

# Three years on

'When I think of a good day in my life, I think of the day I started coming to school.' Gabriel, age 13, Angola



## Education for children affected by conflict

**Together we can rewrite the future**

From Afghanistan to Angola, children tell us again and again that they want to go to school. Yet it is just five years until we are due to meet the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education, and 75 million children are still out of school — 40 million live in conflict-affected countries.

Education is too important to be put on hold, especially during and in the aftermath of conflict. Education allows children to develop the confidence and skills to strengthen their society, break the cycle of poverty and build peace in their communities. In times of conflict, education can keep children safe and give children a sense of normality when the world they know is turned upside down.

Three years ago Save the Children launched the Rewrite the Future campaign to take action for children in conflict-affected countries. With your help, we have reached a milestone for children affected by conflict — we are showing that education can be delivered in the most difficult circumstances and we have helped shift global attention to this issue.

But the urgent need remains for millions of children missing out on school worldwide. Twenty years since the Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified, millions of children are still missing out on a fundamental right. We call on you to continue to work with us to ensure even those children in the most challenging contexts have the opportunity to get the quality education that is their right.

# A milestone reached

Over 10 million children are receiving a better quality of education thanks to Save the Children's Rewrite the Future programmes

10.6 million children  
2008

5.7 million children  
2007

3.4 million children  
2006

Number of children reached by Rewrite the Future programmes

Three years ago Save the Children committed to show the world that quality education could be made a reality, even for children living in countries affected by conflict. Three years on we have shown that children's lives and ambitions need not be put on hold due to conflict.

By 2010 we promised to improve the quality of education for 8 million children in conflict-affected countries. In 2008 Save the Children both met and surpassed this objective by improving the quality of education for over 10 million children, giving them a real chance to learn.

We also committed to ensuring 3 million out of school children in conflict-affected countries gained access to school. We have succeeded in enrolling 1 million children in school, the equivalent of opening two schools every day since the campaign began, and with your support, we are dedicated to reaching our goal.

Providing quality education involves much more than building schools. Save the Children also provides school materials, trains teachers, and works closely with local communities and ministries of education to find innovative solutions so children can learn in safe and engaging schools, even in the most challenging contexts.

For more information on our programmes please see our 2008 Annual Monitoring Report at [www.savethechildren.net/rewritethefuture](http://www.savethechildren.net/rewritethefuture).

## Change is possible

- In 2008 we trained over 20,000 teachers and built or rehabilitated close to 5,000 classrooms.
- In Guatemala we set up 170 libraries in schools, supporting 14,000 children.
- In Indonesia we trained over 100 teachers of non-formal community learning centres to help get working children back into school.
- In South-East Europe we lobbied the governments to increase national education expenditure. Education spending in Bosnia and Herzegovina has increased by 8% since our campaign began.
- In Uganda Save the Children successfully lobbied the government to change the structure of the Ministry of Education so there are more teachers and smaller class sizes.

Save the Children is dedicated to ensuring our programmes have a real impact on children's lives. We monitor and evaluate programmes to track progress towards our goals. Between 2008 and 2010, we are evaluating how our education programmes are delivered in countries affected by conflict and what the results are for children. The first of two reports on the Rewrite the Future Global Evaluation can be found at [www.savethechildren.net/rewritethefuture](http://www.savethechildren.net/rewritethefuture).

# Global change for children

**Education aid for conflict-affected fragile states has increased by 50 percent between 2005 and 2007**

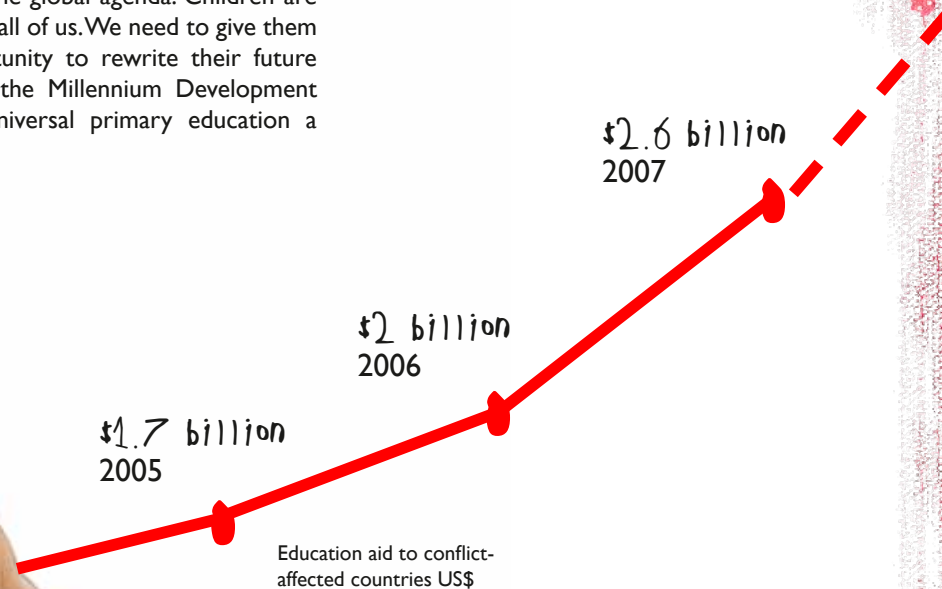
**Humanitarian aid to education doubled between 2006 and 2008 to US\$235 million**

Save the Children's Rewrite the Future campaign advocates towards Local and national governments, and local, regional and international organisations and institutions to push for education in conflict-affected countries to be a priority. In the past three years Rewrite the Future has helped secure real global change that will impact the lives of millions of children.

We welcome this progress but we cannot stop here – we cannot allow education for children affected by conflict and fragility to fall off the global agenda. Children are relying on all of us. We need to give them the opportunity to rewrite their future and make the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education a reality.

## International donors need to:

- Ensure all children in conflict-affected countries have access to quality education that protects
- Increase long term predictable aid for education in conflict-affected countries
- Increase humanitarian aid to education and include education as part of humanitarian policy and response



## Change is possible

Working with others, Save the Children advocates towards governments for education for children affected by conflict to be prioritised as part of development and humanitarian policies and as part of peace agreements. There has been significant progress on these issues:

- In May 2007, the first ever education donors conference was held in Brussels.
- In November 2007, the Global Education Cluster on education in emergencies was established to ensure predictability and quality of education in emergencies. The cluster is co-led by Save the Children and UNICEF.
- In September 2008, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child held a Day of General Discussion on Education in Emergencies, highlighting education in emergencies as a vital element of the right to education.
- In November 2008, the Sphere Project, which lays down minimum standards for emergency response, endorsed INEE education in emergencies minimum standards.
- In the same month, Save the Children engaged 31 Nobel Peace Prize winners to release a joint letter calling for education that promotes peace for all children affected by conflict.
- In March 2009, the UN General Assembly held a debate to highlight the crucial role of education in emergency and post-crisis situations.
- In the same month, Save the Children held an international conference in Sarajevo bringing together education specialists and peace mediators to lay a roadmap for the inclusion of education as part of peace agreements.
- In July 2009 the G8 promised to pay special attention to countries affected by conflict in order to reach the Education for All goal, building on their increased focus on conflict affected countries in the 2007 and 2008 summits.

# Afghanistan

**Together with you, we have improved the quality of education for 2.5 million children and got 61,000 children into school**

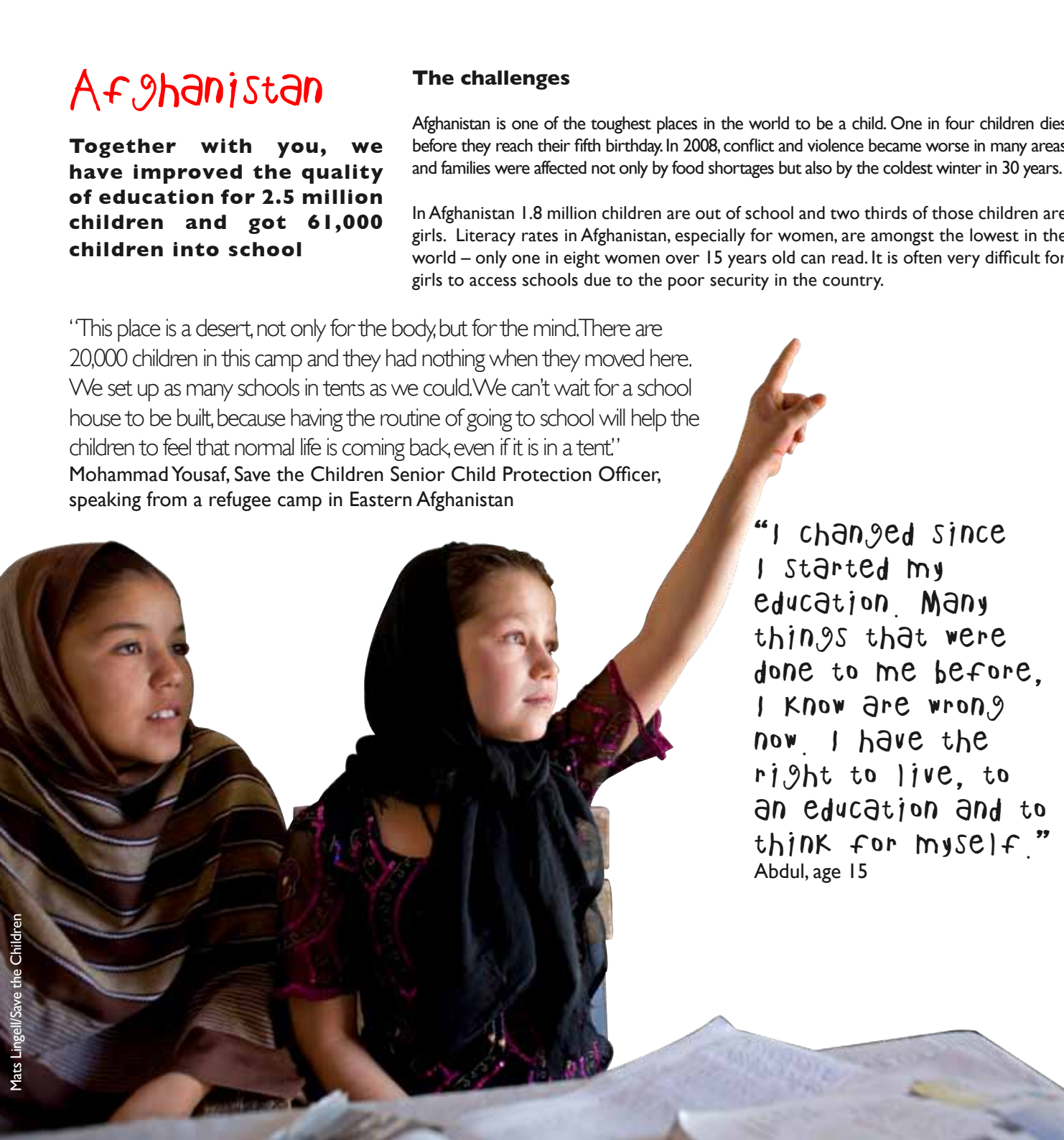
## The challenges

Afghanistan is one of the toughest places in the world to be a child. One in four children dies before they reach their fifth birthday. In 2008, conflict and violence became worse in many areas and families were affected not only by food shortages but also by the coldest winter in 30 years.

In Afghanistan 1.8 million children are out of school and two thirds of those children are girls. Literacy rates in Afghanistan, especially for women, are amongst the lowest in the world – only one in eight women over 15 years old can read. It is often very difficult for girls to access schools due to the poor security in the country.

“This place is a desert, not only for the body, but for the mind. There are 20,000 children in this camp and they had nothing when they moved here. We set up as many schools in tents as we could. We can't wait for a school house to be built, because having the routine of going to school will help the children to feel that normal life is coming back, even if it is in a tent.”

Mohammad Yousaf, Save the Children Senior Child Protection Officer, speaking from a refugee camp in Eastern Afghanistan



“I changed since I started my education. Many things that were done to me before, I know are wrong now. I have the right to live, to an education and to think for myself.”

Abdul, age 15

## Change is possible

Save the Children has been working to find ways to ensure children, especially girls, are able to access schools. We support schools, for example by constructing a surrounding wall, which is important for making parents feel more secure about sending their daughters to school by keeping children safe from attacks and violence.

Where formal schools are difficult to reach, Save the Children works to set up small community-based schools, which are often more attractive to girls as they feel safer not having to walk long distances. We involve religious leaders in community schools, helping the community to feel safer having their girls attend school and reducing attacks on schools.

Save the Children also helps to set up Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) which encourage the community to send their children to school. The government requires all members of PTAs to be able to read – we are lobbying the government for this to change, in order to allow more women to have the opportunity to join PTAs.

In addition to establishing schools, in 2008 Save the Children in Afghanistan worked with the Ministry of Education to train over 7,000 teachers, and trained over 15,000 parents and teachers in child rights and child-friendly ways of teaching, making learning safer and more engaging for children.

Physical punishment in schools is also a problem and Save the Children helps to support Student Councils to make children aware of their rights and have the confidence to stop physical punishment in their schools. Save the Children also works with the government to help put a stop to violence in schools.

# Côte d'Ivoire

**Together with you, we have improved the quality of education for 447,000 children and got 14,000 children into school**

"Our school has changed a lot. The teachers used to hit us when we didn't understand the lessons. I used to be scared to come to school. Now, we all have school books. Our teachers do not hit us any more. Our school is beautiful and now I always want to come to school. I thank Save the Children for this." Dah Ini, age 12

## The challenges

Côte d'Ivoire has been split in two since an army mutiny in 2002 and remains fragile and insecure, especially in the North, Centre and West of the country. Over 700,000 people are displaced and living away from their homes.

More than one-third of Côte d'Ivoire's three million children are out of school. Those children that are in school often have untrained teachers, and many still suffer from violence in schools.

"In so many places in Côte d'Ivoire there are simply no schools. My inspiration is how much communities still believe in education. We help many local volunteers to teach and run community schools to make sure their children are not missing out on learning." Jean-Baptiste Sadiki, Save the Children Rewrite the Future Coordinator

## Change is possible

In Côte d'Ivoire in 2008 Save the Children worked to rehabilitate 44 schools which were looted during the crisis. These schools had dwindling resources in areas where many people have been displaced from their homes. The rehabilitation, which included providing materials such as 5,000 new desks and chairs and 180 blackboards, attracted many more children to the schools and enrolment increased by 32%.

Families are not always able to cover the hidden costs of school, such as school materials and uniforms, but we support children to allow them to continue their learning. This year Save the Children distributed 45,000 school kits to children in Côte d'Ivoire. Every year kits are ordered well in advance to ensure every child receives their kit for the beginning of the school year, even if security dangers mean we can't reach some schools for periods of time.

Save the Children supported 140 non-formal education centres or community schools in 2008, set up where it is particularly difficult for children to get into formal school. This has allowed over 17,000 of those hardest to reach children to receive a basic education. Without these centres, many children would not be able to go to school at all.

This year Save the Children has introduced codes of conduct for teachers into 1,800 schools, with the aim of keeping children safe and happy. In addition, we have worked with national teachers' unions and lobbied the Ministry of Education to support and commit to a national code of conduct and a ban on physical and humiliating punishment in schools, helping to keep children safe in school.

# Haiti

**Together with you, we have improved the quality of education for 37,000 children and got 10,000 children into school**

*"I would like to become a teacher when I grow up so I can help the children in my community"*

Loudouide, age 9

## The challenges

In Haiti over half of the children are out of school - decades of poverty, environmental problems, violence, instability and dictatorship have left Haiti as the poorest nation in the Americas.

Haiti is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes, which can destroy crops and buildings including schools. This in turn can create food shortages, increasing unrest and instability in Haiti.

"In Haiti we have to be ready to cope with extreme weather. When a hurricane hits, schools can be damaged, but our staff work flat out to set up spaces where children can continue to play and learn while we quickly help to get schools functioning again. It is extremely important that children can carry on learning."

Julee Allen, Save the Children Education Manager

## Change is possible

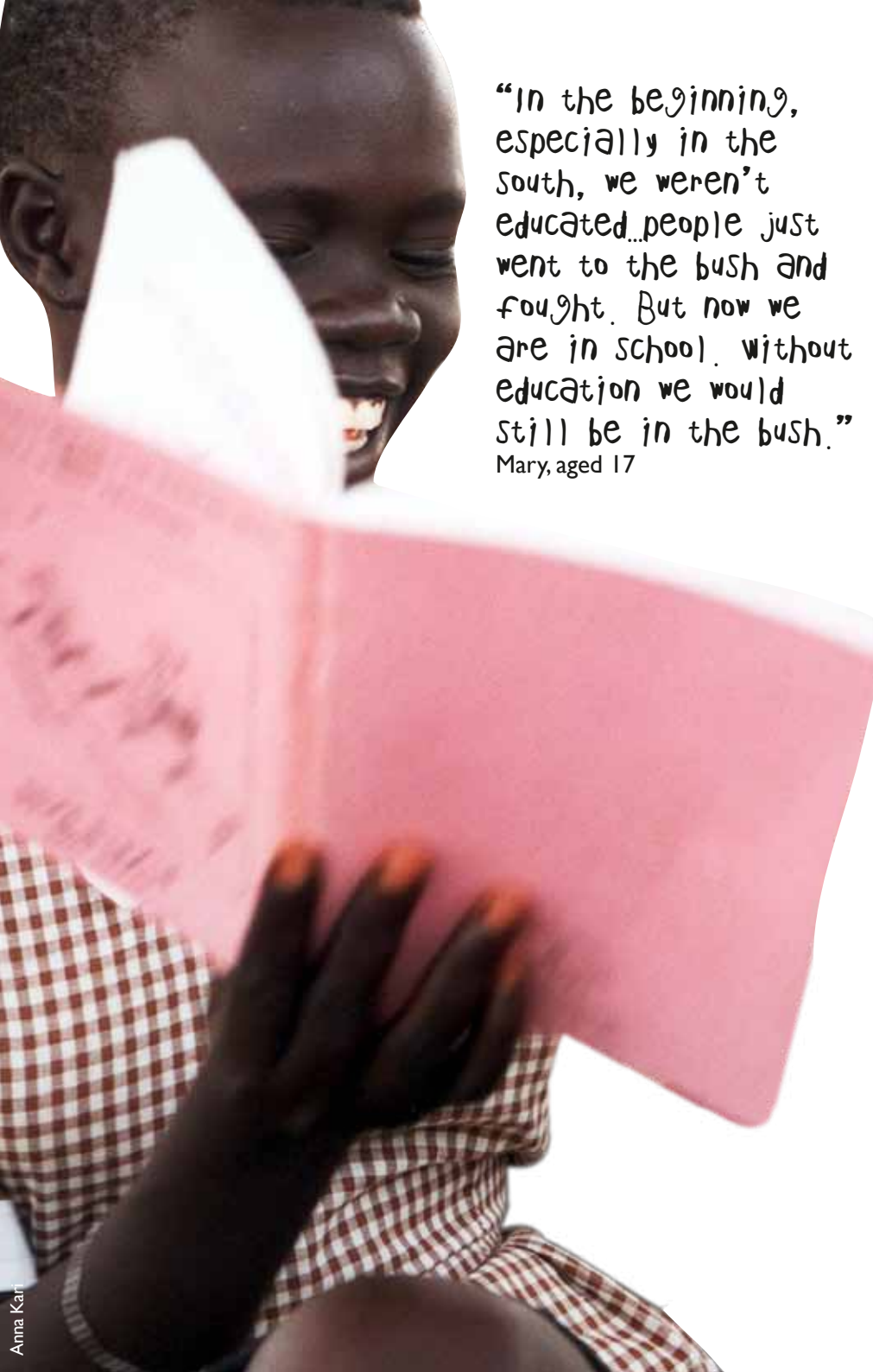
Save the Children helps provide the poorest children in Haiti with the opportunity to stay in school by introducing scholarships. In 2008 alone we supported 1,300 children.

In Haiti there are not enough school places for children, but most schools are only open in the morning. We are supporting schools to provide an afternoon session of teaching, giving more children a chance to get into the classroom.

In 2008, Save the Children supported 55 schools in Haiti, supplying materials and training for teachers and local education officials. We offered teacher training for 700 teachers across the country – developing more competent teachers, a more relevant curriculum and children better able to participate in their education.

This year Save the Children is working to tackle another problem – although children in Haiti speak Creole, they are taught in the national language of French meaning children often struggle in their learning. Save the Children in Haiti is advocating the government to adopt teaching strategies that support reading fluency in Creole, giving children the best chance to learn.





“In the beginning, especially in the south, we weren’t educated...people just went to the bush and fought. But now we are in school. Without education we would still be in the bush.”  
Mary, aged 17

## Southern Sudan

**Together with you, we have improved the quality of education for 820,000 children and got 57,000 children into school**

### The challenges

For nearly 21 years Southern Sudan was plagued by conflict until the civil war officially ended in 2005. Millions died, thousands more were abducted, recruited in militias, abused or separated from their families. As a result of the conflict an estimated 4 million people were displaced.

Southern Sudan is still recovering. An education system under-resourced for many years is now being gradually rebuilt. In Southern Sudan, over 1 million children are out of school and only one third of those children enrolling in schools are girls.

“Southern Sudan has suffered from 21 years or more of civil war and so many children missed out on going to school. These children are teenagers now, but we cannot forget about them. They are the future leaders - who else is going to rebuild our country? We run accelerated learning classes so older children can catch up on the learning they have missed.”

Rose Wahome, Save the Children Education Project Manager

### Change is possible

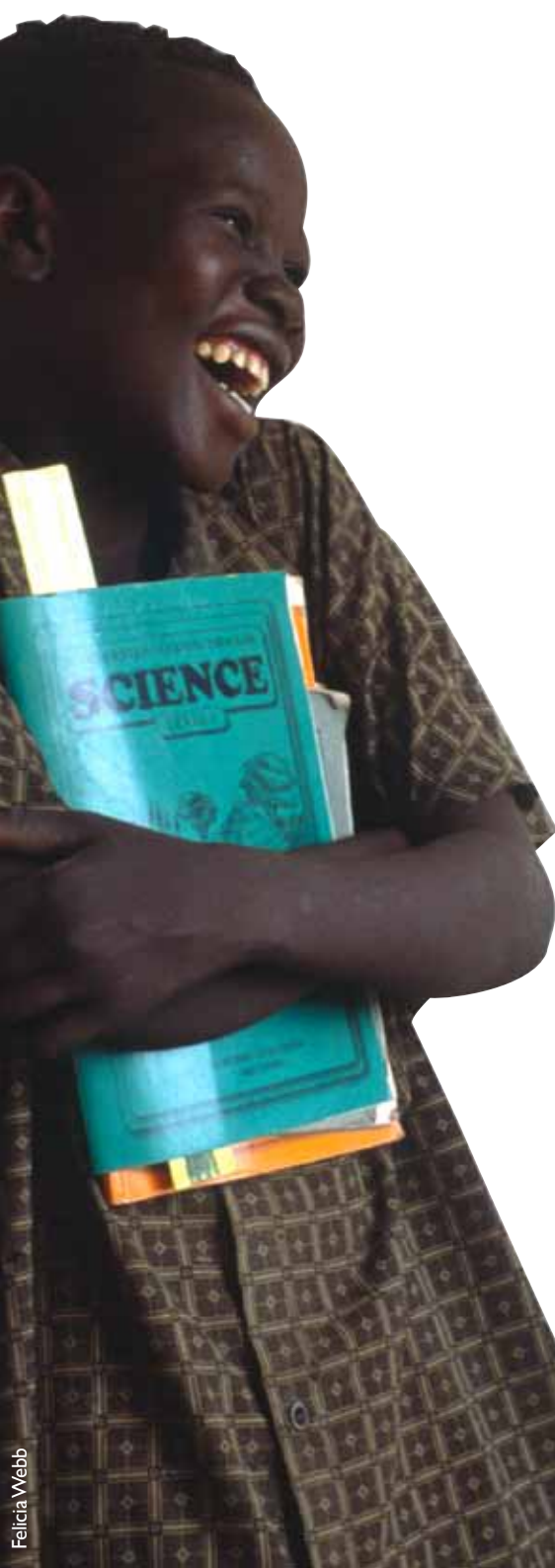
In Southern Sudan there is only one classroom for every 500 children - most learning takes place under trees or in temporary shelters. Save the Children builds schools to give children a safer and more engaging place to learn. In 2008 we constructed 54 classrooms and 72 toilets.

In Southern Sudan many adults lived through the conflict and missed out on learning basic knowledge and skills. We have developed training programmes to equip adults with the skills they need to teach and have delivered this training to over 1,300 teachers since the launch of our Rewrite the Future campaign.

Save the Children is one of the main providers of teacher training in Southern Sudan, providing up to 75 percent of teacher training in some areas. We have developed training programmes that work in areas with almost no education infrastructure, for example, training for untrained teachers that takes place during school holidays, so children’s education can continue.

Save the Children also works to tackle the problem of the limited number of girls enrolling in school. In 2008 we made 133 schools more accessible to girls by constructing separate girls’ toilets, providing water at schools so girls don’t have to walk to collect water; and working with Parent Teacher Associations to highlight the importance of girls’ education. In these schools girls’ enrolment has increased by nearly 50 percent from 20,000 to 30,000 girls.

Save the Children also works to address the particular shortage of women teachers in Southern Sudan, as the lack of women teachers in schools can affect girls’ enrolment. Our Women into Teaching programme has given 800 women the opportunity to complete their primary education and progress onto teacher training.



## Together with you, we have raised US\$341 million for the Rewrite the Future campaign

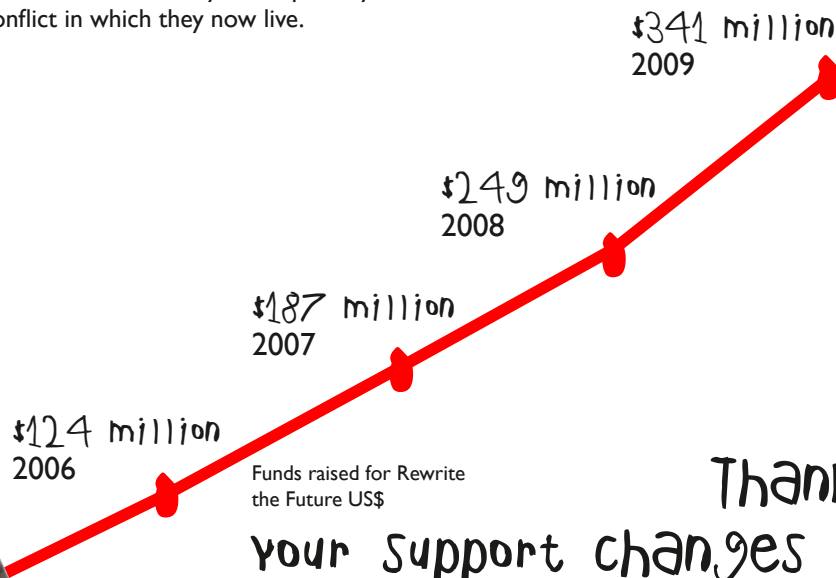
Without your support millions of children in conflict-affected countries would not be receiving a quality education that has the potential to transform their lives. Individuals, organisations, foundations, corporations and governments have all contributed to the \$341 million raised so far to allow Save the Children to help millions of children affected by conflict

But there is still more to do. All children have a right to quality education no matter who they are or where they live. Our education programmes need your support.

To continue our good work we need to reach our \$450 million fundraising target by the end of 2010. Please help us to ensure the hardest to reach children are not forgotten, and to make sure we are able to give these children the opportunity to break the endless cycles of poverty and conflict in which they now live.

Some examples of the support we have received in the past year:

- Luxury jeweller Bulgari has committed to raise 10 million for Rewrite the Future. Bulgari has produced a unique silver ring available globally for \$290. \$60 from the sale of each ring is being donated to Rewrite the Future.
- In late 2008 Norway, Denmark and Sweden customers at fashion chain Bik Bok were encouraged to round up their payments to donate to Rewrite the Future. Each \$27 donated could buy school books for a child in Uganda for one year. Bik Bok donated \$97,000 in just one month.
- In 2008 IKEA staff in Switzerland did not receive their usual Christmas gift – instead they donated their gifts to buy school kits for children in Côte d'Ivoire.
- A grant from the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan Foundation will support thousands of children to receive a better education in Afghanistan.



Thank you  
Your support changes lives



Save the Children Rewrite the Future

## Major supporters of Rewrite the Future

### Governments and multilateral agencies

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, German Federal Foreign Office, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, European Commission, United Nations, Development Programme, UNICEF, World Bank

### Foundations and Trusts

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