the disaster, as we in the West prepared our Boxing Day celebrations, resulted in a phenomenal outpouring of aid.

Our Morning Star Care Centre in Sri Lanka, just yards from Dehiwela beach, was badly flood-damaged, but the beach slum where our families lived was swept away. The families survived but lost everything they owned.

With Global Care's support, our partners leapt into action. Appeal donations hit £100,000 in just ten days, with the final total reaching £400,000. It remains the biggest response to an emergency appeal in Global Care's history.

Initially providing emergency supplies and accommodation for all 1,541 displaced families, plans were developed for an ambitious housing project.

We built more than 500 homes – apartments and bungalows – which

were given to the beach slum families, most of whom had never lived in such quality accommodation.

Ultimately, despite all the millions that poured in from elsewhere, and promises of government support, it was our committed partners Community Concern, with the support of Global Care, who provided more than half of the new post-tsunami housing in the Columbo district.

Grassroots partners get the job done. That hasn't changed.

Other disaster relief projects in the 2000s included a £180,000 appeal helping starving families displaced by the war on terror in Afghanistan, in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. We also fed famine victims in Burkina Faso and provided relief aid in the wake of earthquakes in Gujarat (2001) and Pakistan (2005) and cyclones in Myanmar (2008) and Bangladesh (2007).

"We only learned what it meant to be a community since we moved here..."

Watch a short video featuring a family in a new post-tsunami home at vimeo.com/111708834

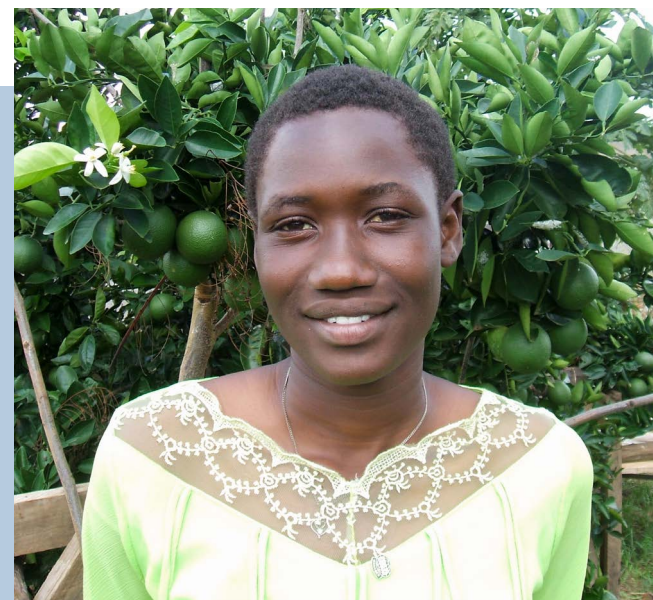
"I come from a small village in Soroti, Uganda.

Growing up from a less privileged family wasn't easy but then God opened up a door for me through Global Care sponsorship programme in 2006, when I was 7 years.

Because of the generosity of my sponsor I got an opportunity to stay at school, wore shoes for the very first time, ate paid-for meals at school, tasted chocolates for the first time.

This made me unstoppable!

Global Care saw me through primary and secondary school. I was grateful for the bigger opportunity the programme played in my life.



Now I am a social worker by profession trained in the field of Child Development and I'm also a counsellor.

All what I am right now is because of what you started. I made everything I am because you gave me confidence and hope to believe that things can be possible."

2000s vs 2023: What do we do differently today?

In our early days we often launched emergency appeals when a disaster hit the headlines, even if we had no previous connection with the region. It generated publicity and donations but aid could usually only be delivered with the help of larger agencies, as we had no local networks.

Today we only run emergency appeals where we have grassroots partners already in place. This avoids duplication, is more effective and efficient, and we can be confident aid is getting rapidly to those who need it most.

Read more: globalcare.org/five-reasons



2010s

In 2012 our work took a new direction with the opening of The Ark, in Uganda, a day centre for children with disabilities.

Challenged to consider if we were truly supporting the most vulnerable children, we became aware of the isolated, stigmatised lives of disabled children, and the inability of parents in poverty to meet even their most basic needs.

The more we did to help, the more we learned. As the decade unfolded, The Ark was followed by the development of Disability Support Groups, the launch of disability playschemes, the provision of accessible school facilities including latrines, and an extended action research project identifying the best ways of helping children with mobility difficulties access education.

We returned to the theme of the most vulnerable with two more new projects in 2012 and 2013.

In 2012, we began supporting children affected by HIV/AIDS in Kenya (2012), through our new partnership with Spurgeons Academy, a primary school in Kibera, a sprawling slum on the edge of Nairobi.

At Spurgeons, almost every pupil is affected by HIV/AIDS, either through 'living positively' themselves, or by having family members affected. Coping with HIV is difficult even for those with easy access to decent medical care and good food and nutrition— for a family already in poverty it's often an impossible challenge. At Spurgeons, HIV/AIDS affected children receive healthy meals, welfare care and a quality education.

In 2013, we launched work focussing on the needs of children made more vulnerable by the conflict in Syria. By this stage, around one in five people in Lebanon was a Syrian refugee, and services were

hopelessly overstretched.

Working through existing contacts, we began with relief aid for refugees, which quickly evolved into support for refugee education, culminating in our Shack School project, which ran from 2016-2020. In 2019 we switched our focus to supporting conflict-affected children living inside Syria, with the Hope Centre informal education programme, which we continue to support today (see p. 6).

"There is no question that progress for the most disadvantaged children is the defining condition for delivering on the 2030 goals and determining the future opportunities of generations to come. The time to act is now."

UNICEF, State of the World's Children report 2016



Syrian refugees in Lebanon, 2016

2010s vs 2023: What do we do differently today?

The Ark closed in 2020 in favour of a new model of community-based outreach and care for disabled children. This enabled us to help more children with disabilities at a fraction of the cost.

This reflected a bigger shift taking place within Global Care throughout the 2010s, as we moved

away from the support of orphanages, in favour of more community and family-based models of care, like the mentoring programme for high-risk children on the streets of Guatemala, which began in 2015. See also 'Exploring alternatives', page 7.

2020s

The 2020s will be the decade defined by Covid.

Our initial emergency response supported 19,408 people in 12 countries with feeding, accommodation and medical care, in response to the various crises engendered by lockdowns and hygiene needs.

However, it is the educational disaster of up to two years of school closures which we continue to see play out in the lives of children and young people.

If education is your only route out of poverty, but school is closed for two years and you are unable to access online learning, your prospects change dramatically. This is particularly true for young people towards the end of their school careers, who have no opportunity to catch up.

Since 2020, many of our new initiatives have focussed on closing this gap, including extra tuition in Guatemala (2021), Learning Booster Centres in Bangladesh (2022), skills training in Uganda (2023).

There is still much to do – but while we know *we can't do everything*, we also know *we mustn't do nothing*! We want to see a world where all children thrive – let's keep working together towards that goal.



"I have not forgotten"

During an extended lockdown in Patripul, India, as our partners delivered food to starving families unable to leave their homes, they discovered one family on the verge of taking rat poison to hasten their deaths, as they had no hope of survival. Our food parcels saved their lives and gave them hope to keep going.

One day last year, the father of

this family arrived at our Patripul education centre with a gift of food for all 140 children in attendance.

He told the team that he now has a steady job in construction and can afford school fees for his three children. He is full of hope once more.

"Thank you for saving my life and the lives of my family," he said. "I have not forgotten."

Commemorate 40 years with us

Celebrate an amazing 40 years of serving vulnerable children with us. Get your hands on a limited edition 2024 calendar and a limited edition Global Care hoodie.



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Our Global Care hoodie is beautifully soft, with a large front pocket and deep hood.



Featuring our popular '*can't do everything, mustn't do nothing, can do something*' strapline, it's a great way of wearing our values!

Sizes from XS to 2XL, £35 and available for order until 12 November.

Order our 2024 Calendar, featuring stories and images from our projects across the world.

Each month includes a picture from a project and a story about the impact Global Care's donors



have had on the lives of vulnerable children.

Limited print run of 100 copies at £10.



LEFT OUT AND LEFT BEHIND *no more!*



Make a difference to more vulnerable children this Christmas:
globalcare.org/Christmas-2023

We are delighted to share that our new Learning Booster Centres in Bangladesh launched in May and are going well.

This two-year project is helping children and young people catch up on the learning they missed during Covid lockdowns, as well as helping their families earn an extra income by growing salads or raising ducks.

Funded through the Big Give Christmas 2022 Appeal, 325 children are now attending 20 centres across the district where they play games, eat snacks, and get help with their schoolwork from young people acting as mentors.

Many of the mentors had taken up jobs in lockdown in order to survive and, reluctantly, had given up on their education altogether. However, as a reward for supporting the children at the centres, the 40 teenage mentors also receive weekly tuition, which is enabling them to return to education and catch up on their studies.

The centres run for two hours after school,

four days a week. The mentors work in pairs under the supervision of local teachers and two Project Coordinators, who visit all the centres at least once a week.

In June, our Head of Operations, Steve Wicking, was able to attend an official opening ceremony for the project, via Zoom.

He heard testimonies from some of the staff and young people, including 16-year-old *Ronald, who said he enjoys helping the younger children learn and *Juliet, also aged 16, who said the children are very motivated and excited when they come to the centres. She added that the support she has received in return has really helped her both in her education and personally. At the end of the ceremony, there was an official cutting of the ribbon.

A massive 'THANK YOU' to all our Christmas 2022 donors for helping to make this ambitious educational programme a reality!