

DALLAIRE INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, PEACE AND SECURITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



DALLAIRE
INSTITUTE



CHILDREN
PEACE
SECURITY



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

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OUR MISSION

Progressively ending the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

OUR VISION

A world where the recruitment and use of children as weapons of war is unthinkable.

WHERE WE WORK

The Dallaire Institute has over 30 staff in offices around the world:

Halifax, Ottawa, and across Canada

Kigali, Rwanda

Juba, South Sudan

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

and we have conducted programming in

Colombia, Kenya, Jordan, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, the UK, and with International Organizations such as the International Criminal Court, NATO, COESPU (Italy), and the African Union

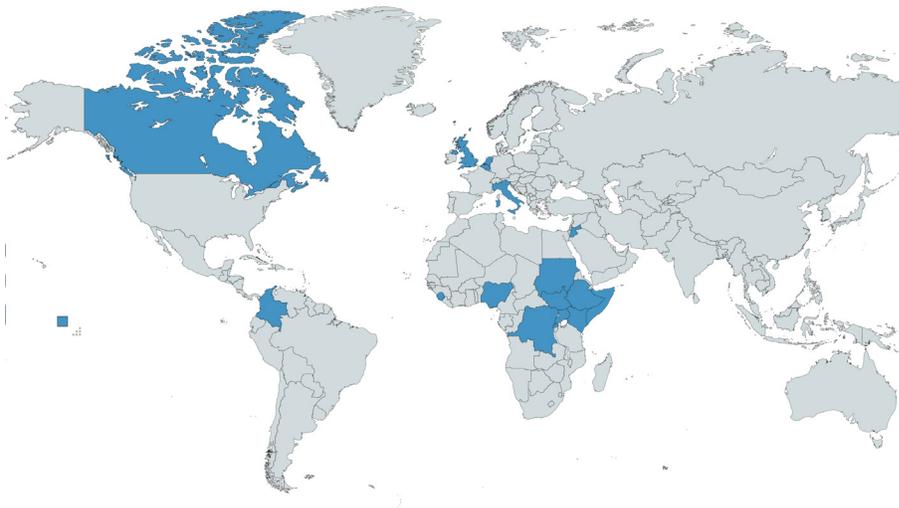
all in service of ending the recruitment and use of children in conflict.

WHAT WE DO

World-class, interdisciplinary **RESEARCH** to address gaps in knowledge, to build new partnerships, and to share knowledge, which in turn leads to new solutions.

High-level **ADVOCACY** to create and promote the political will to end the use of children in violence as central to the achievement of global peace and security by inspiring leaders, educators, and policy makers to prioritize the children's rights upfront approach.

Capacity building **PROGRAMMING** to sustain the efforts to make the recruitment and use of children in violence unthinkable through comprehensive, prevention-oriented **TRAINING** to security sector actors, in the service of broader security sector reform, as well as collaboration with civil society to create and implement tools that protect children from the dangers associated with recruitment.



A DECADE OF IMPACT

The Dallaire Institute is a global leader in promoting a children, peace, and security agenda. In 2020, we celebrated ten years of achievements. Some highlights include:

Training delivered to **15,000** forces from **100** countries

We train military forces, police, and other security sector actors around the world so that they can go on to teach their own forces techniques to protect children and prevent the recruitment and use of children in violence.



1st predictive model developed to track and prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers

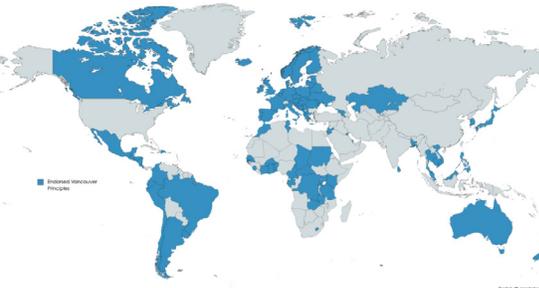


3 major international organizations seeking our partnership and subject matter expertise

United Nations (UN) • North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) • African Union (AU)

24 peer-reviewed research publications; creation of and contribution to over **50** policy resources on Children and Armed Conflict, including [The Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers](#) • [The International Criminal Court Policy on Children](#) • [UN Security Council resolutions](#) • [NATO standard operating procedures on children in armed conflict](#) • [The Safe Schools Toolkit](#)

100+ nations endorsing the Vancouver Principles



11 Memoranda of Understandings

with [African Peace Support Training Association](#) • [African Union Mission to Somalia](#) and [UNICEF](#) • [Democratic Republic of Congo Armed Forces \(FARDC\)](#) • [Jordanian Public Security Directorate](#) • [Rwanda Ministry of Defence](#) • [Rwanda National Police](#) • [Sierra Leone Armed Forces](#) • [Sierra Leone Corrections Services](#) • [Sierra Leone Police Services](#) • [South Sudan Peoples Defence Forces](#) • [Uruguay Ministry of National Defence](#)

1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In 2020, the life of every person was affected by the sudden and virulent spread of the COVID-19 virus. This global pandemic made already at-risk populations even more vulnerable, and none more so than children. With schools closed, communities locked down, hospitals overrun, and individuals isolated, young children worldwide were at vastly increased risk of domestic abuse, lack of access to essential medical care, and, in situations of conflict, of recruitment and use as soldiers.

Far too often the world does not see challenges or opportunities through the perspectives of children's needs, prioritization, or vantage points. The Dallaire Institute aims to change the way the world perceives the importance of protecting children from experiencing some of the world's most egregious human rights violations.

We believe a focus on preventing the recruitment and use of children as soldiers is paramount to achieving global security and peace. Through a focus on preventing this grave violation, we can help prevent further potential for escalation to mass atrocities. By working to prevent the recruitment and use of children in violence, we aim to break generational cycles of violence that have not been adequately addressed through development interventions focused on picking up the pieces after the violations have occurred.

Our promotion of a **Children's Rights Upfront Approach** helps to ensure military and police put children at the top of their planning and preparation for their professionalization and operational capacity building. And we can help ensure that policy makers see this as a priority in resource allocation, new regulations and legal frameworks, as well as concrete actions. As we rapidly and nimbly adapted to the challenges of the pandemic, our work to protect vulnerable children was reinforced by our approach to understand the realities of the police, military, and peacekeepers who are faced with moral dilemmas in their lines of duty. The global pandemic put this perspective into sharper focus.

As the "Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative" celebrated its 10th anniversary of operation, it was also granted official **institute status at Dalhousie University**. With this new status, we now enjoy deeper collaborations within the University, as well as with research institutions around the world. To reflect this important new status, we launched our new name—The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security—and with it, an expanded framework to reflect our commitment to contributing to creating a larger **Children, Peace and Security (CPS) agenda** that is guided by our **Children's Rights Upfront approach**.

MILESTONES OF OUR 10TH YEAR

April 23, 2020: Official Institute Status

August 24, 2020: Official Name Change
"The Dallaire Institute for Children,
Peace and Security"



The Dallaire Institute @DallaireInst · Dec 15, 2020

Replying to @DallaireInst

One very special memory from our 10th anniversary was this heartfelt message from @CanadianPM @JustinTrudeau. Check it out below!



We will continue pushing forward with our important work to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers through practical, prevention-oriented training with the security sector around the world, from our offices in Canada and Rwanda, as well as staff and partners in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and soon in Uruguay.

In this year of change and growth, we were prompted to reflect on the devastating effects that systemic racism has had on racialized communities. The Black Lives Matter movement reminded us that, as a learning organization, we must listen and learn from all our global colleagues and partners on ways we can be a more reflective, inclusive, and representative organization. In 2020, the Dallaire Institute established an **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion** committee and joined the Canadian International Cooperation’s Anti-Racism Framework to reconfirm our commitment to reflecting the communities in which we serve, and to continue our work towards ensuring voices and experiences from diverse communities, especially Black communities, are reflected in our work and promoted in all our partnerships. Our organization’s core is our collective responsibility to understand that, as General Dallaire states, “All humans are human.” We must stand up against racism, wherever and whenever we encounter it. Our collective failure to heed this call to action can no longer be tolerated if we want a world where children truly will enjoy peace and security.

In a similar vein, the Dallaire Institute is currently undergoing significant operational enhancements to expand the regional responsiveness of our work. Through the establishment of **regional Centres of Excellence on Children, Peace, and Security**—the Dallaire Institute’s African Centre of Excellence in Rwanda and the upcoming Latin American Centre of Excellence in Uruguay—we are enhancing our operational effectiveness to respond with regional

expertise to this global issue in local contexts. Over the years, the exponential growth of our organization has necessitated expanded support from our philanthropic and corporate donors. I am deeply honoured to announce that this critical requirement was met this year with pledges of **one million dollars each** from:

Charles Brindamour & Josée LeTarte
Slaight Family Foundation
Jim Stanford

This extraordinary generosity and commitment to our mission has already made profound improvements to the protection of children and the prevention the recruitment and use of children. Through this report, I invite you learn more about how the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security is accomplishing this mission, as we seek your continued support to one day make the recruitment and use of children “unthinkable.”



Dr. Shelly Whitman
Executive Director



2. POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Over the past year, the Dallaire Institute used its Children’s Rights Upfront (CRU) approach to advocate for increased cooperation and collaboration with a variety of global partners, ranging from humanitarian and legal, to community groups and government leaders, as well as non-governmental organizations and the security sector. We work with these partners to highlight their role as key advocates dedicated to the protection of civilians, and as leaders in the protection and prioritization of the most vulnerable civilians: children.



The Dallaire Institute @DallaireInst · Mar 11

⋮

Advocating for the Children, Peace, and Security Agenda is paramount to our work. Our Executive Director [@drshellywhitman](#) recently presented on Children and Armed Conflict at the NATO Human Security Conference.



NATO to step up work on Human Security Approa...

On 25 February 2021, at a high-level online conference, NATO discussed how to enhance its ...

[nato.int](#)

Eminent Persons Group

The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security joined other subject-matter experts to prepare an Eminent Persons Group report called, “Keeping the Promise: An Independent Review of the UN’s Annual List of Perpetrators of Grave Violations against Children, 2010 to 2020.”

Since Graça Machel’s 1996 ground-breaking report on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children, one of the most important instruments of child protection has been the UN Secretary-General’s annual “List of Shame.” This mechanism was created to maintain the highest standard of verification for incidents—such as the recruitment and use of children as soldiers—and name every perpetrator, both member states and non-state actors, where grave violations against children were independently confirmed. However, the Eminent Persons Group report findings uncovered several cases where influential member states have evaded listing, by lobbying to be delisted or avoid being listed altogether, despite committing grave violations against children.



The Dallaire Institute @DallaireInst · Mar 17

⋮

Founder [@romeodallaire](#) and other Eminent Persons today released an alarming report how the UN Framework to Protect Children in War is “Seriously Undermined”. Read our statement of concern, and support for swift resolution.



TODAY’S REPORT CRITICIZING THE UN FRAMEWORK TO PROTECT...
STATEMENT FROM THE DALLAIRE INSTITUTE ON TODAY’S REPORT
CRITICIZING THE UN FRAMEWORK TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN WA...
[dallaireinstitute.org](#)

This report opened the door for the Dallaire Institute to work closely with the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) to support her mission and ensure these critical instruments of prevention and protection are utilized effectively, efficiently, and uniformly, without political interference. Throughout 2021, this close relationship will continue to yield positive results for the children at stake.

Red Hand Day

The International Day to End the Use of Child Soldiers (a.k.a Red Hand Day) is obviously an important time in the Dallaire Institute’s annual calendar. Over the past year, we marked the day with important partners around the globe, all in service of ending the recruitment and use of children.



Red Hand Day: Democratic Republic of Congo

On February 10, 2021, the Belgian Embassy to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) invited the Dallaire Institute, along with representatives from UNICEF, War Child, MONUSCO, and Ambassadors of Norway, Sweden, and Canada to participate in a high-level discussion called “Situation of Children Associated with Armed Groups in the DRC: Challenges and Perspectives.”

This event – held in-person but masked and socially distanced as per pandemic protocols – served to disseminate the conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in the DRC.

This meeting also served to demonstrate the enthusiasm for supporting the prevention of the recruitment and use of children in violence from both inside and outside the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Institute for Genocide & Mass Atrocity Prevention @... · Jan 29

Join us for a conversation in collaboration with @DallaireInst @DalhousieU on February 11th, 10am-noon EST.

"Prioritizing Children in Atrocity Prevention"

Panelists include @stevensdudley @achaleke1 @drshellywhitman

Register: zoom.us/webinar/regist...

Red Hand Day: North America

On February 11, 2021, the Dallaire Institute partnered with the Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention out of New York for a high-level webinar, “Prioritizing Children in Atrocity Prevention: Prevention Approaches in the Recruitment and Use of Children in Armed Conflict.” This critical dialogue brought together international experts to discuss recruitment prevention and child protection in the context of armed conflict as well as criminal networks and gangs.

Red Hand Day: United Nations



On February 12, 2021, Canada’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations and the Dallaire Institute hosted dignitaries from the Missions of Rwanda and Uruguay in a virtual dialogue called “Early Warning to Early Action: Implementing the Vancouver Principles to Prevent and End the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers.”

This panel of experts – viewed by hundreds of global participants – marked the International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers by profiling progress, challenges, and opportunities to implement the Vancouver Principles in UN peacekeeping contexts, particularly principles related to early warning and prevention.

Red Hand Day: Canada



On Feb 12, 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement about Canada’s commitment to its shared goal with the Dallaire Institute: “Whether they are trained to fight, armed with deadly weapons, used as spies, sexually exploited, or forced into marriage, child soldiers face unimaginable violence and abuse, and suffer long-lasting, scarring effects. These horrible practices must stop....”

Since 2017, Canada has mobilized close to 100 countries to endorse the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers. These commitments, which were developed in partnership with the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security, the United Nations, UN Member States, and other organizations, help protect children through education, training, and prevention....”



Red Hand Day: African Centre of Excellence

Also on February 12, 2021, the Dallaire Institute's African Centre of Excellence for Children, Peace, and Security (ACoE) partnered with the Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) to hold a first-of-its-kind meeting to bring together security sector professionals and high-level dignitaries of governments of Africa.

Among the dignitaries who spoke at the Summit were the Presidents of Ethiopia and Nigeria, the President of the Stop War on Children Committee in Mali, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC).

This virtual event aimed to establish a regional network between and amongst the Dallaire Institute Trained Trainers in countries across Africa, measure the impacts of the Dallaire Institute trainings, and gather lessons learned over the years.

This gathering was also an opportunity to engage with the African Union's institutional mechanisms to further support the promotion of the "Silencing the Guns Agenda."

During the meeting, officials exchanged discussions that aimed to empower nations to take proactive, early, and coordinated action to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers by implementing the Vancouver Principles. The session also included a focus on gender and gathered inputs from Rwandan women soldiers.

"As the first African nation to endorse the Vancouver Principles," said Brigadier General Ferdinand Safari, "the Government of Rwanda took a leadership position on the issues of the prevention of the recruitment and use of children as soldiers in conflicts globally. This commitment remains essential to achieving real change in the lives of children in our region especially in countries affected by conflict."

As Dr. Shelly Whitman explained, "What we are doing is bringing together those who are working on issues that range from child labour, to trafficking and sexual violence against children, to children in armed conflict. At the inter-sections of all those elements, we can start to talk holistically how we can raise this issue higher on the peace and security agenda."

"If it wasn't for the Dallaire Institute training," remarked a General from the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), "I wouldn't have known that it is illegal and inhumane to recruit and use children as soldiers."

Latin American Centre of Excellence for Children, Peace and Security

In 2020, the Dallaire Institute was granted Observer Status with the Latin-American Association of Peace Operations Training Centres (ALCOPAZ). This enormous honour allowed us to leverage the numerous training missions, lessons, relationships, and knowledge that have already been established in Canada, the United Kingdom, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia (through the African Union) and Rwanda. The Dallaire Institute addressed ALCOPAZ and its members, and conducted months of diligent advocacy and negotiations, all of which led to the monumental signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security and the Government of Uruguay to establish the Dallaire Institute Latin American Centre of Excellence on Children, Peace and Security (LACoE).

LAUNCH OF THE LACoE



“This Latin American Centre of Excellence will build critical bridges between parties around the region, and our collective advocacy efforts will demonstrate best practices and policies to prioritize the protection of children for the entire world.” – Dr. Shelly Whitman, Dallaire Institute

“We look forward to a strong cooperation between the Dallaire Institute and the National Peace Operations Training Institute of Uruguay that will enhance training and education in our country and across the region on the prevention of the recruitment and use of children as soldiers.” – Javier García Duchini, Minister of National Defence, Uruguay

One of the first countries to endorse the Vancouver Principles, Uruguay was a natural partner for the Dallaire Institute in the region. The Latin American Centre of Excellence on Children, Peace and Security (LACoE) will act as a hub for the Dallaire Institute’s work in the region, focusing on creating region-specific knowledge and learning supports for security sector personnel, policy makers, and communities to build tangible solutions to better protect children from recruitment and use in violence. This will be accomplished by developing networks, applying research to practice, influencing policy and doctrine, and by building capacity among regional security sectors through formal training.

FORECAST 2021/2022: Latin American Centre of Excellence

Once fully established, the Dallaire Institute Latin American Centre of Excellence on Children, Peace and Security (LACoE) will begin developing doctrine with the Armed Forces of Uruguay and other security forces that focus on preventing the recruitment and use of children in violence. Similarly, child protection training will be integrated into the forces’ training. Security sector actors throughout the region will be able to prioritize the protection of children using a Child Rights Upfront approach and share best practices on preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers, as well as the implementation of the Vancouver Principles; and we will work with partners across the Latin American region to advocate for the Children, Peace and Security Agenda.

We look forward to reporting on this important entrée into Latin America in the year to come.

Advocacy at the International Criminal Court

 **The Dallaire Institute** @DallaireInst · Feb 8

Last week former Lord's Resistance Army commander, Dominic Ongwen, was convicted by the #ICC. We invite you to read an op-ed originally titled "How do we find justice when the perpetrator was first a victim?" written by our ED @drshellywhitman:



Whitman: Child soldiers – How do we find justice when the perpetrator was first a victim?
ottawacitizen.com

Advocacy at the African Union

The Dallaire Institute participated in a series of critical child protection activities last year in Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan, as well as within the African Union governing body, through the African Union Capacity Building project funded by the Canadian Government. Over the year, our organization was a key presence at the African Union Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) Coordination Group, the Pan-African Conference on CAAC, and the High-Level Dialogue: Stop the War on Children (which was part of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).

Full information of our work with the highest levels of the African Union can be found under the Capacity-Building Programming section of this report.

Advocacy on the Virtual Global Stage

 **François-Philippe Champagne (FPC)** @FP_Changagne

I spoke w/ @Vbiruta, #Rwanda. We discussed Rwanda's leadership at the recent #G20 summit on #COVID19, the pandemic & int. cooperation.

I look forward to strengthening the 🇨🇦🇷🇼 relationship, notably through initiatives on peace, security & preventing the use of child soldiers.



Vincent Biruta and 4 others
 7:25 PM · Jun 15, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

 **The Dallaire Institute** @DallaireInst · Jun 11, 2020

This important work in Rwanda with @RwandaGov & @Canada will improve peacekeeping & prevent the recruitment & use of children in violence. We will do this by supporting nations in implementing the Vancouver Principles through our African CoE on Children, Peace & Security.

 **Paul Kagame** @PaulKagame · Jun 11, 2020

Had a call with PM @JustinTrudeau and thanked him for Canada's strong partnership with Rwanda and Africa, and support against #COVID19 and toward @AIMS_Next and for the Africa Center of Excellence for Children Peace and Security. Moving stronger together.

Canada's National Statement to the United Nations Security Council - Open VTC on Children and Armed Conflict

New York, 23 June 2020

Mister President,

A major focus of Canada's efforts is strengthening the child protection mandate in UN peace operations. Canada is supporting the UN Department of Peace Operations in standardizing and delivering training in English and French for UN peacekeepers to ensure they are better prepared and equipped to protect children.

Canada also supports UNICEF and the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative to support African peacekeeping capacity on child protection, including by strengthening training and policies with the African Union, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia.

The Vancouver Principles, a set of 17 political commitments focused on peacekeeping and the prevention of the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups, also remain a priority for Canada. There are now 96 endorsements of the Vancouver Principles from all regions of the world. Canada congratulates Morocco, Kuwait, and Ecuador for their recent endorsement of the Principles. Canada invites all Member States to endorse the Principles without delay.



Advocacy in the Democratic Republic of Congo

As a fine example of our impactful and prominent advocacy efforts in 2020, the Dallaire Institute undertook a high-level mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), meeting with various dignitaries and key stakeholders such as the Vice-Prime Minister, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Human Rights, the Minister of National Defence and Veterans, the Minister of Youth, the Minister of Gender, Family and Children, the Commanding General of Military Academies, and the Director of Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the DRC (Forces armées de la république démocratique du Congo: FARDC), the Congolese National Police Force (PNC), the Special Representative of the UN peacekeeping operation in the DRC (MONUSCO SRSG), diplomats from Canada, Switzerland, and Belgium, members of local civil society, and the Joint Technical Working Group known as GTTC (comprised of Congolese government ministries as well as partner organizations like UNICEF and MONUSCO, all working to end serious violations of the rights of children in situations of armed conflict).



The team delivered an executive brief to the FARDC senior leadership and members of the GTTC on the Dallaire Institute's work and the proposed project activities and objectives, including contributing to the GTTC roadmap.

This mission further strengthened our relationships and helped the team secure approval for the Dallaire Institute training of FARDC trainers, and a plan for integration of Dallaire Institute curriculum into the FARDC training system.

Most significantly, as a result of the Dallaire Institute's advocacy efforts, the DRC government agreed to endorse the Vancouver Principles, signaling the country's commitment towards the prevention of the recruitment and use of children in conflict.

MILESTONE: 99

In 2020, the Democratic Republic of Congo became the 99th country to endorse the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers.



FORECAST 2021/2022: Mozambique

To prevent against grave violations of child rights in Mozambique, the Dallaire Institute is in the process of partnering with UNICEF on a project which will include a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Defence of Mozambique. Together, we will build the capacity of security sector actors to improve the protection and well-being of children in Mozambique.

We look forward to reporting on this important work in the year to come.

PARTNER PROFILE: GIANTS OF AFRICA

On the Day of the African Child 2020, our partnership with Masai Ujiri’s Giants of Africa brought children’s issues (as well as solutions) to a global audience. Dr. Shelly Whitman joined the Toronto Raptors’s president to discuss using basketball as a peace-building tool for youth in Africa.

Nigerian-born Ujiri founded the Giants of Africa program after his time as a talent scout for various NBA teams in the early 2000s. Aware that not every player he came across was cut out for professional play, Ujiri began devising plans for a series of basketball camps that would benefit young players by teaching them life skills, too.

Giants of Africa participant Myra Oolo said, “I think being in that atmosphere sharpened me as a person. I definitely wasn’t the same as when I went and came out of it — it was a really life-changing experience.”



New Media

To celebrate our tenth anniversary, the Dallaire Institute launched a series of ten “Stories of Impact” to showcase the organization’s accomplishments over the past ten years. As well, we launched a ten-part podcast series named “Children, Peace & Security”.

While pandemic restrictions drastically affected in-person advocacy efforts, our organization utilized new technologies to ensure continuity of outreach. Our monthly podcast began increasing public knowledge and encouraging dialogue on ways security actors (military personnel, police officers, etc) can use a Child Rights Upfront approach to the prevention of the recruitment and use of children in violence.

Episode Two of the Children, Peace & Security Podcast – which featured women advocates against sexual violence and girl soldiers from Sierra Leone and South Sudan – will air as a special program on South Sudanese radio.

These participatory and interactive resources brought together a variety of voices, including individuals with lived experience as children in situations of armed conflict, members of the security sector, child rights experts, leaders in government, multilateral organizations, and business, civil society activists, and individuals from affected communities. Guest contributors discussed their security challenges and the welfare of children, and offered solutions on how to overcome them, particularly with regards to protecting vulnerable children from recruitment.

The Dallaire Institute @DallaireInst · Mar 25

If you've always wondered what sets the Dallaire Institute apart, read today's story here:



10 Stories of Impact - Dallaire Institute
 10 Stories of Impact Story 1: Celebrating 10 years of the Dallaire Institute at Dalhousie University Using children as weapons [...]
dallaireinstitute.org

The Dallaire Institute @DallaireInst · Feb 18

In 2020, the Dallaire Institute celebrated its 10th anniversary. This exciting milestone inspired much reflection on the impact that our team has made around the world.



0:05 135 views

Follow us

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3. RESEARCH AND LEARNING

The Dallaire Institute conducts the highest-quality research leading to innovative and effective strategies for protecting children in armed conflict and preventing their use in violence. Our interdisciplinary approach relies on creating spaces for scholars, security sector actors, child protection practitioners, and communities affected by armed conflict and violence to collaborate and create solutions to prevent this grave violation of children's rights.

We maintain our position as an internationally-renowned hub for research, learning, and practice through the exchange of information, sharing of resources, coordination of strategic objectives, and co-implementation of programs amongst a range of actors from child protection agencies, to multilateral organizations, local and national social service providers, legal bodies, police, military, and security sectors with a view to establishing more effective collaboration to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers.



Knowledge for Prevention (K4P)

The Dallah Institute’s Knowledge for Prevention (K4P) project aims to fill a critical knowledge gap in academic and policy-based discourse to better understand the scope of the issue of child soldiering. Through this project, funded by the generosity of Mr. Bruce McKean, the Dallah Institute is developing an early warning system – notably the first of its kind – for child recruitment and use that could be used to inform early action to better protect children in conflict environments.

By shaping the **Early Warning to Early Action** field, this predictive modeling project looks to provide timely alerts on situations where children may be at a heightened risk of recruitment to inform early and preventative action, giving the international community the opportunity to better protect children in vulnerable environments and break cycles of violence from their earliest stages.

In 2020, we moved our second annual Knowledge for Prevention (K4P) International Symposium online due to the global pandemic. Over five days,

high-level speakers from academia, state partners, international non-governmental organization, and community-based groups gathered virtually to foster conversation about protecting children living in situations of armed conflict. Nearly 500 participants, representing diverse sectors, joined the symposium from Canada to Mogadishu to Seoul.

FORECAST 2021/2022

If pandemic restrictions are lifted and in-person gatherings and international travel are permitted, we look forward to holding the next Knowledge for Prevention (K4P) Symposium in Kigali, Rwanda

The larger **K4P Community of Practice** was designed to provide a knowledge-sharing platform for subject matter experts in the fields of recruitment prevention, child protection and early warning. The vision is to build communication around best practices to prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers, to share and discuss common areas of interest and programming, and to foster collaboration and future partnerships. To date, the K4P Community of Practice has over 70 participating members and continues to grow.

Over the past year, the Dallaire Institute held strategic dialogues on K4P – including presentations on the predictive model and the new non-state armed group dataset on recruitment and use of children – with key partners including the ILO, UNICEF, the Office for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Invisible Children, United Nations University, Sana'a Centre for Strategic Studies, Cameroon Anglophone Crisis Database of Mass Atrocities, Save the Children, Amnesty International, and Leiden University.

ALLONS-Y: Journal of Children, Peace and Security

Allons-y: Journal of Children, Peace and Security is the Dallaire Institute's premier publication and the world's first academic journal focused on children, peace and security globally. Published annually since 2016, this peer-reviewed journal shares the most current commentary, research, and policy from subject-matter experts targeting practitioners, policy makers, and practice-oriented academics working on child protection, conflict prevention, and all areas of concern around the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

Allons-y Volume 5 focused on Gender and the Implementation of the Vancouver Principles (in particular Vancouver Principle 11: Contribution of Women). This theme was chosen to reinforce and provide greater depth on the events, reflections, and new research related to the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. Contributions to this volume included:

- The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism in UN Peacekeeping (Valentina Falco, Alec Wargo)
- Preventing Recruitment to Improve Protection of Children (Shelly Whitman, Catherine Baillie Abidi)
- Detention of Children in the Context of Armed Conflict (Jo Becker)

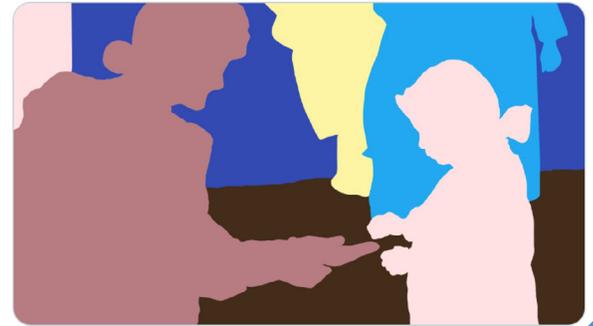


The Dallaire Institute @DallaireInst · Mar 31

We are proud to launch the 5th volume of Allons-y, focused on gender & the implementation of the [#VancouverPrinciples](#)

Read here: bit.ly/31xTyGI

This volume features 4 articles that tackle aspects of [#gender](#), [#peacekeeping](#), & children and armed conflict, including:



- Child Soldiers and Early Warning (Laura Cleve, William Watkins)
- Data Driven Peacekeeping (Marion Laurence)
- Women, Peace and Security (Clare Hutchinson, NATO Gender Advisor)
- Beyond the Binary: Why Gender Matters in the Recruitment and Use of Children (Nidhi Kapur, Hannah Thompson)
- Gender Considerations in Advancing the Vancouver Principles in Armed Forces (Vanessa Brown)
- A Critical Feminist Approach to Implementing Vancouver Principle 11 (Dustin Johnson)
- Gender Mainstreaming in UN Peace Operations and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers (Anna Naa Adochoo Mensah)

Research Partnerships

Strategic partnerships exponentially advance the Dallaire Institute's critical, groundbreaking research. Over the past year, we were honoured to partner with leading organizations in government, military, business, health, and academia.

We regularly partner with organizations such as UNICEF, Watchlist, ILO, Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and others, both international and local around the world, to share knowledge and hold events to raise awareness around the issues of Children and Armed Conflict.



Technical Note | Girls Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups: Lessons Learnt and Good Practices on Prevention of Recruitment and Use, Release and Reintegration <https://alliancecpa.org/en/GAAFAG>



Technical Note | Girls Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Gro...
This Technical Note provides information on the challenges that girls associated with armed forces and armed groups (GAAFAG) face ...
alliancecpa.org

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

In 2019, the Dallaire Institute received an Insight Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to begin a four-year study into the social construction and interaction of gender, children, and soldiers in conflict zones. While there is an increasing focus on the role of women in peacekeeping and the importance of preventing the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, the intersections of gender, peacekeeping, and child recruitment and use are rarely considered. This study aims to address this gap in both practice and scholarship to understand how gender, soldiering, and childhood are constructed and interact in peacekeeping practice and encounters with child soldiers. The research will draw on the experiences of peacekeepers, people who experienced armed conflict as children (both as civilians and as child soldiers), and adult community members who witnessed interactions between children and peacekeepers.

Despite the challenges for social science research brought about by COVID-19, our researchers conducted literature reviews, document analysis, and online interviews, and hope to carry out in-person interviews in South Sudan, Rwanda, DRC, and Sierra Leone in the coming year. The project also forms part of our collaboration with the Canadian Armed Forces's Dallaire Centre of Excellence for Peace and Security. To date, the project has produced three peer-reviewed journal articles and two conference presentations, with further presentations and publications planned over the coming year.

FORECAST 2021/2022: Padres in the Canadian Armed Forces

In 2020, the Dallaire Institute was asked to create curriculum around Moral Injury in the Security Sector for the Canadian Armed Forces Chaplains, who are responsible for fostering the spiritual, religious, and pastoral care of Canadian Armed Forces members and their families, regardless of religious affiliation, practice, and/or belief.

We look forward to reporting on this important partnership in the year to come.

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

In 2020, a unique partnership was announced between the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security and researchers from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), the University of Western Ontario, and the MacDonald Franklin Operational Stress Injury Research Centre. As General Dallaire experienced firsthand, facing a child on the battlefield can be deeply traumatic for a professional soldier. With this important new partnership, we will conduct a multi-phased project studying the mental health impacts of exposure to children who are recruited and used as soldiers during military service through the first-hand accounts of military service members. Thanks to this extraordinary partnership, the Dallaire Institute's research on moral injury is moving forward and has the potential to impact the operational effectiveness of security forces around the globe.

MORAL INJURY

Throughout the year, General Romeo Dallaire and Dr. Shelly Whitman asked Canadians to remember the invisible wounds of battle, through both armed conflict and the current healthcare crisis.

In May 2020, as the pandemic ravaged our healthcare system, General Dallaire and Dr. Whitman warned of invisible injuries on those battling the virus. "Front-line workers risk moral injury when helping children," they wrote in a *Globe and Mail* op-ed.

"The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to inflict moral injury on many of us who must bear witness to or engage in actions which we would have thought inconceivable only a month ago. Take, for example, the families unable to visit their dying loved ones in hospitals; ICU doctors caring for infected patients who cannot go home at night; or teachers who cannot help monitor or console the children who are now forced to endure abusive parents... Our responses to the COVID-19 pandemic must put the well-being of children front and centre, with an understanding of the unique needs of children in a crisis. Minimizing suffering for both children and front-line workers will decrease the potential for moral injury for all of us during these troubling times."

The Dallaire Institute @DallaireInst · May 11, 2020

Our responses to the COVID-19 pandemic must put the well-being of children front and centre, with an understanding of the unique needs of children in a crisis



Opinion: Front-line workers risk moral injury when helping children
We can mitigate the long-term mental-health impact of this moment by supporting these individuals
theglobeandmail.com

The Dallaire Institute @DallaireInst · Nov 11, 2020

Do not forget to register for tomorrow's free virtual event on moral injuries and veteran's mental health featuring Lt Gen (Re't) @romeodallaire and @drshellywhitman

Canadian Club Ottawa @cdnclubottawa · Nov 10, 2020

As we honour those who have served in times of war on #RemembranceDay, join us for a serious discussion on November 12th where @romeodallaire and @drshellywhitman will speak about veteran's mental health, and the work of the @DallaireInst. Join us: livemeeting.ca/profile/canadi...



Dr. Whitman and General Dallaire spoke out about invisible wounds again, on Remembrance Day 2020. “Moral injuries,” they wrote in an oped published on iPolitics, “are relatively under-recognized and hence the need for comprehensive studies to understand the causes of moral injuries, treatment, and how they can be prevented.”

“Encountering children who are recruited and used as soldiers can be profoundly injurious for military personnel, because such a phenomenon deeply conflicts with fundamental cultural, religious, and personal perceptions of children as innocent souls.”

“This 11th of November,” they wrote, “let us remember the fallen, but most especially let us remember those who continue to live with the lifelong effects of violence and war, while we find proactive and preventative solutions to addressing their moral injuries.”



The Dallaire Institute is very proud of and grateful for all of our partnerships, which create monumental growth at every level of our work, from intellectual discourse to operational practice.

Read about more of our extraordinary Capacity-Building partnerships in the Programming section of this report.

4. CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMMING

Preventing the recruitment and use of children as soldiers is the core of the Dallaire Institute's work. As such, much of our programming is aimed at building the capacity of countries to implement the Vancouver Principles.

The Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers are a set of political commitments developed by the Government of Canada in partnership with the Dallaire Institute.

The Vancouver Principles are central to the promotion of the Children, Peace and Security Agenda, motivated by the conviction that preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers is not a peripheral issue to UN peacekeeping, it is critical to achieving overall mission success. Launched in 2017, the Vancouver Principles were immediately endorsed by 55 UN Member States. The Dallaire Institute has worked closely with member states to advocate for endorsement of these principles; and, at the time of this report, the number of endorsing countries reached 101.

However, endorsement is only the first step. So, the Dallaire Institute has been focusing more of its recent efforts on implementation of the Vancouver Principles. Read on to learn how we are working with member states to implement the Vancouver Principles in tangible, meaningful ways.

African Centre of Excellence for Children, Peace and Security

With a main office in Rwanda and satellite offices throughout the continent, the Dallaire Institute African Centre of Excellence for Children, Peace and Security (ACoE) has made significant strides toward building capacity in the region to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.

Rwanda's experience with the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi, its recovery, and the professionalization of its military make it a strong and influential voice in the region. Driven by those catastrophic experiences, Rwanda has become a world leader in peacekeeping (currently the third largest contributor), dedicating troops and other resources to African Union and United Nations missions in areas where the rights of children are significantly at risk. Rwanda also demonstrated real leadership by being the very first African country to endorse the Vancouver Principles.

Whether through security sector training, integration and doctrine development, or community engagement, the Dallaire Institute African Centre of Excellence (ACOE) is building upon the lessons, relationships, and knowledge that the Dallaire Institute had already established in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, and supports the Dallaire Institute's work with the African Union to advance a global Children, Peace, and Security agenda.

The ACoE allows for solutions that are locally driven, helping us deliver African solutions to African challenges.

Read on for highlights of our capacity-building programming throughout Africa and elsewhere in the year 2020.



Security Sector Training

One of the most important ways that the Dallaire Institute’s approach to preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers has set us apart from every other organization in the world, is our security-sector approach. By building relationships with security forces (peacekeeping, military, police, etc) we have created a lasting trust, which then opens doors to changing the ways in which armed forces of all kinds interact with children.

Over the past decade, the Dallaire Institute has expanded from delivering training at the individual level (training of trainers) to now training full battalions that are being deployed into operational theatre. Our founder General Roméo Dallaire served over 40 years in the Canadian Forces, and he describes this accomplishment as the “ultimate achievement in military.”

Peacekeeping Deployment Training: Rwanda

In 2020, the Dallaire Institute and the Rwandan Defence Forces partnered to hold pre-deployment training for over 1,000 regular and reserve forces.

When COVID-19 restrictions affected the standard method of conducting trainings, our African Centre of Excellence (ACoE) developed a creative solution with support from the Rwandan Defence Forces (RDF). Together, they developed an online training course to provide members of the RDF with the administrative and managerial skills to independently lead the Dallaire Institute’s Basic Course on the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers. This virtual training allowed for the continuation of this critical training throughout the pandemic, through which children have been even more vulnerable to recruitment.

Where it was safe to do so, in-person trainings—both Basic Training as well as Training of Trainers sessions – were held for both active and reserve forces throughout the year at the Rwanda Military Academy and the Rwanda Peace Academy.



Police Training: Rwanda

Throughout the pandemic response, the Dallaire Institute was able to maintain a close partnership with the Rwandan National Police leadership, leading to the confirmation of a joint training activity plan for 2021. This first-of-its-kind Basic Course on the prevention of the recruitment and use of children as soldiers will be held with 25 instructors from Rwandan National Police academies and training colleges.

In the meantime, the Dallaire Institute developed a training curriculum designed for the Rwanda National Police, with content on both the Basic Course and the Training of Trainers (ToT) course. These were designed with interactions and scenario-based exercises that speak specifically to the police mandate.

Peacekeeping Deployment Training: Democratic Republic of Congo

Over the past year, the Dallaire Institute held a series of intensive trainings of UN Peacekeepers (MONUSCO) in the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as Congolese National Armed Forces (FARDC) to ensure addressing grave violations against children was recognized as a top priority. Training partners included the General Command of Military Schools and the Civil, Patriotic and Social Action Education Service (the former being the FARDC organization responsible for all military curricula taught in the DRC, and the latter the FARDC organization that delivers the training country-wide).

These child-protection trainings took place in Kananga, Kitona, Goma, and Kinshasa, and included methods of preventing the recruitment and use of vulnerable children as well as providing troops with safe protocols to recognize and respond

to children who have been recruited. Congolese Armed Forces were also given the tools to train additional troops on the prevention of recruitment and use of child soldiers in armed groups, teaching them ways to further understand the complexities of dealing with child soldiers, and how to advocate for even more child protection measures.

Participants shared that the FARDC troops face rebel groups in the DRC that recruit and use child soldiers. At the end of the training, the participants acknowledged the importance of integrating Dallaire Institute materials as part of their module on child protection: “This training is a wake-up call to the troops on the importance of protecting children especially child soldiers.”

The recruitment and use of children by armed groups in the DRC remains a major concern for the security and safety of the country. The FARDC’s welcoming attitude towards the Dallaire Institute’s advocacy and training and the DRC government’s endorsement of the Vancouver Principles, which ended the DRC component of the project on a very high note, prove that the country is fully embracing global commitments to child protection, peace, and security.



Training Supports: African Union

The Dallaire Institute developed military doctrine for the African Union (AU) peacekeeping operations that provide protocols on child protection and on monitoring the recruitment and use of child soldiers, among other grave child rights violations.

We also assisted in the development of the African Union policy on Child Protection in African Union Peace Support Operations (AUPSO), and the draft handbook on AUPSOs for Child Rights Agencies, as well as providing support on the Peace and Security Division draft Terms of Reference for a Special Rapporteur on Children and Armed Conflict at the African Union.

We held two child-protection trainings for various Child Rights Experts in Peace Support Operations, Military and Police Child Protection Focal Points, as requested by the African Union Commission (AUC). And, a Dallaire Institute Senior Child Protection Advisor was seconded to the African Union headquarters.



Security Forces Training: South Sudan

2020 was a profoundly important year in South Sudan, as a ceasefire was called following a seven-year long civil war which caused massive instability and insecurity, especially for South Sudanese children. Tens of thousands of children had been recruited and used as soldiers during the war, making South Sudan one of the highest rates in the world. In response to this extreme vulnerability children were facing, the Dallaire Institute chose South Sudan as the home for our very first satellite office.

Operations began in 2018 with priorities to build capacity among the national military and police to protect children from being recruited and used as child soldiers; ensure a Children's Rights Upfront approach would be used in the peace process; and, mentor journalists and women-led organizations to mobilize community actors around recruitment prevention (See page 30 for more information).

Over the years, great strides have been made to achieve these goals. The Dallaire Institute has formed partnerships with security forces (South Sudanese police and military as well as UN peace operations forces) to prevent recruitment by increasing security forces' understanding of vulnerable children—especially girls—and enhance their tactics and skills in the field.

In 2020 alone, the Dallaire Institute field office in South Sudan conducted training to over 4,000 unified security forces personnel, providing them with critical information on protecting children from violence.

2020 also saw the Dallaire Institute's South Sudan office hire its first Child Protection Advisor who helped create training curriculum on preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers from a gender responsive approach, specifically in the South Sudanese context. The office used that curriculum to hold Basic Training as well as Professional Development Training for military and police, refresher trainings to journalists, Civil Society Workshops on prevention of recruitment to women-led civil society organizations, and worked closely with stakeholders in the community.

Security Forces Training: Somalia

Our partnership with the Somali government and security sector brought about tremendous progress on integration of the Dallaire Institute's content and a Children's Rights Upfront (CRU) approach within the Somali security sector's training architecture and activities. Their commitment to addressing the issue of recruitment and use of children as soldiers is evidenced by their continued efforts beyond our support and involvement.

The secondment of a Dallaire Institute Senior Child Protection Advisor to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) led to the mainstreaming of child protection in AMISOM operations, and the integration of child protection training into all pre-deployment and basic training for AMISOM, the National Intelligence and Security Agency, the Somali National Army, and the Somali Police Force, as well as training for civil society organizations and members of the Child Protection Unit at the Somali Ministry of Defence.

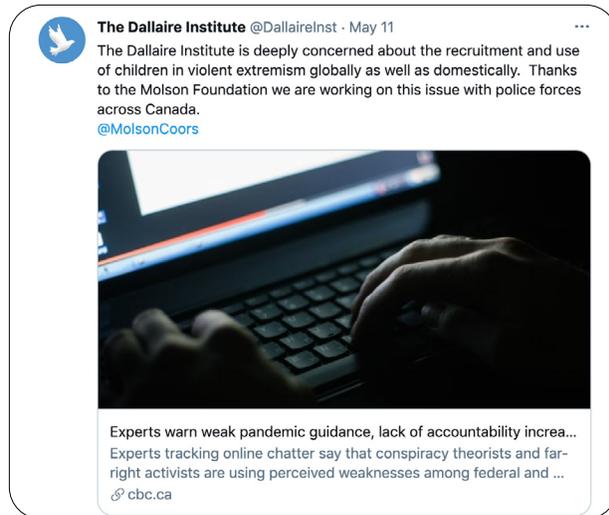
FORECAST 2021/2022: The African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA)

The Dallaire Institute is currently finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding to work with APSTA and their fourteen members across the continent. The first pilot will take place in Nigeria at the Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre.

We look forward to reporting on this important work in the year to come.

Capacity-Building for Prevention of Radicalization: Canada

In partnership with the Dallaire Institute, the Government of Canada developed and launched the Vancouver Principles in 2017. It is crucial, then, that Canada be a leader in the implementation of those principles, both internationally and domestically.



Over the past two years, the Dallaire Institute has brought its international expertise in preventing the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict to work within Canada. With generous support from the Molson Foundation, we initiated a two-year project entitled Strengthening Connections: Building Bridges Between Law Enforcement & Communities to Prevent Violence. Our research on youth recruitment into violent extremist groups (e.g., al Shabaab) has revealed new insights into the needs of vulnerable communities and their interactions and perceptions of police services here in Canada. Negative interactions with law enforcement can be a driving factor in radicalization leading to violence, thereby continuing or creating cycles of violence.

The work over the past two years built on the previous phase of this project which, in collaboration with the Montreal-based Centre for Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence, developed and fielded a training and assessment tool—called Hexagon—to identify linkages between the recruitment and use of children in international conflict and the recruitment and use of children in radicalized violence in a domestic context. The current phase of the project is aimed at operationalizing the Hexagon for training established networks within Canadian law enforcement using input from communities impacted by radicalized violence. The aim is to enhance dialogue and identify challenges and opportunities to prevent radicalization leading to violence among children.

In response to COVID-19, we focused on online training through Dalhousie University's College of Continuing Education. This will permit us to reach police audiences anywhere who must contend with radicalized youth, both in Canada and abroad.

The Dallaire Institute is also partnering with the Ontario Police College to deliver in-person training as part of their training on Hate Crimes and Violence Extremism.

INTEGRATION AND DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT

Policy and Doctrine: African Union

Recognizing the importance of protecting children in situations of conflict and addressing the issue of the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, the Dallaire Institute worked closely with the African Union Commission (AUC) to strengthen their capacity to integrate child rights and child protection into its policies and programs.

The African Union Commission's demand for our input and support on child protection increased over the course of the year, and we undertook multiple partnership visits to further solidify the relationship and continue ongoing collaboration.

Executive Director of the Dallaire Institute, Dr. Shelly Whitman, held discussions with UNICEF's African Union Liaison Officer around the development of child-sensitive military doctrine for the African Union peacekeeping operations, enhancing doctrine, Standard Operating Procedures, protocols on child protection, and monitoring and reporting on the recruitment and use of children as soldiers and grave child rights violations particularly in African Union peacekeeping missions.

The African Union Commission requested Dallaire Institute input on the draft policy document on Child Protection in African Union Peace Support Operations (AUPSOs) as well as the draft handbook on AUPSOs for Child Rights Agencies, which will provide child-focused organizations with resources on how to engage with AUPSOs, with the aim of integrating the Dallaire Institute's Children's Rights Upfront (CRU) approach.

We also provided input on the General Comment on Article 22 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which was subsequently adopted by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. And, Dr. Whitman helped the African Union Peace and Security Division draft the Terms of Reference for the position of Special Rapporteur on CAAC at the African Union Level.

Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dallaire Institute's project team continued to provide remote support to the African Union Commission on matters concerning child rights and child protection. We continued to hold regular meetings and workshops virtually with the Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) Coordination Group.

Throughout the year, the Dallaire Institute helped the African Union Commission build deployable capacity of its Child Protection Practitioners, enhance coordination amongst key stakeholders, and secure commitment from mission leaders to place children's rights front and centre in their mission areas.

The AUC duly acknowledged the Dallaire Institute's valuable contribution to their work and listed us as a key partner in the first released Children in Situations of Conflict project brochure.

Policy and Doctrine: Somalia

As per the Vancouver Principles, Child Protection Focal Points with specialized roles should be appointed throughout military and police mission command structures. These Focal Points are critical to missions to provide the necessary support in order to prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers. So, in discussions with the Somali officials at the Ministry of Defence and Chief of Defence Staff office, the Dallaire Institute stressed the need for dedicated Focal Points within the Somali National Army. This advocacy proved extremely successful, with the Somali Child Protection Unit requesting that the Dallaire Institute conduct training for Somali National Army Focal Points and help develop their Terms of Reference.

The Dallaire Institute provided a briefing in Mogadishu to 20 high-level participants from the Somali Ministry of Defence, the Somali National Army, the State Minister and Minister of Defence, the Director General of the Ministry of Defence, and senior officers. This provided the opportunity to showcase our achievements as well as reiterate the need to continue the efforts to address the core issues affecting children. Following the event, they stressed the need for further engagement through a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate comprehensive doctrinal integration and continued capacity building initiatives.

Policy and Doctrine: Democratic Republic of Congo

Early in 2020, the Dallaire Institute met with officials from the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The Force Commander stressed his desire for the Dallaire Institute to help brief his staff and troops.

Subsequently, in March (prior to the pandemic restrictions) the Dallaire Institute led a Child Protection training in Goma for MONUSCO military trainers, representatives from the Integrated Mission Training Center (IMTC), and the Child Protection Office. This training workshop demonstrated the distinct key roles that various security sector actors can play in preventing the recruitment and use of children as soldiers. It also showcased how peacekeepers can best and most safely interact with children by demonstrating the applicability of the Vancouver Principles to a mission-specific setting.

Following this successful training, the United Nations in New York called for a Memorandum of Understanding to continue this collaboration globally.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Radio: South Sudan

Amidst COVID-19 restrictions which grounded most in-person activities to a halt, the media remained one of the few viable and reliable ways to access and engage a range of audiences. Radio remains the biggest media platform in South Sudan, so the Dallaire Institute introduced a new radio series that aired on the popular morning show of the national media house, Eye Radio. These programs aimed at increasing public knowledge and discussion on how security actors can employ a Child Rights Upfront approach during the COVID-19 pandemic. The hour-long shows brought various voices together, including members of the security sector, civil society activists, and child protection experts to discuss the welfare of children and how security forces can strengthen the protective environment for children. Topics focused on:

- Children's rights and vulnerabilities during Covid-19
- Eliminating sexual violence against girls and boys
- What constitutes a child soldier
- Release and reintegration of child soldiers
- Inter-communal violence and grave violations against children's rights in armed conflict.

Radio: Democratic Republic of Congo

The Congolese government and the Congolese army (FARDC) worked together with the Dallaire Institute to create a series of French-language programs to be broadcast over UN Radio Okapi (with a listenership of over 25 million) and FARDC Communications military channels around the Democratic Republic of Congo. These shows detailed the vulnerability of children during the pandemic, informing wide audiences about the role of the security sector (i.e., police officers, military personnel) in protecting children. Topics included:

- Early warning signs of child soldier recruitment
- The particular vulnerability of girl children
- The security sector's response to those vulnerabilities
- The detention and release of children especially during a pandemic



Women's Groups

Recognizing the gendered dynamics of child recruitment, and the need for participation from both men and women in prevention efforts, the Dallaire Institute hired a Gender Manager to strengthen national programming in South Sudan and Rwanda, generating lessons learned that will impact programming around the globe and advocacy at the highest levels of the United Nations and the African Union.

In 2020, we mobilized and built the capacity of local women-led organizations as champions for change by creating a Women for Children, Peace, and Security network (W4CPS), comprised of 15 different women-led organizations. The Dallaire Institute brokered the participation of the W4CPS in interagency working groups, community dialogue projects, and a critical and unique consultation with female security sector actors.

As a result of these achievements in South Sudan, UNICEF has requested supplementary support from the Dallaire Institute in training national and international child protection actors on the UN's reporting mechanisms for child soldier recruitment and sexual violence against children.



Journalist Training

The Dallaire Institute's South Sudan office partnered with Journalists for Human Rights to train journalists from seven media houses in Juba, and four media houses in Bor, South Sudan. The training centred on techniques for reporting stories of children rights and the prevention of recruitment and use of child soldiers as a weapon of war.

Participants included journalists from the South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation, Equator Broadcasting Corporation, Eye Radio, Top FM Radio, Catholic Radio Network, Juba Monitor English daily newspaper, the Al Mogif Arabic daily newspaper, the Jonglei State Ministry of Information and Communication, Jonglei radio, Voice of Reconciliation radio, and Peace FM radio.

Later, a refresher course was held to explain how the media plays a role in strengthening the protective environment for children through children's rights reporting, and to identify skills and strategies for using the media to engage civil society and other audiences in recruitment prevention.

The Dallaire Institute also partnered with the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) in South Sudan to inform and train 100 secondary and primary school teachers and 50 journalists and activists around the country about the progress of the implementation of the revitalized peace agreement and the prevention of recruitment of child soldiers.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security has grown substantially and rapidly since our inception in 2010, and we expect to remain on this trajectory for the next five years. Today, we are the world's leading organization working to prevent children from being recruited into violence. With continuous demands on our expertise and programming, we have worked closely with Dalhousie University to strengthen our foundation in order to respond to new and emerging opportunities.

Institute Status

In 2020, we gained formal institute status at Dalhousie University, becoming the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security.

While it may seem unlikely to our global partners that our work be rooted in Atlantic Canada, both our organization and the university are part of a global community working to research and apply solutions to very global problems. We are honoured to continue our unique and critical work on behalf of vulnerable children globally as part of the institutional framework of Dalhousie University.

10th Anniversary Event

To recognize the tenth anniversary of the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security in November 2020, founder General Romeo Dallaire and executive director Dr. Shelly Whitman were joined by the Canadian Chief of Defence staff, partners from Rwanda, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, graduates from our VTECS program (Veteran Trainers to Eradicate the Use of Child Soldiers), a youth panel, and representatives from the Canadian Armed Forces to discuss the future of children, peace, and security.



FORECAST 2021/2022: Canadian Research Chair

Over the past year, the Dallaire Institute was successful in advocating for the creation of a Tier 1 Canadian Research Chair (CRC) in International Peace, Security and Children at Dalhousie University.

We are currently in the midst of the global search for an extraordinary candidate for this prestigious position, which will enhance the university's commitment to children, peace, and security and the already strong reputation that has been established through the Dallaire Institute with the Canadian Government (Global Affairs, Public Safety, Defence, Immigration and Citizenship, the PMO, and the Diplomatic Corps globally), United Nations, the African Union, NATO, the International Criminal Court, and international and regional centres of excellence on research related to conflict prevention and peacekeeping.

This CRC will stimulate international research in this area, encourage deeper connections among researchers at Dalhousie and globally, and will lead to the development of a Certificate program in children, peace, and security, thus attracting first-rate graduate students from diverse regions and disciplines.

We look forward to reporting on this important resource in the year to come.

Instructional Design and Capacity Building

Capacity building is one of the key programming pillars for the Dallaire Institute. In order to revamp our technical resource base and to bring new knowledge and evidence into our state-of-the-art curriculum, in 2020 our organization established an Instructional Design and Capacity Building department. This department will contribute to the strategic vision of the organization by setting global capacity building program delivery standards. This will entail having strategic input and oversight over all methodology and curriculum development for security sector and community-based capacity building projects of the Dallaire Institute.

The department consists of a team of technical specialists and subject matter experts to design evidence-based curriculum packages and deliver quality training programs ensuring organizational best-practice and quality assurance. Central to this new department is building relationships and gathering inputs across the organization including those from the Research and Learning and Policy and Advocacy teams, and learning from external stakeholders and partners. The department will promote the Dallaire Institute's expertise externally, drawing on best practice and learning, pushing boundaries for new learning techniques, and developing and implementing the organization's evolving strategic goals.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning

The Dallaire Institute also added a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) pillar to its Research and Learning strategy. This aims to improve the quality and impact of our work and identify ways to maximize results by tracking program progress and adapting approaches, evaluating the quality and impact of our work, systematizing robust learning and accountability to supporters and beneficiaries, and improving evidence-based decision-making and knowledge-sharing within our organization.

International Advisory Council

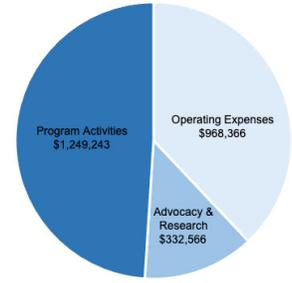
The original International Advisory Council (IAC) of the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative deftly guided our organization through monumental change over our first decade. Now, with the Dallaire Institute's exponential growth and new status as an Institute requiring updated reporting mechanisms within the University, we required additional perspectives for the IAC. As before, we sought support from individuals from diverse backgrounds who are similarly committed to enduring approaches to peace, security, and children. These global leaders in child protection offer experiential wisdom and strategic council to our executive director and her team.

Dallaire Institute International Advisory Council

Marc-Andre Blanchard, former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations
Charles Brindamour, CEO of Intact Insurance
Romeo Dallaire (chair), former UN Force Commander and Canadian Senator
Michaëlle Jean, former Governor General of Canada
Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary General of La Francophonie
Robert Muggah, founder of Brazil's Instituto Igarapé
Myrah Oloo, youth advocate and Giants of Africa alum
James Orbinski, Director of the Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research
Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, former United Nations Force Commander
Fredrik Schiller, former Swedish Ambassador to South Sudan
Masai Ujiri, President of the Toronto Raptors and founder of Giants of Africa

6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security extends sincere gratitude all of those who generously supported us this past year in our mission to end the recruitment and use of children as soldiers.



Anonymous (x 71)	German Federal Foreign Office	Leanne Children's Foundation	Joseph Sackaney
Jamie Aalbers	Global Affairs Canada under the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program (PSOPs)	Gregory Le Grand	Jacques Saint-Laurent
Pierre Asselin	Global Affairs Canada (International Development)	Caren Leinwand	Uta Schwarzkopf
Faith Bates	Ashley Grenstone	Elena Lerin	The Slight Family Foundation
Elinor Benjamin	Claire Haas	Naomi Levine	Leslie J Smith
June Bourque	Alison Hackney	Mackenzie Atlantic Tool & Die Mach Ltd	Margaret Sterns
Michael Buhmiller	Joan Hall-Patch	Leslie Mara	Christine Sundberg
Paul Calder	Arlene Hensel	Glenna Marra	Christopher Thomas
Michael Camroux	Prof Nancy Hermiston	Quentin Martin	Lorraine Thompson
Canadian Department of National Defence under the Dallaire Centre of Excellence for Peace and Security	Impact Public Relations	I H Mathers & Son Limited	Andrew Tilston
Canadian Department of National Defence under the Mobilizing Insights in Defence and Security (MINDS) program	Intact Foundation	Bruce McKean	Michael & Renae Tims
Peter Carver	Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Council (ICN) under the Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) program	Chad Mervis	Kevin Tod
Marc Charbonneau	Doug & Debby Ives	The Molson Foundation	Mathieu Tremblay
Robert Cleave	John E. Read International Law Society	Francois L Morin	Ultra Electronics Maritime Systems
Anne Collins	Laura Johnson & Jonathan Lowe	Andrew Mugford	UNIFOR
Romeo Dallaire	Carolyn Keeler	Stephen Myers	Ava Vanderstarren
The Derech Family	Roger LaBerge	Ramasamy Narayanan	Veterans Affairs Canada under the Veteran and the Family Well-being Fund
Karl Dilcher	Mike LaRose-Edwards	Ruth Anne Nicholson	Lori Ward
Sabrina D'Souza	Neil Lawrence	Sharon Nicolle	A Webber
Enterprise Holdings		Lise Olds	Aimee White
Jane Frank		John Wesley Parker	Frances Williams
Sherri Freedman		Thomas Peak	Véronique Williams
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