

THE ROMÉO DALLAIRE CHILD SOLDIERS INITIATIVE

Annual Report 2015



WELCOME LETTER

By Dr. Shelly Whitman and LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd)

International Advisory Committee

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Program Manager, VTECS:
Brent Beardsley
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Lisa Nociforo
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Tanya Zayed
Research Assistant (December 2016):
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War has changed. Therefore our tactics to address it must change too. The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative is leading the way with our prevention-oriented approach to ending the recruitment and use of child soldiers. By preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers, we are stopping today's children from becoming tomorrow's weapons of war.

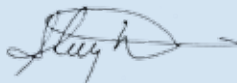
By training military, police and peacekeepers, supported by rigorous, action-oriented research and advocacy efforts, we are building a safer, more stable and humane future where the use of children as soldiers should be unthinkable.

This unique approach to preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers is underpinned by innovation. Through our work, we continue to bring fresh perspectives, create groundbreaking research and practical tools. This approach stresses prevention over reaction, knowledge over ignorance and practical approaches over ad hoc solutions.

Our 2015 annual report will share news of the people and projects that are driving our innovative work towards ending the use and recruitment of child soldiers. In it, we have highlighted stories that illuminate our national training project in Uganda, our work on international justice, our global advocacy efforts with UNICEF, our innovative tools for the militaries, police and peacekeepers, our novel research and our new Canadian police project.

As we look towards the next year, we will continue to establish the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative as an organization that leads and inspires the international community to take concrete actions towards ending the use of child soldiers.

Thank you,



Dr. Shelly Whitman

Executive Director of the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative



LGen, the Hon. Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd),

Founder of the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

THE ROMÉO
DALLAIRE



CHILD
SOLDIERS
INITIATIVE



CASE STUDY

AMISOM Child Protection Advisor



Letter from the Dallaire Initiative Manager of Finance and Administration, Lisa Nociforo

In Somalia, children are recruited and used as child soldiers in the ranks of Al Shabaab and other armed groups, along with the Somali National Army. Since 2014, the Dallaire Initiative has diligently addressed this challenge through working closely with our partners at UNICEF and the AU.

Consistent enforcement of child rights underpins our approach in Somalia. This is why in 2014 we were truly honored to establish the first ever Child Protection Advisor (CPA) dedicated to the mandate of child protection within the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). This was the result of a groundbreaking agreement amongst the Dallaire Initiative, the African Union Peace and Security Department, and UNICEF.

Through the position of the AMISOM Child Protection Advisor, Musa Gbow, a Dallaire Initiative training graduate and Sierra Leonean Armed Forces Captain, has forged a positive new direction for protecting the rights of Somali children. With a successful advocacy campaign, he has integrated an understanding of the value and impact of preventing extreme violence against children within AMISOM leadership and peacekeeping forces along with the Somali national military and police. He has also equipped over 500 AMISOM peacekeepers and 35 Somali national army personnel with the knowledge and tools to identify and mitigate risks, report violations, and to implement prevention-oriented tactics towards protecting children.

Captain Gbow's dedication and perseverance, together with the strategic consultation of the Dallaire Initiative, has changed the organizational structure of AMISOM as a first vital step in successfully addressing the sustainable wellbeing of children, youth, and families in Somalia. In 2016, Major Gbow will formalize a network of child protection "focal points" within AMISOM in an effort to strengthen the mission's overall capacity to enforce the rights of Somali children. This network will also provide the research team at the Dallaire Initiative invaluable data to inform policy, practice, and most importantly prevention in our mission of ending the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

Lisa Nociforo, Halifax Nova Scotia

ADVANCING CHILD PROTECTION WITHIN AMISOM

APPROACH

By implementing the Dallaire Initiative's holistic approach to child protection, the in-mission child protection advisor impacts the strategic, operational, and tactical outputs of AMISOM. To support this holistic approach, child protection training and education is provided to mission leadership, and the commanders that oversee military, police and civilian units to prevent and report grave violations against children.

INDUCTION TRAINING PROGRAM

For the past year, the child protection advisor has conducted weekly induction briefings—systematic in-mission training related to technical advice and guidance on operational tasks and challenges for arriving staff. A result of this is a higher level of awareness of child protection issues among trainees as reported by the mission's trainings unit.

IN FOCUS IN-MISSION CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS

Training is tailored for junior level (Lieutenants and below), middle level commanders (captains and majors), and senior level management (Lt Colonels and above). In addition, specially organized training sessions for Child Protection Focal persons (military, police & civilians) have enabled a truly coordinated effort in and outside of the mission on child protection efforts. Through this coordination there has been a significant increase in the reporting of violations against children and in a more efficient process.



SOMALI
NATIONAL ARMY

35

AMISOM
POLICE PERSONNEL

175

AMISOM
MILITARY PERSONNEL

500



“One of my biggest achievements was bringing together members of the Somali National Forces [Police & Military] and AMISOM security forces into an integrated training session which has never happened before. During that training session, the Somalis were actually very outspoken against some of Somali armed forces bad practices.”

Captain Musa Gbow,
Child Protection Advisor, AMISOM

CASE STUDY

Canadian Police Project



BUILDING CONNECTIONS ACROSS CANADA

EDMONTON

The Dallaire Initiative facilitated five participatory workshops with community stakeholders, at-risk youth, front line police officers and senior officers. Along with the Toronto workshops, the Dallaire Initiative found a high need for better police-community relations and engagement, and more effective and efficient tools to assist police in intervening with at-risk youth.

TORONTO

Three workshops were held with at-risk youth from different community organizations to gather their perspectives on radicalisation and interactions with police. This resulted in an in-depth awareness of youth issues across Toronto which are contributing directly to the creation of tools for police to use in preventing and intervening youth radicalising to violence.

MONTREAL

The Dallaire Initiative is excited to be working with the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalisation Leading to Violence (CPRLV), which is mandated to work with the Montreal Police Services on this topic. We will be working together on jointly creating and implementing tools for police to use in Montreal.


IN FOCUS **KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS ON** **UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES OF** **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN EXTREME** **VIOLENCE AND MEANINGFUL** **INTERVENTIONS**

To ensure that a rigorous academic basis informs this project, the Dallaire Initiative undertook a comprehensive literature survey and knowledge synthesis on youth radicalisation into extreme violence. Whether disenfranchised youth are gravitating towards right wing extremist groups, gangs, or emergent foreign fighter groups, police are often at the frontlines when it comes to opportunities for prevention or intervention of such radicalisation. Understanding how children and youth are used within these various groups as instruments of violence, will better inform police and community members in how to best engage with and respond to the issue of violent radicalization.

The following recommendations were developed from the knowledge synthesis:

- 1. Build networks in the community.**
- 2. Equip other front-line workers for recognizing and responding to youth who might be radicalized.**
- 3. Challenge racist meanings bestowed on radicalization language.**
- 4. Create opportunities for marginalized youth to positively engage with police and community.**
- 5. Support collaborative research projects that contribute to evidence-based responses to radicalization.**

Photo: CC 2.0 by Ashton Pal



“The Edmonton Police Service’s partnership with the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative is exceeding our expectations very early on. When representatives of the Initiative visited our city and led diverse stakeholder meetings we learned a lot from our officers and partners because of this external facilitation opportunity. As workshop findings were released, we were extremely pleased with acquiring the highlighted themes that arose from the findings and have already focused on these gaps moving forward with other collaborative initiatives. The Edmonton Police Services is excited about next steps and the possibility of the development of an innovative communication tool that supports front line officers as they interact with youth in our community.”

Michelle Fillion
Manager, Youth Services, Edmonton Police Services

CASE STUDY

Innovation in Research



IN FOCUS **EVALUATING AND** **MEASURING THE IMPACT** **OF PREVENTATIVE** **TRAINING AIMED AT** **STOPPING THE USE OF** **CHILD SOLDIERS IN** **SIERRA LEONE**

Through the course of 2016, the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative continued its investigation of innovative monitoring and evaluation (M&E) techniques in the context of pre-deployment, rules of engagement, and broadly preventative training on child soldiers for security sector actors in Sierra Leone. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Dallaire Initiative project works to propose a locally defined and culturally appropriate model for the evaluation of training programming as it relates to a series of Initiative Core Competencies, so as to assess primary, secondary and tertiary levels of knowledge retention by, and behavioural change in, selected participants.

After being limited in its return to Sierra Leone due to the tragic outbreak of Ebola, the Dallaire Initiative was able visit Freetown in January 2016 and conduct approximately thirty semi-structured interviews with past training participants, offering an opportunity to both pilot prospective monitoring and evaluation tools (including audio recording equipment and electronic tablets for survey data), and reconnect directly with previous trainees.

Staff at the Dallaire Initiative expect to publish results of their on-going M&E efforts in at least two upcoming peer-reviewed journal articles: the first focused on methodology and approach; and, the second, an in-depth analysis of recorded results and continuing challenges. Data collection is expected to continue throughout 2016, with an additional field mission to Sierra Leone, the product of which will be a set of newly formed indicators for M&E in the case of training for security sector actors in child soldier recruitment prevention and appropriate response.

OUR RESEARCH PROCESS

IDENTIFYING KNOWLEDGE GAPS

Through our training, research, education and advocacy efforts the Dallaire Initiative identifies gaps in academic research on the issue of child soldiers and children affected by armed conflict. Once these gaps are identified, the Dallaire Initiative develops research projects to provide academics, practitioners and policy makers with up-to-date data.

RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

We use insights for those directly affected or engaged with children and armed conflict situation in the field and through our unique security sector perspective produce rigorous research. This research often represents the first attempts to build larger analytical and data sets exploring issues regarding child soldiers, which represents a larger catalyst to inform our international discourse and training.

INCLUSIVE OF PARTICIPANTS

Through a participatory approach, the Dallaire Initiative works with key stakeholders—including former child soldiers, academics, practitioners and security sector actors—seeking their input to improve programming.

IN FOCUS CHILDREN OF THE CALIPHATE

On March 9th, at the House of Commons in London, England, the Quilliam Foundation in partnership with the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative and UNESCO launched its report “Children of the Islamic State”.

This seminal report chronicles how children are affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria and their use as weapons of war within the ranks of the Islamic State. In addition, the report outlines key steps forward in programs and supports that will be required for children who escape the ranks of the Islamic State and enter demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration programs.

IN FOCUS EARLY WARNING AND CHILD SOLDIERS

On June 25th, the Dallaire Initiative launched its research report “Understanding the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers as an Early Warning Indicator”. This report outlines adopting the recruitment and use of child soldiers as an early warning indicator for mass atrocities.

The international community has made steps towards adopting a strategy of early warning to prevent and disrupt the outbreak of mass atrocities and violent conflict, yet it still reacts to conflict already underway. It is possible that our failure to prevent and react to conflicts is directly correlated to our failure to protect children and prevent their deliberate use and abuse in armed conflict.

LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd) and Dr. Shelly Whitman further explored the recruitment and use of child soldiers as an early warning indicator in the UN Chronicle's retrospective issue, “The UN at 70” published in September 2015 using the case study of Rwanda.



IN FOCUS CHAPLAINCY ROUNDTABLES

On June 5th and 6th 2015 in Cornwall, Ontario, the Dallaire Initiative engaged 18 chaplains from the Royal Canadian Chaplain Service along with representatives from the United Kingdom and New Zealand Chaplain Services to discuss the role padres can play in preventing the recruitment of child soldiers, as well how to mitigate moral injury stemming from interactions with children used as weapons of war. This incredibly unique and innovative research initiative was made possible by the generous support of the Department of Defence, the Catholic Women's League Military Ordinariate and Kutoa.

Throughout the two-day roundtable discussion, chaplains were introduced to many of the training tools that the Dallaire Initiative has pioneered and employed with security sector actors in its fight to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Those in attendance quickly related the applicability of the Dallaire Initiative's unique approach to the issue of child soldiery to past experiences they had with members of our Canadian Forces.

The Chaplain Roundtables expanded the Dallaire Initiative's understanding of the military chaplaincy and triggered in depth discussion of how the Dallaire Initiative will be able to engage further with military chaplains.

“Children are the priority and they need to be protected from joining armed forces and armed groups. Through rigorous research we are able to develop timely interventions toward preventing the use of children as weapons of war.”

Dr. Shelly Whitman, Executive Director of
the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

CASE STUDY

Innovative Training Tools



Letter from Josh Boyter, Director of Communications The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

At the Dallaire Initiative, we are translating knowledge into action through innovative tools that are helping military, police and peacekeepers to prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

Our tools first and foremost identify gaps and respond to the unique environments that security sector personnel—soldiers, police, peacekeepers—operate within. We continually refine our training resources and develop tools and training aids to provide ongoing engagement with the issue. This ensures that our training lessons can be reinforced and enhanced well after our trainees have left the classroom

Through our tools and training, the Dallaire Initiative is adding value and complementing the credible work of our colleagues in the humanitarian sector, while enhancing and engaging the security personnel in the protection of children.

As an example of this bridging effect between humanitarian and security sectors is particularly pronounced in a set of playing cards designed for the security sector. This unique 52 playing card deck is not only helping the security sector to understand the roles and necessary responses required to the use of children as weapons of war, but is currently aiding in the rehabilitation of some 1700 former child soldiers in South Sudan. This seemingly simple tool, a set of playing cards, is having a major impact across conflicts, contexts and lived experience while reinforcing the prevention-oriented approach of the Dallaire Initiative to the issue of child soldiers.

Over the next year, the Dallaire Initiative will continue to produce innovative tools that help train and support the security sector in preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers, allowing us to bridge the gap between humanitarian and security interventions.

Josh Boyter, Halifax, NS

PROCESS OF TOOL DESIGN

IDENTIFYING GAPS

The Dallaire Initiative uses insights gleaned from our experiences in the field and the needs of our participants to identify gaps in knowledge and tools they require in being preventative actors in the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Often knowledge exists, but requires translation into a format that can be used easily in the field.

CONCEPT

We seek to develop tools that will seamlessly integrate in our users routines or habits, while reinforcing our training on the prevention of children as weapons of war.

DEPLOYMENT

Our tools are deployed to the field through our three/four day and Training of Trainer courses. Through the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of our training, we seek feedback from the participants on our tools and adjust their format and content accordingly.



IN FOCUS PLAYING CARDS AS TRAINING TOOLS

When not actively engaged in their mission, soldiers often play cards during their downtime. The development and use of customized playing cards provides a unique and relevant way to inject a training tool that supports our prevention oriented security sector approach to the issue of child soldiers.

These playing cards are currently deployed to support the ongoing work of civil society organizations working with recently demobilised child soldiers in Pibor, South Sudan. These cards have proven particularly useful in helping children to discuss their experiences while in armed groups, where other methods have failed.

The playing cards are currently available in English, French and Somali.

Over the course of 2015, the Dallaire Initiative worked with students of the Dalhousie Informatics and Computer Science programs to develop an interactive training game and generator for the Dallaire Initiative.

As a tool, the game will help contextualize the training of the Dallaire Initiative to various peacekeeping contexts around the globe and provide in-situ refreshers for security sector personnel. Playing through the game, security sector personnel will engage with children used as weapons of war across all 11 interactions found within the Dallaire Initiative's Child Soldiers: A Handbook for Security Sector Actors.

The first iteration of the game will be deployed to the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) by mid 2016.

IN FOCUS CHILD SOLDIERS TRAINING GAME

“Through translating knowledge into innovative tools, we can ensure that military and police are equipped to be at the forefront of preventing the use and recruitment of child soldiers.”

Josh Boyter, Director of Communications,
The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative



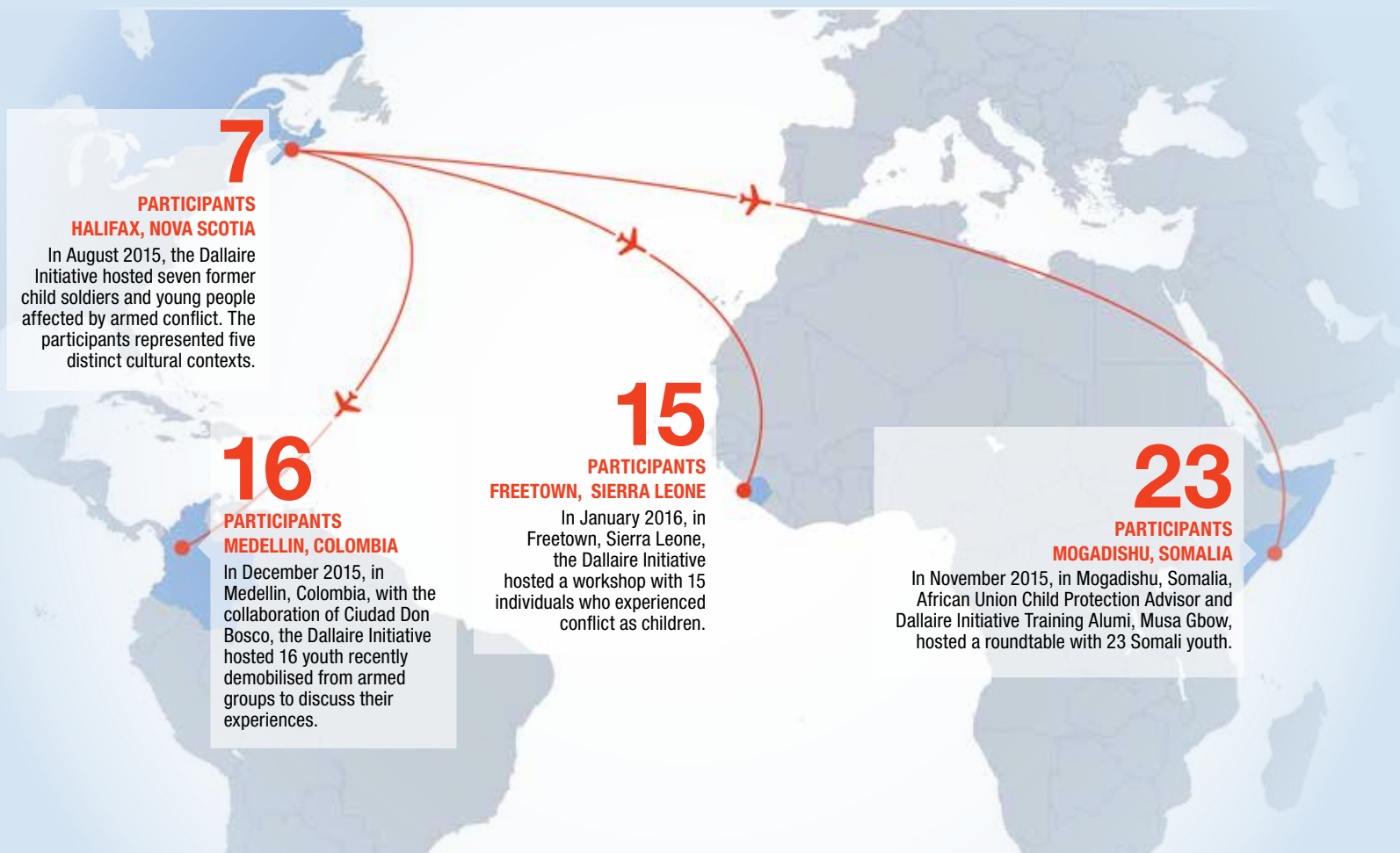
CASE STUDY

International Justice

Introduction

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) asked the Dallaire Initiative to assist with the drafting of their new policy on children and armed conflict. To support this effort, the Dallaire Initiative organized round tables with young people who have been affected by war—as participants in the judicial process or as combatants. This policy will help the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC, during the course of its work, to consider the rights and best interests of children and how they experience crimes against them during conflict. As a result, this policy on children and armed conflict will contribute towards holding perpetrators of grave violations against children, including the enlistment and use of child soldiers, to account and help address issues of impunity related to these crimes.

This new policy will be released by the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC in the later half of 2016.



“By sharing our experiences, we can help future generations and ensure they are protected from impunity on this issue.”

ICC Roundtable Participant, Sierra Leone



IN FOCUS PARTNERSHIP WITH JUSTICE RAPID RESPONSE

The Dallaire Initiative, in partnership with Justice Rapid Response (JRR) and the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI), together are building the capacity for investigators of international crimes against children with the development of specialized training modules. In addition to this specialized training program, the partnership will also see the integration of a specific module on crimes involving children into every JRR training course on international investigations. This will ensure that all trained experts certified to the JRR roster possess an understanding of the fundamentals around the investigations of crimes involving children.

Based on over a decade of experience and expertise working with the security sector, civil society, former child soldiers and children effected by conflicts, the Dallaire Initiative will impart an important perspective and awareness to investigators of war crimes, especially those working with child victims and witnesses. Recognized by the UN as a subject matter expert on issues related to the use of child soldiers, the Dallaire Initiative has developed and delivered context specific training modules, pertinent research and analysis, and influenced international policy related to children and armed conflict.



Photo: Joseph Stueffer

“It is essential that we strengthen the international justice mechanisms that exist to better protect children globally. Ensuring deterrence to the practice of the use of children as soldiers cannot be resolved in isolation. This will require collective efforts to not only improve the current legal frameworks but to also ensure that accountability for adherence to these laws is the responsibility of all those who impact the protection of children - from families, to communities, to educators, to police, to the peacekeepers, the policy makers and the prosecutors.”

Dr. Shelly Whitman, Executive Director of
the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

CASE STUDY

Shaping the Dialogue



Letter From Dr. Shelly Whitman, Executive Director of the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

As the Executive Director, I have had the pleasure of working with a wide range of organisations, people and issues. Trained as an academic, and understanding the value of research and inquiry, I have always been keen to try to understand why the world is shaped as it is and how to affect it. During my time as Head of Research on the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, I learned a great deal about building consensus amongst parties that had competing ambitions and polar opposite philosophies. This experience, combined with my time at UNICEF headquarters in New York, taught me the value of giving the most vulnerable a voice.

The combination of these worlds colliding is critical because I have learned to work with academics, the media, policy makers, UN officials, diplomats, the military, police, civil society, and local populations. Within all of these experiences I have learned to understand how people from different backgrounds and professions think and how to communicate in ways that allow people to hear key messages that lead to larger outcomes and overall goals. This requires patience, humility and a willingness to continuously learn and adapt.

Over the past year, we have collaborated with groups that have not traditionally researched or pursued issues of children in armed conflict – ranging from those who work on issues of de-radicalization and preventing terrorism, to those who investigate crimes and punish those responsible, to those who work on preventing mass atrocities, to security sector reform and capacity building of national level security forces. In other words, the Dallaire Initiative has been carving out a clear niche of being a bridge between various organisations, individuals, and communities that do not typically intersect or communicate but must if we are to create holistic solutions to effectively prevent the use of children as soldiers.

Shaping the dialogue is also about shaping your ability to listen effectively and respond while keeping the momentum on the ultimate goal - and in this case it is about protecting children.

Dr. Shelly Whitman, Halifax, Nova Scotia

KEY MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

TRAINING NATO COMMAND ON PREVENTING CHILD SOLDIERS

On March 8th 2016, Executive Director, Dr. Shelly Whitman, and Director of Training Darin Reeves, conducted an executive level sensitization training for NATO commanders in Brussels, Belgium. This training was part of the Dallaire Initiative's ongoing assistance in mainstreaming child protection within NATO doctrine and training as NATO's subject matter experts on children affected by armed conflict.

'RIGHTS FOR PEACE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES'

On April 21st 2015 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, LGen Dallaire provided the keynote address for the panel "The Relevance of Human Rights: Gaps between Reality and Norms –Pragmatism and Principle". During his keynote, LGen Dallaire presented the concept of child soldiers as an early warning indicator of mass atrocities in connection with the Responsibility to Protect.

LAUNCH OF CODE BLUE CAMPAIGN

On May 13th 2015, in New York City, LGen Roméo Dallaire participated in the launch of Code Blue: A Campaign by Aids-Free World. Code Blue is an advocacy campaign to bring attention and accountability within the UN on the issue of sexual abuse committed by military and civilian peacekeeping personnel on mission.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

On May 28th 2015 in New York City, LGen Roméo Dallaire participated in a panel discussion on the international women, peace and security agenda hosted by Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Mission of the UAE to the United Nations. During his remarks, LGen Dallaire discussed the unique perspectives and techniques that women in the security sector can provide in preventing the use of child soldiers while on mission.

On the 25th of September, at Dalhousie University, LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd) and Stephen Lewis spoke about two contemporary weapons of war—sexual violence and child soldiers—that continue to effect children around the globe.

The event featured the launch of the Dallaire Initiative's new partnership with Intact Insurance. Intact's sponsorship will support the development of the Intact/Dallaire Initiative Senior Fellow, the first recipient of which is LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd).

IN FOCUS WEAPONS OF WAR: SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD SOLDIERS

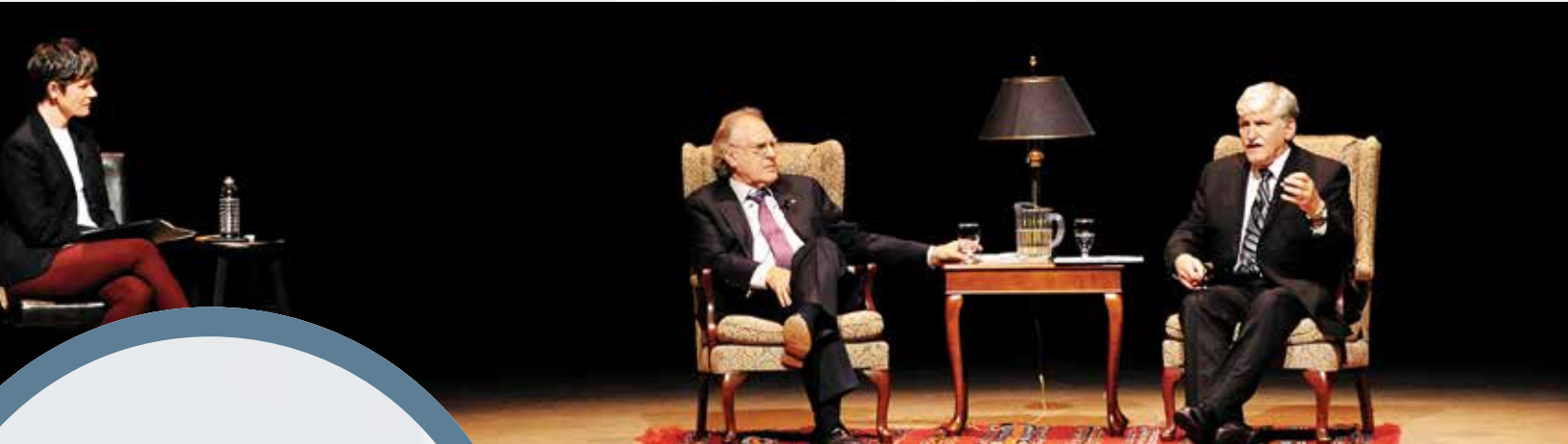


Photo by: Danny Abriel

IN FOCUS KEY PUBLICATIONS AND OP-EDS

OP-EDS

Children of the Caliphate

March 9th, 2016, Huffington Post Canada, by Dr. Shelly Whitman

How can Canada Defuse ISIL's Child Soldiers

February 23rd, 2016, Ottawa Citizen, by LGen Roméo Dallaire and Dr. Shelly Whitman

Time to Put the Blue Beret Back on

December 9th, 2015, Ottawa Citizen, by LGen Roméo Dallaire and Dr. Shelly Whitman

Coming Face-to-Face with a Child Soldier

October 21st, 2015, Open Canada, by LGen Roméo Dallaire and Dr. Shelly Whitman

The Children of the Syrian Conflict Have Been Seen, Now We Must Act

September 11th, 2015, the National Post, by LGen Roméo Dallaire and Dr. Shelly Whitman

Child Soldiers and ISIS

June 8th, 2015, Human Trafficking Search, by Dr. Shelly Whitman

Statement on Omar Khadr

May 8th, 2014, by LGen Roméo Dallaire and Dr. Shelly Whitman

RESEARCH PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

2015 Uganda: Prevention of the Use of Child Soldiers Project

"Who will Weep for Them?": The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative Chaplain Roundtable Report

Working Paper I Understanding the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers as an Early Warning Indicator

Preventing the Use of Child Soldiers, Preventing Genocide
Dallaire, R., Whitman, S.

Knowledge Synthesis: Understanding the Causes of Youth Engagement in Extreme Violence and Meaningful Interventions.

Pelley, E. and Liebenberg, L.

Innovation in the Prevention of the Use of Child Soldiers: Women in the Security Sector.

Whitman, S., Dallaire, R. and Holland, S. PRISM

Children of the Islamic State.

Benotman, N., Malik, N. Forward by Whitman, S.

"The new approaches to preventing the use of children must include how we prioritise the protection of children on the peace and security agenda. If we are to ensure that current and potential conflicts are effectively addressed, then we will have to find tangible solutions to preventing the use of children in violent conflicts"

Dr. Shelly Whitman
Executive Director of the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

CASE STUDY

National Training Program in Uganda

The Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) has more experience engaging child combatants than any other professional army in the world. Since 1986, it has been in a near constant struggle with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel militia that has abducted and deployed some 60,000 Ugandan children. During this time, the UPDF, without tools or tactics, were often ad hoc with their response to this weapon of war, causing casualties on all sides. Emerging from conflict, Uganda has become a peacekeeping leader in East Africa supporting African Union missions to neighbouring states including South Sudan, Central African Republic, and Somalia.

The Dallaire Initiative's National Training Programme with the UPDF builds on this experience and regional leadership, equipping them with the tools and knowledge to prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

OUR TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS

38: NUMBER OF WOMEN IN SECURITY SECTOR TRAINING BY REGION

200: NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS TRAINED



UGANDA



TANZANIA



RWANDA



MILITARY



POLICE



PRISON

OUR PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Partnering with the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), the Dallaire Initiative is training the Ugandan military to strengthen their capacity to prevent the use and recruitment of child soldiers at home and abroad.

**EXECUTIVE LEVEL OFFICER SEMINAR
FEBRUARY 2015**

The Executive Level Officer Seminar course held in February 2015 engaged 23 of the UPDF's high-ranking Generals, Colonels and Majors. This high-level engagement was critical to the overall sustainability of our project in Uganda.

**TRAINING OF TRAINERS
MAY 2015**

A cohort of 18 UPDF officers participated in the May 2015 Training of Trainers course. Nine of these graduates subsequently co-facilitating with Dallaire Initiative staff training in October of 104 Uganda security personnel as part of Uganda's Junior Command and Staff College (JCSC) course. This training represented the single largest training undertaken by the Dallaire Initiative.

**WOMEN SECURITY SECTOR PROJECT
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2015**

The Women Security Sector Actors Project included a focus group and two subsequent three-day basic training courses which engaged a total of 38 women representing the UPDF, Uganda Police Force (UPF) and Uganda Prison Services (UPS) as well as female military personnel from Tanzania and Rwanda.



IN FOCUS THE WOMEN SECURITY SECTOR ACTORS PROJECT

To date, female soldiers and police have been grossly underrepresented in national security structures and international peacekeeping missions. With this project, the Dallaire Initiative conducted targeted trainings with women in the Ugandan security sector and regional countries to increase the cohort of women that receive our training and to build their capacity in preventing the use and recruitment of children in armed conflict.

The Dallaire Initiative held a focus group and two subsequent three-day basic training courses which engaged a total of 38 women representing the UPDF, Uganda Police Force (UPF) and Uganda Prison Services (UPS) as well as female military personnel from Tanzania and Rwanda.

FUNDERS:

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative would like to thank the following supporters and partners for their time, generous investment and input into this project:

- The Carnegie Corporation of New York
- The Government of Sweden
- The Ugandan Peoples' Defence Forces – with special thanks to Chief of Defence Forces – General Wamala, and Brig General Matthew Gureme
- The Fairway Hotel and the Jaffer Family



“It is never too late to do the right thing”

UPDF Colonel speaking to changing the ad hoc approach the UPDF has taken to address child soldiers for the past twenty years.

CASE STUDY

UNICEF Partnerships: South Sudan



UN Photo

South Sudan Background

In December 2013, only two years after independence, South Sudan was plunged into violence that has created the world's second largest humanitarian crisis. This violence is sustained through the use of some 16,000 child soldiers by the state army and non-state armed groups operating throughout the country. With violence mounting and solutions exhausted, the Dallaire Initiative was brought in by UNICEF to bring a fresh perspective fill a critical gap to end the use of child soldiers, which is a key factor that continues to drive the conflict forward in South Sudan.

IN FOCUS **DALLAIRE INITIATIVE** **HELPS SECURE RELEASE** **OF 250 CHILD SOLDIERS.**

The Dallaire Initiative visited some of the 1700 former child soldiers released in May 2015 by Cobra Faction fighters. At the UNICEF supported school where these children are becoming educated, the children shared their experiences and projects they are currently working on.

During a meeting with the Cobra Faction, an armed group operating in and around Pibor South Sudan, the Cobra Faction leadership committed to release the remaining children from their ranks—estimated at 250 child soldiers. This document was signed and declaration completed with political leaders, civil society organizations and UNICEF looking on. The presence of LGen Dallaire proved to be a major factor in ensuring this commitment was completed by the Cobra Faction.

KEY MEETINGS IN SOUTH SUDAN

MEETING WITH
MINISTER OF
DEFENCE AND CHIEF
OF DEFENCE STAFF
FOR SOUTH SUDAN

During the meeting at the office of the Minister of Defence (MOD), the Dallaire Initiative, MOD and Chief of Defence Staff discussed the ongoing challenges the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) faces in terms of child soldiers and the need to further professionalize their military. The Dallaire Initiative presented its handbook on child soldiers and the security sector and aspects of its training, which resonated with all in attendance.

EXECUTIVE LEVEL
TRAINING WITH
SPLA GENERALS

With 40 members of the SPLA in attendance, including the Inspector General, the Dallaire Initiative undertook a three hour sensitization training on the issue of child soldiers. Convened by the Chief of Defence Staff, this training introduced attendees to the prevention-oriented approach the security sector can undertake to end the use of child soldiers.

CASE STUDY

UNICEF Partnerships: DRC

Introduction

UNICEF and the Dallaire Initiative continue to work together to effectively respond to the worldwide child soldier problem in some of the world's most fragile countries including Somalia, South Sudan, and most recently in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In an effort to accomplish the national action plan for the DRC to end the use of child soldiers within the national army outlined in the #childrennotsoldiers campaign, UNICEF DRC engaged with the Dallaire Initiative to assist in developing a national training program preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers. This program is part of the process for the DRC to uphold its commitments as outlined in the national action plan on child soldiers.



UN Photo by Myriam Asmani

IN FOCUS DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE

To ensure that child protection is truly strengthened and sustainable in DRC, it was recommended to UNICEF by the Dallaire Initiative that doctrine development was an essential result of the project. Militaries guide their actions in support of their objectives through doctrine, and all their operational plans are executed based on this guidance. Years of field experience in fragile countries have given the Dallaire Initiative an unmatched expertise to professionalize the behaviour of militaries through doctrine change.

OUR WORK WITH UNICEF DRC

BACKGROUND TO OUR CURRENT EFFORTS IN THE DRC

Since 2009 the Dallaire Initiative has been helping the DRC move away from the use of child soldiers through training, research and education activities. Today, we are working with UNICEF DRC and FARDC to establish training doctrine and a national training program to further support ending the use and recruitment of child soldiers in the DRC.

TRAINING DOCTRINE FOR NATIONAL ARMY (FARDC)

Dallaire Initiative partner, Jake Bell, a former Canadian Forces Colonel, has mapped out a comprehensive training plan to be implemented within the DRC over the next three years. This training plan will help standardize training specific to child protection across all ranks and training facilities in country.

FINANCIALS

2015/2016

Extraordinary Collaborators

All financial contributions to the Dallaire Initiative help us conduct the training, research and advocacy needed to help eradicate the use of child soldiers.

Thank you for supporting us in making the use of child soldiers unthinkable.

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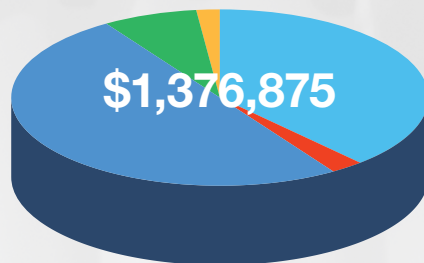
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FINANCIAL REPORT 2014/2015

The fiscal year 2015/2016 proved to be another successful year for the Dallaire Initiative as we realized a four fold increase of investments in our special project work from \$168,655 to \$688,330. Major gift and donations increased by 40% from \$321,729 to \$526,699.

Our programs and special projects operated under a balanced budget – this is an important measure of our financial success, diligent stewardship, and energetic program management. As we enter a new fiscal year financially well positioned to support our strategic direction, we look forward to fulfilling our mission of ending the use and recruitment of child soldiers within a continued framework of effective operational and fiscal management.

WHERE WE GET THE MONEY



■ IN KIND GIFTS \$25,000
 ■ SPECIAL EVENTS \$101,222
 ■ GRANTS AND SPECIAL PURPOSE \$688,330
 ■ GENERAL REVENUE \$35,624
 ■ GIFTS AND DONATIONS \$526,699

HOW WE USE OUR FUNDS



■ IN-KIND GIFTS \$25,000
 ■ SPECIAL PROJECTS \$688,330
 ■ OPERATING EXPENSES \$248,926
 ■ PROGRAMMATIC PILLARS \$414,619