

## What does education look like in the most difficult parts of the world?

It's often an afterthought to survival—which is why more than 100 million children and young people in crisis-affected countries are out of school. When crises hit, schools are usually the first institution to close and the last to re-open.

Yet we know how critical education is to lift not only children, but their families, communities and societies as a whole. In fragile settings, when schools are closed but children are still eager to learn, education can take different forms beyond traditional classroom learning, and include interfaith discussions, vocational training for teens, and peace clubs to help rebuild communities.

This year, on a visit to Central African Republic (CAR), I met 19-year-old Sartourne. He told me that five years ago, he witnessed an armed group kill his siblings. In grief, confusion and retaliation, he turned to a rival group and joined them. During his time with them, he witnessed horrific acts of violence. When I heard his story, I couldn't help but think that no one should ever experience this type of brokenness—let alone a child.

In 2014, World Vision helped demobilize thousands of children from armed groups in CAR, including Sartourne. We led peace clubs that helped them process their experiences and move from a spirit of vengeance, to a spirit of hope. Part of our educational intervention also included vocational training for these boys and girls, and Sartourne chose motorcycle maintenance. Now he works as a mechanic, which he says gives him a true sense of purpose.

Helping rebuild lives and communities is just one way that World Vision aims to follow the example of Jesus in promoting peace and reconciliation in the most challenging places in the world.

This annual impact report celebrates the successes we've seen this year—each made possible because of partnerships with Canadians like you.

Thank you for coming alongside us to help the world's most vulnerable children, including those in some of the world's toughest places, reach their God-given potential.



Michael Messenger  
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