

European Union 

Recipient of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize®



PROJECT FACTSHEET

EU Children of Peace in Ethiopia & DRC

Facts & Figures:

- 1 billion children live in conflict-affected areas, of which 300 million are under the age of five
- 7 million children are refugees
- 12.4 million children were displaced in their country in 2011
- There were 28 million conflict-affected children out of primary school in 2011
- There were 250 000 child soldiers in 2009
- Three out of the five countries with the highest child mortality rates in 2011 were conflict countries

European Commission –
Humanitarian Aid and Civil
Protection

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00

Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72

email:

echo-info@ec.europa.eu

Website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

**FUNDED
PROJECT:**

**PROTECTING AND TEACHING DISPLACED
CHILDREN IN ETHIOPIA AND THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.**



The EU dedicates its Nobel Peace Prize to
education projects for children in conflict.
ec.europa.eu/echo/EU4children

 Save the Children



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

Key messages

- Receiving the **2012 Nobel Peace Prize** for its achievements in peace on the European continent, the EU decided to dedicate the prize money to the most vulnerable and often the hardest hit by wars: **the children of this world.**
- Because each and every girl and boy in the world should have the opportunity to develop their talents and grow up in peace, just like European children, **the EU has invested the prize money in projects to provide 28 000 conflict-affected children with education**, in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia.
- Promoting education is also giving peace a chance to be a lasting peace. **We want "children of war" to become "children of peace".**

Humanitarian situation and needs

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is hosting hundreds of thousands of Somali, Eritrean, South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees seeking asylum. Somalia's violent conflict and severe food insecurity has forced over 195 000 Somali refugees into the Dollo Ado camps, situated in southern Ethiopia.

In the Dollo Ado camps, above 65 per cent of the Somali refugees are below the age of 18. Over 65 000 of these are children between the ages of five and 11 years. In the camps, class rooms for the younger children are overcrowded while the older children have very low enrolment rates. There is also a shortage of skilled teachers in the Dollo Ado camps. Having fled violence and hunger, the children also require psycho-social care.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Heavy and sporadic fighting continues in the eastern provinces of DRC. Over 2.7 million people are currently uprooted from their homes across the country, many of them more than once. Nearly all of the displaced people are in the eastern provinces of DRC.

The decades of conflict have inflicted a heavy blow on education. The few existing schools have been destroyed or turned into camps for the displaced. In North Kivu, 529 schools were either occupied and or looted in 2012 affecting the education of almost 85 000 children throughout the Province. 39 per cent of the children in North Kivu have never been to or have dropped out of school.

One of the greatest risks facing children in DRC is forceful recruitment into armed groups. With a proliferation of armed actors, children are at risk of being abducted and used as porters soldiers or sex slaves. In North Kivu alone, it is estimated that only 37 per cent of children living in camps are enrolled in education schemes. The figures in the spontaneous sites around the camps are even lower.

The vulnerability and risks for school-age children are extremely high. Therefore schools offer a safe haven for many children. The decreasing access to education, as a result of heightening conflict and displacement, has long-term consequences on future generations.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The EU's humanitarian aid is committed to address the specific needs of children affected by conflict. The humanitarian aid department, ECHO, dedicates more than half of its funding to conflict-affected areas. 12 per cent of ECHO's budget goes to child-focused relief organisations, this is more than the global average. In 2011, over EUR 100 million of humanitarian aid went to projects implemented by UNICEF and Save the Children alone. The EU supports children affected by conflict, namely through child protection activities, psycho-social support, mine risk education and actions against the recruitment of child soldiers.

In Ethiopia's Dollo Ado refugee camps, with money from the Nobel peace prize, ECHO is funding child education and child protection activities. Around EUR 500 000 has been used for the construction of safe learning spaces; the rehabilitation of existing classrooms as well as the distribution of schoolbags, teacher's kits and recreation sets. Save the Children, ECHO's implementing partner, has enrolled 5 400 children in the Accelerated Basic Education programme and built at least 20 temporary and renovated 10 existing classrooms, which are currently all functional. The project offers education to more than 5 000 Somali refugee children.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, ECHO, with money from the Nobel Peace Prize, is funding child education and protection activities that target up to 9 000 children affected by the protracted conflict. The EUR 400 000 has been allocated for building safe education spaces, rehabilitating schools and distributing schoolbags to children in the Masisi territory of North Kivu. The project, implemented by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), also trains caretakers, including parents and community volunteers, on collectively improving the protection of children.

In action: Assisting Children Affected by Conflict

EU Children of Peace with Save the Children and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Ethiopia and the DRC

Save the Children provides education to more than 5 000 Somali children living in refugee camps in the border town of Dollo Ado in southern Ethiopia. This project aims to provide children affected by conflict with access to basic quality education as a fundamental part of the humanitarian response in Bokolmanyo and Hilaweyn camps of Dollo Ado.

NRC focuses on 9 000 children affected by the conflict in Petit Nord Kivu in eastern DRC. This area faces sporadic and ongoing fighting between different militia groups thus causing heavy displacement.



This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Great Lakes Crisis, which started with the Burundi Civil War in 1993, which has uprooted millions of Congolese from their homes.

The projects in Ethiopia and DRC ensure that over 14 000 highly vulnerable children have access to safe and nurturing spaces in which they can attend school begin to recover from the trauma of conflict and have a better future.

One Child at a Time



16-year old Maniriho was abducted from his village in North Kivu by militia at the age of nine and forced to become a child soldier. He was made responsible for stealing goats and food as well as carrying the children of militia during movements. He says " I had lost all hope to find my parents, to study....in short I had no desire to live."

Maniriho managed to escape three years ago – which is why his photo is blurred because he still needs protection - and was helped to reintegrate in a centre before he could be reunited with his family at the Masisi camp, in North Kivu. In Masisi, Maniriho suffered humiliation; any thefts or abuses were blamed on him.

Manhiriho adds; "But now, with the carpentry training, and the fact that I am busy every afternoon with recreational activities which are organised by the Lushebere primary school in the Masisi Centre, run by NRC, I am finding my dignity and my hope for a better future."

His dream is to teach other children and youth, who have also been victims of the conflict, to become carpenters as well. Maniriho is just one of the 9 000 kids in Congo who benefits from this project funded by the EU Nobel Peace Prize initiative.

Advi Mustaf, 11, takes part in Save the Children's Accelerated Basic Education programme (ABE) in Hilaweyncamp, Dollo Ado; which ensures that children who have been unable to access education are able to catch up via a consolidated curriculum.

This new Education in Emergencies project ensures that over 5 400 children between the ages of 11 and 14 have access to quality basic education. For many this is the very first time that they have been given the opportunity to learn in a safe, protective and nurturing space.

