



ON THE **EDGE**

OVER THREE DECADES OF TRANSFORMATION

Reaching children on the margins since 1990

INSPIRATION FROM THE EDGE

Changing national law, cross border exams and a brand new award-winning early years initiative.

SUPERSTAR SUPPORTERS

Meet some of our amazing fundraisers and find out how to join them.

2022



CREATING PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

A WORD FROM OUR CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, RACHEL BENTLEY

Over 30 years of working on the edge has shown us that it is essential to build protection into a child's surroundings. That's why we work closely with those who impact children the most: the family, teachers, local community leaders, and greater society. Building this protective environment throughout each interconnected layer -

from the family and classroom, to community and national level ensures that children are not only physically safer, but have the freedom to develop and thrive. We engage with and actively involve the entire community to jointly create safe spaces full of hope, life, colour, and fun.

This year has been no exception, from inspiring parents to transforming learning spaces, to resourcing community groups and even changing the law of a nation, we have continued to create safe environments for the children we serve.

Thank you to every person who is supporting us along the way. We're truly proud to have an amazing community around us, who do whatever it takes to help children living on the edge to flourish and thrive.



Rachel

CEO and Founder - **Children on the Edge**

ON THE EDGE SINCE 1990

1990s

ROMANIA, KOSOVO ALBANIA & BOSNIA

Supporting children without parental care, supporting refugees in Albania following the Kosovan crisis.



2000

EAST TIMOR

Establishing child-friendly spaces, post conflict.



2005

INDONESIA

Working with children and their local community to rebuild their lives following the Asian Tsunami.



2009

BANGLADESH

After developing experience working with refugees on the Thai/Burma border we began our work in Bangladesh with the Rohingya refugee community.

2012

UGANDA

Established our pilot Child Friendly Space and first Child Protection Team in Soweto Slum, Jinja.



2013

KACHIN STATE, MYANMAR

Early childhood development and support for children displaced by war and living in remote mountain camps.

2014

INDIA & LEBANON

Started our support of education for Dalit children in Bihar State, India and tent schools for Syrian refugee children in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon.



2020

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Adapted our programmes to protect and support vulnerable communities as they faced the threat of the pandemic and the effects of lockdown.



2021

CHANGING THE LAW

Saw the passing of 'The Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Bill' to end child sacrifice in Uganda.



WHAT WE DO ON THE EDGE



UGANDA

EARLY YEARS EDUCATION FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN IN KYAKA II SETTLEMENT

Uganda is host to the fastest growing refugee crisis in the world, with an estimated 1.4 million refugees; a quarter of them fleeing conflict, disease and human rights abuses in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. We support 30 Congolese refugee communities in Kyaka II refugee settlement to provide early childhood education for over 6,000 of the youngest children.



INDIA

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT FOR DALIT CHILDREN IN BIHAR STATE

Caste discrimination in India traps Dalit communities in a cycle of poverty and exclusion. As a result, Dalit children are denied their rights and struggle to access education. 31 Learning Centres in Patna offer education to over 1,000 Dalit children. To build a protective environment for these children, we also support 89 Women's Groups to realise their rights and tackle discrimination.

TRANSFORMING SLUM COMMUNITIES IN JINJA

Endemic poverty in the slums surrounding Jinja puts thousands of children at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation. We work with slum communities here to create protective environments for children through voluntary Child Protection Teams. Two Early Childhood Development Centres provide education to young children from the most vulnerable families and three Child Rights Clubs empower children to change their communities.



UGANDA

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN BROTHEL COMMUNITIES ON NEPALESE BORDER

Each year an estimated 7,000-10,000 women and children are trafficked from Nepal across the border into India's red-light zones in Bihar State. Two Education Centres offer skills training and basic education for 30 young women and 60 children who are cut off from education, in the hope that they can explore alternative options to the sex trade.



INDIA



BANGLADESH

EDUCATION FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEE CHILDREN IN KUTUPALONG CAMP

Kutupalong in Bangladesh is the world's largest refugee camp - and home to over 700,000 Rohingya refugees who have fled violence in Myanmar. We support 75 colourful Learning Centres which offer education for 7,500 refugee children who are otherwise cut off from learning. Teachers encourage creativity and self expression with digital lessons and plenty of play.



LEBANON

EDUCATION FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN IN BEKAA VALLEY

Over a decade into the Syrian crisis, neighbouring Lebanon hosts around 1.5 million Syrian refugees. A third are located in unofficial camps in Bekaa Valley where children struggle to access education. We have been supporting education for 300 refugee children since 2015 in safe, colourful classrooms, with additional vocational training and a large playground.

EDUCATION FOR SLUM DWELLING CHILDREN IN COX'S BAZAR & DOHARAZI ENCLAVES

In the slums of Cox's Bazar, and Doharazi Enclaves, extreme poverty forces thousands of children to work to support their families. As a result, they face financial and practical barriers to attending school. We offer education for 1,400 children in these slum communities, with flexible classes to allow access to quality learning, creativity and play.



BANGLADESH

EARLY YEARS EDUCATION FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN IN KACHIN STATE

Ongoing conflict across Kachin State, Myanmar has left 130,000 internally displaced Kachin people living in remote mountain camps, cut off from education and essential services. We support 14 Early Childhood Development centres for 412 displaced children in some of the most isolated, high altitude settlements, offering education, play and expert care for 3-6 year olds.



MYANMAR

CHANGING THE LAW TO END CHILD SACRIFICE



After five years of campaigning, we are thrilled that the Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Act was officially signed into law by the President of Uganda on 14th July 2021.

The new law aims to curb rampant cases of human sacrifice in Uganda by addressing gaps in the existing legislation that do not adequately handle the appalling practice of child sacrifice and ritual murder as a specific crime.

Inspired by the Child Protection Teams in Jinja who were instrumental in wiping out the practice of child sacrifice in their own communities, Children on the Edge has been at the forefront of a five year campaign for a change in Ugandan law. Working alongside Annie Ikpa (media professional and the instigator of the Bill), Children on the Edge Africa and World Vision Uganda, to ensure the ground-breaking law was passed and practice of child sacrifice criminalised throughout Uganda.

The passing of the Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Act is monumental; ending the horrifying practice of child sacrifice in Uganda, saving lives and making communities safer for children.



Winnie Biira is CEO of Children on the Edge Africa, and was a vital member of the campaign team. She said “Our Child Protection Teams have had great success in keeping children safe and vastly decreasing abductions in many areas surrounding Jinja. Despite our progress at grass roots level, we recognised the need to work on creating a protective environment for Ugandan children at the national level and campaign for a change in legislation. We are thrilled that communities now have the backing of the law to protect their children.”

EXAM ADVENTURES IN SYRIA

Each year in Lebanon, we work with a group of Grade 9 Syrian refugee students from the school we support in Zahle, to make the risky crossing back over the border into Syria to take their high school exams.

When exams approached this summer, the students waited all day to cross the border, but their request was denied. After two days, and some intense negotiations with the Syrian Ministry of Education and the Embassy in Lebanon, the group were finally allowed to cross. The delays meant they reached their examination centre with very little time to spare!

Not only did they succeed in their exam adventure, but every single student passed. This is an amazing result for the group and our school was the only one in Lebanon to get a 100% success rate.



Mounzir passed the Grade Nine exams with high honours last year. He had been out of school for several years working to help his family, but really wanted to get his High School Diploma. He felt that it was an impossible dream, but our teachers encouraged him to give it a shot and spent months supporting Mounzir to prepare for the exams.

“We have seen Mounzir grow, mature, take responsibility and excel. He impressed us with his determination as he was working full time, and studying full time, but still succeeded and was one of the students who passed with high honours.” - Project Manager Nuna Matar (pictured above at this year's exam celebrations).

**MEET
MONZIR**



SUPERSTAR SUPPORTERS!



IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET INVOLVED,
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU:
[FUNDRAISING@CHILDRENONTHEEDGE.ORG](mailto:fundraising@childrenontheedge.org)



We are **blown away** by the incredible achievements of some of our **youngest supporters**. Children who take on epic challenges to help make a difference for the children we support.

LIKE **8-YEAR-OLD FLORRIE** WHO WAS INSPIRED TO RIDE 20 MILES FOR CHILDREN ON THE EDGE SAYING **"I WANT ALL CHILDREN TO BE ABLE TO BE EDUCATED AND GROW UP TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT, JUST LIKE I'M ABLE TO!"** FLORRIE AND HER FRIEND LEWIS COMPLETED THEIR EPIC CHALLENGE, RAISING OVER £2,300.



IN AUGUST, **10-YEAR-OLD ALEX** CYCLED 100 MILES OVER FIVE DAYS. HE SAID **"I WANTED TO RAISE ENOUGH TO HELP TRAIN A REFUGEE TO TEACH AS THAT COULD CHANGE A WHOLE LOT OF CHILDREN'S LIVES."** ALEX COMPLETED HIS CHALLENGE AND SMASHED HIS TARGET RAISING AN INCREDIBLE £1,168.

MILES FOR REFUGEES



"THE CHILDREN LOVED DOING THEIR SPONSORED WALK AND HAVE REALLY ENJOYED RAISING MONEY! THEY ALSO ENJOYED THE ASSEMBLY AND MANY TEACHERS HAVE SAID HOW LOVELY IT WAS."

SAMANTHA BARGUSS
TEACHER AT
HALL GREEN INFANTS



Children at Hall Green Infants in Birmingham ran a sponsored daily mile every day in Refugee Week, raising over £2,895!

We loved chatting with the Key Stage 1 students in a Virtual Assembly so they could hear how their fundraising would help children who are the same age living in a tough situation.



THANK YOU...

to all the students and staff at Hall Green Infants, Benson Community School, Prebendal School, Glebelands and Fishbourne Primary for all of your brilliant support.

If you'd like your school to get involved with **Children on the Edge**, we'd love to hear from you:
fundraising@childrenontheedge.org



Year 8 at Prebendal School Chichester, hosting a bake sale for Children on the Edge.

BACK TO SCHOOL

After 18 months of ongoing closures due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were thrilled when the schools and learning centres we support in India, Bangladesh and Lebanon were finally able to re-open.

Teachers across all these programmes had done an incredible job keeping the children connected with education and support through home learning packs and community based learning, but the children hugely missed their time at school and were desperate to return.



First came the re-opening of the school we support in Zahle, Lebanon for over 200 Syrian refugee children. A normal routine resumed quickly and because of the exceptional commitment of the teachers throughout lockdown, students had not fallen behind with their learning.

Our partners in India welcomed 1,083 children back to classrooms in July, and have been working hard to help them recover missed lessons.

They also ran a 'Back to School' campaign to encourage extra children to return. Using the slogan 'Each One Bring One', students went around the villages, meeting their friends, talking with parents and bringing children back to the centres.

Six year old Aaila said about the 'Back to School Campaign'

"I HAVE BROUGHT 8 OF MY FRIENDS ALREADY BACK TO THE CLASSES! I WANT ALL MY FRIENDS IN THE VILLAGE TO COME TO THE CENTRE TO STUDY AND PLAY WITH ME."



In Bangladesh, schools in the Cox's Bazar slum communities and Doharazi enclaves re-opened early in September for 1,400 children. Student Nural said,

"IT IS GOOD THAT OUR SCHOOL IS OPEN. I AM HAPPY NOW. I HAVE MET MY FRIENDS AND MADAMS [TEACHERS] AND GOT TO WATCH A VIDEO ON THE PROJECTOR!"

Ten days later, our partners were given permission by the government to reopen the 150 classrooms we support in the Kutupalong refugee camp, for over 7,500 Rohingya refugee children. With only two days notice, it was all hands on deck to get the schools ready. Programme Manager Vaskar told us *"The plan is that even if we have to work through the night, we will. But the schools will reopen tomorrow."*

Students and teachers were thrilled to return to classes, even coming down the day before to watch the preparations. Every child was met with balloons, bunting and banners, together with gifts of colourful fresh flowers and chocolates.

Each re-opening has been celebrated in style, not only to mark the occasion of education and play being available again, but to let the children know just how valuable they are. We look forward to seeing them shine in their learning again, and revel in being back with their friends in colourful, safe spaces.

RUNNING THE EXTRA MILE



BERTIE DONKIN

Brighton Marathon was Bertie's first time ever taking on a 26.2 mile challenge and she raised an incredible £1,400! She told us

"ANYONE THINKING OF FUNDRAISING FOR CHILDREN ON THE EDGE, DEFINITELY DO IT! THE SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM THE CHARITY THEMSELVES WAS AMAZING, IT REALLY SPURRED ME ON. THEY ARE ALWAYS ON HAND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS OR OFFER HELP WITH FUNDRAISING. BEING ABLE TO HELP CHILDREN ON THE EDGE CARRY OUT THEIR INCREDIBLE WORK WAS AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT, AND COMPLETELY IMPROVED THE PROCESS OF TRAINING AND RUNNING FOR THE MARATHON."



LAURA FALLAHA

Laura joined our 'Jog 50 miles in June' virtual challenge. Her husband Raalf and his family were forced to flee from Syria in 2012 during the civil war. So Laura is especially passionate about the programme we support in Lebanon providing education to Syrian refugee children. She says,

'IF MORE PEOPLE CAN BE A VOICE TO SPEAK OUT ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES, AND REMOVE THE STIGMA, PEOPLE WOULD BE MORE TOLERANT AND LEARN TO LIVE SIDE BY SIDE WITH EACH OTHER.'

WANT TO RUN FOR **CHILDREN ON THE EDGE**?
GET IN TOUCH: [FUNDRAISING@CHILDRENONTHEEDGE.ORG](mailto:fundraising@childrenontheedge.org)

MONTEZUMAS
EXTRAORDINARY CHOCOLATE

has partnered with **Children on the Edge** for more than a decade, sharing the common goal of wanting to make a difference in a real, genuine, and entrepreneurial way. Every week Montezuma's fabulous customers are rounding up their shopping basket with micro-donations to Children on the Edge in partnership with **Pennies**.



THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OF YOU BUYING CHOCOLATE FROM BRITAIN'S GREATEST LITTLE CHOCOLATE COMPANY - EVERY WEEK HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF POUNDS IS DONATED THROUGH PENNIES; AND THANK YOU TO THE MONTY'S TEAM FOR ALL YOUR AMAZING FUNDRAISING.

Pennies!



£164,000 RAISED

THE BODY SHOP AT HOME™



has supported Children on the Edge since 1994, **raising over £3 million** and helping to create safe spaces for marginalised children around the world.

Thank you to everyone who bought a **Hemp Hand Protector**; The Body Shop at Home donates £1 from every 10, selling over 160,000 in 2021.

Huge thanks also to all who jogged, baked, took on thousands of squats and held events for us in The Body Shop at Home and of course our amazing **Ambassadors** and **Champions**.



Children on the Edge Ambassadors at The Big October Cake Bake launch

FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE

**"IF WE CHANGE THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY,
WE CHANGE THE WHOLE STORY."
(CHRISTAKIS, 2011)**

**Did you know that 90% of a child's brain
development occurs by the age of five?**

With 1,000,000 neurons firing per second in the mind of a small child as they investigate, chatter and play; early childhood is a crucial time for developing neural connections and establishing foundations for life.



WHAT IS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT?

Early Childhood Development (ECD) supports children's development in the early years of life, from conception to around the age of five. It includes services and programmes to support nurturing care, including protection, nutrition, health, learning and play.

HOW WE SUPPORT THE YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Throughout emergencies and humanitarian crises, the youngest children suffer most when their environments are thrown completely out of balance. Without basic layers of protection, education and stimulation, they are likely to suffer toxic stress which can damage their brain irreversibly.

Children on the Edge has been investing in Early Childhood Development for marginalised children around the world since 2000. Currently we support programmes for under sixes in 15 displaced communities in the remote mountain areas of Kachin State, Myanmar, two slum communities in Jinja, Uganda and 30 communities in the Kyaka II refugee settlement in Uganda.

TAKING EDUCATION WHERE THE CHILDREN ARE

"WE HAVE TAKEN FACILITIES OUT OF THE EQUATION, ARRANGING LEARNING IN SMALL GROUPS AROUND CLUSTER POINTS. TAKING EDUCATION TO WHEREVER THE CHILDREN ARE. THE PROGRAMME IS OWNED BY THE COMMUNITY AND GENUINELY SUSTAINABLE. THE CHILDREN STAY IN THE COMMUNITY AND THEY ARE TAUGHT BY TRAINED COMMUNITY MEMBERS."

MUGUWA PHILIP ASANTE
PROGRAMME MANAGER

Throughout Kyaka II refugee settlement, Children on the Edge is already reaching over 4,500 Congolese refugee children through 30 Early Childhood Development Centres, which are gradually being rebuilt and renovated to create fun and colourful learning spaces, with trained refugee teachers. Beyond these classes however, there are still more than 15,000 children aged 3-6 who are cut off from early years support at the most vital stage of their development.

To meet these needs, we are introducing a fresh way of learning at the heart of each community. Under trees, in homes and communal spaces, thousands more children are starting to gather in 'cluster groups' to access an hour's weekly lesson. Here, trained teachers spark learning and parents are supported to help them thrive throughout the rest of the week at home.



We're delighted that this new Cluster Learning Approach has won this year's **Theirworld Education Innovation Award**, and we now aim to reach more than 10,000 children over the next few years, with a view to replicating the model in other refugee camps within Uganda.

FIVE WAYS TO FUNDRAISE



1

BECOME A REGULAR DONOR

Regular donations provide a steady and reliable income that allows us to expand our work and make a lasting difference.

2

JOIN OUR VIRTUAL CHALLENGES

Whether it be jogging, walking or squatting and no matter where you are, you can get involved with our Virtual Challenges!



3

FUNDRAISE IN YOUR WORKPLACE

Perfect for team-building, strengthening relationships and making a difference, why not fundraise at work?

4

HOLD YOUR OWN EVENT

We love hearing your ideas and supporting your fundraising, there are unlimited options! So have a think and be creative, even a small amount can make a huge difference.



5

RUN FOR REFUGEES

Take part in an organised event to achieve your own goals and raise funds. Apply for a team place with us at some of the UK's major running events, or find your own event to take on.



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